(1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 30

(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 19/3/91

(3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம்

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

62 Public works துறை

அரசாணை எண். 808 — அச்சகம்
மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண். — பலவகை

நாள் : 19 — 3 — 1891 198 .

மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

15 Sheets

15 Sheets

ஆவண. கா-1—18,006—15-6-87.

GP

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read—the following paper :—

G.O., dated 17th March 1891, No. 212, Revenue.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 10th March 1891, No. 132 :—

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, 5th March 1891, Ref. on No. 698-Eng. :—

In continuation of my letter, No. 61-S.L.R., dated 25th ultimo, I have the honor to report further on the condition of the people in this district.

2. *Chingleput.*—On the 23rd February I went to Tirupórúr to inspect part of the affected villages in the Chingleput taluk. They are much scattered, including Vandalur and its immediate neighbourhood on the South Indian Railway ; some villages round Covelong and down the coast as far as the Seven Pagodas, and thence west to Tirukalikundram ; but within this area there are a number of villages which have had a tolerable or even a fairly good season. The villages I inspected were represented to me as the worst.

3. (*a*) In Tirupórúr itself I saw no sign of want of food. The laboring class had found work at the salt factory of Covelong and in clearing the Buckingham Canal.

(*b*) In Kannakampattu, just to the north, not a laborer was in the village, all being similarly employed.

(*c*) In Illalur (two miles north-west) I saw some fifty men, women and children of the ryot class. There was more poverty than I have hitherto seen in that class, but only four or five looked insufficiently nourished. They had some crops coming on under wells and in ordinary dry land, and were eager for advances to dig new wells. They can maintain themselves till April, when some minor irrigation works will be repaired in the neighbourhood.

In the *t'aracheri* I saw about 100 pariahs, who were all in fair condition, and whose poverty was not so marked as is usual in the Chingleput taluk. This phenomenon I attribute to the fact that they had by some means obtained (from the Forest officer, if I remember rightly) a few acres of land which they had cultivated. They complained of shortness of work, but they would go neither to Covelong nor to the canal.

(*c*) Just west of Illalur is Kattur and by common consent there is no worse village. From a year back until November last, a good number of men of the ryot class had migrated to Madras or to places such as Pallal under the Red Hills tank, where their labor would be more profitable. Of the people who had remained in the village none presented an appearance of wanting food. In this opinion I was supported by the Sub-Collector, who had now joined me.

(*d*) Thence we went four miles south to Madayathur, where we saw some hundred ryots and fifty pariahs. We examined them as carefully as torch-light would permit, and questioned them closely as usual. Their condition was normal; but there is no doubt the pariahs are being put to it to find work. Very few, however, had gone elsewhere; and we had no doubt all could maintain themselves till April.

(*e*) On a third day we went south from Tirupórúr to Tandalam, Venganeri and Alattur. In each village the ryots have been hard hit, but can recover themselves if favorable seasons return. In Alattur is a large Paracheri, where the grinding poverty, characterestic of Chingleput, is of course no less distressing than ever; but neither, must it be added, is it more so. I must return to this subject later.

(*f*) In the evening we went to Kottamedu, six miles west of Tirupórúr. Here, too, the ryots had eased the pressure of their numbers by sending some of the younger members of the different families to Madras during the previous year, whence they would send or bring their savings. The pariahs complained of short work, but it had not yet shown any effects on them.

(*g*) The next day we went to Senneri, six miles westward, and, as usual, saw all the inhabitants. There were the usual number of aged and decrepit people, who were still being supported by charity, and the others looked as usual.

(*h*) To finish here with the ryots, they are mostly in fair case. They are to be divided into three classes; those holding land in absolute ownership, who are generally well enough to do; those holding land under a zemindar, shrotriemdar, or sole mirassidar, who are well-to-do if they have an unimpeached occupancy right, but not otherwise; and those holding no land of their own, but who each year rent lands of others for a money-rent or more frequently on the half-produce system. Generally, it is only the last class which has succumbed to the adverse season, and they must fall back, when they have no savings, into the class of laborers. There are two other points to be noticed, which act in opposite ways. The mirassi system, by keeping away stranger applicants for land and by inducing the ryots to hold more than they can properly cultivate, has riveted their attention to irrigable land and allowed a vast extent of uplands to lie waste and jungle-grown. When therefore there comes a season disastrous to the rice-crop, the population has no upland crop to take its chance with; and a very good chance it would have been this year, as experience elsewhere shows. As some compensation, these jungles give grazing at present to thousands of cattle, sheep and goats, the property of ryots of all classes, to some of whom they stand as a saving clause against ruin.

