(1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 30

(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் மார்ச் 1991

(3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம்

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

துறை

அரசாணை எண். 650	அச்சகம்
மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண்.	பஸவகை
நாள் : 9/3/1893	198 .

மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

15

ஆவண. கா-1—18,006—15-6-87.

1/656

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).

Read—the following paper from the Collector of Madura, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Madura, 5th February 1893, No. A :—

Brief report on the state of the season during the fortnight ending 31st January 1893, Madura district.

Madura Taluk.

Rainfall up to December 1892 is 27·38 inches against 33·70 in 1891. Rainfall during January 1893 was ·05 against *nil* in January 1892. The total rainfall up to January 1893 being 27·43 against 33·70 in 1892 and against 33·21 the average of five years.

Progress of cultivation.	Dry.	Wet.	Total.
	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.
Extent of cultivation up to December 1892 (excluding inams)	52,311	43,621	95,932
In January 1893	290	754	1,044
Total ..	52,601	44,375	96,976
Extent of cultivation up to December 1891 ..	51,086	45,051	96,137
In January 1892	484	2,163	2,647
Total ..	51,570	47,214	98,784
Average of five years ..	51,010	45,469	96,479

Standing crops are over 33,654 acres as under :—

		Acs.
Government ...	Dry	3,834
	Wet	26,185
Inam	Dry	574
	Wet	3,061

and they have been estimated to yield 4 to 8 annas.

The extent harvested up to date is 76,260 acres as under :—

		Acs.
Government ...	Dry	48,767
	Wet	18,190
Inam	Dry	6,540
	Wet	2,763

Outturn is estimated to be between 4 to 8 annas. Early sown paddy in parts of Tirumukur firka are being harvested.

The prices of food-grains generally remain stationary. In villages principal food-grains are generally available in weekly markets. Importations largely received from different parts of the country. Markets well supplied.

—	Prices.				
	In January 1892.	In January 1893.	During last day of previous fortnight.	During last day of fortnight under review.	Scarcity rates.
Rice	19·15	8·65	8·65	8·87	8·5
Cholum	12·96	13·77	12·96	13·77	14
Ragi	15·6	16·77	15·6	16·27	14
Cumbu	15·31	15·23	13·23	13·23	12·5

Condition of people.—Generally healthy. No epidemic of any kind.

Poorer classes of people find work in the Periyár Project No. I, Water Works and Mills Company. The last two afford labour to people near the town and the first to those of Alanganallur and Tirumukur.

Certain Local Fund works of collecting material on road No. 1 have been started.

No probability of rain. Rain at present cannot be of any appreciable use to the standing crops which have already withered or been harvested, but will be useful to kodai cultivation and to dry crops on wet lands raised by well irrigation. River-fed tanks failed completely. Villages near the river suffer a good deal.

Shavi reported up to date is 12,231 acres. Wet remissions will have to be granted to the extent of Rs. 80,000. The entire extent of shavi reported has been azimoished by the Tahsildar and the Deputy Collector.

Tirumangalam.

Rainfall up to December 1892 is 19·96 inches against 37·80 inches in 1891. Rainfall during January 1893 was ·08 against *nil* in January 1892. The total rainfall up to January 1893 being 20·04 against 37·80 in 1892 and against 30·19 the average of five years.

Progress of cultivation.	Dry.	Wet.	Total.
	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.
Extent of cultivation up to December 1892 (excluding inams)	147,056	16,122	163,178
In January 1893	462	722	1,184
Total ..	147,518	16,844	164,362
Extent of cultivation up to December 1891	146,657	23,019	169,676
In January 1892	2,167	802	2,969
Total ..	148,824	23,821	172,645
Average of five years ..	148,243	20,362	168,605

The extent of standing crops is 69,135 acres and the estimated outturn is as under:—

	Acs.
Annas 16	2,429
,, 12	6,274
,, 8	49,367
,, 4	10,092
Shavi	973
Total ..	69,135

The extent harvested up to date is 116,485 acres outturn as under:—

Annas 16	137
,, 12	3,918
,, 8	46,600
,, 4	56,289
,, 0	9,541
Total ..	1,16,485

Prices almost stationary and markets are well supplied.

—	In January 1892.	In January 1893.	On the last day of the previous fortnight.	On the last day of the fortnight under review.	Scarcity rates.
Rice	11·08	8·65	8·87	9·99	8·5
Cholum	..	11·71	12·96	..	14
Ragi	16·67	15·52	16·50	16·50	14
Cumbu	14·70	14·51	14·7	14·70	12·5

Condition of people.—Generally healthy. Fever and small-pox prevalent in parts. People who went to Periyár works have returned and are suffering from fever which proves fatal in certain cases.

Harvest, picking of cotton and irrigation works afford labour. Road works have been started under Local Fund supervision, and the number of coolies that attended on the 31st January 1893 was 190.

There were slight showers of rain in Tirumangalam on the 22nd and 23rd January 1893 which extended over several villages, and cotton crops will be benefited to some extent.

Shavi has all nearly been inspected. Cotton in parts of this taluk is very fair, and as the price of it is very high, the villagers will obtain much assistance from picking and selling cotton. One-third of the whole taluk is under cotton. Rupees 3,000 has been allotted to this taluk for well-sinking under Loans Act.

Melur.

Rainfall up to December 1892 is 36·11 inches against 27·59 in 1891. Rainfall during January 1893 was ·02 against *nil* in January 1892. The total rainfall up to January 1893 is 36·13 inches against 27·59 in 1892 and against 32·84 the average of five years.

Progress of cultivation.	Dry.	Wet.	Total.
	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.
Extent of cultivation up to December 1892 (excluding inams)	89,306	42,075	131,381
In January 1893	562	343	905
Total ..	89,868	42,418	132,286
Extent of cultivation up to December 1891	88,330	42,760	131,440
In January 1892	2,736	708	3,444
Total ..	91,416	43,468	134,884
Average of five years ..	89,592	39,884	129,486

Cultivation during the fortnight is 572 acres dry and 238 wet raised by well irrigation.

Melúr firka.—Standing wet crops in eastern and northern villages (Sennagarampatti and Melavalavu) except those supplemented by well irrigation have withered. In western parts, those raised on high lands and those unsupported by well water have withered and others are in fair condition. The chief standing dry crop is *castor-oil plants* which are in a fading condition. Other dry crops have been harvested.

Tiruvadur firka.—Standing dry and wet crops are both fading for want of rain.

Kottampatti firka.—Standing dry crop is *castor-oil* seeds which cannot yield much. Standing wet crops are under support of wells and cannot be expected to yield much.

Nattam firka.—Standing crops, both wet and dry, under wells are in fair condition, and those not under wells are in a bad condition and are likely to become *shavi*.

The extent harvested up to date is as under :—

Melur.			Tiruvadur.			Kottampatti.			Nattam.		
Dry.	Wet.	Outturn.	Dry.	Wet.	Outturn.	Dry.	Wet.	Outturn.	Dry.	Wet.	Outturn.
ACS.	ACS.	AS.	ACS.	ACS.	AS.	ACS.	ACS.	AS.	ACS.	ACS.	AS.
370	200	12	1,000	1,002	8	26	304	16	12	..	16
3,500	2,600	8	2,546	..	4	2	121	12	730	..	12
8,250	3,000	4	1,700	506	1	1,336	1,052	8	7,850	510	8
2,600	4,400	0	502	763	0	10,213	3,076	4	21,000	1,000	4
									11,300	440	0
									39,803	1,950	0
14,720	9,600	..	5,748	2,271	..	11,702	6,576	..	78,683	20,396	..

Price of grains.	In January 1893.	In January 1892.	During the last day of the previous fortnight.	During the last day of the fortnight under review.	Scarcity rates.
Rice	10·16	10·20	10·14	10·56	8·5
Cholum	12·96	13·56	12·96	12·96	14
Ragi	15·24	16·53	14·72	15·6	14
Cumbu	15·30	18·77	15·17	12·4	12·5

Markets well supplied. Price of dry grains is dearer, but of paddy and rice cheaper.

Condition of people.—Generally fair.

Harvest affords employment to laborers. Tank repairs in progress. People have left for Colombo, Rangoon, Tanjore, &c. Labour on a large scale is not now required.

No indications of rain.

Pasture and drinking water-supply insufficient in affected parts. Shavi to the extent of 10,000 acres wet. Major portion azimoished and shavi inspection being pushed on. Rs. 500 have been allotted to this taluk for wells under the Loans Act.

Dindigul.

Rainfall up to December 1892 is 30·08 inches against 26·16 inches in 1891. Rainfall during January 1893 is ·05 against ·05 in January 1892. The total rainfall up to January 1893 being 30·13 against 26·21 in 1892 and against 29·90, the average of five years—

	Dry.	Wet.	Total.
	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.
Extent of cultivation up to December 1892 (excluding inams)	211,219	19,182	230,402
In January 1893	5,453	1,023	6,476
Total ..	216,672	20,205	236,878
Extent of cultivation up to December 1891	215,541	20,432	235,774
In January 1892	6,180	2,196	8,376
Total ..	221,721	22,628	244,149
Average of five years ..	215,394	20,971	236,365

Garden lands are cultivated with white cholum in several villages.

Rain is urgently wanted for standing crops. They are withering and have withered in most places. Crops under wells are in good condition, but water in wells is scanty. The extent of standing crops is 35,562 acres with outturn as under :—

ACRES.	ANNAS.
584	16
6,236	12
41,824	8
20,624	4
1,856	...
71,124	

The extent harvested up to date is 223,207 acres, and the outturn is—

ACRES.	ANNAS.
262	20
1,076	16
12,869	12
86,691	8
109,918	4
10,391	...
233,207	

Prices stationary—

—	In January 1893.	In January 1892.	During the last day of previous fortnight.	During the last day of the fortnight under review.	Scarcity rate.
Rice	8·78	9·29	8·87	8·87	8·5
Cholum	13·28	12·16	13·36	13·36	14·
Ragi	15·56	16·07	15· 5	15·50	14·
Cumbu	16·27	15·72	15·43	15·43	12·5

Markets are well supplied. Importations are brisk.

Condition of people.—Generally good.

Sufficient employment is available, and no necessity exists at present to provide labour.

No possibility of rain. If rain falls, standing crops will be benefited.

Shavi reported up to date is 883 acres, and the whole has nearly been inspected. No dry remission is necessary. Probable wet remissions to the amount of Rs. 23,000 will have to be granted. Almost all the wet crops in Batlagundu have been saved by a good fresh which came down the Manjalar river on 22nd January 1893. Rs. 3,000 have been allotted to this taluk under the Loans Act.

Periyakulam.

Rainfall up to December 1892 is 15·58 inches against 28·38 inches in 1891. Rainfall during January 1893 was 1·53 * against *nil* in January 1892, the total rainfall up to January 1893 being 17·11 against 28·38 in 1892 and against 30·26, the average of five years.

