

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1386	~~Press~~ Mis.
Dated	18-5-	1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th May 1868.*

No. 419. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th May 1868, No. 3,270.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 24th March 1868, No. 51 :—

1. Adverting to my letter of 17th February, No. 26, and in obedience to a demi-official requisition addressed to me by the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, I have the honour to forward copies of two reports furnished to me by my late, and present Acting Head Assistants, Messrs. Crole and Martin.

2. I give Mr. Crole all due credit for his collection and narration of facts; but I thought his report was altogether too discursive for the occasion, and contained one or two statements in which I found it impossible to agree; such for instance, as that the ryots have not the will to improve their holdings, and that the application of the remission rules to nunjah lands is improper under the new Settlement. I thought it hardly became an officer of Mr. Crole's experience, to base upon this latter statement an accusation of extravagance at the last Jummahbundy against his late official superior, and, as out of place, as profitless, to make his report a vehicle for ridicule of the new Settlement, and for a sweeping condemnation of the system of remissions as approved by the wisdom and experience of the Board and Government. It was because these statements, if unnoticed, might have been supposed to have my countenance and support, and because I did not consider my report the proper place in which to notice them, that in the exercise of a discretion which I believed lay with me, I withheld Mr. Crole's report.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From C. W. W. MARTIN, Esq., Assistant Collector of Trichinopoly, to the Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, dated 27th January 1868, No. 7.

I have the honour to inform you, that I returned on Thursday from a week's tour through parts of the Talooks of Woodiarpoliam, Perambalur, and Trichinopoly. I carefully observed the crops as I went along, and my conclusions are, that there is in that part of the country no immediate danger of such a scarcity as should call for Government interference, and that it is very questionable, whether such a danger will arise at all. For the wet lands under the Cauvery it is sufficient to say, that the supply of water has been fair throughout the year, and that the second crop will soon be harvested. This latter is not a good one, and the extraordinary rain which we have had now for five days will affect detrimentally; the loss, however, will be felt only by the most prosperous cultivators in the district. The wet cultivation under tanks will be materially benefitted by the rain-fall. The largest tanks were getting very low, and the small tanks were almost dried up. If this rain has been general over the district, I count on a supply to the tanks sufficient to save all the paddy and sugar-cane at present under cultivation. The lands under dry cultivation have certainly suffered severely from want of rain. The out-turn of Cholum and Cumboo I do not estimate at more, on an average, than one-third of an ordinary crop, the ears are plentiful, but very empty and stunted. The out-turn of straw will be almost equal to that of a good harvest, which will save the cultivators to some extent. Varugu and Raggy will give even a smaller out-turn, they are not grown very plentifully, however. The present rain will not at all benefit these four crops, on the contrary, it will injure those which happen to be ready for harvesting. This injury will be, however, compensated for, by the benefit conferred on the oil-plants, horse-gram, cotton, coriander, onions, &c., of which crops, and of cotton especially, large quantities are grown in that part of the country. The health of men and cattle was everywhere good without epidemic of any sort. The tour I have just returned from, was from Trichinopoly, via Lalgudi, north east to Keelapalur, thence north west to Comorapolliem in Perambalur talook and from thence, back to Trichinopoly through Paravalapur and Marudur.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. T. LONGLEY,
Acting Collector.

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18th May 1868.*

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From C. S. CROLE, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, Trichinopoly, to the Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, dated 27th January 1868, No. 16.

1. In continuation of my No. 1 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to inform you that the state of the season and crops therein described as regards the four* talooks under my charge, has been fully confirmed by the daily reports of the tours which I ordered the Tahsildars and their

*Musery.
Kulutalai.
Perambalur.
Udaiyarpalayam.