(*i*) To return to the pariahs we saw 60 or 70 at Senneri, whose condition, though none except habitual beggars were in present and actual want of food, would have moved a heart of stone. I have said above that their state is not appreciably lower than usual; a large proportion of them are always badly nourished, clad, if at all, in the vilest of rags, eaten up with leprosy or other horrible diseases, hutted like pigs, untaught, uncared for and unpitied. I must apologise to the Board and Government for picturing the position, which is indeed already known; but the day cannot be far distant when the public conscience of England, if not of India, will wake up to the condition of these unhappy wretches and to the easy means of ameliorating it.

4. Mr. Mullaly and I are both of opinion that, though the laboring classes in Chingleput may have to endure greater hardships than usual, yet they will be able in various ways to support themselves till April, when the effect of the loans for land improvement will be felt and the new scheme of minor irrigation works be put in hand.

I have to-day received the Board's order to start some minor irrigation works.

(Initialled) H. T.

5th March 1891.

5. *Madurántakam.*—On the second instant, I went to Acharavakkam, the affected part of the Madurántakam taluk. A map will show that the south-west corner of the taluk is marked off by the railway and the Wandiwash road; this very nearly agrees with the distressed portion, but is a little too narrow in its limits. The most affected villages being Vellamur (just north of the Wandiwash road), Oratti and Tinnalur (on the west and south-west). I inspected them and other villages on the 2nd and 3rd.

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6 (*a*). At Vellamur I saw 60 ryots and 50 pariahs. All seemed in usual condition, and there has been agricultural labor so far. Two families of pallis and pariahs had gone away to Wandiwash and Uttramerur. The Munsif said work would last 10 more days, but I have no doubt the people can get on for another month.

(*b*) *Perumber-Kandigei.*—Condition usual, complaints and requests as usual, viz., for remission, repair of tank, &c.

(*c*) *Sirunper*, (*d*) *Chittámur*, (*e*) *Kilattipakkam*, (*f*) *Porakal.*—Condition usual, complaints and requests as usual, viz., for remission, repair of tank, &c.

(*g*) *Oratti.*—Out of 200 people (besides brahmans), only two boys very thin, and a woman who has been a widow 10 years and lives by sweeping houses; an ordinary average.

(*h*) *Chinnaneri.*—Condition of ryots good, that of pariahs as usual. The latter only ask for house-sites.

(*i*) *Tinnalur.*—The ryots are all right. The Pariahs numbered 50 females and 38 males. I extract from my notes.

Women.—"One little girl of 8 says she has *conjee* only once a day, but she afterwards changed the food to kuzu (mixture of *ragi* or cholam and rice). Another of 7 eats cholam-kuzu twice a day; and a boy of 6 the same. None of them look more out of condition than is common.

None of the 50 females look at all emaciated, but I have no doubt they are reducing their food.

Men.—Not noticeably out of condition, except one youngster of about 15 who looks very thin and says he gets a little *conjee* every second day when he takes grass to a ryot's calves; but 4 days ago he was picking ground-nuts. His master says he would feed him every day if he brought grass; he says himself he does not go every day as he feels lazy (probably the effect of illness).

The men ask for house-sites, but (being asked) say that labour is insufficient. They admit they have had work up to day.

All the big ryots admit that practically no one has left this part of the country for want of work, &c."

7. The Acharavakkam Munsif says "people will have work for 15 days and then can get on somehow with trouble till 15th April when it usually rains." The Tahsildar says "the worst tract can get on till 1st April without the least anxiety, when minor irrigation works will pull the people through for two months, April and May."

8. I agree with the Tahsildar, excepting the words "without the least anxiety." The Public Works Department have a number of estimates ready for this part of the country. It is distinctly not so bad as parts of Chingleput.

9. *Saidápet.*—Last week on the 28th February, I inspected what were reported to be the worst paracheries in the Saidápet taluk. I had been told that in Viragambakkam, many children were starving; and that in Koyambedu and Arambákkam there was much sickness and starvation amongst children. I saw every man, woman and child in the three paracheries and made careful inquiries, the results of which I copy from my notes and embody in an appendix, to which I beg a reference may be made. I found no present scarcity of work, nor will there be any so long as the grass lasts which is taken into Madras. I found also that the men were eating rice twice a day and rice mixed with ragi for the mid-day meal; and that nearly all the children had three meals a day, including one meal of rice. The physical condition of the people had not sunk below the average. The Deputy Collector is now touring in Saidápet, and I hope soon to have the results of his inspections.

