

## MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT.

|                            |       |                          |
|----------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| G.O. No.                   | 458   | Press<br><del>Mis.</del> |
| <sup>374-75</sup><br>Dated | 18-2- | 1868.                    |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 374. Read the following letter from the Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Wallajah, Talook, Raneepett, 20th January 1868, No. A/1:—

1. To avoid delay, I have the honor to submit, in original, Mr. Comyn's report on the present state of the Gudiathum talook, drawn up on the results of his personal observations and inquiries during the special mission he was directed in Government Order, dated 10th December 1867, No. 2,945, Revenue Department, to make in that part of the district. Read with the Memorandum already sent in by the Acting Third Member of the Revenue Board, on special duty, this report places Government in full possession of all the information which they require, to enable them to form an opinion as to the present distressed condition of that talook, and the necessity of at once commencing works suitable for the employment of displaced industry and the general laboring masses.

2. Measures have already been taken towards putting into immediate activity all the works contained in the list marked A, which accompanies Mr. Comyn's report, and as the area of distress widens, and the necessity of providing employment for the able-bodied poor in the now less suffering sections of the talook arises, the works enumerated in list B. may be gradually undertaken.

3. These lists have been very carefully drawn up, and contain, besides works of a miscellaneous nature for the improvement of the water-supply for man and beast, a large number of operations of a more immediately re-productive and permanent character.

4. I beg respectfully to recommend to the acceptance of Government all the projects entered in both lists, on the understanding that the works will be undertaken as the local necessity for each gradually arises.

From the Acting Sub-Collector of North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Camp at Sunthavasal, 17th January 1868, No. 1.

1. With reference to the Order of Government, Revenue Department, dated 10th December 1867, No. 2,945, and to your letter No. 958, dated 17th December, directing me to proceed on a tour of inspection to the Gudiathum talook, I have the honor to inform you that I gave over charge of my Office to Mr. Wilkinson on the 20th idem, and on the following day proceeded to Gudiathum; my tour was finished on the 12th instant, and I now beg to submit, for the information of Government, the results of the inquiries I have made, on the subject of their Order above quoted.

2. Encamping at Picchanoor (Gudiathum), Satghur, Gadambur, Karambur, Vaithanangkuppam, and Lateri, I was enabled to see a great deal of the country; I personally inspected more than 100 villages in different parts of the talook, and closely examined the Curnums, Monegars, and chief ryots of these and many other

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| Years.   | April.  | May.    | June.   | July.   | August. | September. | October. | November. | December. | Total.  |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
|          | Inches. | Inches. | Inches. | Inches. | Inches. | Inches.    | Inches.  | Inches.   | Inches.   | Inches. |
| 1861 ... | .....   | 2 803   | 3 813   | 5 62    | 2 487   | .....      | 1 812    | 3 63      | .....     | 14 067  |
| 1862 ... | 25      | 1 437   | 2 312   | 3 12    | 2 181   | 4          | 1 62     | .....     | .....     | 12 112  |
| 1864 ... | .....   | 63      | 1 94    | 3 39    | 3 146   | 1 45       | 4        | 7 93      | 42        | 27 906  |
| 1865 ... | 1 24    | 1 82    | 62      | 225     | 3 94    | 12         | 134      | 3 122     | 2 108     | 18 329  |
| 1866 ... | .....   | 64      | 3       | .....   | 3 23    | 23         | 10 9     | 2 22      | 3 15      | 22 74   |
|          | 1 49    | 7 390   | 8 485   | 4 489   | 19 984  | 7 87       | 18 463   | 16 902    | 5 678     | 90 754  |
| Average. | 298     | 1 478   | 1 697   | 8978    | 3 9163  | 1 574      | 3 6932   | 3 3804    | 1 1856    | 18 1508 |
| 1867 ..  | .....   | 42      | .....   | 34      | 3 26    | 1 24       | 2 36     | .....     | .....     | 8 12    |

4. GENERAL ASPECT OF THE COUNTRY IN DECEMBER.—As might be expected,

Area of talook, 430 miles.

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Population—Agricultural ... .. | 98,000   |
| Miscellaneous ... ..           | 37,233   |
| Total...                       | 1,35,233 |

Nunjah (wet) cultivation, depending entirely on wells, spring, or river channels.

