M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2112 Press ~~Mis.~~

429-430

Dated 16- 8- ~~19~~1866

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 429. Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Saidapett, 13th August 1866, No. 157 :—

1. I have the honor to submit my report for the last week, with reference to your Memorandum dated 25th ultimo.

2. The season is still unpromising; sufficient rain for the dry crops has not yet fallen, and dry cultivation is still restricted. The area sown is about one quarter of what it was at this time last year. The Ryots are, however, ploughing in every direction in anticipation of wet. The rain which fell yesterday week at Madras extended to Conjeveram. There was a smart shower at Poonamallee, and towards Conjeveram on Friday evening last. It continued for a good hour. Showers have fallen in all the Talooks in the District during the week; but they have been partial and insufficient. Chingleput still remains less visited with rain than the other Talooks.

		rs.			rs.
Paddy, Fusly	1274,	179 a Garce.	Paddy, Fusly	1228,	83
Do. ,,	1275,	179 ,,	Do. ,,	1229,	83
Do. ,,	1276,	255 ,,	Do. ,,	1230,	82
			Do. ,,	1231,	103
			Do. ,,	1232,	106
			Do. ,,	1233,	182
			Do. ,,	1234,	234

3. Prices are stationary, and have not altered since the date of my last report; they are upwards of twenty-five per cent. higher than ordinary. The margin compares them with the prices of last and the preceding Fusly. In juxta-position I place the prices which prevailed in the famine year of 1234 and the immediate preceding years. The markets are not insufficiently supplied.

4. The public health is improving; but is not good. Cholera exists in every Talook in the District, but is not reported to be virulent. The character of the epidemic at Conjeveram is altered much for the better, and with proper treatment is not now intractable. I understand that when it first broke out, it was in the fatal poisonous form, prostrating the patient and destroying him in numerous instances without the ordinary outward symptoms of vomiting and diarrhœa. I have ordered the dirtiest parts of the town to be cleansed.

5. Pasture is reviving; but the cattle are still reported to be suffering from lack of nourishment, and to be afflicted with murrain.

6. I have, in concluding this report, to express my regret that in my previous reports I attached more significance than I now think they deserve, to accounts I received from the Conjeveram Talook. I went down one day last week to Conjeveram, I then satisfied myself that cholera there, though virulent, had not prevailed to the extent I had been led to suppose. I found the Weavers suffering; but rather in consequence of the general stagnation of trade than directly from the scarcity, which is the cause of the inconvenience felt by other classes. Owing to the state of the cotton trade they can get but little work, and the poorer among them look almost entirely to their usual employers for advances and a partially eleemosynary subsistence. They have been a decaying class ever since the American war broke out, and their occupation seems likely to be taken away from them completely by the produce of the Manchester looms, which is taking the

place of native-made cloths by degrees in the market. Their sufferings are rather chronic than the result of the present exceptional scarcity. They have however hope, since they told me they would not come to Madras to take employment in the Water Work Project, nor would they emigrate at all for cooly labor. The richer classes in Conjeveram shew no disposition to assist them, and will not subscribe a farthing for this object; they have told the Tahsildar this over and over again, and I could not persuade them in person to open their purses.

7. The state of things about Streepermatoor is almost normal. There is no cholera now in the place or in the vicinity. I was there on Friday. I believe I saw nearly every one in the town, as I occupied myself in walking through the bazaars, and making enquiries thoughout the day. I understand that at most forty have died in Streepermatoor from cholera lately. Cholera was very severe in Pillipakum, and in another village in the division, but it has abated. In the course of this week I hope to visit one or two other places in the District, when I shall be in a condition to state precisely what is going on. The distress, generally, I am unwilling to believe, is as great as has been represented. Up to Saturday last no one had presented himself for employment on the Water Work Project, though, as the wages offered are good, it may be expected laborers will appear.

No. 430. ORDER THEREON, 16th August 1866, No. 2,112.

Land Revenue.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Relief Committee.
,, the Editor's Table.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Rev. 1866 Deposit
Pro of Govt. for Dist.
No. 2561
from,

Reported to England
Dt. 24th Augt. No. 37 of 1866 Mis.

The Collector of
Madras.

To
The Chief Secretary to
Government

Dated 13 } August 1866.
Rec'd 14th }

No. 157

RECORDED.

Submitting his report
on the state of the season
&c. for the week
ending 12th August 1866.

No. 429-430.

No. 2112
Recorded 16 Aug 1866

No. Copies to the Bd. of Revn. Dept. No. 2112
Relief Committee