	INS.
19th	1
21st	·7
22nd	·7
23rd	·03
Total ..	1·68

There was a fair downpour in cusbah division, but did not extend to other parts. In Uthamapoliem ·2 inch of rain fell. The Varahanadi was in fresh for two days, but water has since run down—

—	Dry.	Wet.	Total.
	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.
Extent of cultivation up to December 1892 (excluding inams)	98,026	25,803	124,829
In January 1893	2,639	685	3,315
Total ..	100,665	27,488	128,154
Extent of cultivation up to December 1891	89,816	26,438	116,254
In January 1892	6,979	1,527	8,506
Total ..	96,795	27,965	124,760
Average of five years ..	121,559	30,709	152,319

The progress in cultivation was very slow owing to want of water.

Condition of standing crops not good. Dry crops are suffering much for want of rain. Wet crops, save where they have already withered, is fair in parts and moderate in others. Crops under wells are in fair condition throughout. The extent of standing crops is 20,617 acres (Government)—

Dry.	Wet.	Annas.
Acs.	Acs.	
300	656	16
1,064	2,144	12
2,853	4,314	8
4,361	2,087	4
691	1,247	..
9,269	10,348	..

The extent harvested up to date is 111,361 acres, outturn being as under—

Dry.	Wet.	Annas.
3,036	149	16
8,137	1,977	12
23,434	3,709	8
37,509	1,078	4
30,358	2,944	..
102,504	8,857	..

Prices stationary; slight rise in ragi—

—	In January 1893.	In January 1892.	During last day of previous fortnight.	During last day of the fortnight under review.	Scarcity rate.
Rice	..	..	..	..	..
Cholum	8·45	10·14	8·45	8·45	6·5
Ragi	12·96	12·96	..	12·96	14·
Cumbu	16·5	18·08	16·27	16·27	14·
	..	..	..	..	12·5

Importation brisk from north. Markets are well supplied.

Condition of people.—Generally good, fever in parts.

Labour is available under the following heads:—

(1) Periyár works.
(2) Cardamom plantations on the Travancore hills.
(3) Deepening of wells and wet fields.
(4) Harvest.
(5) Cutting, &c., of stalk for fodder; no necessity for relief works exists at present.

No probability of rain. If there be rain, standing wet and dry crops will be greatly benefited.

No dry remissions necessary. Wet remissions to the extent of Rs. 15,000 will have to be granted. Shavi to the extent of 3,200 acres has been reported and greater portion inspected. Necessity for relief works may arise in the near future if the present state of season continues. Rs. 1,500 have been allotted to this taluk for well-sinking.

Palni.

Rainfall up to December 1892 is 10·35 against 18·05 in 1891. That during January 1893 was ·03 against *nil* in January 1892, the total rainfall up to January 1893 being 10·38 against 18·05 in 1892 and against 25·28, the average of five years—

—	Dry.	Wet.	Total.
	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.
Extent of cultivation up to December 1892 (excluding inams)	76,491	14,683	91,174
In January 1893	2,211	572	2,783
Total ..	78,702	15,255	93,957
Extent of cultivation up to December 1891	94,800	14,905	109,705
In January 1892	3,002	558	3,560
Total ..	97,802	15,463	113,265
Average of five years ..	106,825	27,334	133,559

The decrease in cultivation in January 1893 is due to scarcity of water. Owing to the same reason the cultivation of cholum, the staple dry grain, was much less than in the previous year.

Standing crops are over 46,625 acres and the outturn is estimated as below:—

	Acs.	As.
.. ..	20	20
Dry and wet	2,167	16
Do.	6,126	12
Do.	17,162	8
Do.	16,488	4
Do.	4,712	0
Do.		

The extent occupied by the principal crops being—

	Acs.
.. ..	5,568
Paddy	18,234
Cholum	395
Cumbu	67
Ragi	17,275
Other grains and pulses	1,662
Cotton	233
Sugar	1,684
Oil-seeds	4
Gingelly	705
Tobacco	800
Topes, &c.	

Cholum, the important standing crop in gardens, is expected to yield 8 annas, and less except under irrigation from wells having good supply and from rivers, &c. Horse-gram is withering.

The extent harvested up to date is 50,650 acres stated cropwar and according to outturn—

Extent.	Annas.
1,224	20
6,353	16
9,672	12
10,007	8
7,638	4
15,756	0

	Acres.
Paddy	2,119
Cholum	10,051
Cumbu	7,105
Ragi	12,284
Other grains and pulses	17,476
Cotton	35
Oil-seeds	827
Gingelly	672
Tobacco	9
Topes	72

Markets well supplied. Prices under cholum and cumbu slightly rison—

—	In January 1893.	In January 1892.	During last day of previous fortnight.	During last day of fortnight under review.	Scarcity rate.
Rice	8·45	10·14	8·45	8·	
Cholum	15·5	11·00	15·5	14·	
Ragi	13·42	16·17	13·56	13·23	12·5
Cumbu					

Importations are brisk and keep up the prices. The absence of fluctuations during the present season is an index of the scope of trade.

Condition of people.—Generally healthy. Collecting road materials is in progress. In villages other than those situate by the riverside, scarcity of drinking-water supply felt. Rupees 1,200 is sanctioned by Local Fund Board for deepening wells.

No sufficient employment for agricultural labourers except Local Fund works. Women earn their living by selling firewood. Relief-works, such as earth-work, breaking stones, appear to be required. The number of coolies in Palni to Udamalpet road on 19th January 1893 was 362 (71 males + 291 chittals) in collecting and breaking stones.

No signs of rain. If rain falls, the ryots will be in a position to sow light crops under garden lands such as cumbu, varagu, thenai, &c., with the aid of wells. It has been arranged to open some of the Forest reserves for free grazing in communication with the District Forest-Officer.

Almost all wet lands have become or are becoming shavi. Remissions on account of shavi and waste are estimated at Rs. 14,000 and 15,000, respectively. Dry percentage remissions may amount to Rs. 76,000. The Tahsildar and the Sub-Collector have inspected 806 acres as under—

Padachi	594
Palni	212
Total	806

The remaining will be inspected as soon as accounts are received. Accounts for 200 acres more have already been received. The Tahsildar recommends the postponement of the kist collections, and considering the state of the season as regards this taluk, I submit that his request may be complied with. Orders have accordingly been issued in anticipation. Rupees 5,000 has been allotted for wells under the Loans Act.

5/650

Ramnad.

Rainfall up to December 1892 is 11·73 against 40·65 in 1891. That during January 1893 was 1·31 against *nil* in January 1892, the total rainfall up to January 1893 being 13·10 inches against 40·05 in 1892 and against 53·15, the average of 5 years; 1·14 inches of rain fell in Tirushuli on 23rd January 1893.

Progress of cultivation.	Dry.	Wet.	Total.
Extent of cultivation up to Dec. 1892, excluding inams	864	512	1,376
In January 1893	...	4	4
Total	864	516	1,380
Extent of cultivation up to December 1891	531	453	984
In January 1892	354	28	382
Total	885	481	1,366
Average of five years	1,036	395	1,431

Rain during fortnight has helped materially the condition of standing crops. No cultivation in ain villages.

Nunjah crops have almost withered and shavi is being brought for sale from almost every village. No standing crops exist in ain villages.

Cumbu is being harvested in some of the villages and its yield is less than 4 annas. No harvest in the 4 ain villages.

The course of trade and prices—

—	In January 1893.	In January 1892.	During the last day of the previous fortnight.	During the last day of the fortnight under review.	Scarcity rate.
Rice	8·60	10·51	8·45	9·29	8·5
Cholum	...	...	...	...	14·
Ragi	13·90	23·	13·7	13·17	14·
Cumbu	13·54	16·90	14·7	13·23	12·5

There has been slight fall in the prices of rice, ragi and varagu, owing to importations. Markets are well supplied.

Distress continues to be felt by some of the poor classes.

Owing to want of sufficient employment, some of the poor people are emigrating to foreign places, Tanjore, &c., in quest of labour. The letter from the Collector of Tanjore regarding the emigration of the Ramnad population to his district has been submitted to Board. It is again requested that, if the lending of the amount of 2 lakhs recommended to be lent to the Raja of Ramnad for the repair of irrigation works be decided upon, it should not be entrusted to the zemindari officials, but a special officer appointed from Public Works Department cost as per normal rates may be debited to the zemin and the excess to "famine."

As clouds are still moving, possibility of rain exists. If it rains, the recently sown cumbu and gingelly crops will be benefited.

Rainfall of 23rd January 1893 has enabled the ryots to sow in most of the villages cumbu and gingelly oil-seeds. Shavi to the extent of 540 acres has been inspected in the four ain villages. No relief works started. Wet remissions to the extent of Rs. 2,829 will have to be granted. The Head Assistant Collector's report on the state of the division has already been submitted to the Board. There was good rain in the Tirushuli division on the 21st to 23rd ultimo, which has enabled ryots to commence dry cultivation and will greatly benefit cotton in Tirushuli taluk (*vide* Deputy Tahsildar's report sent herewith for perusal and return).

Sivaganga.

Rainfall up to December 1892 is 38·57 inches against 30·70 inches in 1891. Rainfall during January 1893 was *nil* against *nil* in January 1892, the total rainfall up to January 1893 being 38·57 against 33·70 in 1892 and against 29·71 the average of five years.

Progress of cultivation.—Not available. No cultivation is in progress.

In some places here and there nunjah crops of first-sort paddy are drooping for want of rain, and in many places they have decayed.

Three-fourths of the nunjah and three-fourths of the punjah extent appear to have been harvested. Outturn of coarse paddy is pretty good, and of dry crops one-fourth the average.

The course of trade and prices—

—	In January 1892.	In January 1893.	During the last day of the previous fortnight.	During the last day of the fortnight under review.	Scarcity rate.
Rice	10·14	10·08	9·29	10·14	9·3
Cholam	..	..	..	..	14·
Ragi	..	..	13·05	..	16·
Cumbu	..	..	13·23	..	12·8

Trade is generally carried on and markets are well supplied.

Condition of people.—Generally good.

Labour is said to be obtainable on tanks opened by lessees. [illegible] ation is available. A list of coolies employed has been called for. Nattukottai Chetties employ some labour on charitable works.

If rain falls in a week, the standing crops in scattered places will be benefited.

Kodaikanal.

Rainfall up to December 1892 is 42·58 inches against 54·16 inches in 1891. Rainfall during January 1893 was 2·06 against ·05 in January 1892, the total rainfall up to January 1893 being 44·64 against 54·21 and against 62·33, the average of five years.

