

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	400	Press ~~Mis.~~
²⁴⁴⁻²⁴⁵ Dated	12 - 2 -	18 68.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
12th February 1863.*

No. 244. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th February 1868, No. 915.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Madura, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Camp at Melur, 28th January 1868, No. 6:—

1. With reference to the Rule 7, appended to the Board's Standing Circular, No. LXXVII., dated 1st November 1865, I have the honor to request the sanction of the Board for remitting the assessment of dry waste lands in this district during the settlement of the current Fusly.

2. The season of the current Fusly has been unprecedentedly adverse, being much worse than that of last year. The district has had very little help from either the monsoons this year, as both the early and late rains were either very slight or partial. The early rains, though scanty, were eagerly taken advantage of by the ryots in carrying on their cultivation, (notwithstanding the discouraging effect of a succession of bad years,) but the failure of rain in November and December has caused a very heavy failure of crops in all parts of the district. In some parts of the district the dry crops have perished, while in others the yield is reported to be generally much below half the average yield. From my own observation I think Pulney and Dindigul have not more than one-fifth, and Melur scarcely one-sixth of an average crop. The Nunjah crops have also equally suffered, with the exception of a very few localities in the district, where the crops are good. Having travelled over a large part of the district, I have reason to consider that the talooks most affected by the drought are Dindigul, Pulney, and Melur, with the exception of a portion of the Nattam division, and the loss has been greater in these localities than in others. In consideration of the total or partial failure of crops and loss of cattle, it is necessary that substantial relief should be afforded by per-centage remission on the dry cultivated area similar to the indulgence* shewn in the past Fusly.

* *Vide* Board's Proceedings, No. 2,124, dated 3rd April 1867.

3. I therefore recommend that I may be allowed a discretion to grant a per-centage remission on the entire dry cultivation of all talooks up to thirty per cent.

4. The amount† of revenue which will probably have to be sacrificed by the grant of the per-centage remission, is

† Rupees 1,75,000.

noted in the margin, which I do not think is too heavy, taking into consideration the heavy losses of the ryots.

5. No freshes came down the Vigay, the largest river of the district, except in the month of November, during

N. B.—In November 1866, the Vigay rose to a height of nearly six feet at the Madura causeway, which the river rose one foot and nine inches, and this small quantity continued to flow only for a few days.

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6. The prices now prevailing are shewn below:—

	Per garce.		
	RS.	A.	P.
Rice, second sort	567	12	8
Paddy, second sort	275	12	5
Horse-gram	344	11	7
Raggy	229	13	1
Cumboo	229	13	1
Cholum	229	13	1
Varagu	158	0	0

7. I do not think, however, that there is any real risk of a famine. The neighbouring districts, which usually supply our markets in adverse seasons with paddy and other grain, are perfectly able to do so this year, and the rice crops in Madura talook itself are pretty good.

8. On the 23rd instant, heavy clouds with drizzling rain came up from the north-east, and on the 25th and 26th very heavy rain fell at Kottamputti and Melur. The Vigay at Madura has risen three feet, so that there is every reason to believe that the rain has been general over the whole district. Had this rain fallen three weeks or even a fortnight ago, an enormous quantity of grain of all sorts would have been saved, but for the present crops, except in a few exceptional cases, it is all too late. It will, however, be of great advantage in other respects; forage for cattle and drinking water for man and beast will be abundant for some time to come. In Pulney and Dindigul, where wells are numerous, the people will be able to carry on their garden cultivation of white cholum and other produce during the approaching hot season. But although I see no reason at present for serious alarm, we must be prepared for some considerable distress among the poorer classes long before the commencement of the next cultivating season, which cannot be looked for before May next, and to meet this, I must ask Government to place at my disposal a sum of 50,000 Rupees for repair of irrigation works throughout the district.

9. I do not think that any considerable pressure from want will arise till the middle or perhaps the end of next month; but as soon as the wretchedly scanty crops have been reaped and stored, there must arise considerable distress.

10. I have already caused many estimates for really useful works to be prepared, and I should like much to have it in my power to commence a few works within the next ten days. I would commence a few works cautiously at first to test the real demand for employment by the people, and as the demand increases more and more works will be opened. With the above means placed at my disposal, I see no just cause for serious alarm.

1. Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board approve and sanction the Collector's recommendation in paragraph 3, and they resolve to submit, for the consideration of Government, the concluding proposals of his letter. The Government are aware that irrigation repairs are seriously needed in those talooks in which Mr. Arbuthnott states that distress is first likely to make its appearance, and any outlay upon these works

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cannot fail to be as beneficial to the revenue as to the people. The Board would fain hope, however, that the recent rain with which the Madura District has been visited will have a more beneficial effect upon the Province than the Collector seems to anticipate, and that the large outlay upon special relief works, which Mr. Arbuthnott contemplates, may not prove eventually necessary.

No. 245. ORDER THEREON, 12th February 1868, No. 400.

Miscellaneous.

The Government sanction the grant of Rupees 50,000 for special relief works as proposed by the Collector.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
.. the Accountant General.
.. W. Robinson, Esq.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Madura.

Erl. J. Wright.

W. J. Wright
Secretary.

88-1400.

*The Govt. sanction the proposal
granted Rs. 50,000 for special repairs
works as proposed by the Collector. - [Signature]
N. 14/12/1863.*

*W. J. Wright
Copy to the Collector of Madura
W. J. Wright*

*No. 244 & 245
Reported to Bangalore
of 20th February 1863*

Rev. 1863. Department:
Pro: of Govt. for [Signature]
No. 448.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 6th February 1863.

*Sup 8
Rev. 104*

Further [Signature]

No. 915.

Sanctioning recommendation of Collector of Madura that he be allowed to grant a percentage remission on the entire dry cultivation of all Talooks in District up to 30 per cent, and submitting to Government Collectors proposal that Rupees 50,000 should be placed at his disposal for repair of irrigation works throughout district.

No. 100-12 Feb 1863

With order