(1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 22

(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் மே 1991

(3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் கருக்கொப்பம்

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

பொதுப்பணித் துறை

அரசாணை எண். மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண். 872 W	அச்சகம் பலவகை
நாள் : 29-3-1893	198 .

மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

ஆவண. எ-1—18,000—15-6-87.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Account.

Read—the following paper :—

From the Superintending Engineer, III Circle, dated 16th January 1893, No. 2816.

Order—dated 1st February 1893, No. 223 W., Public Works.

The saving of Rs. 305 in the allotment for constructing a Telegraph office at Guntakal, together with Rs. 75, being the usual percentage charges for establishment and tools and plant, will be surrendered to the Government of India.

2. The existing grant to the Bellary division under Telegraph, Minor works, is Rs. 390, not Rs. 240 as shown by the Superintending Engineer. Application for any additional allotment that may be required under that head should, as ordered in para. 4 of G.O., No. 1227 W., dated 13th April 1892, be made to the Director-General of Telegraphs.

3. The sum of Rs. 70 surrendered from the grant to the Bellary division under Telegraph repairs is resumed and credited to the reserve under that head.

4. The following transfer of funds is sanctioned :—

Postal Repairs.

From	Rs.	*To*	Rs.
Lump sum grant, Bellary division ...	200	Lump sum grant, Kurnool division ...	200

5. The undermentioned sums are withdrawn and added to the Provincial reserve :—

Provincial.

			Rs.
1.	Constructing	a Taluk office at Madakasira	6,000
2.	Do.	a Police hospital at Anantapur	1,500
3.	Do.	a combined office for the Tahsildar and Sub-Magistrate at Cuddapah	558
4.	Do.	a District Munsif's Court at Proddutur	47
5.	Do.	a Sub-Registrar's office at Kadiri	500
6.	Civil Buildings,	Minor works, Cuddapah division	1,000
7.	Do.	Repairs, Cuddapah division	200
8.	Do.	do. Kurnool division	500
		Total ...	10,305

6. The explanation furnished for the surrender of portions of the budget allotments for the Police hospital at Anantapur and the Sub-Registrar's office at Kadiri is insufficient. The Superintending Engineer should report more fully on the subject

7. The following appropriations are made from the Provincial reserve :—

Provincial.

Bellary Division.

		Rs.
1.	Constructing a District Munsif's Court at Bellary	500
2.	Do. a new subsidiary jail and making certain improvements to the Taluk office at Hospet	1,600
3.	Do. a first-class Taluk office at Kúdligi	600
4.	Do. a residence for the District Surgeon at Anantapur ...	3,870
5.	Civil Buildings, Minor works	1,000
6.	Do. Repairs	1,385
7.	Lump sum grant, tools and plant	1,482
	Total ...	10,437

8. The demands aggregating Rs. 4,000 for the ryots' shed to the Munsif's Court at Márkápur and the Taluk office at Koilkuntla in the Kurnool district cannot be complied with pending explanation as to the necessity for the allotments applied for.

9. The Superintending Engineer, III Circle, applies for an allotment of Rupees 32,232 under Incorporated Local, Communications, Repairs, to meet outlay incurred on Famine Relief works in the Kurnool division. An appropriation will be made accordingly in the Financial Department, the amount being surrendered from the Provincial reserve with the Public Works Department. The grant under Provincial to the Public Works Department will thus be reduced by Rs. 32,232.

[Here enter No. 224 W., Public Works, dated 1st February 1893.]

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. T. WALCH,
Ag. Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, III Circle.
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
" Revenue Department.
" Financial Department.
" Local and Municipal Department.
" Director-General of Telegraphs.

Endorsement—dated 1st February 1893, No. 224 W., Public Works.

Copy of the above forwarded to the Government of India, Public Works Department, with the request that the surrender referred to in para. 1 of the Proceedings may be accepted.

(By Order.)

(Signed) G. T. WALCH,
Ag. Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

Exd. C. A. Munisawmy.
Spare Copies.

2/872

GENERAL.
ACCOUNT.

Govt. of {1893} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated January, 1st.

Read. *Encl.*

G.O., 1st Feb. 1893, Nos. 223, 224 W.

FEBRUARY.

Funds

Forwarding to the Government of India copy of Proceedings sanctioning certain modifications of allotments in III Circle.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

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 Palni, 21st February 1893, Cir. No. 10 :—

I have the honour to submit the special season report for the fortnight ending 15th instant for the Madura district.

2. *Madura taluk.*—No rainfall during the fortnight. The extent of cultivation and harvest will be dealt with in the case of this taluk and that of others in the subsequent reports. Standing crops except under spring channels and wells have withered. Crops under tanks not yet harvested are estimated to yield 4 to 8 annas and those under channels and wells 12 to 16 annas. Prices are stationary and markets are well supplied with food-grains from Rangoon, Bangalore, Tanjore, Kumbakónam and Cocanada. The condition of people and cattle is generally good. The Tahsildar submits that during his inspection of the affected villages he found the people as healthy as ever. Fodder is at present available for cattle, but it sells dear. A large number is brought down for sale on account of the apprehended scarcity of fodder and is sold at low prices. Water-supply is sufficient for drinking purposes. At present coolies find labour in the harvest, gathering shavi, Madura mills, Town water-project and minor irrigation works. Rs. 1,000 has been allotted under minor irrigation for the Madura division including Madura and Tirumangalam taluks. The group of tanks south of the Vaigai has come under the Tank Restoration Scheme and it would be well if the Tank Restoration Scheme Party undertake their repair at an early date. Repairs to road No. 7 from Madura to Nattam have been started. I have asked the Superintending Engineer to arrange for the removal of the silt from the Nelayar channel which supplies about 7 tanks and irrigates 18 villages. But I hear that the estimates for that work are not ready. The Department seems to be unwilling to undertake the work as it appears to come under the head of "kudimaramat." I have again written and requested that it may be done as a special case. Year after year there is a loss to the revenue owing to the silting up of the channel and we cannot get the ryots to combine and clear out this large channel from their own labour. I have written to the Executive Engineer to supply me with a list of all works in this taluk to be put in hand after the 1st April next. I have also asked him to let me know what estimates are ready for large works in case (which is most unlikely) that we have to start "famine relief work" during the year after 1st April. I believe there will be ample work on tanks in this taluk to supply all the labour required. After the 1st April I presume the Periyár works No. II, will be resumed which will give much labour for the working classes of this and Melúr taluks. It might be well if the Engineers in charge of works were instructed to keep me fully informed of all works to be started on and after 1st April.