Progress of cultivation.	Dry.	Wet.	Total.
Extent of cultivation up to December 1892	10,897	1,180	12,077
In January 1893	1,121	1,137	2,258
Total ..	12,018	2,327	14,345
Extent of cultivation up to December 1891	10,814	2,325	13,139
In January 1892	43	352	395
Total ..	10,857	2,677	13,534
Average of five years ..	10,374	2,259	12,633

There was moderate progress in cultivation. The increase in cultivation up to date is due to the rains of August and September.

The standing crops are withering for want of rain.

The extent harvested up to date is 4,500 acres. That during the fortnight is 1,600 acres.

	Acs.	As.
Ragi	900	8
Miscellaneous crops	700	half the average.

Markets are well supplied.

Condition of people.—Generally fair.

Labour is sufficient in picking coffee seeds and weeding garlics in the villages.

6/650

If rain falls, garlics and wheat will be benefited.

No shavi.

General Remarks.

2. The total extent of cultivation up to the end of December 1892, excluding inams was as follows :—

—	Dry.	Wet.	Total.
Extent up to December 1892	686,170	164,189	850,359
In January 1893	12,689	5,310	17,999
Total ..	698,859	169,499	868,358
Cultivation up to December 1891	697,705	175,384	873,089
In January 1892	21,845	8,333	30,178
Total ..	719,550	183,717	903,267
Average of five years ..	744,863	176,769	921,632

Thus the cultivation up to January 1893 is less than that up to January 1892 and than the average of last five years.

3. The Head Assistant Collector's detailed report as regards Ramnad Division, No. 72, dated 30th January 1893, has been sent to the Board with a demi-official note on 1st February 1893.

4. Shavi has extensively occurred and large remissions will have to be granted. The rains during the fortnight under review, especially in Ramnad, Tirushuli and Tirumangalam, have benefited standing crops to a certain extent and have enabled ryots to sow some dry grains.

5. Prices remain stationary and large importations keep the prices from rising. Markets are well supplied.

6. The Local Fund Board have opened relief works in Paimi and Tirumangalam not as a famine work, but at normal rates to give employment and to test the condition of the people.

Enclosure.

From Deputy Tahsildar of Tirushuli, to the Collector of Madura, dated Narikudi, 1st February 1893, No. A.

With reference to Official Memor. Order, No. 189, dated 29th January 1893, I beg to state that I have received information that there was rain throughout this division on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd ultimo. I was on circuit in the Arappukottah side on the 21st and 22nd ultimo and I saw there was good rain all over there. I returned to head-quarter on the 22nd evening and saw that there was slight rain all round Tirushuli also. I at once called for information from Kamudi, Mandapasalai and Pandalgudi, and I understand that there was good rain all over there. In the Kamudi side there was good rain on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd, though not to such an extent as in the Tirushuli and Arruppukottah side. There was some slight freshes in the river, and the Kamudi side people have ploughed all their punjah lands and are preparing to sow cholum and cumbu at the next rain. The tanks have not received sufficient supply for beginning nunjah cultivation.

Read—the following letter from W. FRANCIS, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to the Collector of Madura, dated Madura, 30th January 1893, No. 72 :—

I have the honour to submit, with reference to your No. 5275, dated 15th December 1892, and No. 264, dated 27th January 1893, my report on the state of the season for the fortnight ending to-day, January 30th.

2. Since writing my last report, I have come through the whole of the centre of this division by easy marches, and have been at pains to notice the condition of the people in it. The route followed was Tirupuvanam, Sivaganga, Kallarcovil, Ilayángudi, Salagramam, Rajasingamangalam and thence to Ramnad, and I inspected many villages and much of the country on the marches and from the various camps.

3. The country as far east as Sivaganga along this line does not seem to me to give cause for immediate anxiety. There is a fair crop of paddy in many villages and the dry crops were not a complete failure. The ryots do not appear to be hard pressed as yet and emigration on any considerable scale has not commenced.

4. From Sivaganga eastwards the state of affairs is worse, and beyond Kaliarcoil and in the Tiruvegampathu taluk of the Sivaganga zemindari, and still more in the strip of poor country along the sea-shore, north and south of Tiruvadani, the pressure is felt keenly. The same remark applies to that portion of the division south of Kaliarcoil and towards Rajasingamangalam through which the latter part of my tour led me.

5. Here the wet crops, where the water available has allowed any to be planted, have almost all, if not quite all, failed. Shavi paddy is to be seen in every direction, and the straw is being gathered in for fodder for bullocks. The dry crops were little better. There is some fair dholl in several villages, but the cumbu, cholum, ragi and varagu which has been got in is a scanty crop and of poor quality.

6. Very little of these crops is brought to sale either. The ryots in most cases prefer to store it against their own needs rather than sell it even at the high prices ruling here now.

7. Prices, however, are easier on the whole than they have been. I have not yet received the fortnightly returns from Deputy Tahsildars, but here in Ramnad they are now as follows :—

Rice.		Paddy.		Ragi.	Cumbu.	Cholum.	Varagu.
First.	Second.	First.	Second.				
5¼	5¼	10½	11	8½	9	13½	17

which is some improvement on those reported at the end of December. These latter may have been artificially raised by panic (which induced merchants to hold on to their stock) and by the fact that supply had not been able to suddenly equalize the increased demand following on the failure of local crops. Importation of all food-grains is now going on freely.

8. There has been some slight rain (varying from 1 to 2 inches) along the sea coast in the last week. In some places it has induced the ryots to again sow dry crops, but another similar shower within the next fortnight will be necessary to bring these on and even to save them. It was too early for the general sowing of the kodai crops. It however did something to relieve the water famine which was threatening (and still in some villages threatens) that part of the country. Wells in many places along the sea coast give nothing but saltish-water, and the people have to depend upon rain-fed uranis.

9. The great feature of the fortnight, however, is the increase in the emigration of the poor classes and labouring castes that has taken place. This has been greatest in the Mutukulatur and Kamuti firkas of the Ramnad zemindari, which are I think undoubtedly the worst parts of this division. It had begun when I was there in December last, but is now going on very much faster. It is no exaggeration to say that thousands of the poorest classes have emigrated. I have met several bodies of them numbering 100 or 200 people. These included old men and women and children in arms as well as the more able-bodied members of the families. Most of those from Kamuti and Mutukulatur were bound for Tanjore district. There will be some work for them there in the coming harvest in the delta at the port of Negapatam and on the Mayavaram-Mutupet Railway. Others also may earn a living by letting out the herds of goats they are driving with them to be folded on the wet lands in that district.

10. This emigration however is going on not only from Mutukulatur and Kamuti, but from the strip of country along the sea-shore and from the parts of Hayangudi and Teruvegampathu talukas which I have said are worst affected. The men from the shore country mostly go to Penang, Rangoon and Colombo. Those from further

inland who are less familiar with the sea, to Tanjore district. In many villages through which I rode as many as 30 or 40 per cent. of the population had gone, and others were getting ready to go.

11. This extensive emigration, especially if it continues unchecked, will I think alter the whole complexion of the problem in this division. For the people who are now going are the very people who would otherwise be certain to require relief in a very short time.

12. The condition of these emigrants is in no way bad. I have stopped and inspected and talked with very many of them. They are none of them emaciated or weak from insufficient food, and even the children are marching without trouble. They appreciate the fact that a bad time is coming and have had the sense to go before it stopped them altogether. This emigration must however do great harm to the zemindaris for these people will not return all at once (those who go to Penang and Rangoon usually bind themselves to stay a fixed time there) and the cultivation after the next monsoon will be proportionately less for want of their labour.

13. The general impression left by a visit to this part of the division (which includes the centre of Sivaganga zemindari, and the more northern part of Ramnad) is that it is not so hardly pressed as the Kamuti and Mutukulatur firkas. There are however signs that relief will be necessary before long in this quarter also. The whole population cannot emigrate bodily, and some few individuals are usually left behind to look after the cattle and homesteads in addition to those others who have not the courage or enterprise to move. These will have to be provided for I think before the next monsoon.

14. The difficulty however of suggesting relief works for them in this part of the division is considerable. There are no regular roads there, and it seems waste of money to spend it on constructing earth roads which can never be maintained, and the masonry works for which can never be built out of the slender funds of the Ramnad Taluk Board.

15. What is urgently wanted is repairs to the irrigation works of the zemindari. These are in a woful condition all along the sea-shore strip of country, and their irrigable ayacut has gradually got less and less during the last few years. I understand that the chetti who has leased the Kannangudy taluk from the Ramnad Raja proposes to undertake a certain amount of repairs to his tanks and channels, but I have been able to get no accurate figures.

16. The Raja has, as I have already written, backed out of his promise to spend two lakhs on repairs to his works, and nothing whatever is being done in the rest of the zemindari which is under his charge.

17. I regret that I am able only to send a general report and not to quote any figures. No statistics bearing on the question are available in the offices under me, and it takes so long to get information from the Raja's office that it is usually out of date when received. The emigration cannot be accurately estimated as much of it goes by road and a good deal more from Negapatam.

Endorsement by E. TURNER, Esq., Collector of Madura, dated Madura, 8th February 1893, No. 42.

Submitted to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, with reference to his telegram of the 8th instant, and in continuation of the fortnightly report, dated 5th February 1893, No. A.

4

Read—the following letter from E. TURNER, Esq., Collector of Madura, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 9th February 1893, No. C. :—

In continuation of my fortnightly narrative, No. A, dated 5th February 1893, I have the honour to report very briefly, in narrative form, on the state of this district and the proposal I consider necessary to meet *the present* state of affairs.

2. *Palni taluk.*—I have not inspected this taluk myself as yet, but the Sub-Collector has and we have very full information about it. There will be heavy remissions of wet crops (Rs. 29,000), and dry remissions (Rs. 76,000) will also be needed in some cases. I have called for additional information as to the latter. Work is urgently required in that taluk. To meet the present emergency I have sanctioned Rs. 4,000 from the Local Fund Board for collecting and breaking stone at the quarries along the lines of roads Nos. 40 and 41, besides Rs. 1,200 and 170 for digging wells and clearing prickly-pear respectively. The work will be done on the piece-work system and the work paid for on measurement to the gang headmen. In this way each village may be represented by one or more gangs and the work turned out will be paid to their chosen headmen on regular estimate and measurement. I have also had estimates prepared for the repairs of a number of roads. These estimates have been placed before the meeting of the Local Fund Board and sanctioned. The estimates are prepared in sections so that the worst sections may be taken on hand at first. The estimates provide for the supply and stacking of materials, both metal and gravel, on the sides of the roads. Material collected and prepared at the quarries will from time to time be transferred to the roadsides. The materials so collected can be laid down on regular estimate as soon as the rain commences. These repairs are all necessary and legitimate Local Fund works. In order to obtain more funds for the purpose we propose curtailing expenditure on other roads and on buildings and markets, &c. The roads now taken on hand will be so thoroughly done that they will require only a reduced maintenance for several years to come. This is all the Local Fund Board can do on any fairly large scale. We shall want more works for this taluk. There are no tank repairs going on or to be done by the Tank Irrigation Department in this taluk. I therefore venture to request that the following works may be taken on hand :—

(1) *The water-works of the Palni Municipality.*—The Sanitary Engineer estimates the cost of this work at Rs. 80,000—*vide* G.O., No. 19-M., dated 5th January 1892. I believe that the estimates can be made ready at very short notice. The difficulty is that the municipality has no money.