10. *Tiruvallúr taluk.*—I enclose the Divisional officer's report. In the Northern or Kodúr tract, three Public Works Department works are in progress—at Kodúr Kambakkam and Pedda Ittivakkam; and with ordinary agricultural and minor irrigation work, afford sufficient employment.

In the Southern or Periapalayam tract, besides the minor irrigation works, ordinary agricultural operations and the digging of wells under Land Improvement loans now going on, it is desirable that more Public Works Department repairs should be started. I telegraphed to the Executive Engineer who replied as follows on the 2nd: "Uttakotei tank estimate not yet received. Contractors expected to-day to sign bonds for Kágavákkam and Kannipér works, estimates of which have been sent for execution." I hope soon to proceed again to this tank.

V

11. *Ponnéri taluk.*—Prospects remain unchanged, except that the ragi crop under wells is nearing harvest. I enclose a list showing the numbers on the Arni river diversion and on the embankment of the same river. The numbers fluctuated because of changes in the level of the cutting, which the laborers erroneously thought increased the task, and because the embankment, as it progresses, takes them to a greater distance from their homes. As I have already informed the Board, the Public Works Department have experienced difficulties in the matter of daily payments which have not been regularly made. As to any reduction in the rates, that must necessarily depend on the task, and it must be remembered that nearly all the laborers walk from and to their homes each day. Until I again inspect the taluk, I am not able to add anything material to the enclosed reports.

12. I append a statement of prices of food-grains for the week ending 28th February 1891:—

Taluks.	Rice, second sort Scarcity rate = 10.	Ragi, scarcity rate = 18.
Saidápet	12·08	21·92
Ponnéri	12·08	19·18
Tiruvallúr	10·57	21·92
Conjeeveram	12·15	22·23
Chingleput	12·25	19·87
Madurántakam	11·22	18·81

13. The Census work, which on the top of the inspection of withered crops has nearly broken the back of the Revenue Department, is now happily over; but we begin upon the jamabandi, under which I fear we shall break down unless some help be given. At present I must ask for another Deputy Collector to set free Mr. Ramachendraiyar for season inspection of the Ponnéri and Saidápet taluks. The latter is only a second-class Magistrate, so, much of his proper work goes to Mr. Pinto, who already has more than he can do. I want, therefore, a first-class Magistrate, and if Government cannot at once place its hands upon an officer, I would ask for Mr. Shanmugam Sundra Pillai, now or lately Tahsildar of Satyamangalam and Palladam in Coimbatore. Shortly I shall have to ask Government to relieve my Tahsildars of all magisterial work.

Resolution—dated 10th March 1891, No. 132.

In the above letter the Collector of Chingleput submits a further report on the condition of the people in the affected tracts based on the results of his personal observations and inquiries and those of his Divisional officers.

2. In the Sub-division, the only tracts which are seriously affected are portions of the Tirupórúr division of the Chingleput taluk and the Acharavakkam firka (range) of the Madurántakam taluk which adjoins the Wandiwash taluk of North Arcot. Both these tracts and some of the worst villages of the Saidápet taluk have been visited by Mr. Tremenheere and several hundreds of the poorer classes were carefully inspected by him. In many of the villages he found that there was "no present scarcity of work," and the condition of the people was on the whole fair, though there can be no doubt that several have begun to reduce their food. Both the Collector and the Sub-Collector consider that the laboring classes will be able to support themselves by various means till the 1st of April, when it is proposed to start minor irrigation and other works in the first two taluks mentioned above. The Board has already directed the Collector (Proceedings, dated 2nd March 1891, No. 114) to commence these works *at once* in the Chingleput taluk. Mr. Tremenheere is now requested to see that this is done both in the Tirupórúr and in the Acharavakkam firkas. There is no object in postponing the works for another three weeks, seeing that the laboring classes are admittedly enduring "greater hardships than usual," though they have not shown any visible signs of emaciation.

3. In two villages of the Chingleput taluk, Alathur and Senneri, a very sad picture is given of the condition of the pariah population, but the Collector states that their state is not appreciably lower than usual, and that none but habitual beggars are in present and actual want of food. Any measures which the Collector can suggest for the

amelioration of the condition of these poor people shall have the fullest and most careful consideration, but their general condition has but little to do with the question of the measures to be taken for relief of distress arising from the present scarcity.

