(1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 12

(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 26.6.1991

(3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம்

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

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~~அச்சகம்~~
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நாள் : 27-4-1892

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மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

6 sheets

ஆவண. கா-1—18,000—15-6-87.

(325 RI)

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 30th March 1892, No. 254 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from H. MOBERLY, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of Coimbatore, to the Collector of Coimbatore, dated Ammápet, 21st March 1892, Ref. on No. 788-R.G. :—

As requested in your Reference on No. 476-Bd., dated 2nd instant, I have the honour to submit my report on the Bhaváni taluk.

2. *Markets.*—There are 11 markets. From Deputy Collector Mr. Narayanasami Aiyer's inquiries they appear to be well supplied with food-grains. The markets supply the inhabitants of the taluk with all the food-grain they require.

3. *Roads.*—The greater portion of the taluk is well served with roads. The road from Nerinjipet to Samballi is reported to be in bad order, and that from Samballi to Kaveripuram to be almost impassable even for country carts. The markets at Samballi and Kaveripuram appear, however, to be supplied chiefly from the Salem district.

People in these sparsely populated localities seem to depend more on local stocks than markets for grain, and these are not yet exhausted. Ragi comes from Kollegál also.
(Intld.) J. S.

4. *Number of persons requiring relief.*—The Tahsildar's estimate is as follows :—

Pariahs	480
Chucklers	200
Padiyachis	600
Vetuvars	250
Weavers	100
Tottiyars	50
Others	420
Total ...	2,100

The Deputy Collector thinks that between 3,000 and 4,000 persons may require relief, if the season does not improve.

With the exception of the weavers, regarding whom I shall submit a separate report, I have seen no signs of actual distress at present; but as prices are very high, and the purely dry crops have almost entirely failed in the villages near the Palamalai Hills, it is almost certain that the labouring classes feel the want of labour. I would suggest, therefore, that two or three relief works be opened as a test measure. If this be done, the attendance at the works will show whether further relief is required.

5. *Relief works.*—Out of the list of available Local Fund works, which you sent, the Tahsildar has selected six, viz. :—

(1) Road from Audiyur to Ammápet.
(2) Do. do. to Attani.
(3) Do. Mailambadi to Olagadam.
(4) Do. do. to Tirupúr.
(5) Do. Nerinjipet to Kaveripuram.
(6) Do. Audiyur to Chellampalaiyam.

The selection is a good one, and will supply work for all who are likely to require relief. For the present, however, it is only necessary to start work on Nos. 1 and 5, Andiyur to Ammapet and Nerinjipet to Kaveripuram.

Work may consist of—

(1) Clearing road margins of prickly-pear and defining the road limits.
(2) Digging side channels.
(3) Collection, breaking and stacking of metal.

I would further suggest that good wells be constructed at suitable intervals along the roads. They will supply water for the coolies and for the road work, and will be useful afterwards for travellers. The road from Nerinjipet to Kaveripuram runs for the first 15 miles as far as Samballi, within a short distance of the Cauvery; this portion of the road may therefore be metalled.

6. The Tahsildar suggests that the repair of tanks may be undertaken as relief works. He does not, however, say what tanks should be repaired, and has no estimates ready. Tanks are not so useful as wells for contending against famine. Unless therefore the Executive Engineer can recommend any tanks for repair, I do not think any money should be spent on tanks.

7. *Advances to landed classes.*—Beyond loans under the Land Improvement Loans Act and the Agriculturists' Loans Act no advances are at present required. For loans under the former Act, Rs. 10,000 and for loans under the second Act Rs. 3,000 may for the present be allotted. Many owners of garden lands want loans for the purchase of working cattle, and it is advisable, I think, that they should be allowed to borrow the necessary funds from Government.

8. I enclose Bhaváni Tahsildar's report No. 548-Gl. Series of 11th March 1892, with the remark that the figures in paragraph 3 (*a*) are *not* the normal prices, but the lowest prices obtainable during the past six months.

9. *Gratuitous relief.*—The Tahsildar, you will see, says that no such relief is required at present. You have recently sanctioned such relief to a poor family at Andiyur. Of course in every village there are two or three persons who are unable to work and find a difficulty in living. I have instructed the Tahsildar to send without delay a list, in the form given in section 56 of the Famine Code, of all persons entitled to gratuitous relief; and if, after further inquiry, I find there are persons entitled to such relief, I will submit the necessary proposals.