(2) No other works may be required, but in case they are I request that the Public Works Department may have some work ready within the next 2 or 3 months so that labour can be found in case it is wanted. The Executive Engineer, Madura division, proposed 2 or 3 large projects, namely, Shanmuganadi reservoir project, Palni reservoir project and Balasamudram reservoir project (not yet investigated) and the amount available for unskilled labour under each will not be less than Rs. 50,000. He may be asked to have the estimate ready. For myself I would greatly prefer that tank works may be carried out. There are a number of tanks in more or less need of repair. Money spent on tanks is never thrown away. The same cannot be said of large projects which may never be completed.

(3) *Forest works.*—The Forest Department has already an estimate, amounting to Rs. 1,400, ready for cutting the trace of a road on the north side of the Palni Hills. The Board of Revenue has also sanctioned the estimate. This, I think, may be taken up advantageously. Rs. 5,000 has recently been allotted for well sinking under the Loans Act.

3. *Dindigul taluk.*—There will be heavy remissions (Rs. 23,000) of wet crops. No work is necessary at present. In case it is we must follow the same system as proposed for Palni taluk. I have got estimates ready for Rs. 7,000 for the collection and breaking of metal for the Dindigul-Palni road and some other roads and the works may be started at short notice ; but I am afraid the Local Fund Board may not have

more money than Rs. 2,000 to spend unless Government contributes the remainder. There are also estimates ready for repairs to minor irrigation works at a cost of Rs. 1,003, and I mean starting them first of all. I have also issued instructions to have more estimates ready for works under the above head. The Forest Department has in its list of relief works the opening of a road from Vadamadura to Sengurichi (Rs. 5,000) and another from Ayalur to Panchantanghi hills (Rs. 5,000). One of these two should be done. The Conservator may be asked to arrange for the provision of funds and for estimates being kept ready. The Public Works Department has in its list of sanctioned estimates certain earthworks for Rs. 3,000 and these may be commenced. Rs. 3,000 has been recently allotted for well sinking.

4. *Periyakulam taluk.*—Large remissions (Rs. 15,000) of wet crops only will be necessary. No work wanted at present, as the Periyár project employs a large number of hands. It may, however, happen that the Periyár works will be unable to supply work for the number of laborers applying for it. Mr. DeWinton has informed me that he cannot find work for any more, and I know that there are many laborers who have started and many more will start for that work and will be turned back. Moreover, the work will close in the feverish season from April to June. We must be ready with work in case it is wanted. I have ordered the road from Chinnamanur to the ghât above Guruvanathu to be sectioned and made ready for repairs. A sum of Rs. 2,000 is sanctioned for the present ; but, as I have said, the resources of the Local Fund Board are limited and it would be well if the Public Works Department had some work ready in case it should be wanted. I am informed that fever has broken out in the Periyár works. This might cause a panic and a rush from the works and we might have trouble. In this case I shall have to start immediately the work above mentioned. The District Forest-officer has an estimate ready for Rs. 4,000 for road works in the Cumbum valley and this may be done before the Public Works Department proposes any work on a large scale. Sanction of the Board of Revenue will be applied for for the forest estimate at once. Several minor irrigation works may be done. Estimate is said to be ready for one of them for opening a channel from Cumbum Chinnavoikal at a cost of Rs. 5,000. Strict orders have been issued to have more estimates prepared. Rs. 1,500 has been recently allotted for well sinking.

5. *Tirumangalam taluk—Wet crops.*—Wet crops have failed throughout the taluk both from tanks fed by rivers and rainfed. The loss of revenue under this head will amount to two-thirds of the whole taluk, say 50,000.

Dry crops.—This taluk has not been properly inspected by the Deputy Collector in charge ; his work in connection with the Madura Municipality prevents him from giving the attention he should do to his revenue duties. I inspected parts of the taluk on the west and east at the end of December and beginning of January. The conclusion I arrived at was that there will be no necessity for dry remissions in any part of the taluk. The Deputy Collector whom I met at Sindupatti was strongly in favour of remitting the whole of the varagu crop which, he says, has failed throughout the taluk. I do not agree with him for three reasons—(1) varagu is not a single crop ; it is always sown with other dry crops, such has "cumbu," where varagu has failed there has been a "cumbu" crop on the same land ; (2) varagu has not failed universally ; it has returned 4 to 6 annas ; (3) the only part of the taluk about which we need be the least anxious is the "Kallar country" to the north and west of the taluk. Very little varagu has been grown on that side. On the western side crops have been very fair and the people are well off. Any dry remissions on that side would be absurd. Cotton is the staple crop of this taluk and it is from this that they pay the kists. There is a very large area under cotton (one-third of the whole taluk). If a little rain had fallen in November or December, cotton would have been a bumper crop on the eastern side of the taluk and very fair over the whole taluk. The little rain that fell on 21st to 23rd January 1893 has done much good to the cotton crop and it will not be altogether a failure anywhere. This is a great thing. Cotton is up in the market and the sale of it will be of great assistance ; but even on the eastern side the dry crops have not altogether failed and I am not at present inclined to recommend any remissions. There should be plenty of work available for the able-bodied as I will shortly show. Moreover, there is usually a

considerable migration of laborers from this tract. I camped at Tirumangalam, Sindupatti, Checkanurani and Mallanginar and found the people generally in very good case. The markets are well supplied and buyers are not wanting. This taluk has improved very much since the famine of 1876–77. Cotton has brought money into the taluk, and on the eastern side, at all events, the reddies, who form the mass of the cultivating class, are evidently very well off. Drawing a line from Tirumangalam to Usilampatti, the country to the west of that line requires watching and labour at ordinary rates should be provided.

Works.—The north-western side of the taluk is the Saptur Zemindari which is now under the Court of Wards. There is a fair cotton crop, and dry crops have been pretty good near the hills. The Court of Wards will find labour for the able-bodied on tanks and channels.

Roads.—The Local Fund Board will find labour on 3 road lines which pass through the taluk:—

(1) from Checkanurani to Usilampatti pass right through the affected Kallar part,
(2) from Tirumangalam to Usilampatti which also skirts the Kallar division, and
(3) from Tirumangalam to Tinnevelly border.

A sum of Rs. 6,000 has been allotted by the District Board and work on these is being carried on the same principle as in Palni. Metal is broken up at the quarries and paid for by the piece. The roads are estimated by sections so that the worst section may be put in hand at the commencement. The broken metal will be stored on the roadsides until the rain sets in when it will be laid down. The roads are for the most part in very bad order and require metalling. The work is most legitimate Local Fund work and no money ought to be wasted. No better work can be found during a season like the present. Money will be found as far as possible by transferring allotment from other roads and by delaying the construction of market buildings, &c.

Tanks.—As much as possible should be expended on minor irrigation works, and the Public Works Department should be asked to find money for the tanks already estimated for under the *Tank Irrigation Scheme*. These works should be put on hand *as soon as possible*. It is work that *must be done sooner or later*; in a year like this *the sooner the better*. Many of these tanks are on the Kallar side of the taluk where labour is wanted. We require work on regular estimates to employ the able-bodied *not as famine works* but *as famine prevention works*.

The Forest Department can spend about Rs. 4,500 on bridle-paths and line-clearing; but no estimates are ready. The District Forest-officer will be requested to frame estimates without delay.

Rupees 3,000 has been recently allotted for well sinking.

6. *Madura—Wet crops*—have failed very extensively. At least Rs. 80,000 will have to be granted as remission. The noticeable feature in this taluk, as everywhere else, is the complete failure of river water-supply. The Vagai had only one small trickle down it the whole year through. The result is great loss under river-fed tanks.

Dry crops.—Very little crop has come to maturity, but still there has not been absolute failure anywhere. The results are from 4 to 8 annas outturn. I do not think any dry remission is needed in this taluk.

Works.—Everything should be done to provide work at ordinary rates on the same principle as in Tirumangalam. It is very unfortunate that work should have to be curtailed on the Periyár distribution channels. Still much can be done on the Local Fund roads, and the tank irrigation party has commenced work in the Sholavandan side. The Local Fund Board allotted about Rs. 2,000 for breaking of metal in road No. 1. This will give much useful work. I should like to see the Nilayur channel cleared out. This channel supplies about 7 tanks. It is much silted up, and if not cleared, there will be and has been already much loss of revenue. It his hopeless, I fear, to expect the ryots to clear this large channel by "kudimaramut." If the Public Works Department start their ordinary work on tanks at usual rates from the beginning of April, it will probably suffice for this taluk. There is always much work of one kind or another going on in Madura town and laborers from villages near

it resort there. When it is found necessary to start work outside the municipality, there will be no difficulty to provide it. There are estimates ready under minor irrigation works for Rs. 5,200 and estimates for Rs. 18,000 more will be prepared. The Forest Department may be asked to frame an estimate for the extension and widening of forest roads in Alanganur forest reserve. It is much wanted and would be a useful work in every way.

7. *Melur.*—I inspected this taluk in November and beginning of December and have not been there since. As elsewhere there will be great loss of revenue under wet crops. There will, I believe, be no necessity for dry remission. Works will be found on roads, tanks, &c. No special work will, I think, be required in this taluk. Rs. 500 has been recently allotted for well sinking.

8. *Ramnad.*—We want estate works at normal rates. If the rajah can in any way supply this, we shall probably tide over the year without very serious distress. If no local work is provided, distress may deepen into famine.

Sivaganga.—Work is wanted. It is to be hoped that the lessees may employ laborers on tank irrigation. I am writing to them about it. There will be also some Local Fund works in Sivaganga and Ramnad on roads.

9. *General remarks.*—The key note for this year in this district is work at normal rates. If this be supplied sufficiently, we shall probably get through the year without great suffering by the laboring classes. I shall of course apply separately for sanction to start the several works enumerated herein.

Read—the following letter from G. S. FORBES, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 8th February 1893, No. 100:—

I have the honour to submit the special season report of this district for the fortnight ending 31st January 1893.

2. *The progress of cultivation*—(*a*) *Rainfall.*—The statement appended compares the rainfall in the month of January with the average, measured at the registering stations. The figures for the rainfall from 1st April 1892 to 31st January 1893 are also added:—

Rainfall.