4. In the Ponnéri and Tiruvallúr taluks which have suffered more than the rest of the district, the condition of the people remains unchanged. Nineteen minor irrigation works and one Public Works Department work, viz., the Arni diversion, are in progress in the former taluk and sixteen minor and two major irrigation works and five petty Local Fund works are in progress in the latter. In the Saidápet taluk seventeen small tanks are under repair. According to the latest report, over 2,200 people are employed on the Government works above referred to, while considerable numbers are able to support themselves by working in the fields or by selling grass, firewood, &c. Some of the works were recently visited by the Commissioner on his return from his inspection of the Kálahasti zemindari, and he thinks it necessary that early arrangements should be made by the Public Works Department to start two more large works at an early date in the Ponnéri and Tiruvallúr taluks and to strengthen the staff of overseers, so that no difficulty whatever may be experienced in measuring up the work done by the coolies from day to day in view to daily payments being introduced on all works. A Deputy Tahsildar will be shortly appointed in each of the taluks of Tiruvallúr and Ponnéri to aid the Tahsildars and to enable them to move more freely about their taluks. This will probably be sufficient assistance for the present, especially as there is at present an Assistant Collector in the district who is available for inspection work. Fortunately prices of food-grains are very steady and show no tendency to rise. On the contrary they have slightly fallen in some taluks. But the position is becoming sufficiently grave to require most anxious watching, and it is necessary that the hands of the District officers should be strengthened as early as possible.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with copies of enclosures.
" Collector of the Chingleput District.
Copy to the Land Revenue Department.

Order—dated 17th March 1891, No. 212, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Minor irrigation works should be put in hand at once in the Tirupórúr and Acharavakam firkas. Orders will issue in the Public Works Department for the immediate commencement of two more large works in the taluks of Ponnéri and Tiruvallúr and for the necessary addition to the staff of overseers. The works should be carried on *departmentally* and arrangements should be made for daily payments.

2. The Collector has already been authorized to entertain two additional Deputy Tahsildars for the taluks of Ponnéri and Tiruvallúr. The Saidápet Deputy Collector has now been invested with first-class magisterial powers and the Collector's hands will be further strengthened by the appointment of an additional Deputy Collector as requested in paragraph 13 of his letter.

3. Adverting to paragraph 3 (i) of the Collector's letter, the Government desires to have a report as to the "easy means" of amelioration referred to. The matter should, however, not be mixed up with the measures now being taken for the relief of distress but should be dealt with in a separate communication.

(True Extract.)

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

Order—dated 19th March 1891, No. 808 W., Public Works.

Communicated to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, who will issue the necessary instructions with respect to the immediate commencement of such additional works as may be practicable in the taluks named. Additional upper subordinates have recently been posted to the Chingleput division, and the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, will report, without delay, what further staff is required to admit of the works being carried out departmentally with daily payments.

(True Extract.)

Major, R.E.,
Under-Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Superintending Engineer, V Circle.
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.

Exd. A. D. Xavier.
Spare Copies

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A

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated March, 19th.

Recd. *Enel.*

G.O., 19th Mar. 1891, No. 808 W.

MARCH.

Relief Works, Chingleput District

Proceedings, Revenue Department, directing that additional public works should be commenced at once and carried on departmentally, communicated to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation with remarks.

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17TH MARCH 1891, No. 212, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 10th March 1891, No. 132 :—

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, 5th March 1891, Ref. on No. 698-Eng. :—

In continuation of my letter, No. 61-S.L.R., dated 25th ultimo, I have the honor to report further on the condition of the people in this district.

2. *Chingleput.*—On the 23rd February I went to Tirupórúr to inspect part of the affected villages in the Chingleput taluk. They are much scattered, including Vandalur and its immediate neighbourhood on the South Indian Railway ; some villages round Covelong and down the coast as far as the Seven Pagodas, and thence west to Tirukalikundram ; but within this area there are a number of villages which have had a tolerable or even a fairly good season. The villages I inspected were represented to me as the worst.

3. (*a*) In Tirupórúr itself I saw no sign of want of food. The laboring class had found work at the salt factory of Covelong and in clearing the Buckingham Canal.

(*b*) In Kannakampattu, just to the north, not a laborer was in the village, all being similarly employed.

(*c*) In Illalur (two miles north-west) I saw some fifty men, women and children of the ryot class. There was more poverty than I have hitherto seen in that class, but only four or five looked insufficiently nourished. They had some crops coming on under wells and in ordinary dry land, and were eager for advances to dig new wells. They can maintain themselves till April, when some minor irrigation works will be repaired in the neighbourhood.

In the *t aracheri* I saw about 100 pariahs, who were all in fair condition, and whose poverty was not so marked as is usual in the Chingleput taluk. This phenomenon I attribute to the fact that they had by some means obtained (from the Forest officer, if I remember rightly) a few acres of land which they had cultivated. They complained of shortness of work, but they would go neither to Covelong nor to the canal.

