

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2146

Press

~~Mrs.~~

500-501

Dated

20-8-

1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 500. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th August 1866, No. 5,530.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Madras, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 6th August 1866, No. 253:—

1. I have the honor to report that, since writing my letter, No. 204, dated the 2nd July, some rain has fallen on the Palany Hills, but not sufficient to benefit the crops growing on the wet lands about the foot of the hills, which have, I hear, in consequence failed to a considerable extent, especially about Pereakolam; or, the wet lands round the hills have not been cultivated to any extent for want of water.

2. The wet lands at the head of the Cumbum valley, watered by the Soorilvaar, which is influenced by the south-west monsoon, have been fully cultivated; the crops are in good order, and will be reaped in the end of September; the extent of this cultivation may be about 3,000 acres.

In the Madras Talook, there are about 2,500 acres of paddy cultivation, work; the under the two large anicuts across the Viga, and under channels led off in making which crops are doing well, and will be cut about September. and wealth

Last year was not a favorable year; this year there has been a

1. Sat 25,358 acres of wet cultivation undertaken against 45,083 and

2. The being a decrease of 19,725 acres. Of the above 25,358 acres, about half the Periyar irrigated rice cultivation, the rest is taken up with the cultivation of garden, coconut tops, cholum and cassia crops, grown by the aid

No. 501. raised from wells sunk in the paddy fields and banks of the rivers; little

Land produce of the two latter crops will reach the markets, so that on the whole, no hope of any considerable quantity of paddy being produced in the before March next, and then only, providing the north-east monsoon rains communicate

Dry grain has been sown to some extent, but the crops have died up in acres, and in others are languishing and will be lost, if rain does not soon fall.

Last year up to date 64,148 acres were sown against 58,525 this year, but this latter does not shew the real state of the case, because in the last item is included a very extensive acreage of garden lands under old wells recently transferred to the aid of dry cultivation. These dry crops, if saved, cannot be harvested before September.

To the B. 6. The garden cultivation is 1,995 acres cultivated, against 14,306 cultivated in the past year; the cause of the decrease arises partly for the reasons given above, and partly owing to failure of water in the wells.

7. Pasture has failed, and the cattle are wasting in many places, though up to this time, there has been no very great mortality amongst them.

8. From the Pereakolam Talook, a very active export of grain is going on towards Palany, Dindigul, and the Coimbatore District, which has raised prices greatly in that Talook. Grain is being imported by sea for use in the Zemindaries of Rannad and Shevagungah, where there is a great deal of distress amongst many of the people. Very little grain is now being imported from Trichinopoly and Tanjore, owing to the high prices prevailing there; but the markets are well

so on into the Vyga, which dry river bed with its anicuts, channels, tanks, and fields, are already prepared to turn the water into food.

13. The water of the Periaur since June, 100 yards wide and five or six feet deep, has been rushing useless to the sea; it would have sufficed for the irrigation of some 50,000 cawnies of rice land, and the crop would be ready to cut in September; what a relief and feeling of hope and satisfaction it would give to Government and to the people at this present moment over a large part of Southern India, if it was known that a rice crop of such an extent was nearly ready for harvesting, to afford food to man and beast. The project is so manifestly beneficial that its execution should not be allowed to remain as if beyond the capabilities of the Imperial Government, which draws yearly thirty-one lacs of revenue from the Madura District; the work would be an honor to the Government, and add to its prestige, and confer an inestimable benefit on the people hereafter for ever; for it is almost certain that in the Madura District, without artificial irrigation, the land will not yield a blade of grass for about eight months in the year, though the best system of farming the most improved implements of agriculture, or best sort of manure be used. Intelligent natives cannot understand the Government not executing the work; they say, and say truly, the work is nothing to what Government has done in making railways for convenience of travelling, while this project would give food and wealth to the people, and a revenue to Government.

1. Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board believe that the necessary inquiries as to the practicability of the Periyar irrigation scheme are now going on by order of Government.

No. 501. ORDER THEREON, 20th August 1866, No. 2,146.

Land Revenue.

1. The Collector will keep Government informed of the progress of cultivation in his District.

2. Paragraphs 10 to 13 of his letter will be communicated to the Department Public Works.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Public Works Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Madras Government, Revenue Department,
20th August 1866.

and the people have the money to buy at the high prices. Employment is not even likely paid, the weavers are at work all over the District. The signs of prosperity and improvement are manifest in Madura Town. In every new substantial houses are being built, the shop-keepers are driving a good trade, and the weavers are adding at a great expense a whole new suburb to the town. I am sure there is a considerable quantity of food in store in the District, which would be brought out for sale, and that its price would fall, if rain only came. Since October last year there has been no rain to speak of in the District, and a considerable degree of distress in parts of the District, and I have ascertained from Madura that the Town

In the Madura Talook, there are under the two large anicutually culti- which crops are doing well September; last year was not a favorable 25,858 acres of wet cultivation, being a decrease of 19,725 led rice cultivation, the main gardens, coconut trees, raised from wells sunk in the produce of the two latter crops no hope of any considerable gain fail. Dry grain has been raised from wells sunk in the produce of the two latter crops no hope of any considerable gain fail.

6. The garden year; the cause of the partly owing to failure of water. 7. Pasture has failed, or this time, there has been no 8. From the Porenkol towards Palany, Dindigul, and greatly in that Talook. Grain is being imported by sea for use in the Zemindaries of Ramanad and Shevagingah, where there is a great deal of distress amongst many of the people. Very little grain is now being imported from Trichinopoly and Tanjore, owing to the high prices prevailing there; but the markets are well

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Funds in
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sufficient
58,525 this year, but the
cause in the last item is included
wells recently transferred to the
if saved, cannot be harvested before
as cultivated, against 14,300 cultivated
partly for the reasons given above, and
are wasting in many places, though up to
mortality amongst them.
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