Taluk.	Stations.	In January.		From 1st April to 31st January.	
		Average.	1893.	Average.	1893.
		INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.
Nánguneri	Nánguneri	0·84	1·25	23·06	9·35
	Rádhápuram	0·45	0·02	22·34	17·52
Tinnevelly	Tinnevelly	1·21	1·47	26·57	17·66
	Palamcottah	0·90	1·45	24·08	19·64
Ambásamudram	Ambásamudram	2·16	1·68	31·84	20·45
Tenkási	Tenkási	1·56	2·60	35·77	23·86
Sankaranainárkoil	Sankaranainárkoil	0·81	1·05	21·24	13·82
Srivilliputur	Srivilliputur	0·56	0·60	25·59	8·49
	Vartirayirappu	0·53	0·50	25·56	9·09
Sátúr	Sátúr	0·43	0·80	25·42	18·47
	Virudupatti	0·13	0·66	25·45	26·20
	Vilátikulam	0·42	0·90	23·42	9·46
Otapidáram	Otapidáram	0·84	...	21·67	8·65
	Tuticorin	1·02	0·45	20·56	8·53
Tenkarai	Tenkarai	1·15	0·30	23·03	11·66
	Kulasekháraptnam	0·64	3·20	24·43	16·12

As the returns of the registering stations frequently fail to give a correct account of the distribution of the rainfall, I append a table compiled from the village reports showing approximately the maximum and minimum quantity received in the villages of the firkas or divisions of the taluks:—

RAINFALL in each of the firkas or divisions of the taluk in January 1893.

Taluks.	Divisions.	Minimum and maximum quantity on the 20th.	21st.	22nd.	23rd.	24th.	Number of reporting villages.
		INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	
Tinnevelly	Cusba division	0·25 to 0·50	0·50	0·25 to 1·00	..	..	7
	Manur	..	0·12 to 0·25	0·12 to 1·00	..	..	3
	Munnirpallam	0·25	0·50	0·50 to 1·00	0·50	..	19
	Melappattam	0·12 to 0·25	0·25	0·50 to 1·50	0·50	..	17
Nánguneri	Kalakad	0·50 to 1·00	0·25	..	..	..	11
	Vilvianarayanam	0·12 to 1·00	..	..	..	0·75	29
	Nánguneri	0·25 to 1·00	0·25 to 0·50	0·15 to 1·00	0·25 to 0·50	..	32
	Valliyur	0·25 to 0·50	0·25 to 0·80	0·25 to 1·00	0·20 to 0·75	..	8
	Rádhápuram	..	0·45 to 0·50	0·50	..	..	4
		..	0·02 to 0·50	0·10	..	..	
Ambásamudram	Ambásamudram	..	0·25 to 1·00	0·20 to 1·00	0·25 to 0·50	..	25
	Pattamadai	..	0·30 to 1·00	0·25 to 1·00	0·25 to 1·00	..	25
	Adechani	..	0·25 to 0·50	0·25 to 1·00	0·40 to 1·50	..	28
Tenkási	Kadayanallur	..	..	1·00 to 3·60	..	..	11
	Tenkási	..	0·15 to 0·25	1·00 to 2·50	..	..	19
	Alankulam	..	0·10	0·25 to 1·20	0·50	0·12	10
Sankaranainárkoil	Vasudevanallur	0·50	0·12	0·50 to 1·00	1·00 to 1·95	..	19
	Karivalamvandunallur	..	..	..	0·25 to 1·25	..	17
	Nilithanallur	..	0·25 to 0·50	0·25 to 0·50	0·25 to 0·70	..	10
Srívilliputur	Srívilliputur	0·12 to 0·50	1·00	0·25 to 1·00	0·25 to 0·50	..	16
	Watrap	0·06	0·12 to 0·50	0·12 to 0·50	..	..	7
	Mangulam	..	0·06	0·12 to 1·00	..	..	4
	Rajakularaman	..	..	0·12 to 0·50	0·40 to 0·60	..	5
	Rajapaliem	0·12 to 0·25	..	0·25 to 0·50	0·25 to 0·90	..	7
Sátúr	Nenmeni	..	0·12 to 0·50	0·12 to 1·00	0·16 to 0·25	..	20
	Virudupati	0·25	0·12	0·12	0·12	..	6
	Sivakasi	..	..	0·06 to 0·50	..	..	9
	Sátúr	0·12	0·12	0·12 to 0·75	0·25 to 0·80	..	16
Otapidáram	Pannikulam	..	0·12 to 0·50	0·12 to 0·25	0·12 to 0·25	0·12	6
	Kayatár	..	..	0·12 to 0·50	..	0·50	5
	Vilátikulam	0·12	0·12 to 0·90	0·12	0·20	..	19
			..	..	0·60	..	6
Tenkarai	Tenkarai	..	..	0·25	0·12 to 1·00	0·12 to 0·25	11
	Karungulam	0·25	0·40 to 1·00	0·50 to 1·00	0·25	..	10
	Sathangulam	..	0·50 to 1·00	0·25 to 1·00	0·25 to 1·00	..	17
	Perungulam	..	0·25	0·12 to 1·00	0·25 to 0·30	..	9
	Tentiruppéri	..	0·50 to 1·00	0·25 to 0·90	0·12 to 1·50	..	15
	Tiruchendur	..	0·30 to 1·00	0·75 to 1·00	0·25	0·12	9

The rainfall in January was general and on the whole above the average of the month.

(*b*) *State of water-supply.*—The supply in irrigation wells was everywhere improved and is still sufficient, except in some parts of Srívilliputur.

Tinnevelly.—All the river-fed tanks (85 in number) under the Támbraparni are about half full. The other river and rain-fed tanks (130) have no supply to serve for irrigational purposes.

Nánguneri.—A few tanks to the east of Nánguneri, where there was an inch and more of rain on the 20th and 22nd, have had between 5 and 10 days' supply. No supply elsewhere has been reported.

Ambásamudram.—The river-fed channels and tanks have a sufficient supply. Rain-fed tanks have little, if any.

Tenkási.—In the north and west of the taluk the tanks received about 40 days supply; in other parts a somewhat less quantity.

Sankaranainárkoil.—About 50 river-fed tanks received between 5 and 40 days' supply, and about 52 rain-fed tanks received from 5 to 110 days' supply.

Srívilliputur.—All the river and rain-fed tanks, 219 in number, were empty or nearly so at the beginning of the fortnight. About 50 tanks received in the fortnight supply ranging from 1 to 15 days.

Sátur.—About 8 tanks received from 2 to 10 days' supply and only 7 tanks have water from 2 to 15 days.

Otapidáram.—Only 3 rain-fed tanks received from 2 to 5 days' supply.

Tenkarai.—The river-fed tanks, except those of Tenkarai and 6 tanks below it and eleven tanks below Kadamba received a moderate supply, but the rain-fed tanks received no supply. As some parts received a great deal more rain than Otapidáram or Sankaranainárkoil where some supply was reported, this must be wrong.

(*c*) *Cultivation.*—The total cultivation of the district to the end of January and in the month of January is compared in the appended tables with the average of the previous 5 years. It will be observed that in January a large area, both under "dry" and "wet," was cultivated in all the taluks, the former cultivation being in excess of the average in Tinnevelly, Sankaranainárkoil, Srívilliputur, Sátúr and Otapidáram, and the latter below the average in all taluks except Nánguneri and Tenkási. The total area of "dry" cultivation to the end of January 1893 is 729,633 acres against the average of 885,633 acres, or a decrease of 17 per cent., while the total area of wet cultivation is 221,220 acres against the average 271,540 acres or a decrease of 18 per cent.

CULTIVATION to end of January 1893.

Taluks.	Period.	Holdings. Dry.	Holdings. Wet.	Cultivation (Government and inam and sivoyjama). First crop. Dry.	First crop. Wet.	Second crop. Dry.	Second crop. Wet.	Percentage of cultivation to holding. Dry.	Percentage of cultivation to holding. Wet.
		ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.
Nánguneri	Average	229,026	23,895	112,544	28,163	4,817	5,746	49·14	93·87
	Fasli 1302	232,409	30,031	91,208	18,986	4,766	4,729	39·23	86·56
Tenkárai	Average	180,471	44,576	101,003	40,472	1,028	22,079	55·96	93·03
	Fasli 1302	181,630	43,915	95,109	33,523	924	20,668	52·36	77·01
Tinnevelly	Average	101,218	28,725	50,665	27,960	1,513	17,293	50·05	97·33
	Fasli 1302	102,911	28,759	38,544	23,176	1,513	15,399	37·45	80·58
Ambásamudram	Average	84,589	31,101	34,563	30,676	2,244	23,958	40·85	98·63
	Fasli 1302	84,967	31,126	30,104	28,703	1,473	22,433	35·66	90·22
Tenkási	Average	64,098	19,781	44,396	20,826	9,351	10,369	67·70	105·28
	Fasli 1302	64,144	19,838	38,147	17,904	9,502	8,543	59·47	90·32
Sankaranainárkoil	Average	121,405	13,772	97,175	11,546	3,165	1,726	80·04	83·88
	Fasli 1302	122,186	13,802	65,730	6,702	2,101	860	53·79	48·56
Srívilliputur	Average	155,666	22,449	142,133	21,360	1,883	2,597	91·30	95·18
	Fasli 1302	159,683	22,528	124,170	14,277	2,445	2,702	77·76	63·37
Sátúr	Average	142,513	3,677	143,159	3,650	886	408	100·45	99·26
	Fasli 1302	143,696	3,581	131,101	3,121	1,377	315	90·95	87·15
Otapidáram	Average	164,562	3,596	133,338	2,547	1,270	164	81·32	70·82
	Fasli 1302	165,870	3,280	89,607	1,076	1,812	103	54·02	32·80
Total	Average	1,243,548	197,572	859,476	187,200	26,157	84,340	69·11	94·69
	Fasli 1302	1,257,556	196,860	708,730	145,468	25,913	75,752	55·96	73·89

Statement showing the area cultivated in the month of January compared with the average of the previous five years.

Taluks.	Dry cultivation.				Irrigated area cultivated.			
	Average.		1893.		Average.		1893.	
	First crop.	Second crop.	First crop.	Second crop.	First crop.	Second crop.	First crop.	Second crop.
	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.
Nángunéri	6,287	1,382	3,691	2,151	876	309	589	699
Tenkarai	10,608	237	18,804	239	2,126	3,905	1,352	2,967
Tinneyelly	4,769	295	4,913	518	877	426	425	580
Ambásamudram	3,934	229	3,777	241	627	605	579	415
Tenkási	1,848	487	1,447	919	223	336	267	751
Sankaranainárkoil	5,377	412	5,962	1,019	1,937	583	279	367
Srívilliputur	406	316	1,143	480	1,455	461	94	78
Sátúr	904	178	959	350	158	104	34	33
Otapidáram	4,997	268	14,637	685	350	50	120	...
Total ..	38,525	3,804	55,333	6,602	8,629	6,879	3,739	6,158

3. *General condition of the district, state of the standing crops and of the harvest*—*Ambasamudram*.—The rainfall was of great benefit in saving the dry crops and in starting dry cultivation on "wet" lands under the rain-fed tanks in the north and south of the taluk. The irrigated crops under the river system and under wells are in good condition, but those under the rain-fed tanks have largely withered as the January rain was too late to save them. About 11,000 acres of paddy with an yield ranging from 4 to 20 annas and 3,000 acres of "dry" crops, such as cholum, cumbu, ragi, &c., with an outturn of from 4 to 8 annas were harvested up to the end of January during the "pishanam" season.