Endorsement by J. STURROCK, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated 27th March 1892, Ref. on No. 557-Sub.

Forwarded with reference to paragraph 3 of Board's Proceedings, dated 22nd February 1892, No. 135. I also enclose an extract from a later letter from Mr. Moberly and send in original with its enclosure his letter, dated 26th March 1892, forwarding Deputy Collector M.R.Ry. Narayanasami Iyer's report on the taluk. I shall address the Board separately regarding the weavers.

2. The tract now affected is almost the same as that reported on in my letter recorded with Board's Proceedings, dated 25th September 1891, No. 612, when I obtained permission to start relief works pending the harvesting of the north-east monsoon crops. When I closed those works on the 15th January last, I reported that the crops were so bad that it would be necessary to re-open the works as soon as the private work in connection with the harvest—such as it was—came to an end, and I have reported the same in my monthly season reports for January and February. During all this time the Tahsildar has been reporting, week by week, that there was no work available for labourers, as the harvest work was being done by the ryots themselves. I knew, however, that there was a great demand for labour for the abundant wet crop in the adjoining taluk of Satyamangalam, and as the condition of the people was said to be still good, the time for re-opening the works did not seem to have arrived until I saw Mr. Moberly yesterday. In his letter of the 21st instant, forwarded with this endorsement, he speaks only of opening works as a test measure, but in his letter of the 25th, of which I send an extract, he states that his personal inquiries

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have convinced him that it is very necessary that relief works should be opened at once, and on talking over matters yesterday I decided, in consideration of the time which must necessarily elapse in arranging preliminaries, to ask by telegram for permission to open the works specified in paragraph 10 of my letter, recorded with Board's Proceedings, dated 22nd February 1892, No. 135.

3. With regard to the state of the Nerinjipet firka, which was treated as distressed at the close of last year, although even there a few villages were, and are, in fairly prosperous state, I need add nothing to what is said in my former letter * beyond noting the outturn this year as compared with the admittedly bad outturn of the previous year:—

* Board's Proceedings, dated 25th September 1891, No. 612.

	1890–91.	1891–92.
20 annas	146	...
16 do.	2,014	287
8 do.	18,385	5,085
4 do. (withered)	15,897	{ 18,482 { 9,225
Total ...	36,472	33,079

Now that such work, as has been afforded by the local harvest and by that in Satyamangalam is over, it is obvious that relief works must be more necessary now than before.

4. In addition to the Nerinjipet firka the Tahsildar would now class, as distressed, 14 villages of the Bhaváni firka and 12 villages of the Andiyur firka. Deputy Collector M.R.Ry. Narayanasami Iyer, however, includes only seven villages of the Andiyur firka in his list of distressed villages, and the Sub-Collector accepts his view generally. Mr. Moberly had not time before his transfer to inspect the worst portion of the Bhaváni firka, but from what I saw of the state of the crops in November last, and having regard to the outturn statement for four years, it is clear that these villages are much better off than those of the Nerinjipet firka, and relief measures there are not as yet called for.

5. The following figures show the outturn for four years in the six villages of the Andiyur firka which Mr. Moberly considers the most distressed:—

—	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.
20 annas	23	4	..	..
16 do.	2,927	7,358	4,531	179
8 do.	4,961	1,462	4,215	1,895
4 do.	509	..	374	3,853
Withered	23	..	17	2,067
Total ..	8,443	8,824	9,137	7,994

These figures disclose for the current year a considerable falling off in cultivation and a very large area of crop which either withered or gave a poor outturn, but the outturn last year was decidedly good, and very much better the year before, and as all reports go to show that though people are asking for work, there are no signs of emaciation and the markets are mainly supplied from local sources. I cannot admit that there is as yet any necessity for starting relief works in the Andiyur firka. As however one of the works which I propose to start for the Nerinjipet firka extends to Andiyur, it will serve as a test work for that firka.

