M.R.O. 14-5,451-22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1028 Press Mis.

Dated 1- 5- 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 1st May 1866.

No. 13. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th April 1866 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vizagapatam, 13th April 1866, No. 325.

1. I have the honor to report on the state of the season for the past fortnight ending 31st March last.

2. In the Government Talooks of Survasiddhi and Golgonda matters seem to be very discouraging. Mr. Boswell, who has just concluded the settlement of the former Talook, writes as follows :—

"Up to this time there has been no rain, and the want of drinking water, "both for men and beasts, is beginning to be seriously felt in some parts of "both the Survasiddhi and Golgonda Talooks. In the former Talook small pox is "still prevalent, and in the latter cattle disease is doing much damage. No cholera "or other contagious disease prevails at present in the villages along the Trunk "Road by which troops are accustomed to be marched. Prices continue at the "same high point they had already reached ; but do not at present exhibit a ten-"dency to rise further, as Native Astrologers predict a good seasoon for next year, "and grain dealers with this prospect consider it better to sell at present prices "than lose the opportunity by storing.

"The settlement of the Survasiddhi Talook has just been completed. On "account of the very general dis-repair into which the irrigation works have fallen, "and the unfavorable nature of the season, a remission of Rupees 35,361-9-5 has "had to be granted on irrigated lands as against Rupees 8,457-5-1 remitted last "year ; even with this remission many of the present Ryots are throwing up their "holdings, and are migrating to the Godavery District. There is no need what-"ever, however, for further remission, what is wanted is a grant for the repair of "irrigation works. This would give employment to the poorest classes in their "present temporary distress, and obviate the necessity for large remissions in future "years. There is plenty of water brought down by the river Saradanadi and "Varahanadi, but the channels require clearing out, and the tanks in their present "condition cannot retain the water brought to them, and therefore much of it is "carried off to the sea and lost."

3. I trust the Board will support the Principal Assistant's proposals, and move for a thorough reparation of the existing works of irrigation, to the benefit of the public revenue and the relief of the laboring classes.

4. In the Zemindary portion the season has been much the same as in the Government Estates. The want of rain is becoming more alarming every day. Prices of grain and salt rising, cholera and small pox still prevalent.

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1. Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board request attention to the remarks on the state of disrepair of the irrigation works.

3. The same tale comes from many other Districts, and the Board cannot but anticipate serious effects on the revenue ere long, and on the general prosperity of the country, if effective means are not speedily adopted for checking and remedying the evil.

No. 14. ORDER THEREON, 1st May 1866, No. 1,028.

Land Revenue

Communicated to the Department Public Works.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department.
,, the Board of Revenue.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

B—1028.
Com. & O. Rev
Rec'd
J. D. Sim
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