(1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 36

(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் நவம்பர் 1990

(3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம்

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

PWD துறை

(16)

அரசாணை எண். 942 — அச்சகம்

மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண். — பலவகை

நாள் : 22-3-1892 198 .

மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

18 Sheets

ஆவண. கா-1—18,006—15-6-87.

(12)

942/1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

READ—the following paper :—

G.O., dated 17th March 1892, No. 260, Revenue.

Read—the following paper :—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 4th March 1892, No. 163.

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from A. T. ARUNDEL, Esq., Collector of Kistna, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Vinukonda, 10th February 1892, Extl. No. 159 :—

I have the honour to report to the Board on the state of those parts of the Kistna district which are suffering from the effects of the unfavorable season and to give the results of my tour through the affected portions of the Palnád and Vinukonda taluks as promised in my endorsement, No. 9151, dated 2nd December 1891—*vide* Board's Proceedings, No. 27, dated 13th January 1892. I was accompanied throughout by the General Deputy Collector M.R.Ry. P. Pundarikakshudu and the Tashildar of the taluk under inspection and by the District Forest-officer Mr. Alwar Chetty.

2. The Palnád taluk lies isolated at the extreme north-west of the district. It forms an irregular oblong between 50 and 60 miles long from east to west and from 20 to 30 broad from north to south. It is bounded on the north and west by the river Kistna and on the south by the hills of Márkápur in Kurnool and by the continuation of the same range which divides it from the taluk of Vinukonda. The western portion is mainly hill and jungle. Numerous hill streams and water-courses run through the taluk to the Kistna, and it thus possesses natural facilities for irrigation of a most exceptional character which have been entirely neglected during our rule owing to the distant and isolated character of the country. G.O., No. 363 I., Public Works, dated 30th June 1890, contains a list of six schemes of irrigation, new and old, for this taluk which I have inspected, and I take this opportunity of placing on record seven others which I have visited during my recent tour and which should be inspected by the Special Assistant Engineer in this district.

(1) The restoration of two ruined tanks at Patagangulagunta 3 miles south-west of Srigiripad to store up the water of the Pulichintapayivagu with a catchment basin of over 30 square miles. The irrigating capacity of a square mile of catchment basin may be roughly taken to be 40 acres.

(2) A dam across the Chandravagu in a gorge to the west of Srigiripad to irrigated lands in Gottipalla. Catchment basin 15 to 18 square miles.

(3) A dam to store the water of the Vedimangalamvagu in Veludurti at its passage through a low ridge near Veerabadrapuram. Catchment basin about 15 square miles.

(4) A dam to store the Vedimangalamvagu at Manchikollu catchment basin about 44 square miles.

(5) Restoration of a ruined tank at Gangavaram a mile below Guruzala. The Dandivagu has here a catchment basin of about 60 to 70 square miles. Another ruined tank above this at Jangameshwarapuram was mentioned in the Government Order above quoted, and I am having an estimate made by the Local Fund Supervisor for its repair if possible by the Revenue department.

(6) Restoration of a ruined tank on the main branch of the same stream higher up at Tsarlagudipad. The bed is much silted up, and the bund must be raised if tank is to be restored.

(7) A supply channel a mile or two in length from the Vedimangalamvagu to the tank at Rentachintala. This is a minor work which, I hope, to get executed by the Revenue department.

3. The revenue of the Palnád taluk is Rs. 3,06,704, of which only Rs. 15,515 is derived from irrigation. The chief products are cotton, castors, cholum, sazza and varagu.

4. Prices in January stood as follows :—

—	PRICES IN SEERS OF 80 TOLAS PER RUPEE.		
	Average of 1889—91.	Scarcity rate.	Present rate, January 1892.
Paddy			
Rice	25·74	..	13·3
Cholum	12·6	11·2	14·4
Sazza	22·59	14·7	15·3
Varagu	23·18	15·4	Not procurable.
	26·26	..	

5. The rainfall of last year was 17·07 inches as compared with an average of 29½ inches as follows :—

	1891.	Average of five years.
January	...	...
February	...	...
March	...	...
April	0·2	...
May	...	...
June	0·7	...
July	6·07	..
August	2·25	...
September	5 5	...
October	2·35	...
November	...	...
December	...	...
	17·07	29·6

The rainfall was thus 12½ inches below the average as shown by the rain-gauge at Dachepalle. It was, however, most unequally distributed. The eastern part of the taluk has done fairly well, a few villages indeed better than usual. Other parts have had an almost entire failure of every crop. I entered the taluk from Vinukonda through the Kambhalkanama pass at the village of Obaleshanapalle where the villagers met me in excellent spirits and assured me, what farmers seldom admit, that they had excellent harvests. Six miles to the east comes a village where 2 annas is a favorable estimate for the outturn of every crop of the season.

942/2

6. At every halting place were deputations of ryots from the distressed villages requesting remission of the dry assessment or at least its suspension, while no such plea was put forward from the more fortunate localities. Without troubling the Board with details, I may say that the distressed villages form two groups—one of six villages south-east of Tummerkode and a second of twelve villages running from Guruzala, the future head-quarters of the taluk south-east of Julakallu at the foot of the hills. There is also a single village at the extreme west, Gangalagunta, which received no rain, while its neighbours fared moderately well. In these villages the area of entirely withered crop is excessive, rising to above a half of the cultivated area, while the outturn of such crop as eared is exceedingly low, varying from 2 to 4 annas.

7. In these 19 villages, the names of which follow, I have informed the ryots that, subject to the sanction of the Board, the collection of the fourth instalment of dry kist will be suspended from March till November next, and I beg that the Board will be pleased to sanction this course. The amount is Rs. 17,127. The total dry assessment of each village is here given :—

	RS.
1. Matukumalle	1,267
2. Passerlapad	1,776
3. Palvay	4,140
4. Khambampad	3,580
5. Rentachintala	3,914
6. Rayavaram	3,579
7. Guruzala	13,090
8. Budavada	1,167
9. Jogulapad	2,025
10. Senkarapuram Siddehoye	4,041
11. Peddakodamagulla	4,048
12. Chinnakodamagulla	1,900
13. Chintapalle	5,116
14. Julakallu	3,453
15. Petasannigulla	2,643
16. Karempudi	4,247
17. Oppicherla	3,707
18. Narmalapadu	883
19. Gan...	
	68,507

8. The condition of the people is good, and none, except Pariahs, Chucklers, Muhammadans and a scanty few of the Telagas, were ready to accept road work. About 500 of the last-named classes were at work as coolies on the Tummerkodu-Guruzala road and the number had risen on 5th February to 1,115. On the 12th February it had fallen to 926. A special grant of Rs. 5,000 has been made for this road and Rs. 8,000 more will bring it to completion. A new road from Guruzala to Karempudi and Julakallu, branching thence to Nekarikal and Pidugurala, altogether 20 miles long, is about to be constructed, the survey has been completed and the estimate is almost ready. Work will be begun upon it at once. Rs. 1,000 have been placed at the Local Fund Engineer's disposal and will be supplemented by Rs. 9,000 more till the end of March, which can be met from savings and transfers from other works. Rs. 30,000 more can be spent on this road from 1st April to the early rains in June, and allotments will be made as may be necessary. In addition to this work, which will be of real and permanent advantage to the taluk, three of the hill passes through the reserved forest (Kambhal, Kakerala and Dowpalle Kanamas) will be improved for cart traffic by the Forest department out of allotments amounting to Rs. 1,100 made by the Taluk Board. The sum to be expended on roads may, therefore, amount to Rs. 54,100 which will provide work for 2,500 coolies—men, women and children—for five months at an average of 2 annas each per day. All work is being done on contract and by measurement, and I should deprecate a resort to daily wages at present. A cooly can earn 3 annas per day at stone breaking by a good day's work. Some told me they were earning 3 annas, others said they made only 2 annas.

9. *Water-supply and wells.*—Wells are running dry everywhere and but few tanks or pools have any water at all. Allotments, amounting to Rs 2,800, have been made from Local Funds for 13 wells. An estimate for the restoration of the Jungameshwarapuram tank and the improvement of Guruzala dependent on it, is nearly completed by the Local Fund Supervisor Mr. Small as noted in paragraph 2 (5) above. Work No. (7) will also be estimated for.

10. *Other works.*—A chuttram, rest-house and hospital are to be built at Guruzala, the new head-quarters of the taluk, and a school house at Dáchepalle, and these buildings will be pushed on. I beg that the Board will move Government to begin the construction of the new taluk cutcherry at Guruzala for the same reason. A similar request will be made (paragraphs 22, 25 and 29) for the public buildings at Vinukonda, Narasaraopet and Bápatla.

11. The prospects for cattle are depressing. The last cattle census gave 215,133 as the total number in the taluk. Of green fodder there is almost none; of dry the insufficient quantity may be judged by the failure of crops. In Dáchepalle which is not one of the distressed villages, I was told of a ryot selling for Rs. 25 with many laments, a bull worth Rs. 100 to a merchant from the delta. He had no confidence he could keep it alive till next rains. At the same time I must say that at present all the cattle I saw were well-to-do and well fed. But many have been sent to the Nizam's Dominions and to the delta for pasture.

12. Personal appeals for permission to procure pasture for cattle in the reserved forests were more numerous than applications for a suspension of revenue collection. In none of the forests that I have visited in these parts is there now any grass at all, but the forest system is already beginning, as the ryots themselves acknowledge, to produce a beneficial effect, and a large growth of yepi (*Hardwickia binata*) and jana (*Grewia Asiatica*) leaves is available for pasturing cattle. The standing rule is a fee of [illegible] day, a ryot for a head-load of leaves, but as a bullock will consume a head-load in a day, a ryot to fetch leaves for 100 head of cattle would require the daily attendance of 100 men ordered a month or two ago, a reduction of the fee to 3 pies per head-load, which I

13. After several days' travel through [illegible] loss for the same reason.
the Tahsildar and the Deputy Collector, the District [illegible] and discussions with the ryots, has worked out with me a method of meeting the needs of the people, Mr. Alwar Chetty of damage to the forests. [illegible] minimum

14. Under the great stress of universal failure of grass pasturage apart from farm produce, the object is to keep the cattle alive till next rains, when their owners will be in a position to pay fees and maintain the forest revenue once more, which they cannot do if the cattle die. All permits, therefore, under the arrangements I have now made, will be free

15. The reserved forests are divided into blocks of a size capable of supervision by a suitable forest staff and two blocks are assigned to each village or set of villages—one block to be used for pasturage from now till the end of March and the other from the end of March till the rains.