6. The Tahsildar, who considers that the distress affects a population of over 50,000, estimates the number likely to require relief at 2,100. The Deputy Collector, out of a much smaller population, puts the number at from 3,000 to 4,000. Though I regard as distressed only a portion of the Nerinjipet firka with a population under 20,000, it is to be borne in mind that there are some people badly off in many other

villages within a reasonable distance of the works, and I can form no estimate of the possible influx from the Salem district on the other side of the river along which the most important of the works will run. Last year when the works were the same as I now propose to open, the highest figure was 1,521 immediately after the work was opened. As tasking was got into proper order, the numbers fell rapidly and never afterwards rose beyond 675. If the kar and south-west monsoon rains come in due course, and we have at present no reason to assume that they will not, I do not see that we need anticipate having to provide work for an average of more than 1,500 until the south-west monsoon crops are ready for reaping about six months hence. Unless there is a further failure of rain, prices * are not likely to rise much, and Rs. 150 a day, or Rs. 27,000 for six months, will probably meet all requirements. The unexpended portions of the estimates of the two selected works are as follows:—

* 26th March—

Rice	
Cholum	9·95
Ragi	12.18
Cumbu	13·94
	15·90

	Rs.
Ammapet-Cauveripuram road	23,763
Ammapet-Andiyur road	6,069
Total ...	29,832

so that no more works are likely to be required. There are no irrigation works available. One of the schemes mentioned by the Deputy Collector is shown by Mr. Moberly to be impracticable, and the Cauveripuram one is unsuitable as it is situated in the most remote and sparsely populated corner of the affected tract.

7. I do not think it necessary to add much more to what the Sub-Collector has said. Gratuitous relief is obviously not required as yet. The case referred to by the Sub-Collector is one which ordinarily would have been left to private charity, but at present it seemed dangerous to rely on that resource, and as a family suddenly left destitute by the death of the bread winner in Andiyur—outside the distressed tract—was in danger of starvation, I authorized the taluk magistrate to advance what was necessary for bare subsistence and debit the charge to magisterial contingencies. There is no danger any where of failure of supplies. The distress is due merely to a number of people having no stocks of their own, no money with which to buy grain, and no means of obtaining it. To relieve this, all that is necessary is to start relief works, and if this is done soon, we will have good work in return for what we spend. Dry fodder is still available for cattle and loans for wells are being freely given. A special report about the condition of the weavers will be submitted shortly.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. MOBERLY, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, Coimbatore, to the Collector of Coimbatore, dated 25th March 1892, Ref. No. 151, Mis.

In your reference on No. 227-Sub. of 1892, you called for a report on the labouring classes in Bhavâni taluk. I have consulted the Police Inspector, the Tahsildar, Deputy Collector Mr. Narayanasamier, who has sent a very interesting report based on personal inquiries and I have just returned from a tour as far as Sampalli, having visited as many villages as possible and made all possible inquiries.

2. The Police Inspector reports that only people residing within the limits of the Bhavâni, Andiyur and Athani Police stations went to Satyamangalam for the paddy harvest; that the labouring classes in the Nerinjipet firka were not able to go to Satyamangalam on account of the distance, and that they are suffering from want of labour. He further reports that, with the exception of a few villages in the limits of Bhavâni and Andiyur Police stations, the crops were so poor that the ryots could not afford to employ coolies to cut, carry and thresh the crops.

3. The Tahsildar's report is to the same effect. He states that the labouring classes say that the relief works which were opened last year afforded relief, but that since they were closed they have suffered much.

4. My personal inquiries convinced me that it is very necessary that relief works should be opened at once. With the exception of the weavers, the labouring classes look fairly well nourished; but one cannot rely on appearances. Many of the labouring classes have been

obliged to pawn or sell not only their jewels but even their brass domestic utensils in order to buy grain for food, and this shows that relief is required. At present, we have no walking skeletons stalking about; but we should not wait till the people are reduced to that condition. If we wait till then, they will not be able to give a proper outturn of work, whereas at present they can work and are willing to work. I therefore beg most earnestly to impress upon you the necessity of opening relief-works at once. Work on the road from Nerinjipett to Cauveripuram, and from Ammapet to Andiyur will afford relief to the people in the worst affected tracts. I would also suggest that ordinary work be started on the road from Andiyur to Athani and from Andiyur to Sellampalaiyam, so as to afford relief to the poorer classes in the west part of the taluk.

* * * * *

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From H. MOBERLY, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of Coimbatore, to the Collector of Coimbatore, dated 26th March 1892, Ref. No. 788 R.G.