Tenkasi.—The condition of this taluk has still further improved, the rains of the fortnight being general and ranging from ·50 inch in the eastern parts to 2·65 inches in the western and to 3·60 inches in the northern. The standing wet crops to the north and west of the taluk are practically safe, although a rather large portion of the wet crops in the eastern parts, where the rainfall was less copious, still require more rain to ensure against all loss. The standing dry crops are also believed to be all safe and will yield, it is estimated, an outturn of from 4 to 8 annas. Horse-gram and black-gram are being harvested.

Tinnevelly.—The standing crops, both irrigated and dry, were materially improved during the fortnight. The extent harvested during the period is shown below:—

	Acs.
Paddy	32
Cholum	240
Cumbu	1,397
Ragi	656
Others	2,544

The outturn is estimated at 4 to 8 annas.

Tenkarai.—The standing cotton and the small extent of cumbu, varagu and pulses which survived the previous fortnights have also materially improved. The dry crops being harvested are returning only a scanty yield. The "pishanam" paddy harvest has not yet commenced.

Nángunéri.—About 10,800 acres of standing dry crops and 4,820 acres of wet crops are in good condition. The area completely withered of "dry" is returned at 19,744 acres out of a total cultivation to the end of December of 87,715 acres, and of

"wet" at 7,258 acres out of a total cultivation of 19,335 acres. The effect of the January rainfall which was most abundant in the Nángunéri and Vijianarayanam divisions, where it was most wanted, has been to benefit the dry crops and to improve the yield of the palmyras. There was unfortunately no large area of wet crop to be benefited by the rains in those divisions.

Satur.—The extent of the standing paddy crop is returned as 431 acres, of which only 19 acres are reported to be safe. The total area of standing dry crops is returned as 51,222 acres, of which 48,981 acres are safe. Of this standing dry crop 42,180 acres are under cotton, which the rain in January greatly benefited though more rain is required. Only about 526 acres of cotton are, it is believed, likely to wither; from the rest the yield is put at from 4 to 12 annas. Well lands are being prepared for cholum cultivation. Cumbu and cholum on rain-fed dry lands have been harvested and the yield is put at about 4 annas.

Sankaranainárkoil.—The rain in January has greatly restored the standing "dry" crops (about 30,000 acres) and to some extent the standing "wet" crops on about 1,400 acres in the western parts of the taluk. In the eastern tract, where the rainfall was more partial, the condition continues to be bad. Cotton sown in this part, which is chiefly of black soil, is not doing well though the same crop on red and other soils is in good state. Cholum and *kadaikanni* (*panicum miliaceum*) are being sown on dry lands under wells.

Srívilliputur.—The rainfall in this taluk was unfortunately neither abundant nor general, and the condition remains much the same as in the previous fortnight. The only notable improvement was to the standing cotton crop (50,000 acres) and to castor-oil seed plants.

Otapidaram.—This, the most affected taluk, has derived but little improvement from the rainfall of January, which was partial and scanty except in the Vilatikulam division, heretofore the least favored division not only of this taluk, but of the district, where about 1 inch was received. The standing dry crops (about 64,000 acres), such as cumbu, cotton and pulses are still, however, green in about 30 villages where there was rain in the fortnight, but elsewhere are withering. The wet crop under river-fed tanks is almost *nil*, while the crops on wet lands under rain-fed tanks, such as paddy, ragi, plantain, &c., are, excepting those under wells, in a bad condition. The extent of paddy harvested in January was 419 acres, of which 369 acres yielded below 4 annas and 50 acres yielded about a 4-anna crop. About 18,400 acres of dry crops were also harvested, of which about 12,000 acres yielded from 4 to 12 annas, but the rest little or nothing. The standing cotton crop in Kytar and Pannikulam divisions is in a fair condition.

4. *The course of prices and of trade*.—The appended statement will show that the prices of cholum in Sankaranainárkoil, rice in Ambasamudram, rice and ragi in Srívilliputur and Tenkarai and cholum, cumbu and ragi in Satur, have fallen; that the prices of all food-grains in Tenkasi, cholum in Ambasamudram and Srívilliputur, ragi in Sankaranainárkoil, rice in Satur and Otapidaram, and cumbu in Tenkarai are stationary; and that the prices of all food-grains in Tinnevelly, of rice in Sankaranainárkoil, cumbu in Srívilliputur and Otapidaram slightly rose.

Importation at Tuticorin from 17th to 30th January 1893.

	Bags.
Paddy	19,891
Rice	3,863
Ragi	4,686
Bajra	747
Jowari	2,723

The trade in food-grains is brisk. The imports by sea at Tuticorin are noted in the margin.

There have also been large consignments by rail.

Prices of grain in seers per rupee.

Taluks.	Date.	Rice, second sort.	Cholum.	Cumbu.	Ragi.
		seers.	seers.	seers.	seers.
Tinnevelly	14th January 1893	10·11	16·01	15·32	16·44
	21st ,, ...	9·81	..	13·75	15·75
	28th ,, ...	9·81	..	13·75	15·75
Nanguneri	14th January 1893	8·30	..	..	14·66
	21st ,, ...	8·15	..	..	14·66
	28th ,, ...	8·15	..	..	14·11
Ambasamudram	14th January 1893	8·32	13·68	..	..
	21st ,, ...	8·80	13·68	..	..
	28th ,, ...	8·80	13·68	..	..
Tenkasi	14th January 1893	8·80	11·40	16·65	14·30
	21st ,, ...	8·80	11·40	15·98	13·58
	28th ,, ...	8·80	11·40	16·68	14·30
Sankaranainárkoil ..	14th January 1893	8·80	11·40	..	16·44
	21st ,, ...	8·80	12·16	..	16·44
	28th ,, ...	8·40	12·16	..	16·44
Srivilliputur	14th January 1893	8·48	12·16	13·20	13·58
	21st ,, ...	9·12	12·16	13·20	14·30
	28th ,, ...	8·80	12·16	12·92	14·30
Satur	14th January 1893	8·80	12·16	11·81	13·58
	21st ,, ...	8·80	13·68	13·20	14·30
	28th ,, ...	8·80	12·92	13·20	15·01
Otapidaram	14th January 1893	9·60	..	11·81	..
	21st ,, ...	9·60	..	11·46	15·01
	28th ,, ...	9·60	..	11·12	..
Tenkarai	14th January 1893	8·80	..	11·12	13·58
	21st ,, ...	8·80	..	..	..
	28th ,, ...	8·80	..	11·12	15·87

5. *The condition of the people and the state of the labour market and general remarks.*—The public health and the general condition of the people are good. In the Vilatikulam division of the Otapidáram taluk, the breaking of road metal was started as a test measure on the 29th January, when about 110 persons, two-thirds being women and children, came forward for employment. They were paid at the usual rates per 100 cubic feet. In Srívilliputur taluk there is enough local labour available. The number of coolies employed on public works in the fortnight in this taluk was 589. In Sankaranainárkoil taluk about 100 coolies are daily employed on the ordinary minor irrigation works. In the other taluks there is no serious want of employment. The Board in the Revenue Settlement Department have, in its Proceedings, Mis. No. 700, dated 3rd instant, granted permission for the starting of selected works from the list of minor irrigation projects sanctioned for 1893–94 wherever that course is desirable, and I am in communication with the Divisional officers on the subject.

The list of supplemental works for 1892–93, the bulk of which lie in Srívilliputur and Nánguneri taluks, have also been sanctioned by the Board in its Proceedings, Mis. No. 446, dated 24th January 1893. The execution of these and the selected works from the list for 1893–94 will, I believe, afford sufficient employment for the laboring classes in need of work. The harvesting of the paddy crop in the Támbraparni valley, which is just beginning, will provide a large amount of labour for several weeks. I am also in communication with the Tank Restoration Party in view of their putting in hand as many of their works as possible during the next four or five months. Emigration to Ceylon is but little above the normal, but movement from the less favored to the more favored localities, notably in the Otapidáram and Nánguneri taluks, still continues.

The condition of the cattle remains the same as in the previous fortnight, except that pasturage has been generally revived. A considerable number of cattle in the affected parts, more especially in the black soil tracts, are being sold. The situation

of these tracts is peculiar. The cotton crop is so valuable that the ryot puts every acre he can afford under this cultivation, leaving the very narrowest margin for cereal or green crops. Consequently, if there is a failure, and he has no money to buy fodder, he must dispose of his cattle, for he has not even the resource of the short and withered food and fodder crops which are available in other places. With the incoming harvest of paddy in the Tambraparni valley more fodder however will become available and the price may be expected to fall at least temporarily.

6. With regard to the question of "dry remissions," the reports received from Divisional officers were defective and further reports have been called for; but I hope to be able to address the Board, if necessary, very shortly on the subject. My present view is that having regard to the fact that this is the first year of distress and that it follows a year of plenty, no dry remission need be granted, but at the most only a postponement of the collections in the most affected parts.

Resolution—dated 14th February 1893, No. 62.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rain which fell on the 22nd and 23rd January brought the average rainfall of Madura and Tinnevelly during that month up to the average. The fall was general in Tinnevelly and was good in portions of Ramnad. It saved a good deal of standing crop, and has enabled the sowings of some hot-weather crop being taken up. Unfortunately it scarcely benefited the worst affected taluk of Tinnevelly—Otapidáram—nor did it reach to much distance from the coast in Madura, although there was a good fall at Periyakulam. Since the beginning of the current month the only fall in the two districts was one on the 4th at Morekulam in Ramnad.

	Average.	1893.
Madura	·51	·52
Tinnevelly	1·02	1·09

3. *Prices*, as shown in the statement given below, are still exceedingly high; they are slightly easier in Tinnevelly, but rather dearer in Madura:—

PRICES IN SEERS OF 80 TOLAS PER RUPEE.