Deputies to make through the Kadarambam portions of their divisions. In that communication I stated, that the rain-fall in Perambalur had been copious enough, while the accounts from Udaiyarpalayam furnished no reason to apprehend positive dearth in that talook. The state of things in Musery and Kulutalai, however, was described as far from encouraging, and the tour through both, which I have just completed, does not warrant me in describing the aspect of the Kadarambam portions of those tracts as portending anything but very great scarcity indeed. Copious rain may yet do a great deal for the crops in the Musery talook, both tank irrigated Nunjah and Castor-oil-seed, Varagu, and Gram among Punjab grains, not to speak of the garden cultivation which is extensively carried on under wells which are at present very ill-supplied with water. The same remark, however, holds good in only a very limited degree in speaking of Kulutalai.

2. The Musery talook has an area of 656 square miles with a population of 345 to the square mile. The extent of Kulutalai is 924, giving a population of 206 per square mile. The percentage of population would need to be considerably reduced in an account of the Kadarambam portions, as the villages near the river banks are much the most densely inhabited. The number of cattle in Musery is estimated at 2,17,648, while those in Kulutalai are said to amount to 1,57,018 head. The neighbourhood of the high ranges of the Passumalies and Koleimalies, and the consequent cross-drainage, together with the natural inclination of the country, gives the Musery a slight but decided superiority over the Kulutalai talook.

3. I began my inspection with the northern part of the Marungapuri estate, pitching my Camp at Kovilputty. From that, as a centre, I rode out in all directions, and base my remarks both on personal inspection and the accounts furnished me by the people. In no part of this tract was there any water in the tanks except in one Zemindary village on the very border of the Madura district, where Nunjah cultivation was said to be carried on to a small extent. In no other village had it even been attempted. The early sowing of Punjab grain had produced a small out-turn, but as most of the crops appear to have been put down late, the country, where cultivated at all presented the appearance of a wilderness of stunted withered straw. In many places the plough had not been applied to the land at all. The ill-fated Illupur Maganum belonging to the Trichinopoly talook lies close to Kovilpatti. It is surrounded on all sides, except the west, by the lands of the Rajah of Pulakottai, and was declared by all to be partially deserted owing principally to the fact, that water for ordinary drinking purposes was so scarce as to have to be abstracted from deepest wells by means of coconut shells, the ordinary means of drawing water failing to reach the springs.

4. On proceeding across the very inferior road, which passing through the Tondiman's country, connects Kovilpatti with Manaparai, it appeared that the ryots of that part, from being beforehand with their sowing apparently, had secured several, though scanty, crops. Manaparai is the head-quarters of a Deputy Tahsildar and Sub-Magistrate, and the remarks made in the 2nd paragraph are equally applicable to the country hereabouts also. Drinking water for the little town is obtained almost solely from a large well and Uranci to the south, near the travellers' bungalow. The small repairs lately done to it will require to be supplemented by radical enlargement.

5. I have to draw your attention to the state of the Urancis or water-springs, on which alone man and beast rely for water in the southern part of the Kulutalai talook during the dry season. Lands are appropriated for their support and the large sum of Rupees 6,000 stands at present on your accounts at their credit. Estimates to that amount for their repair and enlargement are now also lying unsanctioned in your office. I would respectfully suggest, that if these statements are

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correct, the prudent and careful expenditure of that sum would test, by the numbers attracted to the work, the real distress prevailing; would supply the poor with useful labour, and secure a moderate supply of water for drinking purposes in seasons of all but the very greatest scarcity.

6. The state of the tanks, some of which are of considerable size, requires consideration. I did not see a single one with anything more than a mere pool of water in it, the great majority being completely dry. The cattle have to be supplied, consequently, with drinking water drawn from the wells. Kudimaramat, to which the right of the Government is now admitted by all, but those interested in a large expenditure of public money, has been totally ignored. The result is, that not one of them is in a state to receive and hold the supply of water necessary to bring the crops to maturity, and unless the country enjoy the luxury of two or three falls of rain at different parts of the season, nothing but a special intervention of Providence would avail to prevent their destruction when half raised. I need hardly mention names, but those at Maravanur, Savalur and Tokamalai, all with a large beriz depending upon them, are examples of my meaning. Some of their beds are actually convex. The evil has now gone so far as to require the assistance of Government to its removal, and this would be another useful out-let for the large amount of unemployed labour which will probably exist in the Kulutalai talook before many months.