From the top of one of the seven hills of Satghur not a drop of water was to be seen, the tanks and hill streams being alike dried up. Along the line of rail the country, especially on the south side, looked better (so much so, that any one travelling along the line would imagine that the talook was in a more flourishing condition than it is); the cultivation in that quarter is carried on by means of river-channels, and wells are more numerous there than elsewhere. But in the centre of the talook, from Kavanur, on the bank of the Palar to the hills north of Melmoil and Kalamput, in the neighbourhood of Satghur, from Gudiathum to the borders of the Chittur talook, from the same place to Katpadi on the northern side of the road, the country is as dry as it usually is in April or May, and the crops, consisting chiefly of dry land products, had almost entirely withered.

The strip of country from Gudiathum to Melpatti, north of the line of rail, presented the same appearance; but leaving Melpatti as far as Gadamoor, the scene changes. From a dried up and barren tract, one passes through fields standing high with flourishing paddy, or covered with a sheet of water, ready for the

villages, on the several points regarding the condition of the talook and its people, noted below.

3. RAIN-FALL.—The rain-fall throughout the talook was extremely scanty, the only month in which an average supply was received being August. In the months of April and June, there was no rain. In September it was very slight. In October, when the monsoon usually sets in, it fell far below the average, and in November and December there was no rain whatever.

In fact there was a signal failure of the monsoon, which had the effect of leaving the tanks quite dry.

The marginal Statement shows the rain-fall up to December 1867, up to the same period in each of the five preceding years, and the average rain-fall of those years.

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reception of the second crop cultivation. There is a net-work of spring and river-channels in this quarter, which accounts for the pleasing change in the scene. Passing further west, from Gadambur to the extreme end of the talook (adjoining Vaniembady, in Salem District), a country whose boundaries are clearly defined by a chain of irregular rocky hills, one again enters the desert, in which the dry crops, for there is no wet cultivation here, have entirely failed, where agricultural operations have been altogether abandoned, and where vegetation and drought are, as it were struggling for the mastery.

| Fusly.            |     |     |     |           | EXTENT CULTIVATED. |       |              |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------|--------------------|-------|--------------|
|                   |     |     |     |           | Punjab.            |       | Nunjah.      |
|                   |     |     |     |           | Cawnies.           |       | Cawnies.     |
| 1272 (1862-63)... | ... | ... | ... | ...       | 48,209             | 5 8   | 14,487 10 12 |
| 1273 (1863-64)... | ... | ... | ... | ...       | 47,614             | 4 2   | 12,292 7 14  |
| 1274 (1864-65)... | ... | ... | ... | ...       | 48,297             | 4 10  | 13,874 8 14  |
| 1275 (1865-66)... | ... | ... | ... | ...       | 44,138             | 0 2   | 12,552 5 4   |
| 1276 (1866-67)... | ... | ... | ... | ...       | 40,727             | 2 0   | 11,518 13 0  |
|                   |     |     |     | Total ... | 2,28,986           | 0 6   | 64,725 13 12 |
| Average ...       | ... | ... | ... | ...       | 45,797             | 3 4   | 12,945 2 12  |
| 1277 (1867-68)... | ... | ... | ... | ...       | 43,202             | 15 13 | 9,668 14 2   |

5. CULTIVATION.—The marginal Statement exhibits the cultivation, wet and dry, up to the close of December this year, 1867-68, and up to the same time for the last five years.

It will be seen  
that there was in

1867-68 an increase in dry cultivation of 2,475 cawnies, but in wet cultivation a decrease of 1,850 cawnies upon the cultivation of last year.

But the cultivation for 1867-68 both wet and dry falls considerably below the average of the last five years.