—	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Scarcity rate.
Rice	8·87	8·87	8·50
Cholum	13·77	13·77	14·00
Ragi	16·27	16·27	14·00
Cumbu	13·23	13·23	12·50

3. *Tirumangalam taluk.*—No rain fell during the fortnight. Crops under wells are in a fair condition and would yield not less than 8 annas, though, if rain falls within a short time, they may yield 12 annas and more. Cotton crop is deteriorating and is not likely to yield the estimated outturn in the absence of rainfall. The price of cotton has risen. The price of *rice* has fallen a little and the prices of the other grains are stationary. Markets are well supplied with food-grains from Bangalore, Cocanada, &c. The condition of people and cattle is generally good. Fever is prevalent in parts. Fodder is available. People who have no fodder sell their cattle. Tanks and uranis are dry, springs are dug in rivers and the water thereof is used for drinking and irrigation purposes. Betel gardens are kept up and garden cultivation is carried on with the aid of spring water. Local Fund special works are at present carried on in the taluk in breaking metal on roads. About 350 coolies work daily and they are composed of Agambadyars, Kallars, Pariahs and Pallars. Cucumber cultivation in tank-beds affords a means of livelihood. Cotton picking gives employment. People are reported to emigrate to Ceylon only from certain villages. They are of the lower classes who go only for a season and return after the season improves. Rs. 2,000 has been allotted for well-sinking and the Tahsildar reports that the full allotment will be utilized before the end of March next.

—	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Scarcity rate.
Rice	9·29	10·14	8·50
Cholum	..	..	14·00
Ragi	15·50	15·50	14·00
Cumbu	14·70	14·70	12·50

4. *Melur taluk.*—No rain during the fortnight. Standing crops except under wells are in a fading condition. Cultivation to a little extent was carried on with the aid of wells. Markets are well supplied. The prices except of cumbu are stationary, but the price of cumbu has risen a little. The condition of people and cattle is generally good. Pasture is scanty, but fodder is available at present. The only source of drinking water-supply is from wells. Many irrigation works have been commenced and about 500 coolies find employment thereon. Rs. 3,500 has been sanctioned and allotted for this taluk for repairs to minor irrigation works. Some go to the Shivaganga zemindari in quest of work. As is usual in this taluk, emigration has set in to some extent. About 300 persons composed of Kallars and Agambadyars have emigrated to Colombo, Rangoon, &c., to eke out their livelihood. Rs. 150 out of Rs. 500 allotted has been advanced for well-sinking.

—	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Scarcity rate.
Rice	10·56	10·56	8·50
Cholum	12·96	12·96	14·00
Ragi	15·50	15·50	14·00
Cumbu	14·70	13·96	12·50

5. *Dindigul taluk.*—No rain during the fortnight. Crops under well irrigation are generally in good condition, but water in wells is low and scanty. Standing crops are in a bad condition. About 600 acres were sown with white cholum during the fortnight in garden lands. The prices are stationary except of cumbu which has risen a little. Markets are supplied with food-grains and importations are extensive. The condition of people and cattle is generally good. Cattle are brought in large numbers for sale owing to the scarcity of fodder and are sold at low prices. Tanks are completely dried up. Sufficient employment is available. No emigration took place to any considerable extent. Of Rs. 4,100 allotted for well-sinking, &c., Rs. 1,100 has been advanced up to date and the full amount will be utilized before March next. I have written to the Executive Engineer to supply me with a list of tanks in progress in this taluk from and after 1st April.

—	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Scarcity rate.
Rice	8·87	8·87	8·50
Cholum	13·36	13·36	14·00
Ragi	15·50	15·50	14·00
Cumbu	15·43	14·70	12·50

6. *Periyakulam taluk.*—No rain during the fortnight. The condition of standing crops is generally not good. Dry crop is withering throughout. Wet crops, except in parts where they have already withered, are fair in places and moderate in others. Crops under wells are in good condition. Markets are well supplied and importations are extensive. The prices of rice and ragi have fallen a little. The condition of people and cattle is generally good. Fever is prevalent in parts. Pasture is scanty. People find work in the Periyár works, Travancore cardamom plantations, well-sinking, harvest, &c. There is no necessity of any relief work at present. There is no emigration, but the Sub-Collector has road work ready in case of labour being required after the closing of the Periyár works. I should be kept informed of the state of work at Periyár and probable date of the closing of the works. Rs. 1,800 has been spent up to date out of the allotment of Rs. 3,300 under loans, and works are fairly progressing.

—	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Scarcity rate.
Rice	8·45	8·87	8·50
Cholum	12·96	12·96	14·00
Ragi	16·27	16·66	14·00
Cumbu	..	..	12·50