7. The state of the season towards the Dindigul frontier was an improvement, though very slight, on that about Manaparai.

8. From Manaparai to Kulutalai a distance of 26 miles, a new road has been under course of construction for some time, and is likely to remain in that state, and consequently, useless for the purposes for which it was intended, unless measures are taken to push on the work with greater activity; at present, communication between these two places has almost ceased, and the scarcity of the southern cannot therefore be relieved by the plenty reigning in the northern borders of the talook. It took 19 hours to bring my baggage over a distance of 24 miles. A glance at the map will show at once the importance of the route, and to what an unnecessary degree the evils of scarcity must be aggravated by the absence of communication between the interior of the talook and the river bank. I did not see a single bandy during the whole length of the way.

9. The condition of the country along the route was distressing in the extreme. I personally examined some of the standing crops (?) and on one occasion imagined I had detected a crop of raggy, from the fact that the field in which it had been cultivated was cut, and at that very moment bundles of straw were being carried away; but it was only after considerable search that a half-formed ear was discovered. Here and there the garden cultivation of paddy, chillies and tobacco, formed an occasional oasis and gave relief to the eye from the almost insufferable glare of the parched and uncultivated fields. What wells there were, were ill supplied.

10. On arrival at the strip of river-channel cultivation which bounds this talook on the north, every thing looked green and pleasant again. The people are in expectation of a very favourable out-turn. But a low fever was devastating the country, especially the Cusba of Kulutalai, where, the Tahsildar assured me, hardly any person remained unattacked. In this respect only did the Kadarumbum afford a favourable contrast to its richer neighbour, for in all the villages through which I passed, the health of men and cattle was excellent, and the latter appeared in very good condition.

11. The 21st instant was spent in the Cusba of Musery. Cholera had been very prevalent for about a week, sweeping off 10 or 12 a day out of a population of 2,600. It was, however, gradually losing its virulence, and on the day I visited the place, only two persons died from that cause. Simple sanitary measures were ordered, which the Sub-Magistrate was directed stringently to enforce. Chlorodyne was also freely administered to the sufferers, but proved effectual only at the commencement of the attack, in fact before true cholera mortus was developed. This outbreak was co-incident with the introduction of new rice into the bazar.

12. The Nirarumbum portion of the Musery talook calls for no remark. Its condition is decidedly flourishing in an agricultural aspect.

13. From Musery to Kananur is all Punjab and the crops were withered or drooping. The garden cultivation alone showed signs of life. The water in wells was abundant, a good many tanks

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on either side of the line of march were supplied with water, sufficient to last for 20 or 30 days. One tank, that of Tirutalaiyur, presented the appearance of a broad sheet of water. The extent of land under it, however, is large. It is remarkable that with these apparent advantages, the cattle were not in such good fettle as those in the Kulutalai talook. The Castor-oil seed, Varagu, Gram, and garden produce generally, may yet be saved by abundant showers. The consequence will be a much better crop than would result from a similar contingency in Kulutalai. As far as I could see, the out-turn of Cholum and like grains not under well cultivation will be nil.

14. Kananur used to be the head-quarters of a talook, and might be a very flourishing village. As it is, the vigorous application of the picotta to lands which should be irrigated from the channels of the Ayyar alone, saves the crops from utter destruction. Even as it is, many fields of paddy have faded, or their cultivation been abandoned. The Ayyar is a mountain torrent rising in the Koleimalai hills, and coming down at times in very large floods, but it is irregular and not to be depended on. There used formerly to be a river-fed tank about a mile to the north north west of the village. Its water-spread is now unfortunately cultivated, and its banks breached and destroyed. The re-establishment of this as the water supply of Kananur, would place the village, humanly speaking, beyond the influence of any but the most disastrous seasons. I believe I am well within the truth when I say, that had a source of irrigation now been available, the people would have meditated the exportation instead of the importation of rice this year. As it is, they express their joy at the prospect which the opening of the new road from Musery to Torriyur affords of procuring supplies of grain from the river side.

