M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 140 — Press / ~~Mis.~~

274-275

Dated 29 - 1 — 1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 29th January 1862.

No. 274. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th January 1862, No. 637 :—

Read the following letter from J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Chepauk, dated Wallajapet, 10th January 1862.

SIR,

1. In reply to your demi-official note of the 6th instant, I regret to have to state that the agricultural prospects of the District are most gloomy.

2. The south-west monsoon set in very late in the season; and although on the whole tolerably favorable, it has been followed by a general failure of the latter rains. The tanks in consequence, which should at this time be half or three-quarters full, are either quite dry or have at best but a few weeks' supply of water. Thus the means of irrigating the standing crops or turning to full account the more productive land are either absolutely wanting or extremely inadequate.

3. The Jamabundy is just about to commence; and so far as I can see, the remissions under the heads of Shavi, Nanja Waste, and Bhoganaste will be very heavy.

4. The outturn of the Ragy and other dry crops cultivated under the influence of the earlier monsoon, was probably a fair average, both as regards quantity and quality; and had there been but a tolerable and timely north-west monsoon, agricultural operations which had been very seriously retarded by the lateness of the early rains, might have recovered lost time, and the District been spared the calamity of two successive bad harvests. That the Ryots were all eager to make the best of such a contingency is patent from the fact that the accounts show an increase of acres 35,577, assessed at Rupees 92,794 in the area ploughed and kept ready to sow (and therefore entered in them as under cultivation) as compared with the returns at this time for the preceding year. It is greatly to be feared that when actual results come to be ascertained, these re-assuring figures will dwindle down to something very small.

5. Some thunder showers are falling at the time I write, and the skies look watery; but the time has gone by, and however acceptable rain may be on sanatory considerations and as a means of saving standing crop that must otherwise inevitably perish, it is not likely to influence prices to any perceptible extent, or to improve materially our Revenue prospects. It is a melancholy fact, but alas! too true, that many families, and these not of the laboring classes, who will eat Ragy when they cannot afford rice, have but one meal a day.

6. I give in the margin a statement showing the retail prices of grains in the market of Wallajapeta, near which I now happen to be encamped. These figures may be accepted as a fair criterion for the rest of the District, and are, the Board will allow, little better than famine prices. I do not anticipate any actual scarcity of food for those who can pay for it; but the pressure of such prices as these must be productive of the severest and most wide spread distress, which is already manifesting itself in the usual form of an alarming increase of crime.

	No. of Madras measures per Rupee.
NANJA GRAIN.	
Kar rice	8
Sumba do.	7½
PUNJA GRAIN.	
Ragy	11
Kumbu	12
Horse gram	11

7. I have already noticed how the hopes raised by the early rains were disappointed owing to the failure of the north-east monsoon, and although it is not possible for me to form any accurate estimate at this early stage in the settlement of the outturn of the Revenue, still I fear the deficit will not be less than from Rupees 75,000 to Rupees 1,00,000 on the beriz of the preceding year which, as the Board know, was Rupees 1,10,000 below that of Fasli 1269.

8. Fortunately, the labor market is active, and the rates of wages,* although they have in no degree kept pace with the rise in the price of food, may yet suffice for the support of the industrious and able bodied of both sexes. The Cuddapah and Bangalore branch Railways give steady employment to large bodies of laborers of

* Wages of an ordinary male cooly from 2½ to 3 Annas a day.
Do. of an ordinary female cooly from ½ to 1½ Annas per day.

every denomination ; and between the general and local funds, we have, giving ½ lac to material, 2 lacs to spend. I am not sure, therefore, that any special employment in this direction is absolutely required ; but I confess, I should be glad to hear, and do indeed earnestly urge that the present distress be made the ground of an application for an additional ¼ lac for the more rapid prosecution of those two all-important works, the Poiney and Palar Anicut projects, and that ½ lac more be allowed for expenditure in improving and perfecting irrigation works in the several Táluqs, according to a carefully considered and selected list to be prepared and submitted in the interim. Railway operations have imparted such activity and organization to our labor markets, that my firm impression is that we should find no difficulty in working out with profit to t[he] State, and immediate and continuous relief to the more suffering classes, any sum of money that might be placed at our disposal for such purpose.

9. Conscious that I have not overstated the necessities of the case, I beg most earnestly to commend my proposition to the favorable advocacy of the Board.

Ordered that the above reply to the Board's demi-official Circular letter calling for a report as to the prospects of the season, be submitted for the information of Government, with the Board's request that if possible the funds sought by the Collector for the purpose of pressing on the Poiney and Palar Anicut projects, and improving generally the irrigation works of the District be made available at an early date.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 275. ORDER THEREON, 29th January 1862, No. 140.

Transferred to the Department of Public Works. The Government specially noted the Palar and Poiney Anicuts in their report to the Supreme Government on the appropriation of the 1 per cent. Income Tax, and funds can be drawn from that source at once under the peculiar circumstances of the District.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

projects and improving generally the irrigation works of the District be made available at an early date.

/ True Copy & Extract /

Secretary

To J. D. Sim Esq^r
Secretary to Government
Revenue Department.

Cop^y to Palakkinnamalo.

Revenue Dept.
Pro: of Govt for Year 1862.
Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

No. 160.

Dated 27th
Recd 28th January 1862.
No. 29

No 637

Transferred to the Dept of P. W. The Govt especially noted the Paper and Pouney Mo -ments in their report to the Supreme Govt on the appro -priation of the 1 per cent Income Tax and funds could be drawn from that source at once under the pe -culiar circumstance -es of the District

Submitting for information a letter from the Collector of North Arcot reporting on the agricultural prospects of the District.

Nos 274 & 275.

No 160 - 29 January
Written Order

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29th day 62
Mr Elley to Dept P. W. Circ 29