

- (1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 6
 (2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 16/4/80
 (3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம் 19/4/80

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

PWD துறை

(37)

அரசாணை எண். மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண்.	712	அச்சகம் பலவகை
நாள் :	4-3-1892	198 X

மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

3 Sheds 20

22ND FEBRUARY 1892, No. 167, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

712
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READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 12th February 1892, No. 97:—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from E. C. JOHNSON, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Chatrapur, 23rd January 1892, No. 1567-Ver.:—

I have the honour to submit my monthly report on the general season prospects of the district.

2. No rain has fallen since last report. The country presents an appearance more suited to April than to January. Very few tanks contain water, except such as it was possible to fill up from river channels. Wells are fast drying up. A water famine is imminent in most upland parts of the district, and it is difficult to see what can be done to relieve it, the water level being in most places so low; where there seems any likelihood of adding to water supply by digging new wells or deepening old ones, this will be done.

3. *Agricultural operations.*—Owing to the dryness of the land, cold weather dry crops have not been sown as largely as usual. Ragi, green-gram, horse-gram, gingelly, castor and lamp oil seeds and tobacco are reported to have been sown in places. The standing crops of ragi, tobacco, sugar-cane, horse and red gram are doing fairly well in most places, but suffering from want of rain in others.

4. *Condition of people.*—As yet no sign of distress is observable. I have directed all taluk officers to keep a careful watch and report any sign of actual want of food. The Tahsildar of Chicacole taluk thinks that it will be necessary to open kitchens about the beginning of April; but it is too early yet to form a definite opinion on the point. Works on the East Coast Railway and Rushikulya works afford as yet ample work for all requiring it. There is so much work still to be done on the East Coast Railway in its northern section (chiefly north of Berhampore) that I do not think it will be necessary to start any special work in that part of the district, provided the railway is kept well provided with funds, which I trust Government will be pleased to see is the case.

5. *State of market and prices.*—In the weeks ending 26th December and 2nd January prices went up suddenly until they stood at, rice 11.22, ragi 17.94, cumbu 21.87, cholam 14.89 seers per rupee, the rates having been for the week ending December 19th rice 12.54, ragi 20.78, cumbu 24.37, cholam 18.48. For the weeks ending December 26th and January 2nd prices at several stations were reported considerably higher than scarcity rates. At the same time a loot at Bendy market in the Tekkali division was reported, and rumours of an intended loot at Berhampore were current, while in many places small purchasers could not obtain grains at all. I was at the time when these reports reached me at Suradā preparing for a tour in the Malahs which in these circumstances I considered it advisable to forego. I returned from Suradā to head-quarters, reaching Berhampore on the 14th and Chatrapur on the 17th.

6. The sudden rise of prices appeared to me to be unwarranted by the state of the district and to be the result of a panic arising out of the unexpected demand for the neighbouring district of Vizagapatam, the serious state of things in which had not hitherto been realised in this district. I am confirmed in the correctness of my

diagnosis by the fact that since then the demand for Vizagapatam has slackened, and prices have fallen somewhat; so that for the week ending 16th they stood at, rice 11-76, ragi 17-52, cumbu 19-16, cholam 16-36, and are showing a tendency to fall still lower.

7. There are, I have reason to believe, considerable stocks of rice in the district, especially in the northern part of it; while importation from Orissa and Nyagur in Bengal is going on briskly. Ragi is very scarce, as its price in comparison with rice shows.

8. The figures given below compare the prices of rice and ragi in the last month with that of January 1889, when the last famine was commencing. In that famine prices reached their culminating point in October 1888 when grain loots were taking place all over the district, and panic was prevalent. I trust that our panic point has been passed; and I do not apprehend any substantial rise in prices, at least for some time to come, and especially as the new crop rice has not yet come into the market to any extent.

		Rice.		Ragi.	
		1889.	1892.	1889.	1892.
1st week, January		12-0	11-37	21-99	18-70
2nd "	" "	11-75	11-23	21-62	17-94
3rd "	" "	11-49	11-76	21-37	17-52

9. *Number of coolies on works.*—No special relief works have been opened as yet, nor will it I trust be necessary to open any for some time to come at least. No inference can be drawn from the number of coolies employed on ordinary works during the past month; as from the end of harvest till the Pongal is over coolies in this part of the country will not leave their homes if they can possibly avoid doing so. I have called on all Public Works executive officers and the Local Fund Engineer to furnish me with fortnightly returns of coolies at work, but no such returns have yet been furnished. Meanwhile the Superintendent of Works, East Coast Railway, estimates the amount of earthwork on the northern section of the railway (north of Ichápur) at 125,000 men for three months. The Suradá reservoir, Russellkonda reservoir, and Gullery channel in the Rushikulya project will afford work for some thousands of coolies for more than a year.

10. Further south, in the Principal Assistant Collector's division, where the failure of crop and consequent distress is worst, there is not such an abundance of work. There is, however, probably sufficient to provide all that is necessary till the end of the official year. I have, under the authority conveyed in Board's Proceedings, No. 812, dated 18th December, authorised the Principal Assistant Collector to undertake extra works under minor irrigation should he find it necessary; he is of opinion that it will probably not be so until the next official year, except in a few villages at a distance from the line of rail.

11. I hear that the levels for the extension of the Nagarikattakam channel alluded to in paragraph 4 of my letter, No. 1567-Ver., dated 26th November 1891, have been nearly completed; and I have pressed the Executive Engineer to hurry on the estimates. As soon as sanction is granted to undertake this work, a special officer will be necessary for a month or two to take up the land required for it, and I request that should I then apply by wire for the appointment of an officer for the purpose (one of the grade of Deputy Tahsildar will suffice), sanction may be accorded without delay.