15. From Kananur I rode on to Torriyur, which is, as you are aware, a small Zemindary paying a very moderate peshkush to Government. Up to the boundary of the Zemindary, every thing looked deserted, little attempt had been made to raise any sort of crop at all, and no efforts to improve their holdings seemed ever to have been contemplated by the ryots. Immediately on crossing into the Zemindary a new state of things presented itself. Everything was green, and as far as the eye could reach, the picotta was hard at work irrigating fields of paddy. In the Ayyen nothing but howls of complaint about the season greeted my request to know the news of the village, whereas, contented replies and expressions of hopeful expectation were afforded to similar questions, not 200 yards further on. You will be surprised to learn, that the quality of the soils and capabilities of irrigation were the same. The only difference was, that the Government ryot is charged Rupees 3-8-0 per acre and the Zemindary cultivator has to pay Rupees 16 and Rupees 18 for precisely similar land. Thus far, the new settlement does not seem as yet to be a source of unmixed good to the country.

16. The Torriyur Zemindary will be well able this year to pay its peshkush.

17. The day being cloudy, I proceeded down the Ahtur road 15 or 18 miles to the boundary of the Trichinopoly talook. The remarks previously made, that rain will yet partially save some of the crops, is peculiarly applicable to this tract. Castor-oil seed and gram looked comparatively healthy and green.

18. In the Kadarambam portion of this talook men and cattle suffered from no disease.

19. Appended is the aggregate rain-fall in both talooks for the last four months as compared with the same period last year.

	MUSERY.		KULUTALAI.	
	1866.	1867.	1866.	1867.
September...	1-50	2-25	2-64	
October ...	13-25	14-12	10-85	10-62
November ...	7-75		5-50	
December ...	4-29		3-37	

It need form no cause for astonishment than that, in the Kulutalai Kadarambam, the yield varies from nil to $\frac{1}{2}$ and in Musery from nil to $\frac{1}{2}$.

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20. I have also the honour to submit an estimate of land under the plough in the upland tracts for the past and present Fuslies.

Talook.	FUSLY.	
	1277.	1278.
	ACRES.	ACRES.
Musery	1,21,842	1,15,127
Kulutalai	1,43,352	1,44,456

Considering that fully half of the land in Kulutalai must be waste and another quarter withered, while things are hardly so bad in Musery, the apparent inferiority of the latter talook disappears.

21. The price of the grains forming the staple food of the people, namely, rice, raggy and cholum per Harris Kallum of 24 measures in four places is given below. It will be observed, that the Settlement commutation rate is already a thing belonging to the halcyon days of the past.

	Paddy.		Raggy.		Cholum.	
	RS.	A.	RS.	A.	RS.	A.
Torriyur	1	14	1	8	1	2
Musery	1	12	1	8	1	1
Kulutalai	1	12	1	10	2	0
Manaparai	1	14	1	12	2	0
Commutation rate	0	8	0	10	0	12

The increase in the price of paddy already approaches 300 per cent.

22. The deduction from all this is, that prospects in Musery are 25 per cent. better than in Kulutalai; that we have to apprehend scarcity in the former, and great scarcity in the latter talook; but that we will be preserved from actual famine. The able-bodied poor will be the great sufferers, and for them it is proposed to supply work in proportion as there is a demand for it.