7. *Palni taluk.*—No rain nor freshes during the fortnight. Dry crops have all withered and shavi in wet crops has much increased. Cholum in gardens is in some places stunted and pale, but generally fair. Horse-gram yields only 5 to 16 measures an acre, an outturn which is insufficient to pay the cost of gathering. The outturn of paddy, where harvested, ranges from 4 to 12 annas. The prices of food-grains are stationary. Markets are well supplied and importations are brisk. The condition of people is generally good. Small-pox and fever, which people fancy to be influenza, prevalent in parts. Wells have dried up. The Local Fund Board has sanctioned Rs. 1,200 for deepening of wells, and repairs are going on. Sufficient employment is at present available in the shape of collecting metal on road sides at somewhat lower rates than normal and on the harvest in a few villages of the taluk and of the Coimbatore district. The number of persons at work on the 14th instant in collecting metal on the sides of roads in Thalayooth and Thoppampatti was 1,056, of whom 809 were Konga Vellalars, 65 Cobblers, 40 Thevangu Chetties, 19 Pariahs, 15 Andies and rest of miscellaneous classes. The condition of cattle is bad. Pasture is scanty and fodder scarce. Markets are full of cattle for sale and the prices are very low. Steps have been taken to open certain forest reserves for free grazing, &c. Rs. 6,142 has been allotted for well-sinking, &c., and all the applications received since January have been referred to the Revenue Inspectors for report. The Tahsildar promises to utilize the full allotment and to show satisfactory progress. Details of emigration will be reported later on. No prospects of rain at present. If rain falls, it will benefit garden crops. I have asked the Executive Engineer to supply me with a full list of works in this taluk. From a conversation I had with Mr. Garrett and from my personal inquiries I find that there are no tanks which can supply work to any appreciable extent. There are no Public Works Department works to be had in the taluk, but if relief work should be required after 1st April (and we shall not want it before that date even if it be possible to obtain labour *then* at *famine rates* which I doubt) there are two irrigation projects on one of which relief work may be employed. These are—

—	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Scarcity rate.
Rice	8·45	8·45	8·50
Cholum	12·96	12·96	14·00
Ragi	15·50	15·50	14·00
Cumbu	13·23	13·23	12·50

(1) The Shanmugam Nadi reservoir project. This provides for a channel from the Shanmugam Nadi near Palni to a tank proposed to be constructed near Manoor. This work would provide about Rs. 50,000 worth of earth-work and would do well as a relief work.

(2) The Porundalar project. This work is under investigation and has not been sanctioned as a work. It provides for a bund across the Porundalar and Pálár tributaries under the Palni hills. The earth-work to the bund will amount to about Rs. 1,00,000, but the locality is very feverish and it would not be advisable to employ

labourers there before July. There is channel work, however, to the extent of Rs. 60,000 which would afford good famine labour. The channel from the Shanmugam Nadi provided for in that work is also a part of the Porandalar project; so that if famine work be required, labourers can be employed on it. Mr. Garrett informs me that this channel is marked out and ready and labourers can be employed on it at a moment's notice. I am, however, in correspondence with him about it.

8. *Ramnad.*—I send Mr. Francis' report in full. South Ramnad is certainly very bad and I will go there myself as soon as I can. Mr. Grimes, Local Fund Engineer, has already been sent to Ramnad with orders to start Local Fund works at once on the Ramnad-Madura road. I had a demi-official from him this morning to the effect that he had started the works, but wanted more money. I have not got full particulars, but we shall not have much Local Fund money left before 1st April. As regards tank works, the work is contingent on the payment of money into the Madura treasury by the Rajah. I cannot understand how this can be done. It is, I know, almost impossible to collect any revenue from the estate and the Rajah is much involved in debt. Unless, therefore, the Rajah borrows the money I do not see how it is to be obtained or how we can start the works. The wholesale cutting down of the jungle mentioned by Mr. Francis is much to be deprecated. The preservation of this jungle was a good work done when the estate was under the Court of Wards. This jungle is not only necessary as firewood in a treeless country, but is necessary to prevent the drifting of the sand over a large agricultural area. If this jungle be entirely denuded, much land now under cultivation will be covered with sand and become uncultivable. Altogether it is a deplorable prospect.

9. *Sivaganga.*—No rainfall during the fortnight. Nunjah harvest to a small extent is going on. No change in the agricultural prospects. The prices are stationary. The condition of people is fair and that of cattle not good. Pasture is scanty. Water-supply is sufficient. The lessees have opened some irrigation works. They have been asked to report on the state of the estate and their report will be submitted when received.

	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Scarcity rate.
Rice	10·14	10·14	8·50
Cholum	..	..	14·00
Ragi	..	13·95	14·00
Cumbu	..	13·23	12·50

10. *Kodaikánal.*—No rain during the fortnight. Dry crops are in a bad condition. Wet crops have begun to wither. Prices are stationary. The condition of people and cattle is generally good, though fever is prevalent in parts. Water-supply is sufficient for drinking purposes, but not sufficient for irrigation. Labour is sufficient at Kodaikánal, but not so in the villages. Since writing the above, it is reported that 1·50 inches of rain fell on the 19th instant.

11. *General remarks.*—I am now on tour in the Palni taluk. My proposals regarding dry remissions will be shortly submitted. It does not appear that any taluk except Palni will require dry remission. On account of the specially unfavorable character of the season in the Palni taluk it has been already proposed to postpone the collection of ryotwar kists. Further correspondence is in progress on the subject.

ENCLOSURE.

From W. FRANCIS, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, Ramnad, to the Collector of Madura, dated 17th February 1893, No. 134.

I have the honour to submit my report on the state of the season in this division during the fortnight ending 15th February.

2. In my last report No. 72, dated 30th January 1893, I wrote exclusively about the condition of things in the southern and central parts of the zemindari of Sivaganga, where I had just then been camping, and did not touch upon South Ramnad (except to say that it was undoubtedly much worse than any of the country I had lately passed through) for the reason that I had not been in it since my former report No. 699, dated 19th December 1892. None of my last report should therefore be taken as applying to South Ramnad, where the state of things is far more serious than that there described.

3. Since writing this last report, I have been through much of South Ramnad and I am now in camp there, and in the present report I propose to speak only of things in these parts; so that what is now stated should not be taken to apply to any but the country south of the Vaigai. This division is so large that it is impossible to inspect and report on more than a portion of it every fortnight.

4. The change that has come over this South Ramnad since I was here in the middle of December is marked and even startling. I reported then in my letter, No. 699, dated 19th December 1892, that unless more rain fell at once the wet and dry crops in Ramnad would be a total failure; that, as it was (owing to the absence of any freshes in the two irrigating rivers — the Vaigai and the Gandar), only land under rain-fed tanks had been cultivated, while that under river-fed tanks had never even been planted in many cases; that the dry crops were equally in want of rain, being poor, stunted and scanty even then, while cotton required more showers to bring it into flower; that prices were high and that nearly all the grain for consumption was being imported; that people had begun to emigrate and sell their houses, land, cattle and jewels; that there was some fodder left, but not much; and that special works would soon have to be started to provide the people with work and wages.

