

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2297	Press Mis.
836. 837	
Dated	31-8-1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 836. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd August 1866, No. 6,029.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Madura, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 15th August 1866, No. 268:—

1. I have the honor to report, with reference to the Board's letter, calling for a rough estimate of the amount of grain in the District, that I have not been able to get any satisfactory accounts from the Tahsildars and Zemindars regarding the quantity of grain. An abstract of their reports is given below.

2. The agent of the Renter of the Shevagunga Zemindary says, there may be grain sufficient for two months in the Zemindary, and that grain is being imported.

3. The Ramnad Manager says there is no grain of any sort in any part of the Zemindary, excepting grain imported by sea at Devepatam and Keelakarai, which grain amounts to 1,600 Cullums; he says, last year no grain was produced in the Zemindary, but he must be wrong, because the dry crops, though not good, did not wholly fail; however, it may be said, no paddy to any extent was grown.

4. In the Madara Talook, the Tahsildar says there may be grain for six months' consumption. I have no doubt the supply is much larger; this Talook yielded good paddy crops along the river, and always hitherto largely exported grain to Tinnevely; but this year that export ceased owing to grain having been imported by sea into that District; and a larger quantity of grain was brought into the town from Tanjore and Trichinopoly; no export is going on now from the Talook; and the town is being supplied from the villages in the neighbourhood in the Talook, so that it must be pretty certain that the holders of extensive paddy lands have large supplies on hand, which they are keeping up as long as they think it advisable to do so; this I hear is the case with many of them. Merchants and others in the town are also said, in a loose sort of way, to have so many hundred Cullums of paddy in their godowns; it is impossible to know what these people have in store, and they will give no information. The markets are still fairly supplied.

5. In Melur Talook the supply is supposed to be insufficient to support the whole population of the Talook to the next harvest in January; grain is being imported into that Talook.

6. The Periakolam Tahsildar's account of the quantity of grain in his Talook is very unsatisfactory. It is known the paddy crops were very good all over the Talook, and since they were reaped, there were very good cholum crops harvested in May; the dry grain harvest was very good in one part of the Talook, though bad in another; this Talook always largely exports grain; but this year, up to June, there was next to no export; since June only has an export been going on to Dindigul, Palany, and Coimbatore, so I am confident there must be a large quantity of grain in the Talook, but the Tahsildar says, there are about 2,500 Cullums; the truth is all these reports are founded on guess and on no reliable information; and the Tahsildars are unable to find out what quantity of grain is in store, as the holders will not give any information on the subject.

7. In Dindigul Talook, it is supposed, there is grain sufficient for forty per cent. of the population for 4½ months. Grain is also supposed to be in store to some large quantity in about nine villages, but it is said to be impossible to know how much is there.

8. The Palany Tahsildar supposes that a large number of the Ryots have sufficient grain on hand for the support of their families up to the next harvest, six

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
31st August 1866.*

months more; and that several big Ryots have large stores, which they will require for their own expenses, and he estimates the quantity of grain available to be brought into the markets, excluding the above-mentioned, at 1,100 Cullums.

9. The Terumangalum Tahsildar is unable to furnish any account of the grain in store in his Talook.

10. I cannot in any way trust the reports of the Talook officers; it is impossible that the scarcity they represent can exist, or the markets would not be so well supplied as they are, and no import by land to any extent is going on: some little grain is being brought in by sea, and a good export is going on from Periakolam Talook still. On the 3rd there was a shower near Madura, and the 4th was cloudy; immediately the prices fell: there was rain again on the 6th, and the prices fell still lower; but since then the days have become clear with no signs of rain, and the prices have again risen. If there was such a scarcity as is represented, I do not think that the markets would be so sensitive to the slightest signs of rain. I think prices would not so vary, but would keep up and keep rising till the next harvest, instead of having a tendency to fall. It is known that many persons always have on hand one and two years' store of grain.

11. I make the following calculation of the quantity of grain produced in the District this year in the Ain Talooks, from the cultivation accounts, to be 30,52,995 Cullums of grain of all sorts, produced from 7,38,543 acres under grain crop; the population of the Ain Talooks is estimated at 7,54,729; and they would require for one year's consumption 30,18,916 Cullums, leaving a surplus of 34,079 Cullums; but we have as yet got only through half the year, so that there ought to be in the Ain Talooks 15,43,537 Cullums, and there has been a large import at one time from Tanjore and Trichinopoly, which still goes on to a small extent, and very little grain has gone out of the District to Coimbatore or Tinnevely; the export has probably been balanced by the imports. Besides the above, I expect, within January next 2,30,000 Cullums of grain will be produced. I have no means of making any calculation of the quantity of grain in the Zemindaries of Shevagungah and Ramnad, and cannot credit that affairs are as bad there as represented, and think the accounts from those Zemindaries are as little to be trusted as those from the Ain Talooks; and the reports from Ramnad shew that prices are cheaper in that Zemindary than in other parts of the District.

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

No. 837. ORDER THEREON, 31st August 1866, No. 2,297.

Miscellaneous.

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.

Madras
Secretary.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
,, the Secretary to the Famine Relief Fund Committee.
,, the Collector of Madura.

Exd. J. Wright.

14 Copies Letter to Secy Govt. Revenue Dept. & Relief Committee Madras

Rev - 1866. Department
Pro. of Govt for Relief

No. 2299.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 23rd August 1866.

23rd Aug 1866
23rd Aug 1866

No. 6,029.

Submitting letter from Collector of Madura
furnishing a rough estimate of the quantity of
grain in the district.

RECORDED.

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31st Aug 1866