M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1980 Press ~~Mis.~~

155 · 156

Dated 7 – 8 – 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 7th August 1866.

No. 155. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd August 1866, No. 5,288 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 27th July 1866, No. 289.

1. In reply to the Board's Proceedings, No. 4,850, dated 14th instant, I have the honor to inform you that the stock of grain in hand in this District is amply sufficient to meet the wants of the people until the Kar crop is reaped. This crop, which is estimated at 12,366 garce of paddy, or 6,183 garce of husked rice, will be in the market in another three months, and the staple dry grains will be reaped soon afterwards. The Peshanum crop which follows Kar will be reaped in February or March, and the estimated yield is 23,087 garce of paddy, or 11,543 garce of husked rice. I do not, therefore, anticipate a scarcity of provisions here, as prices range so high in the home market that there is no inducement to export. The ordinary price of grain here is regarded as extraordinary in other Districts; but the price of labor is proportionably high.

2. This District has many advantages; the population of the southern portion live almost entirely on their palmyras, and these invariably yield well.

In the centre, the Tambrapoorni flows through the District; and as this river rises on the Western ghauts, it has never been known to fail. To the north the entire cotton crop is now held by the Ryots, and at 9*d.* a lb., at which rate they refuse to sell, this represents a capital of upwards of ninety lacs of Rupees. There is besides a great demand for [illegible]r at Colombo within a day's sail of the coast, and with such an outlet for the poorer classes, they can be in no danger of starving.

3. The population of this District numbers 13,70,000, and setting aside the inhabitants of Zemindary and Inam villages, there are a million of people in Government villages to be fed. Supposing half a million to live on rice, and each individual to consume one-third of a measure daily, at the low average of 448 Madras Measures (twenty Harris Cullums) of paddy, or 224 Measures (ten Harris Cullums) of rice per acre, the irrigated crops alone are sufficient to feed half of the population for a year. Deducting from the Punjah area 1,68,000 acres cultivated with cotton, and 60,000 acres cultivated with oil seeds, fibres, indigo, and senna, we have 5,00,000 acres, which at 140 Measures, or five Harris Cullums per acre, yield 21,875 garce of dry grain, which at half a measure per head per diem, will feed the other half of the population for a year.

4. The cattle are not fed on grain; but a large quantity of grain must be used for the manufacture of arrack in the numerous petty distilleries in this District.

5. The following is a summary of the Tahsildars' reports on the stock of grain in hand :—

Tinnevelly...	Sufficient for three months' consumption.
Tuticorin	
Ambasamudram	
Tenkarai	
Tenkasy	Sufficient for five months' consumption.
Ottapedram	
Nanguneri...	
Strivilliputtur	
Sankaranainarcoil	But little in the bazaars; but some months' stock in the villages.
Sattur	

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 7th August 1866.

Grain is stored in large quantities in the houses of the wealthier Ryots in the ri[illegible] irrigated villages. These people watch the markets, and send in their grain when prices rise. The general supposition is that the maximum p[illegible] (good rice is now selling at four annas a measure) has been nearly reached, and that next year there will be a gradual fall in prices. Such being the case, I do not think grain will be hoarded for better prices now, though present prices will, no doubt, be kept up till the next crop is reaped. Ambasamudram is the centre of the grain stores.

Submitted for the information of Government.

No. 156.

ORDER THEREON, 7th August 1866, No. 1,980.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. T. Cartledge.

Pers. 1866. Department
Pro: of Land Revenue

No. 2390.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 2nd August 1866.

No. 5,288.

Submitting for information letter from Collector of Tinnevelly reporting stock of grain in hand.

A.1554/56

11 Copies Letter to Pepper Rice Paddy &c

9th-1980.

Recorded

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