5. Since that report, things have gone from bad to worse, and in every one of the points above, they are less satisfactory than they then were, and several new difficulties have arisen.

6. The rain that was hoped for did not fall, and no freshes have come down the rivers, and now a very large proportion of both the wet and dry crops have become a total failure, yielding no grain whatever. The outturn nowhere reaches more than 8 annas and the proportion of it, that is, *nil*, 2 and 4 annas, is very heavy. I have no figures of this in the offices under me. I have written to the Manager of the Ramnad estate, and also separately to his Tahsildars asking for figures of outturn, but though I have kept back this report for a day for them, I have only received those for the Mudukulatur taluk. These, however, may, as I know from having myself been over the whole of the country, be taken as a very fair index of the state of things also in Kamudi, Ramnad, and Tirushuli firkas, that is, in the whole of the southern part of the zemindari. I appended the statement as received:—

Description of land.	Total extent of cultivation.	8-anna crop.	4-anna crop.	2-anna crop.	Entire failure.
					acs.
Wet	4,811	795	793	233	2,985
Dry	17,045	3,000	8,297	4,748	1,000
Total ..	21,856	3,795	9,090	4,986	3,985

It will be seen that in Mudukulatur no less than 3,000 acres out of 4,800 acres of wet land was a total failure, yielding no outturn whatever, while out of the remaining 1,800 acres as much as 1,000 yielded almost a 4-anna crop, and 250 of this only a 2-anna crop. Dry crops were almost as bad—about one-fifth yielded 8 annas; 13,000 out of 17,000 acres gave 4 annas and less; and 1,000 acres yielded nothing.

7. The state of things is even clearer when a single village is taken. In Sickal, where I was camping a day or two back, there is a big tank supplying 1,500 kalams of wet land. Of this area only 270 was ever sown or planted. Of the 270 kalams, 3 came to maturity and the outturn on these three was under two annas. In the four ain villages which have a total wet acreage of some 500 acres, only one cent. came to maturity and that was under a well. In Kadugusandai, which has a wet acreage of 59 kalams and 817 kurukams of dry land, no crop at all was realized on either. These examples could be repeated in village after village, and the Tahsildar's figures look more favorable (from the inclusion of one or two lucky villages) than the state of things in the average village would warrant, and they do not show what a large area of both wet and dry land was never cultivated at all. The total wet ayacut of Mudukulatur taluk cannot be less than 10,000 acres, and it is clear that only about one-half of this was ever planted.

8. At present there is no cultivation of any sort going on. I have not yet seen a tank anywhere down this way with half a pint of water in it, and the ground is too burnt up for dry cultivation. A slight and partial shower a week or so back induced some of the people to sow what gingelly seed they could get together; but their hope that more rain would fall to bring the crop on was disappointed, and the seed has nowhere come up.

8 (*a*).—It will thus be seen that the supply of grain afforded by the zemindari lands themselves is quite inadequate for the needs of the population; all but all of that now brought to the market is imported. Cholum and varagu are not generally available, but ragi and cumbu are brought by road (some 70 miles) from Madura (to which place they are sent by rail I believe from the Northern Circars) and paddy comes from Burma by boat to Kilakarai. Paddy

is generally 10 measures a rupee and cumbu and ragi 9. I append a statement of the daily prices at Ramnad as they have ruled since January 1st—

Rice.				Paddy.			
1st sort.		2nd sort.		1st sort.		2nd sort	
Date.	Measure.	Date.	Measure.	Date.	Measure.	Date.	Measure.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Jan. 1st to 7th ..	4½	Jan. 1st to 7th ..	4⅔	Jan. 1st to 10th ..	9½	Jan. 1st to 4th ..	11
,, 8th to 10th ..	4⅔	,, 8th to 10th ..	4⅔	,, 11th to 16th ..	10½	,, 5th and 6th ..	10½
,, 11th to 18th ..	4⅔	,, 11th to 18th ..	5	,, 17th and 18th ..	10	,, 7th to 10th ..	10
,, 19th to 28th ..	5	,, 19th to 30th ..	5⅓	,, 19th to 2nd Feb.	10½	,, 11th to 2nd Feb.	11
,, 29th to 2nd Feb. ..	5	,, 31st to 2nd Feb.	5⅓	Feb. 3rd to 11th ..	11	Feb. 3rd to 11th ..	12
Feb. 3rd to 11th ..	5⅓	Feb. 3rd to 11th ..	5⅓				

Ragi.		Cumbu.		Cholum.		Varagu.	
Date.	Measure.	Date.	Measure.	Date.	Measure.	Date.	Measure.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Jan. 1st to 4th ..	11	Jan. 1st to 10th ..	9	Jan. 1st to 7th ..	14	Jan. 15th to 28th ..	16
,, 5th and 6th ..	10½	,, 11th to 16th ..	10	,, 8th to 16th ..	13½	,, 29th to 8th Feb.	17
,, 7th	10	,, 17th and 18th ..	9½	,, 17th to 28th ..	13	Feb. 9th	16½
,, 8th	9	,, 19th to 2nd Feb.	9	,, 29th to 2nd Feb.	13½	,, 10th and 11th ..	16
,, 9th to 16th ..	8½	Feb. 3rd to 11th ..	9½	Feb. 3rd to 11th ..	13		
,, 17th and 18th ..	8¾						
,, 19th to 30th ..	8½						
,, 31st to 11th Feb. ..	9						

At the market at Kadaladi which supplies most of the south and south-east of this part, prices to-day were—

Rice.		Paddy.		Ragi.	Cumbu.	Cholum.	Varagu.
1st sort.	2nd sort.	1st sort.	2nd sort.				
Measure.	Measure.	Measure.	Measure.	Measure.	Measure.	Measure.	Measure.
5¼	5½	10½	11	10	10	12	12

There is no lack of supply at these prices at present and there seems no fear of any. There is reported to have been a good crop in Burma, and when the Tanjore delta harvest is in, it is possible that prices may be a little easier.

