M.R.O. 14—5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1739 Press Mis.

Dated 13 - 7 - 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 264. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th July 1866.

Read the following :—

Season Report for the second fortnight of June 1866.

1. There has been no rain in this fortnight except in Cusbah Darampury, and in a few villages in the Kistnagherry Talook, where the fall was very insignificant. Cholera and cattle diseases have again made their appearance in every Talook, but the former is not as yet severe. Ague in the Usur Talook and small-pox in the Darampury Talook are also prevalent. Thousands of cattle have perished for want of water and pasture, chiefly in the Tripattur and Uttenghery Talooks, where the scarcity is more severely felt. Thousands of cattle are in a dying state for want of food, and are unable to walk.

2. The distress among the poorer classes is increasing. Prices of all descriptions of grain are unusually high, so much so that they are almost beyond the reach of the poorer classes. In the Tripattur, Uttenghery, Kistnagherry, and Salem Talooks, the poorer classes are using for their food roasted tamarind seeds, jungle roots, aloes, and the fruit of prickly pears. All the tanks and many wells are dry. Cholum, cumboo, paddy, &c., cultivated in the garden lands in the Trichengode Talook are being reaped, but the yield is poor. In other parts they are withering for want of water. The dry crops that had been cultivated in places where there had been a slight rain are withering away, and generally dry and wet lands are left waste. In Uttenghery Talook Ryots have been relinquishing their lands in despair of rain. In the Namkul Talook the paddy cultivated under the Cavary channels are being harvested. In some places in the Usur Talook Ryots are preparing lands to sow ragee.

3. The Tahsildar of Tripattur has submitted a distressing account of the sufferings of the people from want of food and water, and I intend visiting the place to-morrow, to see what can be done in the way of relief. I should add, that the inhabitants of Salem have raised subscriptions towards the relief of the sufferers in Salem Town, and they intend to begin immediately to give food to those in want of it.

SALEM,
4th July 1866.

(Signed) D. ARBUTHNOTT,
Collector.

Submitted for the information of Government. The Board are concerned to hear such a sad account of the state of things in the Tripattur Talook and Salem Town. The Collector should report the result of his visit to the former locality, and should use his best endeavour to give employment to the able-bodied among the sufferers. He should avail himself to the utmost of the Local Funds at his disposal, and the Officers of the Department Public Works will doubtless co-operate with him in the matter.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
13th July 1866.

No. 265. ORDER THEREON, 13th July 1866, No. 1,739.

Land Revenue.

The Board will forward on to Government the Collector's further report.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 1739.

Land Revenue

Proceedings No. 13th July 1866.

14 Copies Forwarded to Govt Revenue Dept. 14