16. The chief cause of damage in the forests is the destruction of saplings and boughs of the yepi by axe and by breakage in order to place the leaves within reach of the cattle. This must be by some effectual means prevented. The holder of the permit will therefore be required to provide himself with a "dhoty" or long stick with a hook at the end. This is strong enough to clip off the twigs and leaves, but not strong enough to cut or break a bough, and we hope by this simple means to solve the difficulty of providing fodder without serious injury to the trees during the present drought. The villagers are held responsible for the exclusion of axes for the preservation of the trees from damage and for immediate and joint help in extinguishing fire, and in cases of default all permits will be cancelled and the block absolutely closed to the whole village. The villagers have been made to understand these conditions which are also printed on the permits, and their co-operation may, I think, be fully relied on.

942/3

17. I pass now to the *Vinukonda taluk* which lies due south of Palnád but cut off from it by the range of hill and jungle already referred to. The rainfall* of the season, though extremely defective (15·53 inches against an average of 30·7 for the past 5 years or 28·25 for the past 4 years), has been so well distributed that, though the wet crops have almost entirely failed, the dry crops in most villages have harvested moderately well and grain and dry fodder have been stored. No general suspension of revenue collections is required. Only two or three villages are in a thoroughly poor condition. One of these (Gandiganamala) lies on a plateau to the extreme north-west, adjoining the pass into Palnád and is inhabited by a colony of lambadies. Another village on the same plateau (Remidicherla) requires special arrangements for providing work. The lambadies will find work on two of the passes mentioned in paragraph 8 (see also paragraph 20 below). A fourth village (Putsamutla) to the extreme south of the taluk in which crops have extensively failed will receive consideration by postponement of coercive process where the Deputy Collector is satisfied of inability to pay.

* Rainfall—

1891.	INS.
June	1·63
July	4·24
August	1·29
September	4·55
October	3·66
November	0·16
December	...
Total	15·53

18. Green fodder for the cattle is everywhere wanting and the arrangements for forest pasturage already described have been made here also to the great relief of the ryots.

19. *Water-supply* is scanty in numerous villages and Local fund allotments amounting to over Rs. 1,663 for wells have been made.

20. In this taluk, as in Palnád, the poorer classes, many of whom belong to the American Baptist Mission, are in need of employment. For these, besides the sinking and improvement of wells already referred to, there will be repairs of 11 minor tanks under the Public Works Department with sanctioned allotments amounting to Rs. 4,200.

21. In the isolated north-west plateau already referred to, work is required for the poorer classes of Remidicherla, Gandiganamala and Ravalapuram. In Remidicherla there are three connected tanks breached in the great cyclone of 1864 and never repaired since. They irrigated an area of 73 acres. There used to be numerous irrigation wells in the village, but with the breaching of the tanks the sub-soil springs sank out of reach and they are abandoned, and there was only one well even for drinking water at the time of my visit. On inspection I found the sluices of the tanks in fair order and nothing wanted but the closing of breaches, raising and revetting of portions of banks and provision for a waste weir over hard ground. During my halt the Forest Ranger Ananada Row (qualified for Public Works Department Supervisor) took and recorded levels and sections and assisted the Tahsildar to pepare estimates which were checked by the Local Fund Supervisor Mr. Small (formerly on tank restoration work) who had marched through the pass from Palnád to meet me. The estimate amounted to Rs. 2,100 and under the special circumstances of the case I ordered the work to be put in hand at once out of minor irrigation funds and I beg the Board's approval of my action. The estimate is enclosed. An estimate for the repair of the Ipur tank, a considerable work, is with the Superintending Engineer and that for the restoration of Dondapad tank, amounting to more than a lakh of rupees, is now before the Government, and I trust it may be passed and an allotment provided at once.

22. A new taluk cutcherry has been sanctioned for Vinukonda and I beg that Government may be asked to allow the work to be begun as an additional source of employment (see paragraphs 10 and 23).

23. Other irrigation works in this taluk, some of which have already been approved by the Superintending Engineer, await estimates for construction or restoration and will afford abundant work if promptly taken in hand. Others are projects which require investigation. The chief of these are an anicut across the large river

Gundlakamma at Andugulapad. Restorations of ruined tanks at Gandiganamala in the extreme north-west, at Peddakancherla (doubtful) and Tirupurapuram in the south, and at Muppala in the north-east. All these but the last I have seen and consider them deserving of professional investigation.

24. A new road 16 miles long is being surveyed from Vinukonda to Kopparapad, and can be put in hand if it should be found necessary. Among petty works is the improvement of a pass north of Vinukonda by the Forest Department at a cost of Rs. 100 out of Local Funds.

25. *Narsaraopet taluk.*—This taluk has also been affected in the south and west parts by the drought of the past year. Its rainfall * was 11·88 inches against an average of 31·88 inches. The early crop of jonna turned out fairly well, the estimate of the 10 worst villages of the taluk averaging 10 annas. The later crops fared worse and 59 out of 93 villages averaged only a 4-anna crop. I summoned the Tahsildar to meet me and the Deputy Collector at Vinukonda, and found no difficulty in deciding that no relief in the form of a general suspension of revenue collection was necessary, though care will have to be exercised to avoid extreme measures for enforcing payment in the case of the poorer ryots. Water-supply, as far as wells for drinking-water are concerned, is somewhat more favorable than in the other two taluks. Rs. 2,670 have been allotted for wells.

1891.		INS.
June		0·35
July		4·25
August		2·18
September		2·82
October		2·18
November		0·10
December		...
	Total ...	11·88

26. For the poorer classes in this taluk, many of whom are represented by Roman Catholic and Baptist Missionaries, work is required, and for this purpose the road from Sattenapalle to Narsaraopet, about 16 miles for which estimate is completed, will be begun at once and allotments provided as may be necessary.

27. I beg that Government may be moved to order the immediate erection of the three sanctioned public buildings at Narsaraopet, the taluk cutcherry, the District Munsif's court and the Deputy Collector's office. They are greatly needed and they will afford a large amount of work to the laboring and artisan classes.

28. The other affected taluks of this district are Sattenapalle and Bápatla, and to discuss their condition the Sub-Collector Mr. Wedderburn met me at Vinukonda.

29. Sattenapalle taluk may be disposed of with the remark that only four villages are affected. These have been inspected by Mr. Wedderburn who finds no special arrangements needed.

30. Bápatla taluk has fared worse, but of course only the upland villages. These in number under 20 all lie north of the Kommamur canal and to the west of the taluk adjoining the Nellore district and Narsaraopet. There has been extensive failure of dry crops and also of water-supply. Mr. Wedderburn has visited nearly all these villages and is satisfied that for the great majority of the ryots there is no lack, not merely of food but of means to pay the revenue demands. He finds here what is common throughout the affected tracts, not so much a danger of present scarcity of food as the fear that the past season of drought may be followed by one still worse, and that the year Nandana will prove a year of famine as it did in its cycle sixty years ago. On the whole, therefore, no suspension of revenue collection can be recommended, but the Sub-Collector will continue his observations during the jamabandi of the taluk which he is about to begin, and I will not fail to address the Board again should occasion require.

31. A new taluk cutcherry has been sanctioned for Bápatla and I beg that its construction may be commenced to add to the available work.

32. The water-supply of the uplands of Bápatla is bad and unfortunately the sub-soil springs are so brackish that little can be done for improvement. Mr. Wedderburn is however arranging for local fund allotments wherever they can be usefully employed.

94²/4

33. Mr. Wedderburn was surprised at the comparatively prosperous condition of the pariahs and chucklers of these villages. They are in the habit of moving into the delta every year for the harvest, and in this way acquire means of subsistence to supplement those of their own homes. Throughout the delta there will be from the 1st March a large demand for labour by the Public Works Department in widening and deepening the irrigation canals; so much work indeed is there to do that the canals are being closed a month earlier than usual. Employment in abundance for ordinary coolies is therefore available till the beginning of June. It is a question however whether the work will suffice for all demands if there is a large influx of laborers from the Nellore district.

34. In conclusion I beg the sanction of the Board and of Government to the following proposals:—

(1) The suspension till November of the fourth instalment of dry assessment in nineteen villages of Palnád amounting to Rs. 17,127 (paragraph 7).

(2) The repair of the Remidicherla tanks in Vinukonda at a cost of Rs. 2,100. The work is in progress and the amount can be provided at present by transfer within the district (paragraph 21).

(3) The sanction of the Dondapad tank estimate in Vinukonda, now before Government in the Irrigation Branch of Public Works Department, and an allotment for the present and for next official year (paragraph 21).

(4) Sanction for the continuance of expenditure from Provincial funds on the cutcherries, court and office at Guruzala (Palnád), Vinukonda, Narsaraopet and Bápatla (paragraphs 10, 22, 27, 31).

(5) The investigation of the various irrigation projects I have mentioned by the Special Assistant Engineer under the orders of the Superintending Engineer.

Resolution—dated 4th March 1892, No. 163.

Mr. Arundel's report on the condition of the parts of his district which have suffered during the past season, will be submitted for the information of Government.

2. The area in any way affected lies in the four southern taluks of his district, in which the rainfall of the year has been as follows compared with the averages of the previous 20 years. At all these stations rain during the first four months of the year is rare.

Station.		May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total for year.
Palnád	Average ..	1·7	3·4	3·8	5·4	6·6	4·4	2·6	·4	29·0
	1891	..	·7	6·1	2·3	5·5	2·4	..	..	17·1
Vinukonda	Average ..	1·6	2·7	3·1	4·0	4·5	6·5	3·4	·8	27·3
	1891	·3	1·6	4·2	1·3	4·6	3·7	·2	..	17·7
Narsaraopet	Average ..	2·0	3·5	4·1	4·4	5·3	6·1	3·3	·3	30·2
	1891	..	·4	4·3	2·2	2·8	2·2	·1	..	12.4
Bápatla	Average ..	2·0	3·6	4·2	6·9	6·3	8·1	4·4	·5	36·9
	1891	·1	1·6	3·5	5·1	4·7	1·9	·1	..	19·2

In Bápatla, it is only the upland villages, west of the Commamur canal, that are affected at all and in Narsaraopet the early crops did well, but in 59 villages out of 93 the late crop was very poor. In Vinukonda, though the rainfall was very light, it was well distributed and it is only in a few villages on the western border, adjoining the Palnád, and in one on the south, adjoining the affected area in Nellore, that any special arrangements will be necessary. In Palnád, the situation is much worse. In 19 villages, comprising two groups, and one isolated village near the Márkápur frontier, more than half the crop withered and the remainder only yielded from $\frac{1}{5}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ crop. It does not appear that the people in any part of these taluks are very sorely pressed,

or that relief on a large scale will be required. Even in the Palnád, there are a good many villages where the crops have been good.