9. The lot of the small cultivator who has not his usual stock of grain from his own lands to fall back upon, of the agricultural laborer who works for grain wages, and of the village artizans and servants who are paid in grain, is thus very hard, as they have to buy with ready money and at high prices their food from day to day. Moreover, there being no cultivation going on and all trade being slack, wages of any sort are very difficult to get. It is this which led to the emigration which I said in my former report had just begun. Since that report was written and up to within a week from this date, the extent to which this emigration has taken place is very remarkable. It is no exaggeration to say that thousands of the poorer classes have left the country. Those along the sea-board to whom the sea is familiar have gone to Rangoon, the Straits and Ceylon. Others from inland have gone in hundreds across to Tanjore and Negapatam, where they hope for work at the port of Negapatam on the delta harvest, and on the Mayavaram and Mutupet Railway. A certain amount of emigration to Tanjore occurs

every year in this country. The professional dacoits from the villages round Appanur and elsewhere usually go there to practise their trade upon the wealthy inhabitants of that district, and many others every year drive up large herds of goats which they let out for manuring the wet lands there, but this year the emigration is something more than this. Some villages round here are absolutely empty. At Koorankottai, a few miles from the camp, not one man, woman or child of 40 familes is left, and the place is deserted. Thieves have gone to the village, broken open the closed houses, and turned the little property that was left into the streets or broken it up, and they have even removed some of the trees that grew on the village site. In Kadugusandai Vadakkur, half a mile from Kadugusandai, only 82 people out of 215 are left. In Minangudi, near Kadugusandai, 15 houses out of 35 are deserted; in Narasingamkottam 5 out of 15, and in Sathangudi 11 out of 18. In Sickal even, a big and wealthy village, 220 people out of 1,254 have gone, or more than 18 per cent. From 3 out of the 4 aid villages, in which I was in camp the other day, proportions of 35·8, 26, and 35·4 of the population had emigrated and this although the ryots there had been promised that repairs to the extent of Rs. 5,000 would very shortly be done to their tanks and channels. Most of these people have gone to Negapatam. It is impossible to get any general figures to show the proportion of the population of the whole zemindari who have gone, as most of them go by road, but the figures quoted for the villages above (which do not lie altogether but over a line of country some 40 miles long) will give some idea of it. It has been going on all over Ramnad zemindari. The big villages have contributed least to it and the porportion grows as the size of the hamlets decreases.

10. During the last week, however, the tendency to emigrate has received a check. It has got about (what is in fact the truth) that there is no work to be had in Tanjore. Some of those who went there actually returned being unable to get any employment and every man that returns with this story stops a hundred who might have gone. There is thus no ground for expecting that emigration will completely solve the problem here. Besides those who can leave but will not, there is a considerable proportion in each village who cannot go if they would. The barber, the potter and the dhobie could get no work in Negapatam and their doles of rice from their customers are getting daily smaller. Those families which have several young children cannot march the long distance. Some of the people have waited and put off going; until now, they cannot raise the money necessary to find them in food during the journey. Others have gone and left their children in charge of their grand parents or a widow sister-in-law or aunt, promising to send them money and sending them none, and their children and those in charge of them cannot march unprotected to Tanjore, even had they the money.

11. There is thus a certain irreducible minimum of the population that will have to be reckoned with. Their condition is wretched in the extreme even at present. Up to a few days back most of them had something to fall back upon in the proceeds of their cattle or jewels, but these are now in most cases exhausted and the people are in a very large majority of cases living literally from hand to mouth, working all day to earn the evening meal. The work they can get is very little. There is no cooly work to be had, and no cultivation is going on. Those who live in villages where the palmyra is plentiful have taken to the new industry of beating the fibre from the leaf stalks of the palm. This is very hard work and some one of the family must be out all day collecting the leaf stalks. These require to be in a certain and particular state of decay to yield the only sort of fibre which is marketable, and it is necessary to go further and further afield to find them. From frequent enquiries made in very many villages, I find that a grown man cannot earn more than from 6 to 9 pies a day working all day at this occupation. When it is considered that in almost every family there are some children who are unable to help, but yet require to be fed, it is evident that this wage cannot provide the people with sufficient food to keep them in strength. Where palmyras are not to be had, the same wretched living is made by collecting avaram bark; and where there is neither avaram nor palmyra, the leaves of the senna plant are picked and sold or firewood gathered and carried to the bigger villages. At none of these occupations can a man earn more than six pies a day, and it seems likely that even these will in time give out. Both the palmyra and avaram trees throughout the whole zemindari have been leased by the Rajah for a lump sum. The lessees have sub-leased their interests to others, who have again sub-let them. The sub-sub-renters have thus the monopoly of both palmyra fibre and avaram bark. They can offer the ryots the lowest possible price which will induce them to collect these rather than starve, and the ryot must sell to them or not at all. The Rajah has clearly the right to let out the produce of those trees which are on poramboke, but the renters take it that their claims extend even to trees on patta lands, and no one has the knowledge or power to oppose them. Whenever, therefore, these gentry find that the market for fibre or bark, is falling, they cannot only refuse to buy, but prevent others buying. These occupations are thus extremely precarious.

12. To show the condition of the mass of the people, and the sort of living made by them from these occupations, I append a statement showing the results of a house-to-house inspection that I made in Kadugusandai Vadakkur. From this village, as I have stated above, only some 82 people out of a population of 215 are left. Of 44 houses in the village only 13 are now occupied, the rest being deserted. Of the 13 families living in these houses, one only containing 6 persons is reasonably well off. The condition of the other 76 people is shown in the statement.

