

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2071

Press
~~Mis~~

333.334

Dated

14 - 8 - 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 333. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th August 1866, No. 5,396.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Madras, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapett, 3rd August 1866, No. 237 :—

1. With a view to obtain information as to the quantity of food-grain available in the country, for submission to the Board of Revenue, in reply to their letter, dated 14th ultimo, I sent a Circular round to the Tahsildars in this District, and have just got in their replies. The Tahsildars make general statements only. They say that this year is noted in the Hindoo Calendar as a famine year ; and that the population aware of the fact, have made preparations to meet the scarcity of food, to be apprehended in such a year ; that there is great difficulty in procuring grain in the bazaars ; and that people are unable to purchase in the localities in which they live, in consequence, *not* of any absence, but of an unwillingness on the part of holders to sell ; and are obliged to go elsewhere for the supplies they require ; that the manufacturing population are suffering for want of food ; and that there is little grain available for exportation. They make no calculation as to the quantity of grain the country may be supposed still to possess. For this information, and it is but little reliable, I have been obliged to depend on personal inquiries, and upon calculations framed from the statistics of cultivation in my office records.

2. In regard, first, to the places where I suppose grain to be stored, I imagine it will be found in the localities set forth in the list attached to this communication. It is in the hands of persons whose names are perfectly well known to their neighbours.

3. The quantity of grain in store, it is extremely difficult to estimate. In the first place, it should be borne in mind, that the custom of the country is to keep one year's supply of grain in hand. All well-to-do agriculturists follow this practice, which has been transmitted to them from their ancestors. Hence to sweep the country bare of grain requires at least two *barren* years. In the present case, the past year was indifferent ; but the passing is the first in which the deficiency of production is likely to be unusual and alarming.

4. Therefore it may be assumed, there is a considerable quantity of the grain grown in Fusly 1274 in the country, as well as the remnant of the production of the last year still unconsumed. The production of 1275 seems to be the following :—There were about 7,000 Cawnies less under cereals than in the preceding year. The actual area in which food-grains were sown was 3,55,187 Cawnies, in round numbers (which I shall employ throughout my calculations, 3,55,000 Cawnies, 2,30,000 Cawnies were Nunjah, 1,25,000 Punjah. From each description of cultivation, one-quarter, say, should be deducted as having failed to produce at all in consequence of the want of rain. There will remain—

Nunjah Cawnies	1,72,500
Punjah do.	93,750

Total 2,66,250

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th August 1866.*

One eighth of the Nunjah probably bore a second crop. The first crop on wet land I estimate at ten columns of paddy or five columns of rice. The second crop at three columns of rice. The dry lands yielded perhaps five columns of grain per Cawny. The Nunjah area would then stand thus:—

$$1,72,500 \times 5 = 8,62,500$$

One-eighth of the area under second crop.

$$21,562 \times 3 = 64,686$$

Total columns... 9,27,186

The Punjah

$$93,750 \times 5 = 4,68,750$$

Grand Total Columns. 13,95,936

5. The population of the District at the last census, in Fusly 1271, was 675,000. It is now probably 700,000. One-fifth of it will be male adults, consuming each three columns of rice and dry grain; and the remainder women and children consuming per head two columns of food per year.

6. According to this calculation, the whole quantity of grain required for the consumption of the population will be,

One-fifth population, adults at three columns	Columns.
Four-fifths women and children, at two columns	
Total	15,40,000

against the estimated production of 13,95,936 columns of grain freed from husk and ready for eating. The deficiency will be 1,44,064 columns.

7. This deficiency will be more than made up by the overplus of previous years yet in store; but there is not now available in my belief more grain than is necessary to carry on the people to next harvest. I suppose that, economically used, there is enough food for the next five months; but I cannot believe there is more than enough, and that the stores of grain in the country are sufficient to sustain the population if the approaching cultivating season proves a disastrous one.

8. I am not apprehensive for the present. There will be suffering under any circumstances, and there is already great suffering amongst the poorer classes of the non-agricultural population in the Conjeeveram Talook for instance. But a timely fall of rain, by inclining the holders of grain to bring forth their stock, will afford all the relief that is absolutely required. The agricultural classes are not much oppressed as yet by scarcity. The rich labourers live upon the lands of their employers, and most persons holding a sufficient area of land to supply food for themselves, and their families, experience no pressure for their daily bread. In illustration of this allegation, I may say that in every one of twenty-eight houses, which were recently burnt down in Chingleput, supplies of grain were consumed, and one man lost paddy estimated to be worth 1,000 Rupees.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th August 1866.*

List of localities where grain is supposed to be stored.

Chingleput Talook.	Conjeeveram Talook.	Ponnery Talook.
Paloor.	Tenneri.	Kattavoor.
Wolaloor.	Streepermtoor.	Arasoor.
Kalthoor.	Coovum.	Puthuvoyal.
Mayoor.	Danery.	Chinnambedu.
Kondangi Eri.	Dainal.	Veyloor.
Paruyankolathery.	Trivaloor Talook.	Perambodu.
Munambathy.	Pattaraperamathoor.	Wungy Wakam.
Sydepott Talook.	Vedayur.	Tathamany.
Mamkadu.	Vedamaduray.	Velloor.
Narsaredpettah.	Vengul.	Vayloor.
Chithookkadoo.	Todur.	Kolur.
Tinnanoor.	Pandoor.	Anapomput.
Konnathoor.	Neerway.	Madurantakum Talook.
Sherukalathoor.	Ramanchery.	Madurantakum.
Palanthandalam.	Tomoor.	Ootramalur.
Teroomoodivakam.	Paukam.	Kavantandalum.
Kovoar.	Tiroor Muttah.	Kayapankam.
Kothambakam.	Nagalapuram.	Polumbakam.
Pollal.	Poondawakam.	Adampilley.
Chembrambaka.	Kannigapoor.	Chunamput.
Korattoor.	Chittambakam.	Endathoor.
Palavaram Zemindary.	Trippasoor Mittah.	

(Signed) J. W. COCKERELL,
Acting Collector

1. Submitted for the information of Government.
2. Copy to the Famine Committee.

No. 334.

ORDER THEREON, 14th August 1866, No. 2,071.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
.. the Editor's Table.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Rev. 1866. Department.
Pro of Govt for Augt.

No. 2155.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 6th August 1866.
Dy. Secy.
Rev. Secy.

No. 5,396.

Submitting to Government and communicating
to Famine Committee, letter from Acting Collec-
tor of Madras reporting on quantity of food
grain available for consumption.

8.20.71
Recorded
14th Aug 1866

N: 333-304

28 Aug 1866

For the Secretary (Revenue) & Secy.
-The Collector, Madras.