6. WASTE.—As shewn in the marginal Statement, only 9,668 cawnies of the ryots' holdings in wet land, exclusive of relinquishments and inclusive of lands newly taken up, were cultivated.

| Items. | Ryots' holding exclusive of relinquishments and inclusive of lands newly taken up to December. | Cultivation up to December. |             |    | Remainder lying waste without being cultivated. |            |             |    |    |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|----|-------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|----|----|
|        |                                                                                                | Extent.                     | Assessment. |    |                                                 | Extent.    | Assessment. |    |    |
|        |                                                                                                | Cawnies.                    | RS.         | A. | P.                                              | Cawnies.   | RS.         | A. | P. |
| Dry... | 50,877 10 2                                                                                    | 43,202 15 13                | 85,104      | 8  | 0                                               | 7,674 10 5 | 14,904      | 12 | 6  |
| Wet... | 14,797 8 0                                                                                     | 9,668 14 2                  | 83,032      | 13 | 9                                               | 5,198 9 14 | 36,173      | 5  | 1  |
|        | 65,675 2 2                                                                                     | 52,871 13 15                | 1,08,137    | 5  | 9                                               | 12,803 4 3 | 51,078      | 1  | 7  |

leaving waste to the extent of thirty-five per cent. In dry lands the per-centage of waste, though considerable, was not so heavy, being fifteen per cent. on the ryots' holdings.

7. REVIEW OF CULTIVATION. *Dry*.—In anticipation of a favorable season, the ryots commenced agricultural operations at the usual time, and a large extent of dry land was brought early under the plough. The usual crops\* were sown in the months of May, June, and July, and were followed by the cultivation of

† Inches 3.26.

holding out hopes of an abundant harvest.

11. THEIR CONDITION.—The present drought of course affects the condition of the laboring agricultural class in a far higher degree than any of the others. Their occupation may be said to be almost gone, whereas the miscellaneous poor are still actively engaged in their several trades and callings.

12. WAGES OF FARM LABORERS.—The wages of farm laborers, proper, are generally paid each month and in kind, being supplemented by a present in money, cloths, &c., once a year.

In the eastern part of the talook, from Gudiathum to Trivallum, the farm laborers are much better off in this respect than are those in the western portion of the talook.

The former are paid monthly, and receive from 8 to 18 mercals\* of grain, and

\* Three Madras measures = one mercial. they are maintained by their employers in all seasons, good or bad. In bad seasons the ryots find other work for their laborers to do, such as raising walls and improving their houses, &c.

The laborers to the west of the talook, on the other hand, receive one-fourth of the produce (of the lands they cultivate) whatever the out-turn may be; and though this is no doubt an inducement to them to make the most they can out of the soil, a failure of crop is to them a serious matter; and in a season which like the present one has been characterized by a general loss of farm produce, the consequences are terrible.

Very many of these laborers are employed by farmers, who in bad seasons, in which a failure of crop takes place, are unable to pay them in money or in any other way. The laborers then are driven to obtain a livelihood by cutting firewood, digging grass roots, and doing work altogether foreign to their ordinary occupation.

The tendency, however, is to maintain the laborers at all risks; loans are advanced and presents made, and the farm servants then become doubly the property of their masters.

13. PROPORTION OF LABOR TO LAND.—The proportion of fixed labor to a cawny of land is stated by the villagers to be as follows:—

Wet land under tanks, one man.

Do. channels, two men.

They also attend to the Punjab (dry) cultivation in Nunjah villages, and carry on, unassisted, all the operations of agriculture, except the reaping and harvesting of the crops, when the coolly element of the village is drawn upon largely. In dry lands depending on rain, one laborer is supposed to cultivate four cawnies, but in artificial irrigation of dry land, by means of wells and picottahs, four men are required for one cawny. As 5,128 cawnies of Nunjah land alone, or thirty-five per cent. of the ryots' holdings, have been left waste this year (1867), the amount of labor set free from its legitimate sphere is enormous; and as there is every likelihood, failing rain, of the wells drying up within the next three months, a large proportion will be added to the unemployed agricultural element in the talook.

14. PRESENT LABOR OR EMPLOYMENT.—In some parts of the talook, in the villages between Melpatti and Gadambur, to the south-west, viz., Cendatur, Vaithanangkuppam, Kishnampalli, Alangekuppam, Chokarasapalli, Melpatti, and others,

in which some 1,500 cawnies of Nunjah land are being cultivated, and in those skirting the Palar river from Trivalum east to Uthayendrum west, ample occupation is afforded to the laboring classes, in raising the second crop of paddy under river channels, and in attending to the now standing crop of Samba paddy, which, if the flow in the channels continues, will be harvested in February or March; this part of the talook is undoubtedly the most favored, and there is no distress here among the people.