No.	Number in family. Men.	Women.	Children.	Ordinary occupation in good times.	Amount of food cooked for the evening meal of the 16th February.	Stock of grain and other saleable property in the house.	How the money for the meal was procured and details of the family's condition.
1	1	2	2	Potter ..	Half measure of ragi, handful of dried fish curry, 6 pies worth of curry stuff ; half of this reserved for breakfast next morning.	No grain. A few new pots which could not be sold.	Value of the food, 1 anna 7 pies. Managed to sell a pot or two at a village at some distance.
2	1	1	6	Do.	One and half measures rice, dried fish for 6 pies ; half left for breakfast.	No grain. A few unsaleable new pots.	Value of food, 2 annas 10 pies. Money sent by a grown up son who had earned it by odd jobs at Kadaladi market. Family leave here to Negapatam and returned as could not get work there.
3	1	1	3	Dhobie ..	Three-quarter measures ragi ; half left for breakfast.	None ..	Was given him in little bits by other villagers.
4	3	3	3	Cultivator.	Two measures rice, dried fish 6 pies ; half left.	Quarter measure ragi ; some chillies.	Value of food, 3 annas 8 pies. Sold avaram bark that had taken 7 days to collect for 9 annas ; so had a square meal. Had once 6 cows, 2 died ; sold other 4 for Rs. 14-12-0. That money all gone. Afraid to go to Negapatam after the return of No. 2 *supra*.
5	4	4	8	Do.	Two measures rice ; half left.	None ..	Six of the adult members are getting one and a half annas a day from avaram bark. Bark getting scarce ; afraid they won't be able to keep it up. Sold 3 cows to chucklers for 10 annas each. Have lands, but no one will advance anything on them ; have not gone to Negapatam because of the children.
6	1	1	1	Do.	Half measure ragi, 4 pies chillies ; half of it left.	Half measure ragi.	Value of food, 10 pies, earned by the day's work at avaram bark. Sold in the village to agent. Have lands, but no one will buy.
7	2	1	5	Shepherd.	Two measures ragi ; half left.	None ..	Earned money from avaram bark. Had 20 sheep and 3 cattle. Sold them for Rs. 47 five months ago. Money nearly all gone. Going to Negapatam next Sunday. No work here.
8	2	2	..	Cultivator.	Three-quarter measure rice ; some of it left for breakfast.	None ..	Worked 7 days at avaram bark ; made 6 annas. Sold 5 cows for Rs. 5. Have land, but it is unsaleable. Five of the family have gone. These going north next Sunday.
9	1	2	2	Do.	One and quarter measures rice ; some left dried fish curry.	None ..	Earned money at avaram bark. Man went to Morekolam Salt factory and earned 4 annas in 3 days. Had 6 cows.—2 died, other 4 sold for 10 annas each to chucklers. Have land, cannot sell it. Are going to leave village.
10	1	3	3	Do.	One measure rice, some chillies.	None ..	Had 9 cattle ; sold for Rs. 25 four months ago. This all gone now. No work. Cannot sell land. Going north next Sunday. Prefer this to trying to live on getting avaram bark.
11	2	..	1	Cultivating Shanar.	One and quarter measures rice.	None ..	Got 8 annas as present from married daughter in another village. Also collect bark. Sold only two cattle two months ago for Rs. 2-12-0. Have land, cannot sell it. Don't mean to go away, as hear there is no work in Tanjore.
12	1	1	1	Barber ..	Half measure ragi ; half of it left.	Quarter measure rice.	Wife and child work at bark. Husband got some ragi given him. Had 2 cows both dead. Three calves still unsold ; wife and child worked 3 days at bark and sold it for 4 annas.

13. This village is not a particularly poor one either, as I know from having ridden to very many of those round here this state of things could be shown to exist in village after village. The smaller hamlets are almost all in this condition. This insufficient food is beginning, I think, to tell upon the people. It is only during the last month that they have had to live on these poor wages, but already some of the children are looking pinched. The chucklers are generally well enough, as they alone do not stick at eating the beef which is so cheap now. Pallars, Pariahs, Idayars and some of the poorer Muhammadans are the worst off.

14. The general health up to date is good. I have heard of no epidemics or disease anywhere. This is probably largely due to the fact that grain is everywhere procurable and that the people are not living to any extent on prickly-pear fruit, roots, kavanga and such like wholesome foods. Crime, also, has not increased to any notable extent, but I think that the explanation of this is to be found in the general poverty of the people in these parts, which makes them hardly worth the trouble of dacoity or robbery. One or two dacoities of standing cumbu crops have occurred in the past fortnight, but most of the thieving classes have left the

division. It is possible that crime may have rapidly increased in Tanjore district, and if that is so, it is an indication of the scarcity here.

15. Drinking water is getting scarce in many places. In several villages I have visited, it is being brought some 2 or 3 miles. Many other villagers are obliged to put up with the brackish water which is all the wells here will usually give. No general line can be given in which water is scarce. One village may have some and the next village none, according as the springs happen to lie. All but one or two of the uranis are quite dry, but wells are dug temporarily in their beds. Grass and fodder there is none. In some villages the paddy grew high enough before it withered to provide some food for the cattle. In some places they are being penned out in it, in others it is being cut for them. In many villages the paddy withered when it was only an inch or two above the ground. Here what cattle remain are being fed on ódai leaves and berries, or palmyra fruit. From figures collected in several villages I think it is no exaggeration to state that 75 per cent. of the usual stock of cattle have been sold. Many were disposed of to chucklers, others at the big fairs for a fourth and a tenth of their value. Others to men who took them on a speculation to neighbouring and more fortunate districts.

16. I think it will be clear from this description that works of some sort will be absolutely necessary in the whole of South Ramnad very shortly. If anything were to check the trade in fibre and bark, they would be absolutely necessary to-morrow. I have already alluded to the extreme difficulty of finding suitable works in this part of the country. There are no roads worth maintaining and no new ones are wanted. Even if they were undertaken there is no metal to put upon them, and it would but be piling up heaps of black cotton soil to be washed away next monsoon. The following works are now actually in operation in different parts of the zemindari :—

		Rs.
(1)	Repairing tanks and channels in the four ain villages	5,000
(2)	Re-metalling the town roads of Ramnad	5,380
(3)	Earth-work for the Devipatam road	2,700
(4)	Repairing the town roads of Permagudi	2,100
(5)	Metalling part of road No. 23	2,000
(6)	Making the Arupukotta-Virudupatti road	2,000
	Total ...	19,180

I have written and telegraphed to the District Board Engineer for figures of the laborers employed upon the works under his department, but have as yet received none. They will be sent when they arrive. The work in the ain villages was only begun a few days back and figures for it will be included in the next fortnightly report.