3. In the affected villages of Palnád, the Collector urges that the instalment of revenue due in March next (Rs. 17,127) may be suspended until November. In no other part does Mr. Arundel consider that any special concessions of this character are required, but he states that the collection of the land revenue should not be pressed in the case of the poorer ryots. His proposals meet with the approval of the Commissioner.

4. Prices are and have been for some time very high in all the affected taluks and that of cholum in Palnád is still above the scarcity rate fixed for the district as shown below:—

	1891-92.			February.		1891-92.			February.	
	Average for					Average for				
	December.	January.	February, 27th.	Normal.	Last famine.	December.	January.	February, 27th.	Normal.	Last famine.
	Rice.					*Cholum.*				
Palnád { Tumurukodu	7·6	9·0	9·0	13·4	8·2	12·7	13·9	13·9	21·4	10·1
Palnád { Dáchepalle	8·8	9·0		14·1	9·2	14·1	13·9		19·6	11·0
Vinukonda	9·7	9·8	9·5	13·5	9·9	15·2	14·8	15·7	25·7	10·9
Narsaraopet	..	..	10·3	14·1	9·7	16·4	15·1	16·7	22·2	11·3
Sattenapalle	9·5	9·1	9·5	14·5	10·8	17·2	15·4	15·4	27·0	12·8
Scarcity rates ..	11·2					14·7				
	Cumbu.					*Ragi.*				
Palnád { Tumurukodu	11·1	12·6	..	21·7	9·3	14·7	16·3	..	26·2	11·0
Palnád { Dáchepalle	..	13·4		20·0	10·6	..	..		36·0	..
Vinukonda	14·3	14·1	14·2	20·6	9·7	15·8	16·0	14·7	24·6	10·5
Narsaraopet	15·7	13·8	14·5	20·1	10·4	..	..	..	26·8	..
Sattenapalle	16·8	15·3	15·8	24·2	11·8	..	..	..	27·1	13·4
Scarcity rates ..	15·4					16·6				

5. To provide employment for those in need of it, who are chiefly Pariahs and Muhammadans, the Local Fund Board is constructing two new roads, which will be of permanent benefit to the Palnád taluk, and three of the hill passes into the taluk are also being improved with Local funds. At present all work is being done by contract and the coolies are earning liberal wages. Allotments of Local funds have also been made for clearing out the drinking-water wells where required, and estimates are being prepared for some irrigation works in the locality. Mr. Arundel also directs renewed attention to the irrigational facilities of the taluk and mentions some projects which he considers worthy of investigation, in addition to those mentioned in his letter disposed of in G.O., dated 30th June 1890, No. 363 I. The Commissioner requests that the attention of the Public Works Department may be called to his suggestions.

6. To provide employment for the people in the three isolated villages of Vinukonda, Mr. Arundel has put in hand the repair of a tank at a cost of Rs. 2,100 from Minor Irrigation funds. The estimate will be referred to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for examination. He also urges that the repairs of the Ipur and Dondapad tanks may be put in hand at an early date, and the Commissioner requests that the attention of the Public Works Department may be drawn to the matter.

7. In Narsaraopet, the Collector is starting the construction of a road, 16 miles long, to provide employment. For the remaining areas he does not propose anything beyond the immediate erection of new public offices at Bápatla at the same time as those proposed for Palnád, Vinukonda and Narsaraopet, which he considers will afford a good deal of employment for both skilled and unskilled labour. The commencement of these buildings will give useful and much needed employment if Provincial funds are available.

942/5

8. The reserved forests have been generally thrown open for grazing and the careful arrangements made for their protection are described in paragraphs 15 and 16 of the Collector's letter.

9. The Collector does not mention whether it will be possible to encourage the sinking of wells by the aid of loans and so far no loans have been granted for the purpose in the district. His attention will be drawn to the matter with a request that all Divisional officers may be instructed to use every endeavour to push forward this work, so valuable to the ryots and also a means of affording employment to considerable numbers of people.

10. The Collector will be requested to report monthly, until further notice, on the condition of the affected areas in his district. His reports should reach the Board by the 10th of each month.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

Order—dated 17th March 1892, No. 260, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The Board's instructions in paragraphs 9 and 10 of its Proceedings, as also the Collector's action in having thrown open the reserved forests for grazing purposes, subject to certain restrictions, are approved.

3. The Collector's recommendation in clause (1) of paragraph 34 of his letter is sanctioned and his proposals in clauses (3), (4) and (5) will be considered in the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

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

ORDER—dated 22nd March 1892, No. 942 W., Public Works.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, II Circle.

2. The estimate for the restoration of the Dondapad tank has been sanctioned in G.O., No. 191 I., dated 25th February 1892.

3. A sum of Rs. 6,000 has been provided in the Provincial budget for 1892–93 for the construction of a taluk office at Guruzala. The question of providing funds for the offices at Vinukonda, Narsaraopet and Bápatla will be considered on receipt of the estimates for the buildings which should now be expedited, reference being made to the present order in support of the application for funds.

4. The Superintending Engineer has already been instructed by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation to arrange for the investigation of the projects suggested by the Collector.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, II Circle.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. A. D. Xavier.

Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of {1892} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated March, 22nd.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 22nd Mar. 1892, No. 942 W.

MARCH.

Season, Kistna

Orders on certain proposals of the Collector of the Kistna district embodied in Proceedings, Revenue Department, on the condition of the affected areas in his district.

17TH MARCH 1892, No. 260, REVENUE.

942/6

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 4th March 1892, No. 163 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from A. T. ARUNDEL, Esq., Collector of Kistna, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Vinukonda, 10th February 1892, Extra No. 159 :—

I have the honour to report to the Board on the state of those parts of the Kistna district which are suffering from the effects of the unfavorable season and to give the results of my tour through the affected portions of the Palnád and Vinukonda taluks as promised in my endorsement, No. 9151, dated 22nd December 1891—*vide* Board's Proceedings, No. 27, dated 13th January 1892. I was accompanied throughout by the General Deputy Collector M.R.Ry. P. Pundarikakshudu and the Tashildar of the taluk under inspection and by the District Forest-officer Mr. Alwar Chetty.

2. The Palnad taluk lies isolated at the extreme north-west of the district. It forms an irregular oblong between 50 and 60 miles long from east to west and from 20 to 30 broad from north to south. It is bounded on the north and west by the river Kistna and on the south by the hills of Márkápur in Kurnool and by the continuation of the same range which divides it from the taluk of Vinukonda. The western portion is mainly hill and jungle. Numerous hill streams and water-courses run through the taluk to the Kistna, and it thus possesses natural facilities for irrigation of a most exceptional character which have been entirely neglected during our rule owing to the distant and isolated character of the country. G.O., No. 363 I, Public Works, dated 30th June 1890, contains a list of six schemes of irrigation, new and old, for this taluk which I have inspected, and I take this opportunity of placing on record seven others which I have visited during my recent tour and which should be inspected by the Special Assistant Engineer in this district.

(1) The restoration of two ruined tanks at Patagangulagunta 3 miles south-west of Srigiripad to store up the water of the Pulichintapayivagu with a catchment basin of over 30 square miles. The irrigating capacity of a square mile of catchment basin may be roughly taken to be 40 acres.

(2) A dam across the Chandravagu in a gorge to the west of Srigiripad to irrigated lands in Gottipalla. Catchment basin 15 to 18 square miles.

(3) A dam to store the water of the Vedimangalamvagu in Veludurti at its passage through a low ridge near Veerabadrapuram. Catchment basin about 15 square miles.

(4) A dam to store the Vedimangalamvagu at Manchikollu catchment basin about 44 square miles.

(5) Restoration of a ruined tank at Gangavaram a mile below Guruzala. The Dandivagu has here a catchment basin of about 60 to 70 square miles. Another ruined tank above this at Jangameshwarapuram was mentioned in the Government Order above quoted, and I am having an estimate made by the Local Fund Supervisor for its repair if possible by the Revenue department.

(6) Restoration of a ruined tank on the main branch of the same stream higher up at Tsarlagudipad. The bed is much silted up, and the bund must be raised if tank is to be restored.

(7) A supply channel a mile or two in length from the Vedimangalamvagu to the tank at Rentachintala. This is a minor work which, I hope, to get executed by the Revenue department.

3. The revenue of the Palnád taluk is Rs. 3,06,704, of which only Rs. 15,515 is derived from irrigation. The chief products are cotton, castors, cholum, sazza and varagu.

4. Prices in January stood as follows:—

—	PRICES IN SEERS OF 80 TOLAS PER RUPEE.		
	Average of 1889—91.	Scarcity rate.	Present rate, January 1892.
Paddy	25·74	..	18·
Rice	12·6	11·2	9·
Cholum	22·59	14·7	14·4
Sazza	23·18	15·4	15·3
Varagu	26·26	..	Not procurable.

5. The rainfall of last year was 17·07 inches as compared with an average of 29½ inches as follows:—

	1891.	Average of five years.
January	...	...
February	...	...
March	...	...
April	0·2	...
May	...	...
June	0·7	..
July	6·07	...
August	2·25	...
September	5·5	...
October	2·35	...
November	...	...
December	...	...
	17·07	29·6

The rainfall was thus 12½ inches below the average as shown by the rain-gauge at Dachepalle. It was, however, most unequally distributed. The eastern part of the taluk has done fairly well, a few villages indeed better than usual. Other parts have had an almost entire failure of every crop. I entered the taluk from Vinukonda through the Kambhalkanama pass at the village of Obaleshanapalle where the villagers met me in excellent spirits and assured me, what farmers seldom admit, that they had excellent harvests. Six miles to the east comes a village where 2 annas is a favorable estimate for the outturn of every crop of the season.

6. At every halting place were deputations of ryots from the distressed villages requesting remission of the dry assessment or at least its suspension, while no such plea was put forward from the more fortunate localities. Without troubling the Board with details, I may say that the distressed villages form two groups—one of six villages south-east of Tummerkode and a second of twelve villages running from Guruzala, the future head-quarters of the taluk south-east of Julakallu at the foot of the hills. There is also a single village at the extreme west, Gangalagunta, which received no rain, while its neighbours fared moderately well. In these villages the area of entirely withered crop is excessive, rising to above a half of the cultivated area, while the outturn of such crop as eared is exceedingly low, varying from 2 to 4 annas.