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(*d*) Thence we went four miles south to Madayathur, where we saw some hundred ryots and fifty pariahs. We examined them as carefully as torch-light would permit, and questioned them closely as usual. Their condition was normal ; but there is no doubt the pariahs are being put to it to find work. Very few, however, had gone elsewhere ; and we had no doubt all could maintain themselves till April.

5

(*e*) On a third day we went south from Tirupórúr to Tandalam, Venganeri and Alattur. In each village the ryots have been hard hit, but can recover themselves if favorable seasons return. In Alattur is a large Paracheri, where the grinding poverty, characterestic of Chingleput, is of course no less distressing than ever; but neither, must it be added, is it more so. I must return to this subject later.

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All the big ryots admit that practically no one has left this part of the country for want of work, &c."

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(*g*) The next day we went to Senneri, six miles westward, and, as usual, saw all the inhabitants. There were the usual number of aged and decrepit people, who were still being supported by charity, and the others looked as usual.

(*h*) To finish here with the ryots, they are mostly in fair case. They are to be divided into three classes; those holding land in absolute ownership, who are generally well enough to do; those holding land under a zemindar, shrotriemdar, or sole mirassidar, who are well-to-do if they have an unimpeached occupancy right, but not otherwise; and those holding no land of their own, but who each year rent lands of others for a money-rent or more frequently on the half-produce system. Generally, it is only the last class which has succumbed to the adverse season, and they must fall back, when they have no savings, into the class of laborers. There are two other points to be noticed, which act in opposite ways. The mirassi system, by keeping away stranger applicants for land and by inducing the ryots to hold more than they can properly cultivate, has riveted their attention to irrigable land and allowed a vast extent of uplands to lie waste and jungle-grown. When therefore there comes a season disastrous to the rice-crop, the population has no upland crop to take its chance with; and a very good chance it would have been this year, as experience elsewhere shows. As some compensation, these jungles give grazing at present to thousands of cattle, sheep and goats, the property of ryots of all classes, to some of whom they stand as a saving clause against ruin.

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5th March 1891.

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None of the 50 females look at all emaciated, but I have no doubt they are reducing their food.

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All the big ryots admit that practically no one has left this part of the country for want of work, &c."

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12. I append a statement of prices of food-grains for the week ending 28th February 1891:—

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13. The Census work, which on the top of the inspection of withered crops has nearly broken the back of the Revenue Department, is now happily over; but we begin upon the jamabandi, under which I fear we shall break down unless some help be given. At present I must ask for another Deputy Collector to set free Mr. Ramachendraiyar for season inspection of the Ponnéri and Saidápet taluks. The latter is only a second-class Magistrate, so, much of his proper work goes to Mr. Pinto, who already has more than he can do. I want, therefore, a first-class Magistrate, and if Government cannot at once place its hands upon an officer, I would ask for Mr. Shanmugam Sundra Pillai, now or lately Tahsildar of Satyamangalam and Palladam in Coimbatore. Shortly I shall have to ask Government to relieve my Tahsildars of all magisterial work.

Resolution—dated 10th March 1891, No. 132.

In the above letter the Collector of Chingleput submits a further report on the condition of the people in the affected tracts based on the results of his personal observations and inquiries and those of his Divisional officers.

2. In the Sub-division, the only tracts which are seriously affected are portions of the Tirupórúr division of the Chingleput taluk and the Acharavakkam firka (range) of the Madurántakam taluk which adjoins the Wandiwash taluk of North Arcot. Both these tracts and some of the worst villages of the Saidápet taluk have been visited by Mr. Tremenheere and several hundreds of the poorer classes were carefully inspected by him. In many of the villages he found that there was "no present scarcity of work," and the condition of the people was on the whole fair, though there can be no doubt that several have begun to reduce their food. Both the Collector and the Sub-Collector consider that the laboring classes will be able to support themselves by various means till the 1st of April, when it is proposed to start minor irrigation and other works in the first two taluks mentioned above. The Board has already directed the Collector (Proceedings, dated 2nd March 1891, No. 114) to commence these works *at once* in the Chingleput taluk. Mr. Tremenheere is now requested to see that this is done both in the Tirupórúr and in the Acharavakkam firkas. There is no object in postponing the works for another three weeks, seeing that the laboring classes are admittedly enduring "greater hardships than usual," though they have not shown any visible signs of emaciation.

