M.R.O. 14—13,000—27.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2819 Press Mis.

299. 301

Dated 17—11. 1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th November 1865.

Read the following:—

No. 299. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th November 1865.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Ganjam, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chetterpore, 25th October 1865, No. 2,244.

1. I have the honor to forward, for the information of the Board, copy of a letter received from Captain Philipps, Executive Engineer of this part of the District, detailing the state of the crops in the part of the country under his supervision.

2. I regret that Captain Philipps' account is corroborated by the reports of the Revenue Officers, and by my own observation.

3. In the Berhampore and Ganjam portions of the Talooks, large tracts of paddy have withered or are withering.

4. The crops in Chicacole and the neighbourhood are in a better condition, but I am informed that unless rain should fall speedily there will be much loss there also.

5. In Goomsur, Kemidy, and the Maliahs the crops are said to be good.

6. Large supplies of grain are usually drawn from the Cuttack and Poorce Districts by way of the Chilka lake, and this trade is generally continuous throughout the year, but for the last month it has entirely ceased, and this has been followed by a general closing of the stores of grain throughout this part of the country.

7. For the last ten days rice and other grains have been procured with the greatest difficulty, the bazaars have been almost closed, and it has been with great trouble that the troops at Berhampore, the Police, and other Establishments have been supplied, and the sufferings of the poor are in many places very great. This state of affairs exists, as I am at present informed, in the Berhampore, Russelcondah, Poorshottapore, Ganjam, and Chetterpore Divisions.

8. I am not able at present to state whether this cessation of trade is owing to any real scarcity of food in the country, or whether it is caused by the bad prospects of the harvest here and in Bengal, and by the desire of the merchants to hold back their stocks until the season is more advanced and prices are higher.

9. I am informed by those who ought to know, that there is no real scarcity, and although the crops here are bad, there is every prospect of the District producing ample for its own supply during the coming harvest.

10. I shall do all in my power to keep the markets open, and trust that before long the bazaars will be supplied again as usual.

11. One cause of the heavy failure of crops is found in the practice of the people of this District to plant paddy in every available piece of ground, without reference to means of irrigation; usually the rain fall is good and a fair crop is reared without much irrigation, but in bad seasons, like the past and the present, the loss of crop is very severe.

Submitted for the information of Government. The Board regret to learn that the prospects of the harvest are so very unfavorable.

very poor one. and the Ganjam District, a

No. 105.

To

G. Stornhill Esqr.
Acting Collector of Ganjam.

Sir,

Referring to Mr Foord's letter
No. 1159 dated 17th July last, I have the hono
to enclose an Estimate amounting to Rupee
4610 for the salt Channels required by the
Deputy Collector at Ganjam with a view
of concentrating the Paus.

2. I cannot be wrong in predicting
great suffering amongst the labouring po
=pulation from loss of crops this season,
and I trust you will be able to obtain
sanction for this expenditure without dela
Three fourths of the rice crop is destroyed
in Mohery and one half in Poobacondah
Taluq, and even this small expenditure c
will alleviate the sufferings of many fa
=milies who declare themselves with truth
be starving.

3. Last year the rice crop was a
very poor one. and the Ganjam District, a
fa
accor

for as Chicacole, 126 miles south of the Chilka Lake was fed by the Bengal Presidency, the produce of which reached Rumbah in vast quantities by boats.

4. I regret to state that with extreme scarcity in view, this usually safe and prolific source of supply no longer exists - 150 bandies returned empty yesterday from Rumbah, and other men now arriving declare that the owners were threatened with mal-treatment if they attempted to purchase rice on the shores of the Lake where the crops are wretched, promising one fourth of the usual yield. The Calcutta papers state that 17 instead of 44 inches of rain fell during the 3 months ending 1st October in the Pooree District and I see nothing but extreme misery in prospect in this District.

5. I bring this matter prominently to your notice, in the hope that you will be able to induce Government to deal liberally with Ganjam in the matter of Public works, as the only means of affording relief to a starving population, for such we must be before the next harvest can be gathered. I yesterday rode 20 miles and saw 2/5ths of the paddy withered past hope of recovery - 2/5ths more likely to yield one third to one half of an average crop and the other fifth in good condition as yet, with a small reserve of water in Tanks - To this must be added the fact that a good deal of land has been left uncultivated in the north of the District.

6. Chicacole, Purla Kimedy, and Gumsur are the favored Talugs this year, in them the crops will be below the average perhaps: but still encouraging - whilst in Mohery and Poobacondah (Taluks belonging to Government) in Beredy, Hoonah, Pedda and Chinna Kimedy, Callicote and one half of Hautghur (Estates or Zemindaries) the rice crop is not likely to yield one third of an average crop, and

if

if ever Government intend to construct the Chilka to Ganjam Canal, then is the season, when humanity and its own interests should induce it to undertake the work.

I urgently entreat you to recommend it accordingly.

I have &c.

Berhampore, }
20 ÷ October 1865. } (Signed) C. G. Phillips Capt.
Executive Engineer.

(True Copy)
(Signed) G. Fromhill.
Acting Collector.

(True Copy)

W Bulger
Acting Secretary.