7. In these 19 villages, the names of which follow, I have informed the ryots that, *subject to the sanction of the Board*, the collection of the fourth instalment of dry kist

will be suspended from March till November next, and I beg that the Board will be pleased to sanction this course. The amount is Rs. 17,127. The total dry assessment of each village is here given:—

	RS.
1. Matukumalle	1,267
2. Passerlapad	1,776
3. Palvay	4,140
4. Khambampad	3,580
5. Rentachintala	3,934
6. Rayavaram	3,579
7. Guruzala	13,090
8. Budavada	1,167
9. Gogulapad	2,025
10. Senkarapuram Siddehoye	4,041
11. Peddakodamagulla	4,048
12. Chinnakodamagulla	1,900
13 Chintapalle	3,911
14. Julakallu	5,116
15. Petasanigulla	3,453
16. Karempudi	2,643
17. Oppicherla	4,247
18. Narmalapadu	3,707
19. Gangulagunta	883
	68,507

8. The condition of the people is good, and none, except Pariahs, Chucklers, Muhammadans and a scanty few of the Telagas, were ready to accept road work. About 500 of the last-named classes were at work as coolies on the Tummerkodu-Guruzala road and the number had risen on 5th February to 1,115. On the 12th February it had fallen to 926. A special grant of Rs. 5,000 has been made for this road and Rs. 8,000 more will bring it to completion. A new road from Guruzala to Karempudi and Julakallu, branching thence to Nekarikal and Pidugurala, altogether 20 miles long, is about to be constructed, the survey has been completed and the estimate is almost ready. Work will be begun upon it at once. Rs. 1,000 have been placed at the Local Fund Engineer's disposal and will be supplemented by Rs. 9,000 more till the end of March, which can be met from savings and transfers from other works. Rs. 30,000 more can be spent on this road from 1st April to the early rains in June, and allotments will be made as may be necessary. In addition to this work, which will be of real and permanent advantage to the taluk, three of the hill passes through the reserved forest (Kambhal, Kakerala and Dowpalle Kanamas) will be improved for cart traffic by the Forest department out of allotments amounting to Rs. 1,100 made by the Taluk Board. The sum to be expended on roads may, therefore, amount to Rs. 54,100 which will provide work for 2,500 coolies—men, women and children—for five months at an average of 2 annas each per day. All work is being done on contract and by measurement, and I should deprecate a resort to daily wages at present. A cooly can earn 3 annas per day at stone breaking by a good day's work. Some told me they were earning 3 annas, others said they made only 2 annas.

9. *Water-supply and wells.*—Wells are running dry everywhere and but few tanks or pools have any water at all. Allotments, amounting to Rs 2,800, have been made from Local Funds for 13 wells. An estimate for the restoration of the Jungameshwarapuram tank and the improvement of Guruzala dependent on it, is nearly completed by the Local Fund Supervisor Mr. Small as noted in paragraph 2 (5) above. Work No. (7) will also be estimated for.

10. *Other works.*—A chuttram, rest-house and hospital are to be built at Guruzala, the new head-quarters of the taluk, and a school house at Dachepalle, and these buildings will be pushed on. I beg that the Board will move Government to begin the construction of the new taluk cutcherry at Guruzala for the same reason. A similar request will be made (paragraphs 22, 25 and 29) for the public buildings at Vinukonda, Narasaraopet and Bápatla.

11. The prospects for cattle are depressing. The last cattle census gave 215,133 as the total number in the taluk. Of green fodder there is almost none; of dry the insufficient quantity may be judged by the failure of crops. In Dáchepalle which is not one of the distressed villages, I was told of a ryot selling for Rs. 25 with many laments, a bull worth Rs. 100 to a merchant from the delta. He had no confidence he could keep it alive till next rains. At the same time I must say that at present all the cattle I saw were well-to-do and well fed. But many have been sent to the Nizam's Dominions and to the delta for pasture.

12. Personal appeals for permission to procure pasture for cattle in the reserved forests were more numerous than applications for a suspension of revenue collection. In none of the forests that I have visited in these parts is there now any grass at all, but the forest system is already beginning, as the ryots themselves acknowledge, to produce a beneficial effect, and a large growth of yepi (*Hardwickia binata*) and jana (*Grewia Asiatica*) leaves is available for pasturing cattle. The standing rule is a fee of one anna for a head-load of leaves, but as a bullock will consume a head-load in a day, a ryot owning 100 head of cattle would require the daily attendance of 100 men to fetch leaves for them. A reduction of the fee to 3 pies per head-load, which I ordered a month or two ago, was valueless for the same reason.

13. After several days' travel through the forests and discussions with the ryots, the Tahsildar and the Deputy Collector, the District Forest-officer Mr. Alwar Chetty has worked out with me a method of meeting the needs of the people with a minimum of damage to the forests.

14. Under the great stress of universal failure of grass pasturage apart from farm produce, the object is to keep the cattle alive till next rains, when their owners will be in a position to pay fees and maintain the forest revenue once more, which they cannot do if the cattle die. All permits, therefore, under the arrangements I have now made, will be free.

15. The reserved forests are divided into blocks of a size capable of supervision by a suitable forest staff and two blocks are assigned to each village or set of villages—one block to be used for pasturage from now till the end of March and the other from the end of March till the rains.

16. The chief cause of damage in the forests is the destruction of saplings and boughs of the yepi by axe and by breakage in order to place the leaves within reach of the cattle. This must be by some effectual means prevented. The holder of the permit will therefore be required to provide himself with a "dhoty" or long stick with a hook at the end. This is strong enough to clip off the twigs and leaves, but not strong enough to cut or break a bough, and we hope by this simple means to solve the difficulty of providing fodder without serious injury to the trees during the present drought. The villagers are held responsible for the exclusion of axes for the preservation of the trees from damage and for immediate and joint help in extinguishing fire, and in cases of default all permits will be cancelled and the block absolutely closed to the whole village. The villagers have been made to understand these conditions which are also printed on the permits, and their co-operation may, I think, be fully relied on.

17. I pass now to the *Vinukonda taluk* which lies due south of Palnád but cut off from it by the range of hill and jungle already referred to. The rainfall * of the season, though extremely defective (15·53 inches against an average of 30·7 for the past 5 years or 28·25 for the past 4 years), has been so well distributed that, though the wet crops have almost entirely failed, the dry crops in most villages have harvested moderately well and grain and dry fodder have been stored. No general suspension of revenue collections is

Rainfall—1891.					ins.
June	...	...	...	...	1·63
July	...	...	...	...	4·24
August	...	...	...	...	1·29
September	...	...	...	...	4·55
October	...	...	...	...	3·66
November	...	...	...	...	0·16
December	...	...	...	...	...
			Total	...	15·53

required. Only two or three villages are in a thoroughly poor condition. One of these (Gandiganamala) lies on a plateau to the extreme north-west, adjoining the pass into Palnád and is inhabited by a colony of lambadies. Another village on the same plateau (Remidicherla) requires special arrangements for providing work. The lambadies will find work on two of the passes mentioned in paragraph 8 (see also paragraph 20 below). A fourth village (Putsamutla) to the extreme south of the taluk in which crops have extensively failed will receive consideration by postponement of coercive process where the Deputy Collector is satisfied of inability to pay.

94 2/8

18. Green fodder for the cattle is everywhere wanting and the arrangements for forest pasturage already described have been made here also to the great relief of the ryots.

19. *Water-supply* is scanty in numerous villages and Local fund allotments amounting to over Rs. 1,663 for wells have been made.

20. In this taluk, as in Palnád, the poorer classes, many of whom belong to the American Baptist Mission, are in need of employment. For these, besides the sinking and improvement of wells already referred to, there will be repairs of 11 minor tanks under the Public Works Department with sanctioned allotments amounting to Rs. 4,200.

21. In the isolated north-west plateau already referred to, work is required for the poorer classes of Remidicherla, Gandiganamala and Ravalapuram. In Remidicherla there are three connected tanks breached in the great cyclone of 1864 and never repaired since. They irrigated an area of 73 acres. There used to be numerous irrigation wells in the village, but with the breaching of the tanks the sub-soil springs sank out of reach and they are abandoned, and there was only one well even for drinking water at the time of my visit. On inspection I found the sluices of the tanks in fair order and nothing wanted but the closing of breaches, raising and revetting of portions of banks and provision for a waste weir over hard ground. During my halt the Forest Ranger Ananada Row (qualified for Public Works Department Supervisor) took and recorded levels and sections and assisted the Tahsildar to pepare estimates which were checked by the Local Fund Supervisor Mr. Small (formerly on tank restoration work) who had marched through the pass from Palnad to meet me. The estimate amounted to Rs. 2,100 and under the special circumstances of the case I ordered the work to be put in hand at once out of minor irrigation funds and I beg the Board's approval of my action. The estimate is enclosed. An estimate for the repair of the Ipur tank, a considerable work, is with the Superintending Engineer and that for the restoration of Dondapad tank, amounting to more than a lakh of rupees, is now before the Government, and I trust it may be passed and an allotment provided at once.

22. A new taluk cutcherry has been sanctioned for Vinukonda and I beg that Government may be asked to allow the work to be begun as an additional source of employment (see paragraphs 10 and 23).

23. Other irrigation works in this taluk, some of which have already been approved by the Superintending Engineer, await estimates for construction or restoration and will afford abundant work if promptly taken in hand. Others are projects which require investigation. The chief of these are an anicut across the large river Gundlakamma at Andugulapad. Restorations of ruined tanks at Gandiganamala in the extreme north-west, at Peddakancherla (doubtful) and Tirupurapuram in the south, and at Muppala in the north-east. All these but the last I have seen and consider them deserving of professional investigation.

24. A new road 16 miles long is being surveyed from Vinukonda to Kopparapad, and can be put in hand if it should be found necessary. Among petty works is the improvement of a pass north of Vinukonda by the Forest Department at a cost of Rs. 100 out of Local Funds.