In continuation of my letter, Reference No. 788 R.G., dated 21st March 1892, regarding the condition of the labouring classes in Bhavâni taluk, I have the honour to forward, in original, Deputy Collector Mr. Narayanasami Iyer's report No. M—Camp of 11th instant. I am much indebted to that gentleman for his careful inquiries and his painstaking report.

2. A few remarks on portions of his report are necessary.

Para. 2.—The ryots did not appreciate the rains which fell on 28th February. They deemed it unseasonable as it would bring up the whiteants and they would destroy what little grass there was. The whiteants have come up and destroyed much of the grass.

Para. 3.—It is necessary, I think, to provide relief for five months certainly. Even if we have showers in April and May and a good south-west monsoon most of the labouring classes will want work. The preparing of the ground and the sowing will not take many days, and the labouring classes will have no work, while the crops are growing. Very few have any stock of grain, and those who have no stock will not in the absence of relief works, have the wherewithal to buy food.

Para. 4.—In this district more than in any district I know, the people are so wedded to their caste and other prejudices, that theywould do anything—even die—rather than undertake work which their caste prejudices are opposed to. We must take them as we find them and give them work which they have no objection to undertake. The figures given by the Deputy Collector show that the Tahsildar has been giving his special attention to loan applications, and from what I have seen of his work lately, I am certain he is doing his best to dispose of applications as quickly as possible.

Para. 5.— I have recommended work on the roads from Ammapet to Kaveripuram and Ammapet to Andiyur.

3. A road from Buthapadi market to Mailambadi is not necessary as the Local Fund Engineer has proposed a road from Mailambadi to Theruppur, which will cross the Ammapet-Andiyur road.

4. The proposal to repair four tanks in Mulakkadu, Sampalli and Kolathur is condemned by the ryots and need not be investigated. See my remarks on enclosure 2 to Deputy Collector's letter.

5. The scheme to restore a ruined tank in Kaveripuram, I have not been able to look into. It does not seem very hopeful. Besides wells are better than tanks for contending against famine.

Para. 6.—The "Sammanjee" cloth of the Deputy Collector should be Sannanji (narrow border). The cloth he mentions is an extraordinarily large one and so more expensive than the one I have proposed. The "Thirunagesvaram" cloth I found on inquiry to be too elaborate for our purposes, so I left it out of consideration.

Para. 10. *Fodder.*—I agree with the Deputy Collector. There are stacks of dry fodder all over the place, so at present there is no scarcity of dry fodder.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From M.R.Ry T. V. NARAYANASAWMY AIYAR Avergal, Deputy Collector of Coimbatore, to the Sub-Collector of Coimbatore, dated Bhavâni, 7th March 1892, No. M—Camp.

With reference to your endorsement, Ref. on No. 235-C.R. of 1892, dated 20th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that I arrived in Bhavâni the next day after I saw you in Erode; and after a day's halt here, I visited the villages and the markets noted below up to the 6th instant.

western channel were not taken up on the ground of cost and on the ground that the soil of the land that could be irrigated by it being poor, I would recommend the restoration of the tank and the formation of the eastern channel as being easy of achievement. The restoration of the tanks, &c., is one of the works suggested by Mr. Todhunter to improve the condition of the taluk.

6. In regard to weavers, there are no very important centres. There are, however—

60 looms weaving male cloths in Ammapet,
10 do. do. female do. in do.
60 do. do. female do. in Andiyur,

so far as I have seen. I am informed there are weavers in the villages of Jambai, Kavunthampadi, Kurichi and Odathurai in the casba firka ranging from 20 to 200 families. Most of these and some of those living in Anthiyur have also lands from which they have secured crops Their condition cannot therefore be said to be very much affected. Not so is the case of Ammapet weavers. I made inquiries as to the kind of cloth they weave and as to costs, &c. (enclosure No. 4)—*vide* separate memorandum. Sammanjee is one kind of cloth. It is 6½ by 2½ cubits a cloth. The value of thread No. 40 used for four cloths is Rs. 1-11-7; the value of silk used for the same is Rs. 0-8-0; the value of rice for conjee and oil is 1 anna; the wages due to a female to help in manufacturing the cloth is 4 annas. Therefore the whole cost amounts to Rs. 2-8-7. These four cloths are now generally sold for Rs. 3-6-0; they therefore leave a saving of As. 13-5, which is the wages for one week during which these cloths can be made by an ordinary hand. Therefore the cooly for a day for an ordinary hand comes to 2 annas. There is another coarse cloth, Theruna-gesvaram. My calculation about this cloth and about the female cloth that is woven here gives but a cooly of 2 annas a day to a man working at his own loom. The manufacture of cloths thus leaves a very scanty margin for wages and nothing for gain. With such wages have owners to maintain a family consisting generally of two working and two non-working souls in these times when the prices are double of what they were last year. So owners of looms at which they employed coolies have turned out their coolies and left idle these looms which they cannot themselves do, hence the coolies who had no looms of their own are left to take care of themselves. Some of them, about seven or eight families, have gone to other places, I believe, temporarily, leaving only the weak and infirm behind in charge of their houses.