With the exception of the south-western corner (north of the line) there is a considerable quantity of well cultivation spread all over the talook: Samba paddy is flourishing under wells in many villages, and bids fair to yield a crop not much below the average. This prospect, however, may be very seriously affected by future influences of season and climate. Raggy too is being raised in beds, under wells, but does not promise much. These operations, however, give employment to a small proportion only of the agriculturalists, though a considerably larger number of laborers are now engaged in cultivation under wells than is usually the case at this time of the season: *e. g.*, one man will attend to an acre of land under a tank, while three or four are required to raise water from wells sufficient to irrigate the same extent of land. In the villages of Machambut and Balur, on the road from Ambur to Satghur, the ryots are engaged in wet cultivation under spring channels; but between Masikum and Satghur, and further north of that place, to Gullampallai and Rungampettai—west to Erakampatt, east to Eranthangal—the bulk of the people are unemployed in their usual occupations, and earn a precarious livelihood by felling timber in the jungles for the Railway

\* Price for firewood, from 1 to 2 Annas a load.

† Do. grass, 4 to 6 Pice a bundle.

contractors, cutting head loads of firewood,\* and digging roots of grass for sale† at Satghur and Gudiathum,

or by working on the roads. The same is the case in the upland villages of Mudukuppam, Mettur, and others in the north-west, and in Melmoil, Kalampatt, Nagaleri, Alanganeri, and the neighbouring villages in the centre of the talook, where the soil is poor, and the dry crops have almost entirely failed. Further east towards Katpadi the poorer class of laborers obtain employment in working on the railway, or cut head loads of firewood, for which they at present find a ready market at Vellore. But this employment is very precarious, for, as prices rise and stocks of grain and food-supply diminish, the demand for firewood must become more and more limited.

In Pichanoor, Pakeem, Kondasamudram, and the villages round Gudiathum, many people find employment in digging and repairing wells, building up walls, and performing other services for the wealthier inhabitants of Gudiathum, who embrace the opportunity afforded by a glut of labor, of getting their repairs done at exceptionally cheap rates. This, however, is only a temporary source of employment, for it must be expected that a bad out-turn and high prices will affect private expenditure. The most afflicted portion of the talook, however, is that west of Gadamoor. There the agricultural classes, and they are for the most part poor, and generally cultivate their own fields, subsist by cutting firewood for the railway from the jungles which abound at the foot of the hills forming the boundary of this part of the talook; bandy loads of firewood are cut daily in great numbers

in these jungles, and are taken to the Railway wood contractors. The whole of this part of the talook is dry land, and has suffered considerably; the crops have entirely withered, and cultivation is at a stand-still. The above occupations to which the poorer classes, consisting chiefly of coolies, but including farm laborers who would in ordinary seasons be occupied in cultivation, have now been obliged to resort, in order to earn their livelihood, are extremely precarious, and, with the present high prices of grain, quite inadequate to support them and their families, and the prospect of an increasing influx of labor, with a decreasing supply of employ, renders it quite necessary that employment should be provided by the State. Of the special relief works, which I would recommend for sanction, I shall speak hereafter.

15. CONDITION OF POORER CLASSES AS REGARDS APPEARANCE.—The poorer classes of people may be said to be now living on half rations; but their appearance is not materially altered. They still have a well-to-do look, and there is not that emaciation of form, or wretchedness of aspect, which indicates famine, or severe bodily distress.

16. PUBLIC HEALTH.—The public health in those parts of the talook which I have visited still continues to be good, and report confirms this statement as regards the talook generally. Two cases of cholera were reported to have proved fatal at Gudiathum, both of which were, however, traced by Mr. Hargreaves (the Apothecary now accompanying Mr. Robinson, Acting Member of Board of Revenue, in his tour in this district) to the Trinamalay feast. There was slight fever and small-pox here and there, but this was by no means prevalent in any part of the talook.

17. CRIME.—There has been no increase of crime owing to scarcity and high prices.

18. HEALTH OF FARM STOCK.—The cattle too were free from disease. Out of all the villages I inspected, in only two\* was there any loss from cattle disease.

\* Vaithanangkuppam and Kavanur.

A mild form of sickness (Komari) was also reported to be prevalent at Lateri, but the health of the farm stock throughout the talook was good.

19. PASTURAGE.—Pasturage throughout the talook is extremely scanty, and this is one of the heaviest afflictions the ryot has to put up with.