Districts and stations.	Current.																	
	Normals.				1893.													
	December.	January.	February.	December 1892.	January.				February.									
					4th.	11th.	18th.	25th.	1st.	4th.	11th.	18th.	25th.	1st.	4th.	11th.	18th.	25th.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
									Rice.									
Tinnevelly.																		
Nänguneri	11·8	11·6	12·1	8·3	8·3	8·3	8·6	8·6	..	13·8	14·5	14·1	14·4	14·1	12·5	12·6	13·2	13·2
Tenkasi	12·8	12·5	13·2	8·6	8·8	8·8	8·8	8·8	..	13·4	14·6	15·0	15·4	15·0	..	..	..	..
Tinnevelly	12·7	12·4	13·1	9·1	9·8	9·8	9·8	9·8	22·6	14·9	16·0	15·7	15·7	15·6	..	..	..	..
Tuticorin	13·2	12·2	12·3	8·8	8·8	8·8	8·8	8·8	24·0	14·4	13·9	14·3	14·3	14·3	..	..	..	..
Tenkasi	13·4	13·0	13·0	8·8	8·8	8·8	8·5	8·5	..	11·4	11·4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ambasamudram	13·4	13·0	13·0	8·3	9·4	8·5	8·4	8·4	27·3	45·3	16·0	16·4	16·4	16·0	..	..	..	..
Sankaranainárkoil	13·1	13·0	13·0	8·2	8·6	8·3	8·8	8·8	25·7	12·9	13·9	14·3	14·3	14·3	..	..	..	..
Srivilliputtur	13·1	13·5	14·4	8·8	8·8	8·8	8·8	8·8	26·5	25·3	14·7	15·0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sátúr	13·7	13·7	13·7	8·8	9·6	9·6	9·6	9·6	25·3	13·6	15·0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otapidáram	13·6	13·8	13·6	8·5	9·3	9·3	9·6	9·6	28·1	30·5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vilátikulam	13·2	12·8	13·2	8·5	9·1	9·1	..	..	22·9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuticorin	12·4	12·5	12·4	7·6	8·4	8·4	8·5	8·5	25·7	24·2	14·3	14·8	..	..	..	..	..	..
	12·8	13·0	12·9	8·4	9·1	8·8	8·8	8·8	..	22·9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Average ..	14·1	14·0	14·4	8·6	9·0	8·8	8·9	9·0	29·3	29·6	14·0	14·4	15·0	14·9	12·6	12·8	13·2	13·2
Madura.																		
Ramnad	13·8	14·0	14·9	7·9	8·6	9·3	9·3	9·3	26·4	14·3	13·9	14·0	13·9	13·9	12·5	12·6	13·2	13·2
Tirumangalam	12·5	12·2	12·7	10·3	8·4	9·3	9·3	9·3	26·9	15·6	15·5	15·5	15·6	15·6	..	..	..	..
Madura	12·7	13·0	13·8	7·7	8·4	8·9	8·9	8·9	27·6	14·4	15·6	16·3	16·3	16·3	..	..	..	..
Melúr	14·3	15·2	16·3	9·3	10·2	10·6	10·6	10·6	27·6	15·2	15·3	15·5	15·6	15·6	..	..	..	..
Dindigal	11·7	11·9	11·8	9·2	8·8	8·9	8·9	8·9	26·8	16·5	15·3	15·6	15·5	15·6	..	..	..	..
Periyakulam	13·8	13·5	12·4	7·6	8·4	8·5	8·9	8·9	29·4	16·5	15·6	15·6	15·6	15·6	..	..	..	..
Palni	14·4	14·3	13·9	8·4	8·4	8·5	8·9	8·9	34·0	15·2	16·2	16·3	16·3	16·3	..	..	..	..
									27·9	16·3	16·5	16·5	16·6	16·7	..	..	..	..
Average ..	14·1	14·5	15·1	8·6	8·8	9·2	9·4	9·4	32·2	15·6	16·4	16·3	16·4	16·4	12·5	12·6	13·2	13·2

PRICES IN SEERS OF 80 TOLAS PER RUPEE—*contd.*

Districts and stations.	Current.																	
	Normals.				1893.													
	December.	January.	February.	December 1892.	January.				February.									
					4th.	11th.	18th.	25th.	1st.	4th.	11th.	18th.	25th.	1st.	4th.	11th.	18th.	25th.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
									Cholam.									
Tinnevelly.																		
Nänguneri	..	..	..	11·6	19·0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tenkasi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tinnevelly	20·7	18·6	18·3	14·7	16·0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuticorin	23·2	21·1	20·6	12·5	11·9	11·7	11·4	11·4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tenkasi	..	..	..	12·6	13·7	13·7	13·7	13·7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ambasamudram	21·5	21·0	21·2	11·9	13·1	12·4	12·4	12·4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sankaranainárkoil	22·9	22·3	21·9	11·7	12·3	12·3	12·2	12·2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Srivilliputtur	23·1	23·0	23·1	12·2	12·8	12·9	12·9	12·9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sátúr	..	..	20·4	11·9	12·6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otapidáram	..	..	19·4	12·5	12·9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vilátikulam	..	18·2	18·2	12·5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuticorin	15·2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Average ..	20·7	23·4	25·6	12·6	13·1	12·5	12·6	12·6	18·3	20·0	11·7	13·7	13·7	13·7	12·5	12·6	13·2	13·2
Madura.																		
Ramnad	26·8	25·4	25·6	12·6	13·1	12·5	12·6	12·6	21·2	21·9	12·3	12·9	12·9	12·9	12·5	12·6	13·2	13·2
Tirumangalam	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21·5	21·0	12·3	12·9	12·9	12·9	..	..	..	..
Madura	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22·9	21·9	12·3	12·9	12·9	12·9	..	..	..	..
Melúr	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23·1	20·4	12·6	13·0	13·0	13·0	..	..	..	..
Dindigal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19·4	12·6	13·0	13·0	13·0	..	..	..	..
Periyakulam	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18·2	12·6	13·0	13·0	13·0	..	..	..	..
Palni	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Average ..	26·8	25·4	25·6	12·6	13·1	12·5	12·6	12·6	22·0	21·2	12·5	13·0	13·0	13·0	12·5	12·6	13·2	13·2
Tinnevelly.																		
Nänguneri	..	..	..	11·1	11·0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tenkasi	..	..	..	11·8	11·8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tinnevelly	16·7	16·3	16·9	13·6	14·4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuticorin	..	..	25·0	12·5	15·3	15·6	15·6	15·6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tenkasi	..	..	..	12·1	11·1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ambasamudram	23·3	23·2	19·5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sankaranainárkoil	21·9	22·5	22·5	12·1	12·9	13·5	13·6	13·6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Srivilliputtur	19·6	20·1	19·7	13·8	13·5	14·5	14·7	14·7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sátúr	19·6	19·6	25·0	12·1	11·1	13·2	13·2	13·2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otapidáram	20·6	21·2	22·3	11·1	11·4	14·3	14·7	14·7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vilátikulam	17·1	17·2	17·2	11·4	12·5	15·4	15·4	15·4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuticorin	..	..	..	..	..	15·9	15·9	15·9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Average ..	23·7	24·1	25·2	12·1	12·7	14·3	14·6	14·7	21·9	22·2	12·5	13·5	13·6	13·6	12·5	12·6	13·2	13·2
Madura.																		
Ramnad	21·1	21·9	22·2	12·5	13·5	14·0	14·0	14·0	24·7	25·6	13·6	14·5	14·7	14·7	12·5	12·6	13·2	13·2
Tirumangalam	22·8	24·7	25·6	13·6	14·5	14·7	14·7	14·7	23·8	23·0	12·1	13·2	13·2	13·2	12·5	12·6	13·2	13·2
Madura	23·8	23·0	22·8	12·1	13·2	13·8	13·8	13·8	28·5	27·1	13·9	14·3	14·7	14·7	12·5	12·6	13·2	13·2
Melúr	28·5	27·1	26·8	13·9	14·3	14·7	14·7	14·7	26·4	26·7	15·6	15·6	15·6	15·6	12·5	12·6	13·2	13·2
Dindigal	26·4	26·7	27·5	15·6	15·6	15·6	15·6	15·6	27·4	27·5	15·6	15·6	15·6	15·6	12·5	12·6	13·2	13·2
Periyakulam	27·4	27·5	27·5	15·6	15·6	15·6	15·6	15·6	28·6	28·6	15·6	15·6	15·6	15·6	12·5	12·6	13·2	13·2
Palni	28·6	28·6	28·6	15·6	15·6	15·6	15·6	15·6	29·2	29·2	15·6	15·6	15·6	15·6	12·5	12·6	13·2	13·2
Average ..	25·6	25·6	25·7	13·8	14·1	14·4	14·4	14·4	25·6	25·6	14·1	14·6	14·7	14·7	12·5	12·6	13·2	13·2

* Include prices of an inferior variety in some cases.

4. *In Madura*, on an average of years, by the end of January about 92 per cent. of the year's cultivation has been brought to account. During the current year by that date the area recorded was 53,274 acres or only 5·7 per cent. less than usual. In the Periyakulam and Palni taluks, however, the deficiency was much greater as noted on the margin. No statistics are available for the zemindari areas of Sivaganga and Ramnad. In Periyakulam about 27 per cent., and in Palni about 22 per cent., of the crop sown has failed or is expected to fail entirely, whilst the remaining crops have already or will yield about a seven-anna crop. The Collector anticipates that heavy wet and considerable dry remissions, as well as postponement of kists, will be required in the latter taluk, and his detailed reports on these matters will be awaited.

	Acs.	
Periyakulam	... 24,165	or 16 per cent.
Palni	... 39,602	or 30 „

For Ramnad, no statistics of cultivation and outturn are at present available, but the Head Assistant Collector reports that in the southern and eastern parts of the zemindari the wet crops, where the water available has allowed any to be planted, have almost all, if not quite all, failed, and that the dry crops were little better. There is some fair dholl in several villages, but the cumbu, cholum, ragi and varagu, which has been got in, is a scanty crop and of poor quality. The rain which fell in Ramnad on the 23rd of January allowed of cumbu and gingelly being sown in numerous villages in the south, but these crops need more rain.

5. The worst portion of the Ramnad zemindari appears to be in the centre in the Mutukulatur and Kamuti firkas, whence the emigration already reported has been greatest. "It began in December" the Head Assistant Collector states, "but is now going on very much faster. It is no exaggeration to say that thousands of the poorest classes have emigrated. I have met several bodies of them numbering 100 or 200 people. These included old men and women and children in arms as well as the more able-bodied members of the families. The emigration is going on not only from Mutukulatur and Kamuti, but from the strip of country along the sea-shore. The men from the shore country mostly go to Penang, Rangoon and Colombo. Those from further inland, who are less familiar with the sea, go to the Tanjore district. In many villages through which I rode as many as 30 or 40 per cent. of the population had gone and others were getting ready to go."

As regards the condition of the emigrants the Head Assistant Collector writes that it is "in no way bad." "I have stopped" he says "and talked with very many of them. They are none of them emaciated or weak from insufficient food, and even the children are marching without trouble. They appreciate the fact that a bad time is coming and have had the sense to go before it stopped them altogether."