25. *Narsaraopet taluk.*—This taluk has also been affected in the south and west parts by the drought of the past year. Its rainfall * was 11·88 inches against an average of 31·88 inches. The early crop of jonna turned out fairly well, the estimate of the 10 worst villages of the taluk averaging 10 annas. The later crops fared worse and 59 out of 93 villages averaged only a 4-anna crop. I summoned the Tahsildar to meet me and the Deputy Collector at Vinukonda, and found no difficulty in deciding that no relief in the form of a general suspension of revenue collection was necessary, though care will have to be exercised to avoid extreme measures for enforcing payment in the case of the poorer ryots. Water-supply, as far as wells for drinking-water are concerned, is somewhat more favorable than in the other two taluks. Rs. 2,670 have been allotted for wells.

1891.		ins.
June	...	0·35
July	...	4·25
August	...	2·18
September	...	2·82
October	...	2·18
November	...	0·10
December	...	...
Total	...	11·88

26. For the poorer classes in this taluk, many of whom are represented by Roman Catholic and Baptist Missionaries, work is required, and for this purpose the road from Sattenapalle to Narsaraopet, about 16 miles for which estimate is completed, will be begun at once and allotments provided as may be necessary.

27. I beg that Government may be moved to order the immediate erection of the three sanctioned public buildings at Narsaraopet, the taluk cutcherry, the District Munsif's court and the Deputy Collector's office. They are greatly needed and they will afford a large amount of work to the labouring and artisan classes.

28. The other affected taluks of this district are Sattenapalle and Bápatla, and to discuss their condition the Sub-Collector Mr. Wedderburn met me at Vinukonda.

29. Sattenapalle taluk may be disposed of with the remark that only four villages are affected. These have been inspected by Mr. Wedderburn who finds no special arrangements needed.

30. Bápatla taluk has fared worse, but of course only the upland villages. These in number under 20 all lie north of the Kommamur canal and to the west of the taluk adjoining the Nellore district and Narsaraopet. There has been extensive failure of dry crops and also of water-supply. Mr. Wedderburn has visited nearly all these villages and is satisfied that for the great majority of the ryots there is no lack, not merely of food but of means to pay the revenue demands. He finds here what is common throughout the affected tracts, not so much a danger of present scarcity of food as the fear that the past season of drought may be followed by one still worse, and that the year Nandana will prove a year of famine as it did in its cycle sixty years ago. On the whole, therefore, no suspension of revenue collection can be recommended, but the Sub-Collector will continue his observations during the jamabandi of the taluk which he is about to begin, and I will not fail to address the Board again should occasion require.

31. A new taluk cutcherry has been sanctioned for Bápatla and I beg that its construction may be commenced to add to the available work.

32. The water-supply of the uplands of Bápatla is bad and unfortunately the sub-soil springs are so brackish that little can be done for improvement. Mr. Wedderburn is however arranging for local fund allotments wherever they can be usefully employed.

33. Mr. Wedderburn was surprised at the comparatively prosperous condition of the pariahs and chucklers of these villages. They are in the habit of moving into the delta every year for the harvest, and in this way acquire means of subsistence to supplement those of their own homes. Throughout the delta there will be from the 1st March a large demand for labour by the Public Works Department in widening and deepening the irrigation canals; so much work indeed is there to do that the canals are being closed a month earlier than usual. Employment in abundance for ordinary

coolies is therefore available till the beginning of June. It is a question however whether the work will suffice for all demands if there is a large influx of laborers from the Nellore district.

34. In conclusion I beg the sanction of the Board and of Government to the following proposals:—

(1) The suspension till November of the fourth instalment of dry assessment in nineteen villages of Palnád amounting to Rs. 17,127 (paragraph 7).

(2) The repair of the Remidicherla tanks in Vinukonda at a cost of Rs. 2,100. The work is in progress and the amount can be provided at present by transfer within the district (paragraph 21).

(3) The sanction of the Dondapad tank estimate in Vinukonda, now before Government in the Irrigation Branch of Public Works Department, and an allotment for the present and for next official year (paragraph 21).

(4) Sanction for the continuance of expenditure from Provincial funds on the cutcherries, court and office at Guruzala (Palnád), Vinukonda, Narsaraopet and Bápatla (paragraphs 10, 22, 27, 31).

(5) The investigation of the various irrigation projects I have mentioned by the Special Assistant Engineer under the orders of the Superintending Engineer.

Resolution—dated 4th March 1892, No. 163.

Mr. Arundel's report on the condition of the parts of his district which have suffered during the past season, will be submitted for the information of Government.

2. The area in any way affected lies in the four southern taluks of his district, in which the rainfall of the year has been as follows compared with the averages of the previous 20 years. At all these stations rain during the first four months of the year is rare.

Station.		May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total for year.
Palnád	Average	1·7	3·4	3·8	5·4	6·6	4·4	2·6	·4	29·0
	1891	..	·7	6·1	2·3	5·5	2·4	..	..	17·1
Vinukonda	Average	1·6	2·7	3·1	4·0	4·5	6·5	3·4	·8	27·3
	1891	·3	1·6	4·2	1·3	4·6	3·7	·2	..	17·7
Narsaraopet	Average	2·0	3·5	4·1	4·4	5·3	6·1	3·3	·3	30·2
	1891	..	·4	4·3	2·2	2·8	2·2	·1	..	12.4
Bápatla	Average	2·0	3·6	4·2	6·9	6·3	8·1	4·4	·5	36·9
	1891	·1	1·6	3·5	5·1	4·7	1·9	·1	..	19·2

In Bápatla, it is only the upland villages, west of the Commamur canal, that are affected at all and in Narsaraopet the early crops did well, but in 59 villages out of 93 the late crop was very poor. In Vinukonda, though the rainfall was very light, it was well distributed and it is only in a few villages on the western border, adjoining the Palnád, and in one on the south, adjoining the affected area in Nellore, that any special arrangements will be necessary. In Palnád, the situation is much worse. In 19 villages, comprising two groups, and one isolated village near the Márkápur frontier, more than half the crop withered and the remainder only yielded from $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ crop. It does not appear that the people in any part of these taluks are very sorely pressed, or that relief on a large scale will be required. Even in the Palnád, there are a good many villages where the crops have been good.

3. In the affected villages of Palnád, the Collector urges that the instalment of revenue due in March next (Rs. 17,127) may be suspended until November. In no other part does Mr. Arundel consider that any special concessions of this character are required, but he states that the collection of the land revenue should not be pressed in the case of the poorer ryots. His proposals meet with the approval of the Commissioner.

4. Prices are and have been for some time very high in all the affected taluks and that of cholum in Palnád is still above the scarcity rate fixed for the district as shown below:—

—	1891-92. Average for December.	1891-92. Average for January.	1891-92. February, 27th.	February. Normal.	February. Last famine.	1891-92. Average for December.	1891-92. Average for January.	1891-92. February, 27th.	February. Normal.	February. Last famine.
	Rice.					*Cholum.*				
Palnád { Tumurukodu	7·6	9·0	9·0	13·4	8·2	12·7	13·9	13·9	21·4	10·1
Palnád { Dachepalle	8·8	9·0		14·1	9·2	14·1	13·9		19·6	11·0
Vinukonda	9·7	9·8	9·5	13·5	9·9	15·2	14·8	15·7	25·7	10·9
Narsaraopet	..	..	10·3	14·1	9·7	16·4	15·1	16·7	22·2	11·3
Sattenapalle	9·5	9·1	9·5	14·5	10·8	17·2	15·4	15·4	27·0	12·8
Scarcity rates ..	11·2					14·7				
	Cumbu.					*Ragi.*				
Palnád { Tumurukodu	11·1	12·6	..	21·7	9·3	14·7	16·3	..	26·2	11·0
Palnád { Dachepalle	..	13·4		20·0	10·0	..	..		36·0	..
Vinukonda	14·3	14·1	14·2	20·6	9·7	15·8	16·0	14·7	24·6	10·5
Narsaraopet	15·7	13·8	14·5	20·1	10·4	..	..	..	26·8	12·6
Sattenapalle	16·8	15·3	15·8	24·2	11·8	..	..	..	27·1	13·4
Scarcity rates ..	15·4					16·6				

5. To provide employment for those in need of it, who are chiefly Pariahs and Muhammadans, the Local Fund Board is constructing two new roads, which will be of permanent benefit to the Palnád taluk, and three of the hill passes into the taluk are also being improved with Local funds. At present all work is being done by contract and the coolies are earning liberal wages. Allotments of Local funds have also been made for clearing out the drinking-water wells where required, and estimates are being prepared for some irrigation works in the locality. Mr. Arundel also directs renewed attention to the irrigational facilities of the taluk and mentions some projects which he considers worthy of investigation, in addition to those mentioned in his letter disposed of in G.O., dated 30th June 1890, No. 363 I. The Commissioner requests that the attention of the Public Works Department may be called to his suggestions.

6. To provide employment for the people in the three isolated villages of Vinukonda, Mr. Arundel has put in hand the repair of a tank at a cost of Rs. 2,100 from Minor Irrigation funds. The estimate will be referred to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for examination. He also urges that the repairs of the Ipur and Dondapad tanks may be put in hand at an early date, and the Commissioner requests that the attention of the Public Works Department may be drawn to the matter.

7. In Narsaraopet, the Collector is starting the construction of a road, 16 miles long, to provide employment. For the remaining areas he does not propose anything beyond the immediate erection of new public offices at Bápatla at the same time as those proposed for Palnád, Vinukonda and Narsaraopet, which he considers will afford a good deal of employment for both skilled and unskilled labour. The commencement of these buildings will give useful and much needed employment if Provincial funds are available.

8. The reserved forests have been generally thrown open for grazing and the careful arrangements made for their protection are described in paragraphs 15 and 16 of the Collector's letter.

9. The Collector does not mention whether it will be possible to encourage the sinking of wells by the aid of loans and so far no loans have been granted for the purpose in the district. His attention will be drawn to the matter with a request that all Divisional officers may be instructed to use every endeavour to push forward this work, so valuable to the ryots and also a means of affording employment to considerable numbers of people.

10. The Collector will be requested to report monthly, until further notice, on the condition of the affected areas in his district. His reports should reach the Board by the 10th of each month.

ORDER—dated 17th March 1892, No. 260, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The Board's instructions in paragraphs 9 and 10 of its Proceedings, as also the Collector's action in having thrown open the reserved forests for grazing purposes, subject to certain restrictions, are approved.

3. The Collector's recommendation in clause (1) of paragraph 34 of his letter is sanctioned and his proposals in clauses (3), (4) and (5) will be considered in the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
" the Public Works Department (W).
" the " " (I).
" Commissioners of Land Revenue.

Exd. A. D. Xavier.

