

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	385	Press
		~~Mis.~~
Dated	11 — 2 — 18 68.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th February 1868.*

No. 214. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th February 1868, No. 955.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Madras, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 4th February 1868, No. 41:—

1. No rain has fallen during the past week; that which fell in the previous week has, however, had the effect of reviving some of the crops that were not too far gone.
2. In the Madurantakum talook the Tahsildar reports that the late rains have been of immense benefit to the standing crops.
3. In the talooks of Sydapet, Trivelloor, Ponneri, and Conjeveram, the ryots are ploughing lands wherever they think it at all practicable to cultivate; they mean to put down Indigo, Raggy, Gingelly, Navarai, and Manakathai Paddy and Chillies, but the outturn will entirely depend upon future rains.
4. Veragu, Vadasambah, and Sirumoni paddy are being harvested to a small extent in all the talooks but Chingleput.
5. Prices still continue stationary everywhere but in Conjeveram, where they have declined a little. The markets are reported to be plentifully supplied with grain. Sickness among both human being and cattle is the same as in the past week; the segregating all diseased cattle from the healthy ones has been attended with the best results.
6. I have much pleasure in sending, herewith, a report* on the Conjeveram talook that I lately received from Mr. MacGregor, the Sub-Collector; from which the Board will perceive that, for some time to come, we have little cause for alarm for that part of the district.
7. The irrigation works recommended by Mr. MacGregor will be at once put in hand, and will afford employment to any really distressed labourers choosing to seek for it.

From the Sub-Collector, to the Collector of Madras, dated on Circuit at Gudavanjary, 31st January 1868, No. 22.

1. I am glad to be able to preface this report by stating that, within the last week, rain has fallen to such an extent throughout the three talooks of the Sub-division, as to remove all anxiety on the subject of drinking water and pasturage.
2. From the reports received before I joined the district, the effects of the drought appeared to have been felt most severely in the eastern part of the Conjeveram talook, and I, therefore, went there in the first instance.
3. During the last ten days, I have been visiting numerous villages in that part of the talook, and examining the state of the crops and irrigation works.
4. The failure of Nunjah crops under rain-fed tanks has been very extensive, but nowhere have I seen the failure general. In one field out of two or three I have found a crop of paddy more or less heavy. More particularly in the light soils, I have found the crops in a condition which, considering the account received of the season, is surprising.

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5. A certain amount has already been reaped, much will be ready for cutting in a few days, and much of the later planting, which was still green when the late rain fell, and which a few days ago seemed beyond hope, will now be brought to maturity.
6. It is characteristic of the tendency of the remission system that many ryots are regretting the recent rain-fall, which will insure a light crop, when otherwise there would have been a total failure.
7. The principal town in the east of this talook is Streepermatur, and it possesses a tank supplying 1,000 cawnies of land. This whole extent presents one vast expanse of withered crop. The nature of the soil appears to have rendered the failure here more complete than under other works in the neighbourhood. The landholders, however, are wealthy, and have the resources of former years to fall back on. A channel taken off the Palar near Arcot should supply this tank, and it has lately been put in repair, so that the failure is due solely to the absence of freshes in the river. A road in course of construction from this place to Kunatore affords work.
8. Tennery, nine miles further west, is the largest reservoir in the talook, supplying twenty-three villages, and about 4,000 cawnies; when full, the tank contains twelve months' supply. It has never become dry, and when I saw it recently had two months' water.
9. A first crop has been reaped from most of the lands below the tank, and the second crop is on the ground looking green and promising. The villages below the tank, eighteen in number, are therefore well to do, but those around the bed of the tank west and north, in which a supply has to be obtained by baling, have a hard time, and would be much benefited if some work could be provided on the tank.
10. Another important tank is Manemungalam which I have recently visited. The area of cultivation below it is 800 cawnies. It is covered with a crop of which the failure is probably not less than seventy-five per cent. The work is in a most inefficient state. There is ample room for profitable expenditure on earthwork, and I should recommend the outlay of several thousand rupees.
11. A road is in progress from Wallajabad to Kadapery, which passing within two miles affords work to the poor of the village, but work on the tank would be more profitable to all parties, and would be accessible to the villagers to the north.
12. I have described the result of the inspection of these as being the three largest irrigation works in the talook, but have examined twenty or thirty other works where I have found a similar condition of things on a smaller scale, in some a fair crop, and in others almost total failure.
13. In this part of the district a considerable quantity of paddy is raised on dry land without any irrigation other than the falling rain retained within the field by high banks; a three months' grain is sown which survives a good deal of drought.
14. I have seen very good crops of this description in several directions where there was no means of supplementing the water supply from wells.
15. The dry crops have not failed except in very unfavourable ground; some has been reaped and much remains to be reaped. There is a fair crop of Cholum, none of which is yet reaped. The late rain-fall has injured those ears that were just forming, the damp causing them to rot off. When the ears are formed no harm is done, and when they have not begun to form much good will ensue from the rain. Having ridden through and carefully examined many Cholum fields, I am of opinion that the injury done is slight.
16. In no village have I seen any appearance of suffering. On the contrary the people look thriving, their houses are neat, and the children look well-fed.
17. On the whole I should say that there is nothing in the state of this part of the country to warrant carrying out works in an exceptional manner.
18. What seems desirable is, that a certain number of Imperial works should be set going geographically distributed with regard to the villages that have been worst off in such a manner that work shall be accessible within a reasonable distance. These will relieve the large proprietors