7. I understand that in November last, when relief works were going on near Ammapet, 14 females and 5 males resorted to the works. The Tahsildar tells me that the males could not have done any manual labour, but were probably employed as head coolies. This is probably a fact, but one man actually told me he was employed in removing prickly-pear from road-side. This state of things was a sure test of the existence of distress among weavers. Ordinarily their case would require special treatment, but unfortunately these classes are not congregated together in considerable numbers either in the same village or in a group of contiguous villages. If this latter fact were no objection, I would recommend that the weavers be afforded relief on the lines sanctioned for Salem. There is one thing in which the weavers here differ from those in Salem. One is able to manufacture coarse cloths used by the lower classes, and that alone, while the others (*i.e.*, Salem weavers) are able to weave cloths used by the higher classes also. I have called on the Tahsildar to get correct information as to the number of looms that were working six months ago and the number that is now actually working. I shall send it on as soon as it is received.

8. In regard to opening poor-houses, this is now too early. There is no unusual influx of beggars, and I do not notice any sign of emaciation in the people from distress.

9. In regard to the resources of the taluk, I had the trade going to the several markets in the taluk registered as far as possible for a market day. The extent of grains received, with information as to whether they were products of the taluk or outside it, is given in the accompanying form (enclosure No. 5). From this it will be seen that the food-grains brought to the market, with the exception of paddy, are in nearly all cases local products. In regard to the Buthapadi shandy I do not quite rely upon the figures given. The village officers, who evidently neglected my orders and failed to keep accounts seem to have drawn upon their imagination and furnished some information. This shandy will only be just as large as the one at Mylambadi. Taking one and the same figures for both the shandies, the quantity received during a day in all the eleven shandies as given in the list is found to be dry grains 19,999 and paddy 32,022, both of them put together being 52,021 Madras measures. Looking to the fact that the total population of the taluk according to the last census was 120,000 in round numbers and they are mostly agriculturists—and looking also to the fact that at the several markets I attended personally there was no lack of supply to meet the demand, I consider the markets are fairly well supplied. I consider also that the stock of food-grains in the taluk is enough to meet its demand. Only the owners do not freely open their stock for sale for fear that their future should be more gloomy. I should not omit to add that the markets in question are located in important and convenient centres, and therefore fairly represent the quantity brought for sale from all the parts of the taluk.

10. Speaking of fodder for cattle, I have no reason to fear that the supply is very deficient. Dry fodder is available everywhere, and though the outturn of crop is reported to be poor I have noticed a number of cholum straw heaps collected in field sheds and huts. I am sure that, if the outturn of crops had been half as good as the outturn of straw, there should be no need or relief operations in this taluk at all.

13 25/95

Read—the following letter from J. STURROCK, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and the Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 29th March 1892, Ref. on No. 707-Bd. :—

In my endorsement of yesterday's date I omitted to say anything about wages, or the source from which the expenditure on relief works in Bhavâni is to be met.

2. I propose to adhere to the rates of wages introduced shortly after the Commissioner's visit to the Coimbatore district in September last, and to ask the District Board at their next meeting to sanction an allotment from the reserve, the work in the meantime being carried on as emergent under the President's order.

3. I have also noticed that I did not forward to the Board the portion of Mr. Moberly's letter in which he speaks most seriously of the condition of the people. It occurs in connection with the weavers, regarding whom I am reporting separately after endeavouring to satisfy myself on a few points. He there says: "most of them are emaciated, they have a pinched look about their faces, and some of them are undoubtedly suffering from want of food."

4. It may be necessary to adopt special measures for the weavers, but the works sanctioned by the Board in yesterday's telegram are close to the weavers' quarters and will afford relief to the most pressing cases.