110 Copies.

P. W. CURRENT No. 2980

Govt. of {1892} Madras.

REVENUE.

205.C

Issued Regs: 18-3-92

Recd. 24-3-92 Encl.

G.O., 17th March 1892, No. 260.

MARCH.

Season, Kistna.

Board's Proceedings submitting report from the Collector of Kistna on the condition of the affected areas in the district, recorded with remarks.

942/11

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

READ—the following letter from A. T. ARUNDEL, Esq., Collector of Kistna, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Vinukonda, 10th February 1892, Extra No. 159:—

I have the honour to report to the Board on the state of those parts of the Kistna district which are suffering from the effects of the unfavorable season and to give the results of my tour through the affected portions of the Palnád and Vinukonda taluks as promised in my endorsement, No. 9151, dated 22nd December 1891—*vide* Board's Proceedings, No. 27, dated 13th January 1892. I was accompanied throughout by the General Deputy Collector M.R.Ry. P. Pundarikakshudu and the Tashildar of the taluk under inspection and by the District Forest-officer Mr. Alwar Chetty.

2. The Palnad taluk lies isolated at the extreme north-west of the district. It forms an irregular oblong between 50 and 60 miles long from east to west and from 20 to 30 broad from north to south. It is bounded on the north and west by the river Kistna and on the south by the hills of Márkápur in Kurnool and by the continuation of the same range which divides it from the taluk of Vinukonda. The western portion is mainly hill and jungle. Numerous hill streams and water-courses run through the taluk to the Kistna, and it thus possesses natural facilities for irrigation of a most exceptional character which have been entirely neglected during our rule owing to the distant and isolated character of the country. G.O., No. 363 I, Public Works, dated 30th June 1890, contains a list of six schemes of irrigation, new and old, for this taluk which I have inspected, and I take this opportunity of placing on record seven others which I have visited during my recent tour and which should be inspected by the Special Assistant Engineer in this district.

(1) The restoration of two ruined tanks at Patagangulagunta 3 miles south-west of Srigiripad to store up the water of the Pulichintapayivagu with a catchment basin of over 30 square miles. The irrigating capacity of a square mile of catchment basin may be roughly taken to be 40 acres.

(2) A dam across the Chandravagu in a gorge to the west of Srigiripad to irrigated lands in Gottipalla. Catchment basin 15 to 18 square miles.

(3) A dam to store the water of the Vedimangalamvagu in Veludurti at its passage through a low ridge near Veerabadrapuram. Catchment basin about 15 square miles.

(4) A dam to store the Vedimangalamvagu at Manchikollu catchment basin about 44 square miles.

(5) Restoration of a ruined tank at Gangavaram a mile below Guruzala. The Dandivagu has here a catchment basin of about 60 to 70 square miles. Another ruined tank above this at Jangameshwarapuram was mentioned in the Government Order above quoted, and I am having an estimate made by the Local Fund Supervisor for its repair if possible by the Revenue department.

(6) Restoration of a ruined tank on the main branch of the same stream higher up at Tsarlagudipad. The bed is much silted up, and the bund must be raised if tank is to be restored.

P. W. CURRENT No. 2980

Govt. of {1892} Madras.

REVENUE.

205.C

Issued Regd: 18-3-92

Recd. 24-3-92 Encl.

G.O., 17th March 1892, No. 260.

MARCH.

Season, Kistna.

Board's Proceedings submitting report from the Collector of Kistna on the condition of the affected areas in the district, recorded with remarks.

94²/11

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

READ—the following letter from A. T. ARUNDEL, Esq., Collector of Kistna, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Vinukonda, 10th February 1892, Extra No. 159:—

I have the honour to report to the Board on the state of those parts of the Kistna district which are suffering from the effects of the unfavorable season and to give the results of my tour through the affected portions of the Palnád and Vinukonda taluks as promised in my endorsement, No. 9151, dated 22nd December 1891—*vide* Board's Proceedings, No. 27, dated 13th January 1892. I was accompanied throughout by the General Deputy Collector M.R.Ry. P. Pundarikakshudu and the Tashildar of the taluk under inspection and by the District Forest-officer Mr. Alwar Chetty.

2. The Palnad taluk lies isolated at the extreme north-west of the district. It forms an irregular oblong between 50 and 60 miles long from east to west and from 20 to 30 broad from north to south. It is bounded on the north and west by the river Kistna and on the south by the hills of Márkápur in Kurnool and by the continuation of the same range which divides it from the taluk of Vinukonda. The western portion is mainly hill and jungle. Numerous hill streams and water-courses run through the taluk to the Kistna, and it thus possesses natural facilities for irrigation of a most exceptional character which have been entirely neglected during our rule owing to the distant and isolated character of the country. G.O., No. 363 I, Public Works, dated 30th June 1890, contains a list of six schemes of irrigation, new and old, for this taluk which I have inspected, and I take this opportunity of placing on record seven others which I have visited during my recent tour and which should be inspected by the Special Assistant Engineer in this district.

(1) The restoration of two ruined tanks at Patagangulagunta 3 miles south-west of Srigiripad to store up the water of the Pulichintapayivagu with a catchment basin of over 30 square miles. The irrigating capacity of a square mile of catchment basin may be roughly taken to be 40 acres.

(2) A dam across the Chandravagu in a gorge to the west of Srigiripad to irrigated lands in Gottipalla. Catchment basin 15 to 18 square miles.

(3) A dam to store the water of the Vedimangalamvagu in Veludurti at its passage through a low ridge near Veerabadrapuram. Catchment basin about 15 square miles.

(4) A dam to store the Vedimangalamvagu at Manchikollu catchment basin about 44 square miles.

(5) Restoration of a ruined tank at Gangavaram a mile below Garuzala. The Dandivagu has here a catchment basin of about 60 to 70 square miles. Another ruined tank above this at Jangameshwarapuram was mentioned in the Government Order above quoted, and I am having an estimate made by the Local Fund Supervisor for its repair if possible by the Revenue department.

(6) Restoration of a ruined tank on the main branch of the same stream higher up at Tsarlagudipad. The bed is much silted up, and the bund must be raised if tank is to be restored.

(7) A supply channel a mile or two in length from the Vedimangalamvagu to the tank at Rentachintala. This is a minor work which, I hope, to get executed by the Revenue department.

3. The revenue of the Palnád taluk is Rs. 3,06,704, of which only Rs. 15,515 is derived from irrigation. The chief products are cotton, castors, cholum, sazza and varagu.

4. Prices in January stood as follows:—

—	Prices in seers of 80 tolas per rupee.		
	Average of 1889—91.	Scarcity rate.	Present rate, January 1892.
Paddy	25·74	..	18·
Rice	12·6	11·2	9·
Cholum	22·59	14·7	14·4
Sazza	23·18	15·4	15·3
Varagu	26·26	..	Not procurable.

5. The rainfall of last year was 17·07 inches as compared with an average of 29½ inches as follows:—

	1891.	Average of five years.
January	...	...
February	...	...
March	...	...
April	...	...
May	0·2	...
June	0·7	..
July	6·07	...
August	2·25	...
September	5 5	...
October	2·35	...
November	...	...
December	...	...
	17·07	29·6

The rainfall was thus 12½ inches below the average as shown by the rain-gauge at Dachepalle. It was, however, most unequally distributed. The eastern part of the taluk has done fairly well, a few villages indeed better than usual. Other parts have had an almost entire failure of every crop. I entered the taluk from Vinukonda through the Kambhalkanama pass at the village of Obaleshanapalle where the villagers met me in excellent spirits and assured me, what farmers seldom admit, that they had excellent harvests. Six miles to the east comes a village where 2 annas is a favorable estimate for the outturn of every crop of the season.

6. At every halting place were deputations of ryots from the distressed villages requesting remission of the dry assessment or at least its suspension, while no such plea was put forward from the more fortunate localities. Without troubling the Board with details, I may say that the distressed villages form two groups—one of six villages south-east of Tummerkode and a second of twelve villages running from Guruzala, the future head-quarters of the taluk south-east of Julakallu at the foot of the hills. There is also a single village at the extreme west, Gangalagunta, which received no rain, while its neighbours fared moderately well. In these villages the area of entirely withered crop is excessive, rising to above a half of the cultivated area, while the outturn of such crop as eared is exceedingly low, varying from 2 to 4 annas.

7. In these 19 villages, the names of which follow, I have informed the ryots that, subject to the sanction of the Board, the collection of the fourth instalment of dry kist

942/12

will be suspended from March till November next, and I beg that the Board will be pleased to sanction this course. The amount is Rs. 17,127. The total dry assessment of each village is here given:—

	Rs.
1. Matukumalle	1,267
2. Passerlapad	1,776
3. Palvay	4,140
4. Khambampad	3,580
5. Rentachintala	3,934
6. Rayavaram	3,579
7. Guruzala	13,090
8. Budavada	1,167
9. Gogulapad	2,025
10. Senkarapuram Siddehoye	4,041
11. Peddakodamagulla	4,048
12. Chinnakodamagulla	1,900
13 Chintapalle	3,911
14. Julakallu	5,116
15. Petasannigulla	3,453
16. Karempudi	2,643
17. Oppicherla	4,247
18. Narmalapadu	3,707
19. Gangulagunta	883
	68,507

8. The condition of the people is good, and none, except Pariahs, Chucklers, Muhammadans and a scanty few of the Telagas, were ready to accept road work. About 500 of the last-named classes were at work as coolies on the Tummerkodu-Guruzala road and the number had risen on 5th February to 1,115. On the 12th February it had fallen to 926. A special grant of Rs. 8,000 more will bring it to completion. A new road from Guruzala to Karempudi and Julakallu, branching thence to Nekarikal and Pidugurala, altogether 20 miles long, is about to be constructed, the survey has been completed and the estimate is almost ready. Work will be begun upon it at once. Rs. 1,000 have been placed at the Local Fund Engineer's disposal and will be supplemented by Rs. 9,000 more till the end of March, which can be met from savings and transfers from other works. Rs. 30,000 more can be spent on this road from 1st April to the early rains in June, and allotments will be made as may be necessary. In addition to this work, which will be of real and permanent advantage to the taluk, three of the hill passes through the reserved forest (Kambhal, Kakerala and Dowpalle Kanamas) will be improved for cart traffic by the Forest department out of allotments amounting to Rs. 1,100 made by the Taluk Board. The sum to be expended on roads may, therefore, amount to Rs. 54,100 which will provide work for 2,500 coolies—men, women and children—for five months at an average of 2 annas each per day. All work is being done on contract and by measurement, and I should deprecate a resort to daily wages at present. A cooly can earn 3 annas per day at stone breaking by a good day's work. Some told me they were earning 3 annas, others said they made only 2 annas.