12. As soon as any special works are started under taluk officers, it will be advisable to relieve them of their magisterial work as far as possible, as with them will rest the responsibility of seeing that State funds are not wasted, and that as small a percentage of payments as possible is diverted to contractors. I shall then propose

to invest the local Sub-Registrars with 3rd-class magisterial powers; and in this case also I trust the Board will be prepared to act promptly on an application by wire.

13. *Well sinking by aid of loans.*—Hitherto no success has attended attempts to induce ryots to take loans for well sinking. The Tahsildar of Chicacole and the Deputy Tahsildar of Tekkali, themselves both belonging to a cultivating caste, have specially exerted themselves in this respect and so has Mr. Andrew, but as yet without success. Further efforts will still be made in this direction; but I much fear the *vis inertia* of the Ganjam ryot will be too much for us. Laziness has a great deal to do with their unwillingness to dig wells, but it is partially due to a not unfounded doubt as to wells in the situations where they are most wanted providing water at a workable depth and to an apprehension of failing to strike water altogether. I cannot hope that it will be possible to afford any substantial relief to distress from this source.

14. *Grazing, &c.*—Green grass is very scarce; but as yet paddy straw on the fields together with the grass along the tamparas and such tanks as are not yet dry suffice for the requirements of cattle. They show no sign of want.

15. Since drafting the above I have received a report from the Deputy Tahsildar of Tekkali to the effect that some ryots were coming forward to take loans under the special well rules, &c., in which he asks for an allotment of Rs. 1,000 for the current official year, within which he hopes to expend it. I request that the amount asked may be allotted and the fact intimated by wire. Considering how important it is to make a start in this direction, I have directed the Deputy Tahsildar to act in anticipation of allotment.

Resolution—dated 12th February 1892, No. 97.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. There was practically no rain during December in Ganjam and none has been reported since the close of the month, whilst the prospect of any considerable amount falling anywhere in the district, except in the hill tracts, before May next, is very small, although occasionally, as in 1871, 1877 and 1885, there has been a fair amount of rain registered in the coast tracts in February, March and April. The country is described as presenting an appearance more suited to April than to January, and the supply in the wells is decreasing and the tanks are dry generally. The usual cold weather sowings have been restricted in area, but the standing crops are generally doing fairly. Pasturage is very scarce, but fodder is generally available and the cattle have not suffered as yet.

3. Prices, which, as already reported in Board's Proceedings, dated 25th January 1892, No. 56, rose in the case of rice on the 9th January to the scarcity rate for the district (11-2 seers per rupee) have since, as anticipated therein, owing to large imports from Bengal and to the reduction of the demand for Vizagapatam, fallen again and both rice and ragi are

now cheaper than the scarcity rates fixed for those grains in the district and rice is now rather cheaper than it was in January 1889, though ragi is rather dearer. Considerable stocks of grain are believed to exist and importation from Bengal is active, and the Collector does not anticipate any substantial rise of price for some months to come at least.

4. The condition of the people appears to be good, and abundant employment is available in the northern parts of the district on the railway and the Rushikulya project works and there appears to be no likelihood of any relief works being necessary in those parts. Towards the south, in the Chicacole taluk, however, it may be necessary later on to provide some extra employment and the Collector again alludes to the

Nagarikattakam channel already mentioned in Board's Proceedings, dated 18th December 1891, No. 812, and states that the levels for its extension have been nearly completed. He also requests that, if the work be sanctioned for execution, the appointment of a special officer of the grade of Deputy Tahsildar in order to take up the land required for it, may be sanctioned on application by wire. The Collector also states that he may find it necessary to apply by wire for authority to invest local Sub-Registrars with magisterial powers in case special relief works become necessary; but in that case it will probably be better to appoint a Deputy Tahsildar as in other districts similarly situated. As it appears unlikely that relief works will be required for another two months at any rate, the Collector will be requested to report fully on the amount of relief that may be required, and to set forth in detail the requirements of the affected tract as prescribed in the Famine Code. Should any necessity unexpectedly arise for giving employment to considerable numbers before the Public Works Department is prepared with any suitable works, the Collector is recommended to concentrate labour in a few selected spots and to employ it on the breaking and stacking of metal and the stacking of gravel along the sides of existing roads, the labour being tasked and paid for at the rates laid down in the Famine Code. Work of this kind is more easily supervised than any other by unprofessional agency; it can be easily tasked and the outturn easily calculated.

5. The Collector will be informed by wire that the allotment of Rs. 1,000 asked for for disbursement as loans for well sinking is sanctioned.

6. Future monthly reports should be submitted so as to reach the Board before the 10th of each month.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

Copy to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department.

ORDER—dated 22nd February 1892, No. 167, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The Board's instructions in paragraph 4 of its Proceedings are approved.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. A. Aubert.

80 Copies.

712/3

Gobt. of {1892} Madras.
REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. 3. 3. 77

Encl.

G.O., 22nd February 1892, No. 167.

FEBRUARY.

Season, Ganjam.

Board's Proceedings submitting letter from the Collector regarding the state of the season in the district for December 1891, recorded, with remark.

with order

No. 712 Waf 4 March '92

Communicated
to the Suptg. Engineer
I Circle

5-2-92 S

(3)

2 letters to Suptg. Engineer
one for file 11-2-92

S. I. Circle 24/3.

C. A. J. S. I. Circle 25/3

CS. B. J. 2. C. 5/3