Resolution—dated 30th March 1892, No. 254.

Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. In the papers read above, the Collector of Coimbatore states that in the Nerinjepett firka of the Bhavâni taluk, and in six villages of the Andiyur firka of the same taluk, the failure of crop has been so extensive that there is a number of persons with no stocks of grain, no money to buy grain, and no means of obtaining it, and that it is therefore necessary to open relief works in that portion of the taluk. The Commissioner has already, in Board's Proceedings, dated 25th September 1891, No. 612, sanctioned the opening of the—

Andiyur-Ammapet
Ammapet-Kaveripuram } roads as relief works.

In the Andiyur firka it is doubtful whether any relief works are really at present necessary, but the Andiyur portion of the first work mentioned will serve as a test work for that portion of the taluk.

3. In the distressed area, the Collector estimates that it will be necessary to afford employment for an average of 1,500 persons for the next six months if the early showers and the south-west monsoon rains come in seasonable amount. This would necessitate an expenditure of about Rs. 27,000. The Collector shows that on the roads selected the unexpended balance of the estimates is Rs. 29,832, and the Commissioner recommends that the works selected may be approved as there appear to be no irrigation works available for relief purposes in the locality. The Commissioner, however, doubts whether it will be necessary to afford relief for so long a period as six months, and considers that for the present it will suffice to provide for employing an average of 2,000 persons for three months. The cost of this would be about Rs. 18,200.

western channel were not taken up on the ground of cost and on the ground that the soil of the land that could be irrigated by it being poor, I would recommend the restoration of the tank and the formation of the eastern channel as being easy of achievement. The restoration of the tanks, &c., is one of the works suggested by Mr. Todhunter to improve the condition of the taluk.

6. In regard to weavers, there are no very important centres. There are, however—

60 looms weaving male cloths in Ammapet,
10 do. do. female do. in do.
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so far as I have seen. I am informed there are weavers in the casba firka ranging from 20 to 200 families. Most of these and Kurichi and Odathurai in the Anthiyur have also lands from which they have secured crops Their condition cannot therefore be said to be very much affected. Not so is the case of Ammapet weavers. some of those living in Anthiyur I made inquiries as to the kind of cloth they weave and as to costs, &c. (enclosure No. 4)—*vide* separate memorandum. Sammanjee is one kind of cloth. It is 6½ by 2½ cubits a cloth. The value of thread No. 40 used for four cloths is Rs. 1-11-7; the value of silk used for the same is Rs. 0-8-0; the value of rice for conjee and oil is 1 anna; the wages due to a female to help in manufacturing the cloth is 4 annas. Therefore the whole cost amounts to Rs. 2-8-7. These four cloths are now generally sold for Rs. 3-6-0; they therefore leave a saving of As. 13-5, which is the wages for one week during which these cloths can be made by an ordinary hand. Therefore the cooly for a day for an ordinary hand comes to 2 annas. There is another coarse cloth, Theruna-gesvaram. My calculation about this cloth and about the female cloth that is woven here gives but a cooly of 2 annas a day to a man working at his own loom. The manufacture of cloths thus leaves a very scanty margin for wages and nothing for gain. With such wages have owners to maintain a family consisting generally of two working and two non-working souls in these times when the prices are double of what they were last year. So owners of looms at which they employed coolies have turned out their coolies and left idle these looms which they cannot themselves do, hence the coolies who had no looms of their own are left to take care of themselves. Some of them, about seven or eight families, have gone to other places, I believe, temporarily, leaving only the weak and infirm behind in charge of their houses.

7. I understand that in November last, when relief works were going on near Ammapet, 14 females and 5 males resorted to the works. The Tahsildar tells me that the males could not have done any manual labour, but were probably employed as head coolies. This is probably a fact, but one man actually told me he was employed in removing prickly-pear from road-side. This state of things was a sure test of the existence of distress among weavers. Ordinarily their case would require special treatment, but unfortunately these classes are not congregated together in considerable numbers either in the same village or in a group of contiguous villages. If this latter fact were no objection, I would recommend that the weavers be afforded relief on the lines sanctioned for Salem. There is one thing in which the weavers here differ from those in Salem. One is able to manufacture coarse cloths used by the lower classes, and that alone, while the others (*i.e.*, Salem weavers) are able to weave cloths used by the higher classes also. I have called on the Tahsildar to get correct information as to the number of looms that were working six months ago and the number that is now actually working. I shall send it on as soon as it is received.