3. In two villages of the Chingleput taluk, Alathur and Senneri, a very sad picture is given of the condition of the pariah population, but the Collector states that their state is not appreciably lower than usual, and that none but habitual beggars are in present and actual want of food. Any measures which the Collector can suggest for the amelioration of the condition of these poor people shall have the fullest and most careful consideration, but their general condition has but little to do with the question of the measures to be taken for relief of distress arising from the present scarcity.

4. In the Ponnéri and Tiruvallúr taluks which have suffered more than the rest of the district, the condition of the people remains unchanged. Nineteen minor irrigation works and one Public Works Department work, viz., the Arni diversion, are in progress in the former taluk and sixteen minor and two major irrigation works and five petty Local Fund works are in progress in the latter. In the Saidápet taluk seventeen small tanks are under repair. According to the latest report, over 2,200 people are employed on the Government works above referred to, while considerable numbers are able to support themselves by working in the fields or by selling grass, firewood, &c. Some of the works were recently visited by the Commissioner on his return from his inspection of the Kálahasti zemindari, and he thinks it necessary that early arrangements should be made by the Public Works Department to start two more large works at an early date in the Ponnéri and Tiruvallúr taluks and to strengthen the staff of overseers, so that no difficulty whatever may be experienced in measuring up the work done by the coolies from day to day in view to daily payments being introduced on all works. A Deputy Tahsildar will be shortly appointed in each of the taluks of Tiruvallúr and Ponnéri to aid the Tahsildars and to enable them to move more freely about their taluks. This will probably be sufficient assistance for the present, especially as there is at present an Assistant Collector in the district who is available for inspection work. Fortunately prices of food-grains are very steady and show no tendency to rise. On the contrary they have slightly fallen in some taluks. But the position is becoming sufficiently grave to require most anxious watching, and it is necessary that the hands of the District officers should be strengthened as early as possible.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with copies of enclosures.

" Collector of the Chingleput District.

Copy to the Land Revenue Department.

Order—dated 17th March 1891, No. 212, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Minor irrigation works should be put in hand at once in the Tirupórúr and Acharavakam firkas. Orders will issue in the Public Works Department for the immediate commencement of two more large works in the taluks of Ponnéri and Tiruvallúr and for the necessary addition to the staff of overseers. The works should be carried on *departmentally* and arrangements should be made for daily payments.

2. The Collector has already been authorized to entertain two additional Deputy Tahsildars for the taluks of Ponnéri and Tiruvallúr. The Saidápet Deputy Collector has now been invested with first-class magisterial powers and the Collector's hands will be further strengthened by the appointment of an additional Deputy Collector as requested in paragraph 13 of his letter.

3. Adverting to paragraph 3 (i) of the Collector's letter, the Government desires to have a report as to the "easy means" of amelioration referred to. The matter

should, however, not be mixed up with the measures now being taken for the relief of distress but should be dealt with in a separate communication.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. G. A. Lewis.

130 Copies.

P.W.C. No: 3061

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

20. S.C

Regd: 18.3.91

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 17th March 1891, No. 212.

A. No. 808 W.Q. 19/3/91

MARCH.

Season in Chingleput.

Ordering that minor irrigation works should be put in hand at once in Tirupórúr and Acharavakkam firkas, and stating that orders will issue in the Public Works Department for the immediate commencement of two more large works in Ponnéri and Tiruvallúr taluks, and desiring to have the Collector's report as to the easy means of amelioration of the condition of the Pariahs.

Attach O.Ps original

212

888

BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGRI.), 10TH MARCH 1891, No. 132.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Rom. l.c.

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, 5th March 1891, Ref. on No. 698-Eng.:—

In continuation of my letter, No. 61-S.L.R., dated 25th ultimo, I have the honor to report further on the condition of the people in this district.

2. *Chingleput.*—On the 23rd February I went to Tirupórúr to inspect part of the affected villages in the Chingleput taluk. They are much scattered, including Vandalur and its immediate neighbourhood on the South Indian Railway; some villages round Covelong and down the coast as far as the Seven Pagodas, and thence west to Tirukalikundram; but within this area there are a number of villages which have had a tolerable or even a fairly good season. The villages I inspected were represented to me as the worst.

3. (*a*) In Tirupórúr itself I saw no sign of want of food. The laboring class had found work at the salt factory of Covelong and in clearing the Buckingham Canal.

(*b*) In Kannakampattu, just to the north, not a laborer was in the village, all being similarly employed.

(*c*) In Illalur (two miles north-west) I saw some fifty men, women and children of the ryot class. There was more poverty than I have hitherto seen in that class, but only four or five looked insufficiently nourished. They had some crops coming on under wells and in ordinary dry land, and were eager for advances to dig new wells. They can maintain themselves till April, when some minor irrigation works will be repaired in the neighbourhood.