9. *Water-supply and wells.*—Wells are running dry everywhere and but few tanks or pools have any water at all. Allotments, amounting to Rs 2,800, have been made from Local Funds for 13 wells. An estimate for the restoration of the Jungameshwarapuram tank and the improvement of Guruzala dependent on it, is nearly completed by the Local Fund Supervisor Mr. Small as noted in paragraph 2 (5) above. Work No. (7) will also be estimated for.

10. *Other works.*—A chuttram, rest-house and hospital are to be built at Guruzala, the new head-quarters of the taluk, and a school house at Dachepalle, and these buildings will be pushed on. I beg that the Board will move Government to begin the construction of the new taluk cutcherry at Guruzala for the same reason. A similar request will be made (paragraphs 22, 25 and 29) for the public buildings at Vinukonda, Narasaraopet and Bápatla.

11. The prospects for cattle are depressing. The last cattle census gave 215,133 as the total number in the taluk. Of green fodder there is almost none; of dry the insufficient quantity may be judged by the failure of crops. In Dáchepalle which is not one of the distressed villages, I was told of a ryot selling for Rs. 25 with many laments, a bull worth Rs. 100 to a merchant from the delta. He had no confidence he could keep it alive till next rains. At the same time I must say that at present all the cattle I saw were well-to-do and well fed. But many have been sent to the Nizam's Dominions and to the delta for pasture.

12. Personal appeals for permission to procure pasture for cattle in the reserved forests were more numerous than applications for a suspension of revenue collection. In none of the forests that I have visited in these parts is there now any grass at all, but the forest system is already beginning, as the ryots themselves acknowledge, to produce a beneficial effect, and a large growth of yepi (*Hardwickia binata*) and jana (*Grewia Asiatica*) leaves is available for pasturing cattle. The standing rule is a fee of one anna for a head-load of leaves, but as a bullock will consume a head-load in a day, a ryot owning 100 head of cattle would require the daily attendance of 100 men to fetch leaves for them. A reduction of the fee to 3 pies per head-load, which I ordered a month or two ago, was valueless for the same reason.

13. After several days' travel through the forests and discussions with the ryots, the Tahsildar and the Deputy Collector, the District Forest-officer Mr. Alwar Chetty has worked out with me a method of meeting the needs of the people with a minimum of damage to the forests.

14. Under the great stress of universal failure of grass pasturage apart from farm produce, the object is to keep the cattle alive till next rains, when their owners will be in a position to pay fees and maintain the forest revenue once more, which they cannot do if the cattle die. All permits, therefore, under the arrangements I have now made, will be free.

15. The reserved forests are divided into blocks of a size capable of supervision by a suitable forest staff and two blocks are assigned to each village or set of villages—one block to be used for pasturage from now till the end of March and the other from the end of March till the rains.

16. The chief cause of damage in the forests is the destruction of saplings and boughs of the yepi by axe and by breakage in order to place the leaves within reach of the cattle. This must be by some effectual means prevented. The holder of the permit will therefore be required to provide himself with a "dhoty" or long stick with a hook at the end. This is strong enough to clip off the twigs and leaves, but not strong enough to cut or break a bough, and we hope by this simple means to solve the difficulty of providing fodder without serious injury to the trees during the present drought. The villagers are held responsible for the exclusion of axes for the preservation of the trees from damage and for immediate and joint help in extinguishing fire, and in cases of default all permits will be cancelled and the block absolutely closed to the whole village. The villagers have been made to understand these conditions which are also printed on the permits, and their co-operation may, I think, be fully relied on.

17. I pass now to the *Vinukonda taluk* which lies due south of Palnád but cut off from it by the range of hill and jungle already referred to. The rainfall * of the season, though extremely defective (15·53 inches against an average of 30·7 for the past 5 years or 28·25 for the past 4 years), has been so well distributed that, though the wet crops have almost entirely failed, the dry crops in most villages have harvested moderately well and grain and dry fodder have been stored. No general suspension of revenue collections is

Rainfall—1891.					ins.
June	...	...	...	...	1·63
July	...	...	...	...	4·24
August	...	...	...	...	1·29
September	...	...	...	...	4·55
October	...	...	...	...	3·66
November	...	...	...	...	0·16
December	...	...	...	...	...
			Total	...	15·53

required. Only two or three villages are in a thoroughly poor condition. One of these (Gandiganamala) lies on a plateau to the extreme north-west, adjoining the pass into Palnád and is inhabited by a colony of lambadies. Another village on the same plateau (Remidicherla) requires special arrangements for providing work. The lambadies will find work on two of the passes mentioned in paragraph 8 (see also paragraph 20 below). A fourth village (Putsamutla) to the extreme south of the taluk in which crops have extensively failed will receive consideration by postponement of coercive process where the Deputy Collector is satisfied of inability to pay.

18. Green fodder for the cattle is everywhere wanting and the arrangements for forest pasturage already described have been made here also to the great relief of the ryots.

19. *Water-supply* is scanty in numerous villages and Local fund allotments amounting to over Rs. 1,663 for wells have been made.

20. In this taluk, as in Palnád, the poorer classes, many of whom belong to the American Baptist Mission, are in need of employment. For these, besides the sinking and improvement of wells already referred to, there will be repairs of 11 minor tanks under the Public Works Department with sanctioned allotments amounting to Rs. 4,200.

21. In the isolated north-west plateau already referred to, work is required for the poorer classes of Remidicherla, Gandiganamala and Ravalapuram. In Remidicherla there are three connected tanks breached in the great cyclone of 1864 and never repaired since. They irrigated an area of 73 acres. There used to be numerous irrigation wells in the village, but with the breaching of the tanks the sub-soil springs sank out of reach and they are abandoned, and there was only one well even for drinking water at the time of my visit. On inspection I found the sluices of the tanks in fair order and nothing wanted but the closing of breaches, raising and revetting of portions of banks and provision for a waste weir over hard ground. During my halt the Forest Ranger Ananada Row (qualified for Public Works Department Supervisor) took and recorded levels and sections and assisted the Tahsildar to pepare estimates which were checked by the Local Fund Supervisor Mr. Small (formerly on tank restoration work) who had marched through the pass from Palnad to meet me. The estimate amounted to Rs. 2,100 and under the special circumstances of the case I ordered the work to be put in hand at once out of minor irrigation funds and I beg the Board's approval of my action. The estimate is enclosed. An estimate for the repair of the Ipur tank, a considerable work, is with the Superintending Engineer and that for the restoration of Dondapad tank, amounting to more than a lakh of rupees, is now before the Government, and I trust it may be passed and an allotment provided at once.

22. A new taluk cutcherry has been sanctioned for Vinukonda and I beg that Government may be asked to allow the work to be begun as an additional source of employment (see paragraphs 10 and 23).

23. Other irrigation works in this taluk, some of which have already been approved by the Superintending Engineer, await estimates for construction or restoration and will afford abundant work if promptly taken in hand. Others are projects which require investigation. The chief of these are an anicut across the large river Gundlakamma at Andugulapad. Restorations of ruined tanks at Gandiganamala in the extreme north-west, at Peddakancherla (doubtful) and Tirupurapuram in the south, and at Muppala in the north-east. All these but the last I have seen and consider them deserving of professional investigation.

24. A new road 16 miles long is being surveyed from Vinukonda to Kopparapad, and can be put in hand if it should be found necessary. Among petty works is the improvement of a pass north of Vinukonda by the Forest Department at a cost of Rs. 100 out of Local Funds.

25. *Narsaraopet taluk.*—This taluk has also been affected in the south and west parts by the drought of the past year. Its rainfall * was 11·88 inches against an average of 31·88 inches. The early crop of jonna turned out fairly well, the estimate of the 10 worst villages of the taluk averaging 10 annas. The later crops fared worse and 59 out of 93 villages averaged only a 4-anna crop. I summoned the Tahsildar to meet me and the Deputy Collector at Vinukonda, and found no difficulty in deciding that no relief in the form of a general suspension of revenue collection was necessary, though care will have to be exercised to avoid extreme measures for enforcing payment in the case of the poorer ryots. Water-supply, as far as wells for drinking-water are concerned, is somewhat more favorable than in the other two taluks. Rs. 2,670 have been allotted for wells.

1891.		ins.
June		0·35
July		4·25
August		2·18
September		2·82
October		2·18
November		0·10
December		...
	Total ...	11·88

26. For the poorer classes in this taluk, many of whom are represented by Roman Catholic and Baptist Missionaries, work is required, and for this purpose the road from Sattenapalle to Narsaraopet, about 16 miles for which estimate is completed, will be begun at once and allotments provided as may be necessary.

27. I beg that Government may be moved to order the immediate erection of the three sanctioned public buildings at Narsaraopet, the taluk cutcherry, the District Munsif's court and the Deputy Collector's office. They are greatly needed and they will afford a large amount of work to the labouring and artisan classes.

28. The other affected taluks of this district are Sattenapalle and Bápatla, and to discuss their condition the Sub-Collector Mr. Wedderburn met me at Vinukonda.

29. Sattenapalle taluk may be disposed of with the remark that only four villages are affected. These have been inspected by Mr. Wedderburn who finds no special arrangements needed.

30. Bápatla taluk has fared worse, but of course only the upland villages. These in number under 20 all lie north of the Kommamur canal and to the west of the taluk adjoining the Nellore district and Narsaraopet. There has been extensive failure of dry crops and also of water-supply. Mr. Wedderburn has visited nearly all these villages and is satisfied that for the great majority of the ryots there is no lack, not merely of food but of means to pay the revenue demands. He finds here what is common throughout the affected tracts, not so much a danger of present scarcity of food as the fear that the past season of drought may be followed by one still worse, and that the year Nandana will prove a year of famine as it did in its cycle sixty years ago. On the whole, therefore, no suspension of revenue collection can be recommended, but the Sub-Collector will continue his observations during the jamabandi of the taluk which he is about to begin, and I will not fail to address the Board again should occasion require.

31. A new taluk cutcherry has been sanctioned for Bápatla and I beg that its construction may be commenced to add to the available work.

32. The water-supply of the uplands of Bápatla is bad and unfortunately the sub-soil springs are so brackish that little can be done for improvement. Mr. Wedderburn is however arranging for local fund allotments wherever they can be usefully employed.