Pasturage has become so scarce that the ryots have already begun to drive their cattle to the hills for grazing. This is not generally done until April or May, when the face of the country is not more burnt up and withered than it is now. In Kondasamudram and other places near Gudiathum, the cattle are turned out to graze on the withered crops. In Kathavalum and other villages to the west, the crops, which are all but withered, are reaped, not so much for the sake of the produce, so infinitesimally scanty is it, as for forage for the cattle.

But another difficulty presents itself: the hill springs and ponds, at which the cattle are usually watered, are fast becoming dry.

Three reservoirs adjoining the hills to which the cattle are driven are now in process of construction, at Gudumpallai north of Satghur, Mudukuppam on the Synegunta and Palmanair road, and at Champallai on the road to Beiredipulli, and will be of incalculable benefit to the people and farm stock.

The cattle of the villages near the hills are generally driven there for pasturage in the morning, and back to the village at night. But in villages situated at some distance from the hills, the cattle are turned out on the hills to graze by the month together. In ordinary years there is a good supply of straw and forage stored up for cattle in the villages. This year the stock of fodder is extremely small, especially in dry villages, and the sale of bundles of grass as food for cattle affords a livelihood to a considerable number of poor people. Unless we have some rain shortly, very extensive loss of cattle must be expected to ensue; and this will materially diminish the capital of the country, and affect the prospects of the ryots for years to come.

The ryots are anticipating this misfortune, as they are anxious to get rid of their cattle; and there being no general demand for them, the value has decreased fifty per cent. within the last three months.

20. SUPPLY OF WATER.—Of the water supply for irrigation purposes I have already spoken, but in some parts of the talook the supply of water for drinking purposes was becoming so low as to give cause for serious anxiety. The wells in the cluster of villages situate in the south-western corner of the talook, which I have characterized as the most afflicted part of it, are nearly dry, and the people will shortly have to go long distances for water to drink.

I inspected all the villages in that part of the talook, and have selected a number of old wells, which should be cleared out, to afford the ryots and their

† Ponnampalli.  
Karapatt.  
Iechampatt.  
Adangaldurgam.  
Muttalam.  
Molasamudram.

cattle a supply of water in the coming hot months. In the villages† noted marginally, arrangements, as you are aware, have been made for the immediate commencement of these works, and they are probably by this time being execut-

ed by the able-bodied poor of the villages in this neighbourhood. There was a similar scarcity of water at Erakampat west, and at Gullampallai north of Satghur, and at Melmoil, in the centre of the talook. Similar works have also been undertaken in each of these localities. The above places excepted, there is no fear of immediate inconvenience to the people for want of water to drink; but as few wells contain more than one-fourth of their usual quantity of water at this time of the year, it is probable that increasing drought may render it necessary to deepen and clear out many more wells in the course of the next three months.

The necessity of undertaking such works as these can only be determined as the season advances.

21. STOCKS OF GRAIN, MARKET SUPPLY, &c.—The chief markets in the talook are at Gudiathum, Gadambur, Satghur, and Trivallum, at each of which places a weekly fair is held.

In the villages situated within a radius of seven or eight miles round Gudiathum, the villagers are not accustomed to store up grain for home consumption. They obtain their weekly supplies at the Tuesday fair at Gudiathum, to which place, as well as to Vellore, they take the produce of their land for sale.

In the villages surrounding Satghur, the better class of people have a stock of grain sufficient to last them two months, but there are no stocks whatever in the

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hands of the poor, who obtain supplies at the Monday fair at Konkanpallai, (Satghur), and from the merchants of Peranamput.

In Ragakal, Reddimankuppam, Alanjikuppam, Sendatur, and the other villages situate in the fertile strip of country between Melpatti and Gadambur, the ryots have a fair stock of grain; but those residing in the villages beyond and to the south-west have none, and depend for supply on the market at Petambur, in Vellore talook.

Very small quantities of grain are stored in the villages in the other parts of the talook, but the ryots have not as yet consumed the grain kept for seed.

Supplies are obtained from Vellore, Gudiathum, and Trivalum. The Tuesday fair at Gudiathum is always largely attended, and the price list of the talook is made out from the sale results of each weekly fair.