In the *paracheri* I saw about 100 pariahs, who were all in fair condition, and whose poverty was not so marked as is usual in the Chingleput taluk. This phenomenon I attribute to the fact that they had by some means obtained (from the Forest officer, if I remember rightly) a few acres of land which they had cultivated. They complained of shortness of work, but they would go neither to Covelong nor to the canal.

(*c*) Just west of Illalur is Kattur and by common consent there is no worse village. From a year back until November last, a good number of men of the ryot class had migrated to Madras or to places such as Pallal under the Red Hills tank, where their labor would be more profitable. Of the people who had remained in the village none presented an appearance of wanting food. In this opinion I was supported by the Sub-Collector, who had now joined me.

(*d*) Thence we went four miles south to Madayathur, where we saw some hundred ryots and fifty pariahs. We examined them as carefully as torch-light would permit, and questioned them closely as usual. Their condition was normal; but there is no doubt the pariahs are being put to it to find work. Very few, however, had gone elsewhere; and we had no doubt all could maintain themselves till April.

9

(*e*) On a third day we went south from Tirupórúr to Tandalam, Venganeri and Alattur. In each village the ryots have been hard hit, but can recover themselves if favorable seasons return. In Alattur is a large Paracheri, where the grinding poverty, characterestic of Chingleput, is of course no less distressing than ever; but neither, must it be added, is it more so. I must return to this subject later.

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Resolution—dated 10th March 1891, No. 132.

In the above letter the Collector of Chingleput submits a further report on the condition of the people in the affected tracts based on the results of his personal observations and inquiries and those of his Divisional officers.

2. In the Sub-division, the only tracts which are seriously affected are portions of the Tirupórúr division of the Chingleput taluk and the Acharavakkam firka (range) of the Madurántakam taluk which adjoins the Wandiwash taluk of North Arcot. Both these tracts and some of the worst villages of the Saidápet taluk have been visited by Mr. Tremenheere and several hundreds of the poorer classes were carefully inspected by him. In many of the villages he found that there was "no present scarcity of work," and the condition of the people was on the whole fair, though there can be no doubt that several have begun to reduce their food. Both the Collector and the Sub-Collector consider that the laboring classes will be able to support themselves by various means till the 1st of April, when it is proposed to start minor irrigation and other works in the first two taluks mentioned above. The Board has already directed the Collector (Proceedings, dated 2nd March 1891, No. 114) to commence these works *at once* in the Chingleput taluk. Mr. Tremenheere is now requested to see that this is done both in the Tirupórúr and in the Acharavakkam firkas. There is no object in postponing the works for another three weeks, seeing that the laboring classes are admittedly enduring "greater hardships than usual," though they have not shown any visible signs of emaciation.

3. In two villages of the Chingleput taluk, Alathur and Senneri, a very sad picture is given of the condition of the pariah population, but the Collector states that their state is not appreciably lower than usual, and that none but habitual beggars are in present and actual want of food. Any measures which the Collector can suggest for the amelioration of the condition of these poor people shall have the fullest and most careful consideration, but their general condition has but little to do with the question of the measures to be taken for relief of distress arising from the present scarcity.

4. In the Ponnéri and Tiruvallúr taluks which have suffered more than the rest of the district, the condition of the people remains unchanged. Nineteen minor irrigation works and one Public Works Department work, viz., the Arni diversion, are in progress in the former taluk and sixteen minor and two major irrigation works and five petty Local Fund works are in progress in the latter. In the Saidápet taluk seventeen small tanks are under repair. According to the latest report, over 2,200 people are employed on the Government works above referred to, while considerable numbers are able to support themselves by working in the fields or by selling grass, firewood, &c. Some of the works were recently visited by the Commissioner on his return from his inspection of the Kálahasti zemindari, and he thinks it necessary that early arrangements should be made by the Public Works Department to start two more large works at an early date in the Ponnéri and Tiruvallúr taluks and to strengthen the staff of overseers, so that no difficulty whatever may be experienced in measuring up the work done by the coolies from day to day in view to daily payments being introduced on all works. A Deputy Tahsildar will be shortly appointed in each of the taluks of Tiruvallúr and Ponnéri to aid the Tahsildars and to enable them to move more freely about their taluks. This will probably be sufficient assistance for the present, especially as there is at present an Assistant Collector in the district who is available for inspection work. Fortunately prices of food-grains are very steady and show no tendency to rise. On the contrary they have slightly fallen in some taluks. But the position is becoming sufficiently grave to require most anxious watching, and it is necessary that the hands of the District officers should be strengthened as early as possible.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with copies of enclosures.
" Collector of the Chingleput District.
Copy to the Land Revenue Department.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

of changes in the level of the cutting, which the laborers erroneously thought increased the task, and because the embankment, as it progresses, takes them to a greater distance from their homes. As I have already informed the Board, the Public Works Department have experienced difficulties in the matter of daily payments which have not been regularly made. As to any reduction in the rates, that must necessarily depend on the task, and it must be remembered that nearly all the laborers walk from and to their homes each day. Until I again inspect the taluk, I am not able to add anything material to the enclosed reports.