17. Estimates are also ready or nearly so for the following works under the Local Fund Department—

(1) Repairing road from Kamudi to Sayalgudi.
(2) Making road from Sayalgudi to Ettyal.
(3) Making road from Parthibanur to Permagudi.
(4) Sectioning and widening road No. 2 from Katchatanallur to Ramnad.
(5) Metalling part of road No. 23.
(6) Metalling town roads of Kamudi.
(7) Stacking and digging 3 years' supply of metal at all the principal quarries.
(8) Re-metalling all road No. 2 (67 miles).

The first three of these works would hardly repay the money to be spent upon them. The traffic along them is very small. The last five works are all important and could be well undertaken as soon as the estimates are received. The progress in the preparation of these is deliberate, but they should be ready now very shortly. I cannot give the amount these works will absorb until the estimates come, but I understand that that for No. 8 is some Rs. 51,000.

18. But, as I have explained at length in several letters to you as President, District Board, the Ramnad Taluk Board has absolutely no funds at its disposal for any more works. It has already transferred every rupee from undertakings that were not absolutely necessary or were not of a nature to provide work for unskilled labour to the special works mentioned above, which are already going on. I therefore again beg that you will be pleased to move Government to allot a substantial sum to be spent at once under the control of the Board and the Local Fund Engineering Department. I venture to think that this should be done at once.

19. Even when all the works mentioned already are set in hand, there will be still large tracts of this big division which will be without work near them for the reason that no roads run through them. For these the only chance is repairs to tanks which are situated in almost every village of the part most affected and which are almost without exception urgently in need of repair. I have to-day received a private letter from the Rajah of Ramnad in which he tells me that Government have consented to allow him to defer the payment of one lakh of his peishcush on condition that it is paid into a Government treasury and spent at once upon relief works and that the Chief Engineer to Government has been asked to send down an officer of his

department to supervise them. This will, it is hardly necessary to say, be of the greatest possible benefit to the ryots and the estate. I would venture to suggest that a large proportion of the sum be spent upon this country south and east of Kamudi and Permagudi, and that it be so distributed that there may be some work or other every few miles throughout it.

20. Some part of it should, I think, be also kept for the strip of the zemindari that runs along the coast northwards from Ramnad as far as the Tanjore and Pudukóta frontiers. This piece is some 15 miles wide on an average and about 50 long. I have not been able to go to the north of it very lately, but from what I have seen of the south (which is much the same sort of country) I think it is probable that it is almost as wretchedly off as the country I am now in. I am going to the north of it in the next few weeks; I hope that it will be possible to start these works soon; estimates amounting to Rs. 98,000 and odd are, I have been informed by the Rajah, already prepared.

21. There is one other proposal which would provide a part of the work which is so much needed. The Rajah proposes to cut down and sell a great portion of the jungle of odai trees along the coast west of Sayalgudi and Kadugusandai. The felling, cutting-up and carting of these trees would provide labour for thousands of men for some months. As things stand at present, however, the cost of carting the timber through the heavy sand there to the port of Kilakarai (the only recognized port along that coast) to ship it to Tuticorin, which is the only market for it, is prohibitive, and I have already applied to you to move the Board of Revenue to permit as a special case that the timber may be shipped at four small villages near the jungle. A special establishment at the cost of the merchants buying the wood may be maintained to see that the privilege is not abused, but seeing how far these places are from any other habitations, it is unlikely that any one will attempt to export or import anything other than the forest timber. I beg that early orders may be solicited.

22. I have again to beg that the absence of statistics in this report may be excused. None of the officers under me have any that are of any use. As I have stated I have written in vain to the Zamin offices for figures of outturn of crops, and to the Local Fund Engineering Department for figures of labourers employed upon works. Neither the one nor the other have complied, though I have kept the report waiting for them. Figures of emigration, as has been explained, are not available. Judging from the censuses taken in several villages and quoted above, the people that have left the division cannot well be less than 35 per cent. of the whole population. I have described in detail the condition of the people in one hamlet and I believe that that description applies to every hamlet in the south of Ramnad with the fewest of exceptions.

Read—telegram from the Collector of Madura, dated Madura, 26th February 1893, reporting that 601 coolies were employed on the 25th February 1893 on works in four ayan villages in Ramnad and that the number was said to increase daily.

Read—telegram from the Head Assistant Collector, Aruppukóta, Madura, dated 28th February 1893, informing that 560 coolies were employed on works on the 26th February in the ayan villages in Ramnad.

Resolution—dated 1st March 1893, No. 86.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. Since the last report, save for a few light and scattered showers, there has been no rain to speak of in Madura except on the hills, and the situation generally remains much the same. Cultivation is confined almost entirely to land under wells, and the standing crops not protected by irrigation from such sources continue to suffer. Prices continue steady and are almost unchanged since January; rice is rather cheaper and cumbu, one of the principal food-grains of the district, is rather dearer, but the price of ragi, the cheapest grain is stationary though very high.

Prices in seers of 80 tolas per rupee.

Grains.	Normal for January.	January 1893, average.	Normal for February.	February 1893. 4th.	February 1893. 25th.
Rice	15·5	8·8	15·1	9·2	9·2
Ragi	32·1	15·4	32·2	15·3	15·4
Cumbu	29·2	14·3	29·1	14·1	13·7
Cholum	*33·2	13·0	*33·5	13·2	13·2

* Include prices of an inferior variety.

3. *In Ramnad* the Collector, who forwards a very gloomy report from the Divisional officer, states that the situation is certainly very bad in the south.

