

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2099

Press

~~Min.~~

463-404

Dated

16-8-1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th August 1866.*

No. 403. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th August 1866.

Read the following letter from the Officiating Collector of Tanjore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vellum, Tanjore Talook, 7th August 1866, No. 194 :—

1. Some slight and partial showers have fallen during the second half of last month, but these have been of little or no avail for agricultural operations.
2. There was, however, a very seasonable and ample fresh in the rivers at the beginning of the fortnight, which saved the seedlings and young plants of rice from destruction by the drought which till then prevailed. There has since been a steady supply of water in the rivers, and consequently the wet cultivation under them is, I am thankful to say, generally in a thriving condition.
3. In the southern parts of the District, beyond the influence of river irrigation, however, the cultivation operations are completely at a stand still from want of rain, and the sufferings of the people, consequent on the scarcity of water for themselves and cattle, are on the increase. The latter are perishing in considerable numbers, and those left are being taken to the Delta for pasturage. I may mention, for example, that at Point Calimere, even the spotted deer and antelope were emaciated and half-starved. The poorer classes also desert their homes in numbers, and either emigrate to Ceylon or proceed to the lowland Talooks of the District; many have flocked into Combaconum and Negapatam for work and subsistence.
4. In the unirrigated localities, diseases among men and cattle still continue, and latterly dysentery of a virulent type has newly appeared.
5. In the Delta, however, the sufficient supply of water in the rivers added to cloudy weather has had the effect of cooling the atmosphere, and generally improving the health of both men and cattle. Pasture for the latter is also beginning to appear in sufficient quantities.
6. Prices are stationary, and the drain on the Tanjore grain market by demands from Madura and Tinnevely continues unabated. Merchants from these Districts have, it is reported, already advanced money on the early rice crop in the more western portion of the District under the Cavery irrigation.
7. One of the baneful effects of the prolonged drought which shews itself prominently, is the withering of cocoanut trees generally throughout the District, and more especially in the upland tracts. In the latter, the tops of the trees are in many instances entirely scorched up, presenting a most melancholy aspect, and where the trees do bear fruit, the nuts are found to contain very little kernel or pulpy matter.

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

No. 404. ORDER THEREON, 16th August 1866, No. 2,099.

Land Revenue.

Ordered to be recorded,

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Relief Committee.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Report to England
D/ 24th Aug. 14. 27 of 1866.

Rev.
P. of Govt. for Aug.
N. 2495.
Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Dated 10th
Sept 10th } August 1866
P. 11th

Submitting for informa-
tion fortnightly season
Report of the Tanjore
District for the 2nd half
of July 1866.

RECORDED

16th Aug. 1866

N. 400-404

14 copies to the 1867 Revenue District
1 copy to the 1867 Revenue District