M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1918 — Press ~~Mis.~~

14-15

Dated 1 — 8 — ~~19~~ 1866

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 14. Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Sydapet, 26th July 1866, No. 143 :—

1. I have the honor to make the report required by your Memorandum, dated yesterday.

2. The season is not promising. Dry cultivation should be commenced in May. It has not even yet commenced, though in parts of the District the Ryots have begun to plough their land. If showers fall, the land will be sown; but owing to the lateness of the season the crops will not be heavy. In any circumstances the area of cultivation this year will be much restricted.

3. Up to the end of last month, it may be said, no rain fell, and the rainfall for the year was less than quarter the amount it is in ordinary years. This month there have been showers in the north and some in the southern part of the District. They have been totally insufficient to moisten the soil to the extent requisite after seven months of drought.

4. Prices are excessive. They are pretty much the same throughout the District. Rice (1st sort) is selling at 5 seers the Rupee, and dry grain is proportionately dear. Straw for cattle is extremely difficult to get, and rich men complain their beasts are starving.

5. The markets are ill supplied. It is not possible to buy any quantity of grain and the Bunniahs sell with reluctance. Large farmers withhold their stores altogether from the market, though such persons have, according to their usual custom, one year's consumption of grain still in hand. There is a general scarcity of grain for sale throughout the District; but it is not yet reported that the poor have been driven to roots for food.

6. The public health is bad. Cholera prevails in a severe form in villages about Trevelloor and Ponnery, and in parts of Madras and the Sydapet Talooks. In Conjeveram, it is said, from 1,500 to 2,000 persons have been cut off by the epidemic, which is now dying out there in consequence of some falls of rain. In Chingleput Cholera is unusually prevalent and is very fatal, carrying off eight to ten persons a day. In Maduranthacum and in Goodavancherry it prevails in a less alarming form.

7. Pasture *was* completely wanting, but the recent showers have done something to resuscitate it. Large quantities of cattle have died for want of grass. The absence of humidity has been so great that not only had green vegetation disappeared, but all save the best wells had dried up, and the villagers in many villages had to fetch their water for domestic purposes from distances as great as five miles.

No. 15. ORDER THEREON, 1st August 1866, No. 1,918.

Land Revenue.

The Acting Collector will report whether the local officers are sufficiently supplied with Cholera medicines.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Acting Collector of Madras.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Relief Committee.

Exd. T. Cartledge.

No. 1918.

The Collector will report whether the local Officers are sufficiently established in the China trade centres.

[illegible]

I. O. S.

2nd August/06.

1 Copy to the Collr of Madras Dept. Sec.
10 Copies — Offg of Revd
1 — Relief Committee.

36/4