6. The Rajah of Ramnad is alive to the danger of allowing so large an emigration from his zemindari, especially in the case of emigrants to Colombo, Penang and Rangoon who would make a lengthy stay abroad, and his proposal to expend a lakh of rupees on the much needed repairs of the irrigation works in the zemindari, on condition of his being allowed to postpone payment till next year of a lakh of rupees of the peshkash due this year has already been approved by Government, and an officer of the Public Works Department will be shortly appointed to carry out these works.

The possibility of obtaining employment in the zemindari will enable all to remain at home who would find it a grave hardship to have to go to Tanjore and it will ensure work hereafter at home to any who find themselves unable to obtain continued employment in Tanjore when the harvest in the delta is over.

7. The Board sees no reason at present, for attempting to check the large emigration to Tanjore where for a considerable time at any rate, there is no reason to doubt that ample employment will be forthcoming at good wages. The Madura laborer is accustomed to emigrate, and it is no hardship to him to do so. The number of emigrants from Madura to Ceylon is large in all years, but in years of severe distress the numbers are enormous; in the years 1876–77 and 1877–78, the years of the great famine, the emigrants to Ceylon from the Madura ports were 111,784 in the former year and 108,104 in the latter year. The number of emigrants to Tanjore was

Ms/65

also very large and probably exceeded the above figures. but though the large influx of these emigrants into the delta caused much anxiety to the Collector of Tanjore they all managed to find employment and it did not become necessary to open any relief works in the district.

8. In Palni taluk, the Collector states that work is urgently required, and that he has ordered the starting of some Local Fund works on piece work, the work being given to villagewar gangs under their own chosen headmen, but the Collector considers that more works will be required than the Local Fund Board can do on any fairly large scale, and he requests that the Palni water-works may be put in hand, and that estimates may be got ready for tank works and for two or three large irrigation projects. The Board requests that the attention of the Public Works Department may be drawn to the matter with a view to their being prepared to put in hand such tank repairs as may be necessary in the taluk at very short notice. The commencement of any of the large projects named by the Collector is at present, quite out of the question.

9. In the remaining taluks of the district, there does not appear to be any urgent demand for starting special works, but some may be required later on, and the Board considers that it is very desirable that curtailment of the work on the Periyár distribution channels should if possible be avoided, and that the Public Works Department should be prepared to start their ordinary repairs early in April.

The attention of the Land Revenue Department will also be drawn to the various Forest works mentioned by the Collector, with a view to their being put in hand when required. These, with the works of the Tank Restoration Party, will probably suffice for most of the district.

10. *In Tinnevelly*, in ordinary years, nearly 90 per cent. of the year's cultivation is brought to account by the end of January. During the current year, notwithstanding the fact that the area of sowings during January was much larger than usual, at the end of the month, the total area sown was 206,320 acres less than usual; about 50,000 acres pertaining to wet crops. The deficiency, as shown in the table appended, is most serious in the Nángunéri, Sankaranainárkoil and Otapidáram taluks. In the first-named taluk the rains of the latter part of January did great good. In the four central taluks there is no reason for anxiety, nor is there in the Sátúr taluk of the northern portion of the district. In the other three taluks—Sankaranainárkoil, Srívilliputur and Otapidáram—some good was done to the standing crops in the first two and in parts of the latter by the January rain, and some sowings under wells are going on, but the situation otherwise remains unchanged.

The Collector's further report regarding the postponement or remission of revenue will be awaited.

The condition of the people is good, and emigration is but little above the normal, although people are moving about the district in search of work. The breaking of road metal at ordinary rates was started on a road in Otapidáram on the 29th January, and about 110 persons applied for employment; about 700 persons find employment on Public Works in Srívilliputur and Sankaranainárkoil taluks and arrangements are being made to start minor irrigation repairs wherever wanted.

11. In the tables given below, the average rainfall to be expected in these two districts is shown, from which it appears that in Tinnevelly there is a probability of good rain falling in March to be followed by further falls in April and May; but in Madura the March rainfall is rather scanty, though that of April and May is fair:—

Rainfall in Madura.

Stations.	January.		February.	March.	April.	May.
	Average.	1893.	Average.	Average.	Average.	Average.
	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.
Palni	0·20	..	0·31	0·73	1·56	2·71
Vedasandur	0·20	0·03	0·08	0·47	1·51	2·92
Dindigul	0·43	0·05	0·24	0·67	1·64	2·66
Uthamapalayam	0·70	1·53	0·70	1·74	2·54	2·86
Usilampatti	0·22	0·20	0·10	0·77	1·69	3·28
Thirumangalam	0·18	1·15	0·37	0·49	1·92	2·72
Thirushuli	0·19	0·08	0·23	0·63	1·92	3·35
Mutukulatur	0·13	1·71	..	0·49	1·69	1·30
Muturagunathapatnam	0·08	0·40	0·24	0·45	1·74	2·20
Morekulam	0·42	1·25	0·62	0·84	1·30	1·36
Pamban	0·87	0·38	1·18	0·63	1·44	1·36
Ramnad	1·56	1·54	0·08	0·25	3·15	1·82
Vattanam	0·59	1·37	0·75	0·64	1·57	1·42
Thirupatur	1·05	0·29	0·84	0·87	2·75	1·80
Sivaganga	0·27	0·28	0·16	0·14	·83	2·75
Melur	0·12	..	0·17	0·44	1·26	2·28
Madura	0·40	0·02	0·24	0·64	1·17	3·14
District average	0·43	0·05	0·42	0·72	1·84	2·89
	0·51	0·52	0·54	0·74	1·79	2·36

Rainfall in Tinnevelly.

Stations.	January.		February.	March.	April.	May.
	Average.	1893.	Average.	Average.	Average.	Average.
	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.
Virdupatti	0·13	0·65	0·42	0·22	1·75	2·41
Sátúr	0·33	0·80	0·54	1·08	1·57	2·44
Vilattikulam	0·42	0·90	0·52	0·74	·97	1·82
Otapidáram	0·84	..	0·64	1·36	1·19	1·56
Tuticorin	1·02	0·43	0·56	1·03	1·47	1·01
Vartirayiruppu	0·52	0·50	0·46	1·44	1·76	2·69
Srivilliputur	0·86	0·80	0·48	1·29	1·62	2·43
Sankaranainárkoil	0·61	1·95	0·79	1·27	1·98	1·68
Tenkási	1·56	2·60	0·79	1·99	3·02	2·84
Ambásamudram	2·16	1·60	1·18	1·87	1·89	1·97
Tinnevelly	1·21	1·17	0·78	1·65	1·92	2·64
Palamcottah	0·90	1·45	1·41	1·58	1·83	1·96
Tenkarai	1·15	0·20	0·76	1·22	1·25	1·21
Kulaseharapatnam	0·64	3·20	1·02	1·17	1·15	·99
Nánguneri	0·84	1·25	1·06	1·71	1·35	1·23
Rádhápuram	0·45	0·02	0·69	2·02	·81	1·07
District average	1·02	1·09	0·81	1·44	1·67	1·80

Statement of cultivation in the Madura and Tinnevelly districts, 1892–93.

Districts.	Sowings (1st and 2nd crop) from April to January.						Average total for the year during the five years ending 1889–90.		
	Dry.		Wet.		Total.				
	Average.*	1892–93.	Average.*	1892–93.	Average.*	1892–93.	Dry.	Wet.	Total.
Madura.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.
† Ramnad	1,043	871	406	529	1,449	1,400	1,000	425	1,425
Tirumangalam	168,153	167,116	22,716	18,505	190,869	185,620	166,154	21,844	187,998
Madura	57,926	59,699	51,732	50,172	109,658	109,871	55,254	54,123	109,377
Melúr	100,668	101,314	43,724	46,895	144,391	148,209	95,717	42,686	137,803
Dindigul	242,639	237,517	21,881	21,252	264,520	258,769	242,367	20,862	263,229
Periyakulam	126,260	103,944	32,693	29,221	158,953	133,165	135,414	34,476	169,890
Palni	120,354	93,521	20,613	18,099	140,967	111,620	117,238	20,835	138,073
Total	817,043	763,981	193,764	184,673	1,010,807	948,654	813,144	194,651	1,007,795
Tinnevelly.									
Nánguneri	117,381	95,974	33,909	21,715	151,270	117,689	136,779	38,950	175,729
Tenkarai	102,031	96,033	62,551	54,191	164,582	150,224	111,108	76,552	187,660
Tinnevelly	52,178	40,057	45,253	38,576	97,431	78,632	57,477	49,453	106,930
Tenkási	53,747	47,049	31,195	26,447	84,942	74,096	58,235	33,705	91,940
Ambásamudram	39,807	31,577	54,634	51,136	91,441	82,713	42,182	56,483	98,665
Sankaranainárkoil	100,340	67,831	13,272	7,562	113,612	75,393	115,480	14,328	129,808
Srivilliputur	144,016	126,616	23,957	16,979	167,973	143,594	157,954	25,634	183,588
Sátúr	144,045	132,478	4,058	3,436	148,103	135,914	144,562	4,231	148,793
Otapidáram	136,108	91,419	2,711	1,179	137,819	92,598	136,731	2,926	139,657
Total	885,633	729,633	271,540	221,220	1,157,173	960,853	960,508	302,262	1,262,770

* Of five years ending 1891–92.
† Only refer to four Government villages.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) I. SARABHALINGAM NAIDU,
First Assistant.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Madura.
" " of Tinnevelly.
" Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue.
Copy to the Collectors of other Southern Districts.

Revenue Dept.
Proc. of the Madras Govt.
Order thereon 24th February 93 No 190

Recorded.
2. Paras 8 and 9 of the Board's Proceedings will be considered in the Rev. Department.

/ True extract /
sd/ R. H. Campbell
Ag Under Secretary

Exd. A. Grubert.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1893.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed February 22nd.

Proceedings, 14*th February* 1893, *No.* 62.

Submitting to Government, with remarks, report on the state of the season in Madura and Tinnevelly districts for the fortnight ending 31st January 1893.

No. 650-Irrd/9th March/93

Communicated to the Supdtg. Engineer VI circle and the Chief Engineer for Irrigation. Estimates for such repairs of tanks in the Palni Taluq as may be necessary should be got ready at once and arrangements made to put the works in hand at short notice. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation will report the nature and amount of work likely to be available.

2. Attention is also directed to para 9 of the Board's Proceedings. Curtailment of Work on the Periyar distributaries is unavoidable in this official year on account of want of funds, but it may be resumed with vigor in April in which month also the ordinary repairs of irrigation works should be pushed on with.

(3/0) C. J. W

W.

The L & Municipal Dept with copy of note by H.E. the Governor & remarks thereon.

S. E. VI circle

CE. for Irrigation

Revenue Dept