№ 2443 Commissioner's Office Cuttack 27th
Cuttack the 27th October 1865.

From

F. C. Ravenshaw Esqr
Officiating Commissioner

To

The Officiating Collector of Sangaun

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your
№ 2213 dated 23d October - The same difficulty
you note has been experienced in this
District and Division, where there has
been a combination among grain dealers
of all classes, to close their stores, and
for some days rice has not been procurable
in Cuttack nor Poorie at any price; this has
resulted in very general anxiety and
distress - No orders whatever have been
issued to prevent export of grain from this
province, nor has any restriction of any
sort been placed on trade - The closing
of all grain shops appears to be the re-
sult of a very general and extensive
combination among dealers with a view
to raise the price of grain which is already
extremely high, rice selling at Cuttack & Poorie
at from 7 to 10 seers per rupee, and not pro-
curable in any quantity even at that price

2 I have reason to suppose there are
large

Enclosure in Nos 2 of
the Board of Revenue to
the Govt Secretary to Govt
B. D. dated 13 November
1865.

Rec'd 3239/65.

Letter from Capt
G. G. Phillips to the Coll
of Sangaun dated 20
October 1865. № 105 -
requesting Copy of

large stores of grain in the Districts which are held back in hopes of still high prices The crops here are very short, and the outturn will not exceed one half the usual average - this has frequently occurred before, and will hardly account for the total cessation of trade

3 I shall be happy to keep Your informed of any change in the present state of affairs and have forwarded Your letter under reply to the Collector of Cork in order that local enquiry may be made, if possible to find any further cause than that above noted, for this universal close of the grain trade - I have further requested the Collector of Cork to communicate with You direct

I have the honor &c.a

Signed/ J. E. Ravenshaw

Asst. Commissioner

True Copy/

Signed/ G. Thornhill

Asst. Collector

True Copy/

W. Balfour

Asst. Secretary

R. H. Hamilton

Col. W. Hutchinson

Revenue Department

No 2819

Proceedings of the Madras Government under date the 17th Nov 1865

Read the following

Pro: of the Board of Revenue -

Submitting for information letter from the Ag Collr of Ganjam forwarding with Remarks letter from the Executive Engr Captain Philipps, detailing the state of the crops in the part of the country under his supervision -

(Here enter 13th Nov 1865)

Submitting for information letter from the Ag Collr of Ganjam Reporting on the state of the grain market, & stating the measures adopted for relieving the panic caused by the scarcity of Rice in the Dt -

(Here enter do do)

The Govt have learnt with much regret of the unfavorable prospects of the season in the Ganjam District -

The Collector has already

To Executive Engr Ganjam
Ag Collr Ganjam
Board of Revenue
Collr Vizagapatam
Collr Rajahmundry
Collr Kistna
Collr Nellore
Collr Cuddapah
Collr Bellary
Collr Kurnool
Collr Salem
Collr Coimbatore
Collr Madura
Collr Tinnevelly
Collr Malabar
Collr South Arcot
Collr Chingleput
Collr North Arcot
Collr Tanjore
Collr Trichinopoly
Collr Madras
Collr Nilgiris
Collr Canara
Collr Kandeish
Collr Dharwar
Collr Belgaum
Collr Sholapore
Collr Ahmednuggur
Collr Poona
Collr Satara
Collr Ratnagherry
Collr Kaira
Collr Ahmedabad
Collr Broach
Collr Surat
Collr Colaba
Collr Thana
Collr Kanara
Collr Sattara
Collr Ahmednuggur
Collr Poona
Collr Sholapore
Collr Belgaum
Collr Dharwar
Collr Kandeish
Collr Nilgiris
Collr Madras
Collr Trichinopoly
Collr Tanjore
Collr North Arcot
Collr Chingleput
Collr South Arcot
Collr Malabar
Collr Tinnevelly
Collr Madura
Collr Coimbatore
Collr Salem
Collr Kurnool
Collr Bellary
Collr Cuddapah
Collr Nellore
Collr Kistna
Collr Rajahmundry
Collr Vizagapatam
Secretary Board of Revenue
Secretary Board of Revenue
Secretary Board of Revenue

already been informed by telegram that the "Punjab" with [illegible] supply of Rice [illegible] information has since been received that measures have already been taken in Chittagong for throwing in an early supply.

The Govt are also now to hope that high prices will produce their proper and natural effect of attracting large supplies before actual suffering has been felt - and while the supplies are deficient it is for the advantage all that high prices should induce the utmost economy of consumption.

The Govt are prepared to consider favourably any proposal for public works which by

by affording employment to the poorer classes may help them to tide over these hard times.

J.R.

14 Feb'd Read 18 Dec

21 Copy to Secy to Govt Public Works - N

Victoria & England
Dept. July No 31 of 1866 &c

Revenue 1865 Dept.
Pro: of Govt for November
No 2819.

Pro: of the Madras Govt
D/17 November 1865

Pro-of the Board of Revenue
D/9 December 65 - A3516
Further No 484/66.

Reviewing Collectors
letter on the subject of scarcity
of grain in Ganjam and
requesting that the propo-
sals for undertaking pub-
lic works be laid before
Govt.

No 29 to 31.