23. I trust that if the state of these two talooks does not altogether belie their true condition, it will hardly be necessary to demonstrate the imperative necessity of putting the various means of irrigation and communication throughout the country on a footing compatible with ordinary usefulness. I advocate neither remission of assessment nor gratuitous relief. The coming scarcity will throw a comparatively large amount of labour within the reach of the Government. There are plenty of important works on which steady employment, at a little below the market rate, can be secured to the poor. These works will be a real boon both to the labourer and to Government, by the labourer, in obviating the necessity for seeking subsistence in other lands; to Government, by maintaining the future cultivator on the spot, ready to take advantage of a change for the better in agricultural prospects; and to both, in securing to the staple food of the country, comparative immunity from disasters such as that which has now befallen it. I respectfully submit that in these two talooks alone there is such a plethora of public works unexecuted, neglected, and unpaired, as will for a long time to come, amply supply labour to the able-bodied poor, and thus obviate the necessity of interfering with the markets.

24. Every one who understands the native character and the crookedness of the native official mind, who is acquainted with the ground-work of the new settlement in this district, and who would desire to see the Imperial Exchequer saved from the consequence of perennial famine, must be a sworn foe to all remission. I do not believe, that when granted, half of it ever does find its way into the pocket of the cultivator. But supposing it does, the amount of the boon conferred by an indulgent Government may be easily estimated. The assessment in the Kadarambam of Musery, ranges from Rupees 3-8-0 to Annas 6, and in Kulutalai from Rupees 2-8-0 to Annas 4. Supposing every ryot

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in the Kulutalai talook received remission this year for his whole holding, the amount received, would not support him and his family, supposing that to consist of six persons, for ten days. The average holding is approximately 10 Acres, and the average assessment Rupees 0-11-0. The loss to Government would, however, amount to Rupees 1,00,000 and more, and this, without a hope of recouping itself, as under the old rates, in future years. This view is submitted in the hope of preserving the integrity of the first principle of the settlement, its invariability, and of preventing a like extravagance as was last year permitted in the Musery talook, when Rupees 3,088 were remitted on lands under tank cultivation, none of which could possibly have paid more than Rupees 3-8-0 an acre; especially also, as I have reason to know, that a like measure was in contemplation this year. The result of infringing the first principle of the new settlement, is to perpetuate distress by fostering a race of pauper squatters, whose only desire is the animal satisfaction of the wants of the hour, who neither have the will nor the means to improve their holdings, and who, having the idea encouraged, that in years when it is not palpably great gain to cultivate they are sure of remission, leave the land a wilderness, thus ensuring to themselves all the gain, and to Government, the whole of the loss entailed by bad years, and by a ridiculously low assessment in others. In the present rage for the acquisition of land, no difficulty would be experienced in finding fitter occupants of the soil should a rigorous collection of the revenue entail the ousting of squalid improvidence, which would benefit in the long run by finding its proper place in the employed instead of the independent cultivating class.

25. I have taken the liberty of pointing out the importance of the speedy opening out of the interior of the talooks by serviceable roads, which by encouraging trade and supplying the markets, will probably render unnecessary any disturbance of the ordinary course of trade by Government interference. Owing to this fact alone, I believe it is, that the arid tracts to the south east of the Kulutalai talook, possessing as they do the most inferior land in the district, have never been afflicted in the proportion which might be expected from their agricultural condition. This is due to the Madura Trunk Road on one side, and the Dindigul road nearly parallel, traversing the country on the other, and causing a constant flow of grain, even in the scarcest times, into the local bazaars, and markets. The former of these may justly be termed the alimentary canal of the impoverished south, and it should be a constant care to preserve it in a condition fully equal to the demands made upon it. At present, not less than 400 or 500 handies pass over it per diem, and this is not the heavy season. Yet I regret to inform you, that from about the 12th mile from Trichinopoly to the Madura frontier, it can in no sense be said to be fit for such heavy traffic. I observed no mile-men at work, and I have never seen a road of this sort up to the mark, which was unsupplied with such an establishment. The Dindigul road was much better, all except a few miles near Kalpattu.