Mr. Francis, who has been inspecting this portion of the zemindari, states that it is much worse than any of the country he previously reported on, and that the change that has come over it since his previous visit in December last (*vide* Board's Proceedings, dated 27th January 1893, No. 41) is marked and even startling. A very large proportion of the crops have become a total failure, the proportion yielding 2—4 annas is very heavy, and nowhere does the outturn exceed 8 annas. Area figures for most of the taluks are wanting, but those of the Mudukulatur taluk are given from which it appears that of 4,811 acres of paddy sown, 2,985 acres have entirely failed, and of 17,045 acres of dry crop, the crop on 1,000 acres has entirely failed, while 4,748 acres gave only a 2-anna crop. The Mudukulatur taluk is said to be a fair index of the Kumudi, Ramnad and Tirushuli firkas, and the Tahsildar's figures, it is urged, do not show what a large area of wet and dry land was never cultivated at all. In Mudukulatur it is estimated that half the wet ayacut was left unsown. The tanks are now dry and no cultivation is going on, and the light rainfall at the end of January which led to some sowings has only resulted in disappointment. There is little or no employment although some of the population find some work in collecting palmyra fibre or *avaram* bark. At the former work a grown man is said to be able to earn from 6 to 9 pies daily only, the renters of the trees from which the bark is obtained being able to force down wages owing to the large numbers seeking employment. The bulk of the people have, however, emigrated chiefly to Tanjore in search of work, and Mr. Francis gives instances to show the degree to which emigration has extended. This form of relief has, however, now, he states, received a check as people are returning from Tanjore having been unable to find work there. The statement is hardly consistent with the report received from the Collector of Tanjore to the effect that the contractors for road works in the Patukóta taluk, through which the emigrants from Ramnad pass, cannot obtain the labour they require, and the Board notes also that a very large emigration has taken place from the four Government villages situated in the centre of the zemindari notwithstanding the Head Assistant's promise that work to the extent of Rs. 5,000 (work since commenced) would shortly be carried out on their irrigation works. In any case, however, all the people are not able to migrate, the village artizans and the possessors of large families of young children cannot leave their homes, and thus Mr. Francis says: "there is a certain irreducible minimum that will have to be reckoned with. Their condition is wretched in the extreme even at present." To show this he gives the result of a house to house inquiry made in one village regarding the condition of 76 out of the 82 persons remaining at their houses out of a total population of 215. It is not possible in all cases to make the particulars noted by Mr. Francis agree one with another, but the general inference to be gathered is to bear out his report that the people are in urgent need of help. He thinks that insufficient food is beginning to tell upon them and that some of the children are looking pinched. Some works are in progress on the roads, and the repairs to the irrigation works in the four Government villages situated in the division were giving employment to 560 coolies on the 26th February. No particulars regarding the numbers employed on the Local Fund works are available, but the Board is glad to state that within the last few days a sum of Rs. 40,458 has been paid into the Ramnad treasury, and that the repair of a large number of irrigation works in the zemindari can be at once commenced.

The Commissioner joins the Collector on the 5th instant, on a tour through the affected parts of the zemindari.

The Board agrees with the Collector in thinking that the Rajah's proposal to cut down a tract of jungle on the sea coast is to be most strongly deprecated.

4. *In Palni*, where the Collector has himself been on tour, sufficient employment is at present afforded by Local Fund works and on the 14th February, 1,056 persons were employed on road repairs. The Collector states that tank works will not be available to any appreciable extent for relief purposes in this taluk and that he does not consider that any relief works will be required before 1st April next, when he even doubts whether labour could be obtained at famine rates of wage. He reiterates his recommendation of the large irrigation projects alluded to in Board's Proceedings, dated 14th February 1893, No. 62, paragraph 8.

5. Elsewhere in the district there appears to be no cause of present anx
but the attention of the Chief Engineer will be drawn to the Collector's req
made in paragraphs 2 and 6 of his report regarding the Periyár works and
proposal to clear the Nelayar channel.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secret

(True Copy.)

(Signed) I. SARABHALINGAM NAIDU,
First Assist

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Madura.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
Copy to the Collectors of other Southern Districts.

Exd. C. M. Brisson.

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872

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1893.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed March 7th.

Proceedings, 1st *March* 1893, *No.* 86.

Submitting, for the information of Government, with remarks, report from the Collector of Madura on the state of the season in the district for the fortnight ending 15th February 1893.

No. 1211 dy/13th March 1893.

Copy forwarded to the Chief Engineer pwd with reference to paras 2 and 6 regarding the Periyar Works of the Collector's letter No. 10 dated 21st February 1893.

Sdl F. W. Elahpatel
for Chief Engineer
for Irrigation

Order No. 867 Wdy/29-3-93

Comd to the S/Bo II Circle in continuation of G.O. 650 W dy 9th March 1893. The Collector's requests made in paras 2 and 6 of his letter should be attended to by the S/Co and the Supt. of Works P. Project.

Sdl G. III.

S/Bo II Circle
Supt. of Works P. Project
Revenue Dept.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Salt, Abkári and Separate Revenue Department), dated 10th March 1893, No. 922 Mis on Miscellaneous G.O. dated 22nd February 1893 ~~Subject~~ No. 763. Revenue;

Resolution:

With reference to para 5 of G.O. dated 6th February 1893, No. 295 W, communicated with the paper read above, the Board begs to state that the work referred to therein is not one of urgency. It will be provided for in the Board's Schedule for 1894-95.

Order thereon, 20th March 1893, No. 1132 Mis.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

Ag. Under Secretary to Government.

~~To the Commissioner of Salt, Abkári and Separate Revenue.~~

Copy to the Public Works Department.

P. W. CURRENT No. 2781

Govt of {1890/3} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

~~The Commissioner of Salt, Abkári and Separate Revenue.~~

The Public Works Department.

B

No. 872 W. dt. 29th March 1893

Communicated to the Supdg. Engr. in Circle with reference to para 5 of G.O. 295 W dt 6 February 1893.

Dated

Recd. } Encl.

Mis. G.O., 20th March 1893, No. 1132

SUBJECT.

Recording B.P. stating that the work of altering the left wing of the European Infantry bomb-proof barracks at Trichinopoly so as to adapt it for an office for the Dy Commissioner, Southern, is not one of urgency and that it will be provided in the Board's Schedule for works to be executed in 1894-95.

for 24/3/93

B No 1

S. Eve Circle 21/3

with order