12. I append a statement of prices of food-grains for the week ending 28th February 1891 :—

Taluks.	Rice, second sort Scarcity rate = 10.	Ragi, scarcity rate = 13.
Saidápet	12·08	21·92
Ponnéri	12·08	19·18
Tiruvallúr	10·57	21·92
Conjeeveram	12·15	22·23
Chingleput	12·25	19·87
Madurántakam	11·22	18·81

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(A true Copy and Extract.)

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Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with copies of enclosures.
" Collector of the Chingleput District.
" Copy to the Land Revenue Department.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1891.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS

Printed March 12th.

Proceedings, 10*th March* 1891, *No.* 132.

Reviewing further report from the Collector of Chingleput on prospects of season in the district.

808 12

Note. 808/12

Including Sergt. Cherry, & overseer S. V. Ramaswami aiyangar recently posted to the Chingleput, the division has now 13 upper subordinates against a sanctioned strength of 11. Conductor Sanderson is however going on privilege leave, & it is a question whether he should be stopped.

It is understood that overseer C. Murugesa Mudr., now at Madras on sick leave, is anxious to rejoin before the expiration of his leave. He is not now attached to any division.

For orders whether he may be sent for & questioned by Dr. [illegible] before leave to [illegible]

obtain a medical cert of fitness if he wishes to rejoin at once, & if he gets this, he might be posted to Chingleput.

There will be great difficulty in obtaining temporary men if more are wanted, as the list of applicants is exhausted.

Applications might perhaps be invited by advertisement.

C.
18/3/91

Send for C
Innvapera Mudli

OVB
18.3.91

808/13

Revenue Department.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Read Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Settlement) dated 10th March 1891 No: 132.

Nal. / (Order) ~~xxxx~~: 17 March 1891 No: 212.

Minor Irrigation works should be put in hand at once in the Tiruporur and Achara=vakkam firkas. Orders will issue in the Public Works department for the immediate Commence=ment of two more large works in the Taluks of Ponneri & Tiruvallur and for the necessary addition to the staff of Overseers. The works should be carried on departmentally and arrangements should be made for daily payments.

2. The Collector has already been authorized to enter=tain two additional Deputy Tahsildars for the Taluks of Ponneri and Tiruvallur. The Saidapet Deputy Collector has now been invested with first class magisterial powers and the Collector's hands will be further strengthened by the appointment of an additional Deputy Collector as requested in para 13 of his letter.

3. Adverting to para 3(i) of the Collector's letter the Government desires to have a report as to the "easy means" of amelioration referred to. The matter should, however, not be mixed up with the measures now being taken for the relief of distress but should be dealt with in a separate Commu=nication.

True Extract/

[signature]
Secretary to Government.

13

To Comme. R.S. L.R. Agric
D.S. Dept
Collr of Chingleput.
[illegible] of L.R.
Copy to the Final: Dept.
Acctt Genl.

P.W.C. No: 3061

Soon

Recd: 18-3-91

S.S.C

No 808 W, d/ 19th March 1891

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

808/14

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

READ the following

Pros. of Govt. Rev. Dept — No 212 d/ 17-3-91.

Communicate to the Chief Engr for Irrigation who will issue the necessary instructions with respect to the immediate commencement of additional works in the Talukas named.

Additional upper subordinate has recently been posted to the Chingleput division, & the Superintending Engr of Circle will report without delay what further staff is required.

admit of the order being
carried out departmentally
with daily payments.

OOB
18.3.91

S
18.3

18/7/91

A. E. [illegible]
S. E. V Circle
[illegible]

808
15

15

[illegible]

3061

Govt. of 18 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated January 1891

Read. Rect.

G.O. No. 3 1891, No. 808

Relief Works, Chingleput
Dist.

Proceedings Revenue Dept
directing that additional
Public Works should
be commenced at
once and carried on
departmentally connd
to the Chief Engr for
Irrigation with
remarks.

15

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