8. In regard to opening poor-houses, this is now too early. There is no unusual influx of beggars, and I do not notice any sign of emaciation in the people from distress.

9. In regard to the resources of the taluk, I had the trade going to the several markets in the taluk registered as far as possible for a market day. The extent of grains received, with information as to whether they were products of the taluk or outside it, is given in the accompanying form (enclosure No. 5). From this it will be seen that the food-grains brought to the market, with the exception of paddy, are in nearly all cases local products. In regard to the Buthapadi shandy I do not quite rely upon the figures given. The village officers, who evidently neglected my orders and failed to keep accounts seem to have drawn upon their imagination and furnished some information. This shandy will only be just as large as the one at Mylambadi. Taking one and the same figures for both the shandies, the quantity received during a day in all the eleven shandies as given in the list is found to be dry grains 19,999 and paddy 32,022, both of them put together being 52,021 Madras measures. Looking to the fact that the total population of the taluk according to the last census was 120,000 in round numbers and they are mostly agriculturists—and looking also to meet the fact that at the several markets I attended personally there was no lack of supply to meet the demand, I consider the markets are fairly well supplied. I consider also that the stock of food-grains in the taluk is enough to meet its demand. Only the owners do not freely open their stock for sale for fear that their future should be more gloomy. I should not omit to add that the markets in question are located in important and convenient centres, and therefore fairly represent the quantity brought for sale from all the parts of the taluk.

10. Speaking of fodder for cattle, I have no reason to fear that the supply is very deficient. Dry fodder is available everywhere, and though the outturn of crop is reported to be poor I have noticed a number of cholum straw heaps collected in field sheds and huts. I am sure that, if the outturn of crops had been half as good as the outturn of straw, there should be no need or relief operations in this taluk at all.

13/25/92

Read—the following letter from J. STURROCK, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and the Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 29th March 1892, Ref. on No. 707-Bd. :—

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Submitted for the orders of Government.

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In the Andiyur firka it is doubtful whether any relief works are really at present necessary, but the Andiyur portion of the first work mentioned will serve as a test work for that portion of the taluk.

3. In the distressed area, the Collector estimates that it will be necessary to afford employment for an average of 1,500 persons for the next six months if the early showers and the south-west monsoon rains come in seasonable amount. This would necessitate an expenditure of about Rs. 27,000. The Collector shows that on the roads selected the unexpended balance of the estimates is Rs. 29,832, and the Commissioner recommends that the works selected may be approved as there appear to be no irrigation works available for relief purposes in the locality. The Commissioner, however, doubts whether it will be necessary to afford relief for so long a period as six months, and considers that for the present it will suffice to provide for employing an average of 2,000 persons for three months. The cost of this would be about Rs. 18,200.

western channel were not taken up on the ground of cost and on the ground that the soil of the land that could be irrigated by it being poor, I would recommend the restoration of the tank and the formation of the eastern channel as being easy of achievement. The restoration of the tanks, &c., is one of the works suggested by Mr. Todhunter to improve the condition of the taluk.

6. In regard to weavers, there are no very important centres. There are, however—

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4. It does not appear necessary to provide at present for any gratuitous relief, though later on it may become necessary to open children's kitchens for the children of those employed on the works.

5. The Collector's report regarding relief to be granted to weavers will be awaited.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Coimbatore.

ORDER—dated 13th April 1892, No. 364, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The road works selected for relief purposes and referred to in paragraph 3 of the Board's Proceedings are approved. No allotment of funds is necessary with reference to G.O., dated 7th April 1892, No. 1880.

3. The report referred to in paragraph 5 should be submitted to Government when received.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
Copy to the Local and Municipal Department.
" " Public Works Department.

Exd. C. M. Brisson.

80 Copies.

Govt. of {1892} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 13th April 1892, No. 364.

APRIL.

Relief works.

Board's Proceedings submitting letter from the Collector of Coimbatore regarding — in the Bhavâni taluk, recorded with remark.

No. 1325 W dt/ 27.4.92

Communicated to the Secretary. Revenue IV Circle

/Sd/ ovB

DW

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Do S.E. IV Circle