33. Mr. Wedderburn was surprised at the comparatively prosperous condition of the pariahs and chucklers of these villages. They are in the habit of moving into the delta every year for the harvest, and in this way acquire means of subsistence to supplement those of their own homes. Throughout the delta there will be from the 1st March a large demand for labour by the Public Works Department in widening and deepening the irrigation canals; so much work indeed is there to do that the canals are being closed a month earlier than usual. Employment in abundance for ordinary

coolies is therefore available till the beginning of June. It is a question however whether the work will suffice for all demands if there is a large influx of laborers from the Nellore district.

34. In conclusion I beg the sanction of the Board and of Government to the following proposals:—

(1) The suspension till November of the fourth instalment of dry assessment in nineteen villages of Palnád amounting to Rs. 17,127 (paragraph 7).

(2) The repair of the Remidicherla tanks in Vinukonda at a cost of Rs. 2,100. The work is in progress and the amount can be provided at present by transfer within the district (paragraph 21).

(3) The sanction of the Dondapad tank estimate in Vinukonda, now before Government in the Irrigation Branch of Public Works Department, and an allotment for the present and for next official year (paragraph 21).

(4) Sanction for the continuance of expenditure from Provincial funds on the cutcherries, court and office at Guruzala (Palnád), Vinukonda, Narsaraopet and Bápatla (paragraphs 10, 22, 27, 31).

(5) The investigation of the various irrigation projects I have mentioned by the Special Assistant Engineer under the orders of the Superintending Engineer.

Resolution—dated 4th March 1892, No. 163.

Mr. Arundel's report on the condition of the parts of his district which have suffered during the past season, will be submitted for the information of Government.

2. The area in any way affected lies in the four southern taluks of his district, in which the rainfall of the year has been as follows compared with the averages of the previous 20 years. At all these stations rain during the first four months of the year is rare.

Station.		May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total for year.
Palnád	Average ..	1·7	3·4	3·8	5·4	6·6	4·4	2·6	·4	29·0
	1891	..	·7	6·1	2·3	5·5	2·4	..	..	17·1
Vinukonda ..	Average ..	1·6	2·7	3·1	4·0	4·5	6·5	3·4	·8	27·3
	1891	·3	1·6	4·2	1·3	4·6	3·7	·2	..	17·7
Narsaraopet ..	Average ..	2·0	3·5	4·1	4·4	5·3	6·1	3·3	·3	30·2
	1891	..	·4	4·3	2·2	2·8	2·2	·1	..	12.4
Bápatla	Average ..	2·0	3·6	4·2	6·9	6·3	8·1	4·4	·5	36·9
	1891	·1	1·6	3·5	5·1	4·7	1·9	·1	..	19·2

In Bápatla, it is only the upland villages, west of the Commamur canal, that are affected at all and in Narsaraopet the early crops did well, but in 59 villages out of 93 the late crop was very poor. In Vinukonda, though the rainfall was very light, it was well distributed and it is only in a few villages on the western border, adjoining the Palnád, and in one on the south, adjoining the affected area in Nellore, that any special arrangements will be necessary. In Palnád, the situation is much worse. In 19 villages, comprising two groups, and one isolated village near the Márkápur frontier, more than half the crop withered and the remainder only yielded from $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ crop. It does not appear that the people in any part of these taluks are very sorely pressed, or that relief on a large scale will be required. Even in the Palnád, there are a good many villages where the crops have been good.

3. In the affected villages of Palnád, the Collector urges that the instalment of revenue due in March next (Rs. 17,127) may be suspended until November. In no other part does Mr. Arundel consider that any special concessions of this character are required, but he states that the collection of the land revenue should not be pressed in the case of the poorer ryots. His proposals meet with the approval of the Commissioner.

4. Prices are and have been for some time very high in all the affected taluks and that of cholum in Palnád is still above the scarcity rate fixed for the district as shown below:—

	1891-92.			February.		1891-92.			February.	
	Average for					Average for				
	December.	January.	February, 27th.	Normal.	Last famine.	December.	January.	February, 27th.	Normal.	Last famine.
	Rice.					*Cholum.*				
Palnád { Tumurukodu	7·6	9·0		13·4	8·2	12·7	13·9		21·4	10·1
{ Dachepalle	8·8	9·0	9·0	14·1	9·2	14·1	13·9	13·9	19·6	11·0
Vinukonda	9·7	9·8	9·5	13·5	9·9	15·2	14·8	15·7	25·7	10·9
Narsaraopet	..	..	10·3	14·1	9·7	16·4	15·1	16·7	22·2	11·3
Sattenapalle	9·5	9·1	9·5	14·5	10·8	17·2	15·4	15·4	27·0	12·8
Scarcity rates ..	11·2					14·7				
	Cumbu.					*Ragi.*				
Palnád { Tumurukodu	11·1	12·6		21·7	9·2	14·7	16·3		26·2	11·0
{ Dachepalle	..	13·4	..	20·0	10·0	15·8	..	..	36·0	..
Vinukonda	14·3	14·1	14·2	20·6	9·7	..	16·0	14·7	24·6	10·5
Narsaraopet	15·7	13·8	14·5	20·1	10·4	..	..	..	26·8	12·6
Sattenapalle	16·8	15·3	15·8	24·2	11·8	..	..	..	27·1	13·4
Scarcity rates ..	15·4					16·6				

5. To provide employment for those in need of it, who are chiefly Pariahs and Muhammadans, the Local Fund Board is constructing two new roads, which will be of permanent benefit to the Palnád taluk, and three of the hill passes into the taluk are also being improved with Local funds. At present all work is being done by contract and the coolies are earning liberal wages. Allotments of Local funds have also been made for clearing out the drinking-water wells where required, and estimates are being prepared for some irrigation works in the locality. Mr. Arundel also directs renewed attention to the irrigational facilities of the taluk and mentions some projects which he considers worthy of investigation, in addition to those mentioned in his letter disposed of in G.O., dated 30th June 1890, No. 363 I. The Commissioner requests that the attention of the Public Works Department may be called to his suggestions.

6. To provide employment for the people in the three isolated villages of Vinukonda, Mr. Arundel has put in hand the repair of a tank at a cost of Rs. 2,100 from Minor Irrigation funds. The estimate will be referred to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for examination. He also urges that the repairs of the Ipur and Dondapad tanks may be put in hand at an early date, and the Commissioner requests that the attention of the Public Works Department may be drawn to the matter.

7. In Narsaraopet, the Collector is starting the construction of a road, 16 miles long, to provide employment. For the remaining areas he does not propose anything beyond the immediate erection of new public offices at Bápatla at the same time as those proposed for Palnád, Vinukonda and Narsaraopet, which he considers will afford a good deal of employment for both skilled and unskilled labour. The commencement of these buildings will give useful and much needed employment if Provincial funds are available.

8. The reserved forests have been generally thrown open for grazing and the careful arrangements made for their protection are described in paragraphs 15 and 16 of the Collector's letter.

9. The Collector does not mention whether it will be possible to encourage the sinking of wells by the aid of loans and so far no loans have been granted for the purpose in the district. His attention will be drawn to the matter with a request that all Divisional officers may be instructed to use every endeavour to push forward this work, so valuable to the ryots and also a means of affording employment to considerable numbers of people.

10. The Collector will be requested to report monthly, until further notice, on the condition of the affected areas in his district. His reports should reach the Board by the 10th of each month.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

942/15

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Kistna.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation, with estimate.
Copy to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department.

Exd. A. D. Xavier.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1892.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed March 10th.

Proceedings, 4th March 1892, No. 163.

Submitting, with remarks, for the information of Government, report from the Collector of *Kistna* on the *condition of the affected areas* in his district.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

[PROCEE]DINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read Proceedings of the Board of [Rev]enue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records [and A]griculture) dated 4th March 1892 No. 163.

Order, ~~[illegible]~~ dated 17th March 1892 No. 260.

Recorded.

942/16

[2.] The Board's instructions in paras 9 and [1]0 of its Proceedings, as also the Collector's act[ion] in having thrown open the Reserved forests for grazing purposes, subject to certain restrictions, are approved.

3. The Collectors' recommendation in clause 1 of para 34 of his letter is sanctioned and his proposals in clauses (3), (4) and (5) ~~of para~~ will be considered in the Public Works Department.

(True Extract)

[signature]

Ag Asst Secretary to Government

~~To the Comm. of R. S. L. R. & Agri.~~
~~" Public Works Dept. (W)~~
~~" " (I)~~
~~" " Comm. of L. R.~~

[initials]

DEP. CURRENT No. 980

Govt. of {1892} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

The Public Works Deptt. (W)

One copy forwarded to Office

Dated
Recd.
Encl.

Regd. 18.3.92

Rev. G.O., 17 March 1892, No. 260

SUBJECT.

Recording with remarks B.P. submitting with remarks for the information of Govt., report from the Collector of Kistna on the condition of the affected areas in his district.

Dr. 2831. Wd 26-10-91
" 191. I 25-2-92

No. 942 W of 22nd March 1892

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

B.T.R. [illegible] works

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

READ the following

[Proc]eedings in the Rev: Dept: No 260 of 17th March 1892

942/17

942/17

Communicated to the Supdg. Engineer IV Cir.

[2]. The estimate for the [r]estoration of the Dondapad tank has been sanctioned [i]n G.O. No 191 I dated 25th Febry 1892.

3. A sum of Rs 6,000 has been provided in the [P]rovincial Budget for 1892-93 for the construction of a taluk office at Gurzala. The question of providing funds for the offices at Vinukonda, Narasaraop[et] and Bapatla will be considered on receip[t]

of the estimates for the build-
ings which should now
be expedited, reference
being made to the present
[illegible] in support of the
application for funds
4. The Supdg. E[illegible]
has already been [illegible]
by the Chief Eng[illegible]
Irrigation to arra[illegible] for
the investigation [illegible]
projects [illegible] [illegible]ested by
the Collect[illegible]

[illegible] 19/7

[illegible] 19/5

[illegible]

[illegible]

Supdg. Engr. IV
Engr. for [illegible]
Department

[illegible] 25/7

94/18

Che 2980

Govt. of (1892) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated Famine 23/3/92

Recd.

Encl.

G.O. 22nd March 1892 No. 942-M

Season, Kistna

Orders on certain proposals of the Collector of the Kistna Dt. embodied in Progs. Revenue Dept. on the condition of the affected areas in his district.

18

90/4

22/3.