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- by employing their dependents, and the small, by enabling them to earn wages, and will be useful as indicators of the real state of the country. When we find labourers flocking from a great distance and presenting on arrival the appearance of distress, we shall know that more active measures are required. So far as I have seen, the coolies as yet employed there has been nothing exceptional in their appearance.
19. They have not come far, nor have persons unused to such labour presented themselves for employment.
 20. Besides the works in progress, and which I have recommended, there is a work well-adapted for the purpose required, and of the greatest consideration as an Imperial work, namely, a railway-feeder through the centre of the talook to Trivellore. I believe such a line has already been estimated for, and I can imagine no more useful work.
 21. The general conclusion I draw from what I have seen is that, even at the beginning of the harvest, the reserves of grain had not begun to fail, and a considerable harvest being on the ground, no distress can exist for some months to come.
 22. As to the further question, if whether the food stored, and to be stored, will last till the beginning of next harvest, and if not, whether there is money forthcoming to import it. An opinion can only be given after further experience and reference to the condition of affairs last year. I observe that Mr. Cockerell, when Acting Collector, writing to the Board, under date of August 1866, estimated that there was then five months' grain in store, which would, therefore, leave the whole outturn of Fusly 1276 available for expenditure after January 1st, 1867. He calculated the consumption of the district at 15½ lacs of Cols, and the average crop as 19 lacs of Cols.
 23. The crop of Fusly 1276 is on all hands admitted to have been unusually heavy, so it may be inferred that, on the 1st January 1868, the reserves of grain had already been largely re-placed.
 24. The import and export to and from the town of Madras makes it difficult to adjust a calculation of this kind; but it may be fairly assumed that, with grain in the northern parts at half the price of the Madras market, there will be no great drain on the district. At present grain is being imported from Madras into the district.
 25. I am at present awaiting the decision of the Board on the question, if whether waste or dry lands is to be remitted, and how dry grain raised on wet land is to be charged, and propose to commence the settlement of the Madurantakum talook as soon as possible.
 26. Should the same discretionary power as has been granted in the district of Coimbatore be allowed for this district, I do not think anything more will be required.
 27. I shall report, in due course, the result of my personal inspection of the talooks of Chingleput and Madurantakum.

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ENCLOSURE No. 2.
Statement showing the average Bazaar Prices in the District of Madras, for the week ending 1st February 1868.

	PADDY.				RICE.				RAUZY.		CHOLUM.		CUMBOO.		HORSE-GRAM.	
	1st Sort.		2nd Sort.		1st Sort.		2nd Sort.		Week ending 25th Janu- ary 1868.	Week ending 1st Febru- ary 1868.	Week ending 25th Janu- ary 1868.	Week ending 1st Febru- ary 1868.	Week ending 25th Janu- ary 1868.	Week ending 1st Febru- ary 1868.	Week ending 25th Janu- ary 1868.	
	Week ending 25th January 1868.	Week ending 1st February 1868.	Week ending 25th January 1868.	Week ending 1st February 1868.												
231 4 0	216 0 0	207 14 9	191 4 0	447 6 0	448 1 0	468 0 0	465 8 8	259 7 0	257 2 8	280 0 0	280 0 0	254 0 0	254 0 0	263 9 0	231 7 2	

SYDAPET,
4th February 1868.

(Signed) E. G. R. FANE,
Collector.

Forwarded to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, with reference to the Collector's letter, No. 41 of this date.

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11th February 1868.*

1. Submitted for the information of Government.
2. The Board are glad to receive so encouraging a report from the Sub-Collector, after a personal inspection of the condition of the people, and the state of the crops.

No. 215.

ORDER THEREON, 11th February 1868, No. 385.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Department Public Works.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department.
„ the Board of Revenue.
„ the Relief Committee.
„ W. Robinson, Esq.
„ the Editors' Table.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Deposited to Congress
 of 20th February 1868

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 Board of Revenue.

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 the Government

What the Govt. have
 not secured as far
 as security and
 value the Govt. of
 the property, found
 in the personal
 property of the Govt.
 officers.

Submitting for
 information of Congress,
 weekly report from
 Collector of Revenue
 the state of revenue
 in the district.

Vol. 7 1868

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after a personal inspection of the condition
of the people and the state of the crops.

W. D. Lyell
Secretary.

To

The Secretary to Government

Revenue Department.

with original enclosures to be returned