M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	2930	Press ~~Mis.~~
398-99 Dated	24-11-	No 1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
24th November 1868.

No. 398. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd November 1868, No. 7,816:—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of North Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 23rd October 1868, No. 353.

1. Adverting to Proceedings of the Board, dated 15th instant, No. 7,399, I have the honor to state, in explanation of my remark, that "on the whole the state of the "district is worse than it was at the same period last year, and its prospects depend "entirely upon the favorableness or otherwise of the approaching monsoon;" that a failure of this monsoon, similar to what occurred last year, would find this district less prepared to contend, during next year, against the evil results of such failure than it was to contend, during this year, against the results of last year's failure of the corresponding monsoon.

2. I mean that the stocks of grain are lower, and the resources of the people are less; that the cultivation, owing to deficiency of water-supply, is as backward as at the corresponding period of last year, and, consequently, that the actual position of the district is, on the whole, so much worse that, should this monsoon also fail, large and liberal, as has been the assistance rendered this year by the Government, they will find it necessary to afford still more assistance next year.

3. I do not suppose that, under any circumstances, there could be an absolute general food-famine in this district with its exceptionally good rail and road communications; but I am satisfied that from a series of bad seasons, and consequent short production, the resources of the bulk of the people are at so low an ebb that, without largely increased local production, very considerable State aid would be necessary to enable the poorer classes to supply themselves with a sufficiency of imported food.

4. It is to be hoped that the sufficiency of the coming monsoon will avert a crisis, and go far to restore the equilibrium of the district, in which event I anticipate that no special measures will be necessary.

5. And if the monsoon should prove insufficient there is no reason to apprehend any catastrophe so long as the Collector's staff is sufficiently increased to keep him *reliably* informed of the condition of all parts of the district, and so long as he is entrusted with similarly extensive powers to those which he at present possesses.

Mr. Agnew having remarked in his Season Report that the district was now in a worse state than at the same period last year, and having repeated the observation in his letter of the 8th October, submitted to Government in Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd October 1868, No. 7,586, the Board called on him to explain the meaning of the expression, as, from the prominence given to it, they were of opinion that some unfavorable state of affairs must have been in Mr. Agnew's mind beyond what the bare words expressed.

2. They learn, however, from the letter recorded above, that Mr. Agnew intended to imply no more than the simple fact that, after a disastrous season, the district is in a worse state than it was before it.

	1867.	1868.
January	0·37	2·30
February	0·20	...
March	0·01	...
April	0·12	0·30
May	1·05	1·10
June	0·35	2·60
July	2·52	3·60
August	4·30	2·10
September	2·10	4·20

3. The rain-fall in comparison with that of last year is shown in the margin, and the result is greatly in favor of the present season.

4. The progress of the north-east monsoon will, of course, be carefully watched, but up to this point there has been no feature in the present season to cause anxiety.

No. 399. ORDER THEREON, 24th November 1868, No. 2,930.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) F. BRANDT,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Dept
W. 3518.

BOARD OF REVENUE, MADRAS.

1868.

PROCEEDINGS, 3RD NOVEMBER 1868, No. 7,816.

Dated 3 Nov 1868 Encl.
Dispd 8
Received 7

NOVEMBER.

No. 7,816.

Season in North Arcot District—Remarks on Collector's explanation relative to bad state of,

W 2930

Recorded 4 Nov 1868

Govt. of {1868} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated November, 24*th*.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 24th November 1868, *No.* 2,930.

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 398-399.

Season in North Arcot District.—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue on this subject, recorded.