26. The roads now in progress afford labour to a limited number of poor. The people are grateful for it, but a far greater benefit would have been conferred on them had they been allowed to take the contracts under the Revenue Authorities, instead of their execution being transferred to non-resident contractors, who, at present, absorb the profit to be made by the execution of these works. The Range Officer of Kulutalai informed me some months ago, that the people would not take the contracts, I have made it my business at almost every village to enquire about this. The result is that the people declare they were never asked and that they would only too gladly take up the works, especially if they had to deal with the Tahsildar. I take it, therefore, that these contractors are a dead loss to the country, and I beg to propose that further local works may be executed by the Revenue Authorities under the supervision, as to proper execution, of the Range Officer. Of course the expenditure will require strict scrutiny, but a daily public disbursement of pay to the coolies will enhance the boon to the people and help to check fraud.

27. A list of useful works for both talooks will follow. I may state, however, that there are in Kulutalai alone, twenty-eight tanks in urgent need of repair.

28. The rain which has been falling in showers for the last two days, is now coming down steadily, and would a month ago have proved an ununited blessing. But now, besides supplying drinking water, creating pasture, and refreshing garden cultivation and the few punjah grains mentioned in the body of this letter, it will, if its violence abate not, destroy the Nerarambour paddy now in the ear and much of which is more than ready to be harvested; every day's delay in

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reaping and every shower of rain at this juncture, must heighten the evil of the previous dearth. It is hardly necessary to remind you that no amount of rain-fall can save the crops in the country from the consequences of the failure of the monsoon at the proper season. It may revive the half-withered, but it cannot resuscitate the dead, or call to life crops which never existed.

29. I shall be happy to afford any further information you may require.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. T. LONGLEY,
Acting Collector.

1. Submitted to Government.
2. The Board presume that Mr. Longley has taken due notice of Mr. Crole's report on the condition of the irrigation works and communication of the talooks which he visited.
3. They would be glad to have further account of the present state of those localities which Mr. Crole reports were in a distressed condition, which they presume Mr. Longley has now visited. The amount expended in those localities during the present calendar year from Imperial and Local Funds should also be reported.

No. 420.

ORDER THEREON, 18th May 1868, No. 1,386.

Miscellaneous.

1. Communicated to the Department Public Works, with reference to Mr. Crole's remarks on the state of the irrigation works and the communications in the Musery and Kulutalai talooks, and especially the Kananoor tank and Madura road.
2. The asserted willingness on the part of the villagers to take contracts for Public Works deserves encouragement.
3. The Board will send on to Government any further reports they may receive as to the condition of this part of the country.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department,
„ the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Angustin.

dy of this letter, it will, if its violence abate not, destroy the Nerarambour
and much of which is more than ready to be harvested; every day's delay in
lower of rain at this juncture, must heighten the evil of the previous dearth.
y to remind you that no amount of rain-fall can save the crops in the country

8.9.1559/68.

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My impression of what
passed at the Council
Table is not conforming
with what appears now to
be the impression of the
majority ^{of Council} and therefore it
was that I expected the
Rev: Secy to call for the
report of the Suckunpoy
of Head apartment. -

The report of the Collector, Mr.
Longley, according to his own
showing, has reference to only
a very small part of the
Suckunpoy district of which

body of this letter, it will, if its violence abate not, destroy the Nerarambour
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shower of rain at this juncture, must heighten the evil of the previous dearth.
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When his report was written he
had been in charge but for a
short period. - The reports
from the two assistants Inspr
Ciole & Mar. her supply such
specific information as the
of Gov. could not furnish
from his own observation. -

It occurs ^{to me} from a careful perusal
of the late of A. A. P. report -
that its having reached the
Gov. will be attended with
advantage.

I shall be prepared most
willingly to join in determining
that semi-official com-
be most sparingly used.

14 May 68.

W.D.

7-
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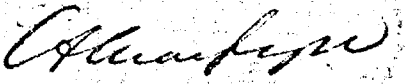
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(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. T. LONGLEY,
Acting Collector.

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(True Copies and Extract.)


Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Acting Collector of Trichinopoly.

2
Apr-18 May 1928
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100-100-14-20-
100-100-14-20-

~~Dispatch
The 100-100-14-20-
At the 100-100-14-20-
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