Per Madras garce.

| Sorts.             | Week ending 6th December 1867. | Week ending 31st December 1867. | Week ending 20th December 1867. | Week ending 27th December 1867. | Week ending 3rd January 1868. |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                    | RS. A. P.                      | RS. A. P.                       | RS. A. P.                       | RS. A. P.                       | RS. A. P.                     |
| Rice, 1st sort ... | 426 11 0                       | 426 11 0                        | 65 7 1                          | 409 9 7                         | 426 11 0                      |
| Do., 2nd do. ...   | 409 9 7                        | 409 9 7                         | 379 4 5                         | 393 13 6                        | 409 9 7                       |
| Raggy ...          | 269 7 6                        | 269 7 6                         | 320 0 0                         | 284 7 1                         | 284 7 4                       |
| Cholum ...         | 320 0 0                        | 321 0 0                         | 320 0 0                         | 284 7 1                         | 320 0 0                       |
| Cumbu ...          | 260 7 9                        | 269 7 6                         | 320 0 0                         | 256 0 0                         | 269 7 6                       |
| Horse-gram ...     | 213 5 5                        | 213 5 4                         | 232 11 3                        | 204 12 10                       | 204 12 10                     |

five weeks; the prices of grain in the week ending January 3rd 1868, (with the exception of Raggy, in which there was a slight rise,) corresponding with those quoted in the week ending 6th December 1867.

In the week ending 27th December, it will be seen that there was a considerable decrease in prices, with the exception of second sort rice, in which there was a slight increase. In that week importations of grain were received from Madras, which caused the fall in prices. From this sensitiveness of the Gudiathum market, it is evident that the local stock of grain is not by any means extensive.

23. REMEDIAL MEASURES.—It being then an undoubted fact that a large proportion of the agricultural laboring poor, spread over the greater part of the talook, are now deprived, owing to a serious loss of farm produce consequent on an almost total failure of monsoon, of their ordinary and legitimate employment and means of livelihood; and that the prospects of the season instead of being likely to ameliorate the condition of the poorer classes, will probably have the opposite tendency of protracting their distress, and rendering more precarious their means of subsistence; and that, as these means diminish, there is every likelihood of the supply of labor\* increasing and becoming more and more disproportionate to the ordinary demand, it becomes necessary to take extraordinary measures, by creating an artificial demand, for placing the laboring poor in a position to keep themselves and their families from starvation. I am far from expressing an opinion that there will be any necessity for establishing relief-houses, at least for some time to come; an adequate means of livelihood supplied by the Government in the form of wages to the able-bodied poor for the performance of useful public works suitable to their condition and powers, is all that seems to be now necessary.

\* By this term, hands seeking employ is meant.

22. PRICES.—The marginal statement shews the prices as they stood in the four weeks of December and in the first week of this month. The prices which continue high fluctuate considerably, but have not risen during the last

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24. RELIEF WORKS.—I therefore have the honor to submit a list of works which are distributed over the talook in such a way as to provide employment for, and thereby afford relief to, those who stand most in need of it. This list embraces, irrigation, communication, and petty miscellaneous works. The works under the head of "Irrigation repair" and "Communication," find place in the List of works which were forwarded with your letter of the 20th December 1867, No. 976, and which you recommend for execution; and having inspected the greater number of them and visited those parts of the talook in which they are situated, I am able, with reference to the requirements of unemployed labor in the different localities, to concur with you as to the desirability of affording relief, by placing these works in hand. In addition to these larger works, I have selected a number of small repairs, the execution of which is quite necessary. The estimates were made by myself in communication with the different villagers, and are no doubt rough, but will at least cover the expenditure required in each case. This list corresponds with the budget which has already been forwarded to Government by Mr. Robinson, Acting Member of the Board of Revenue, with whom and yourself I have been in personal communication regarding it.

In the column of remarks I have entered the names of villages from which labor requisite for carrying out each work will probably be drawn, but it is impossible to estimate, with any degree of accuracy, the number of laborers available for each.

Excepting the petty miscellaneous works, for the commencement of which you have already issued orders, and which are probably by this time being carried out, I am of opinion that all the irrigation repair and miscellaneous works should be commenced at once.

Of the items under head of "Communication," I think No. 1, viz., the road work between Gudiathum and Katpadi, might be postponed. The repair to the

\* NOTE.—I am of opinion that an estimate for the repair of the sluices of this tank should also be framed, and the whole work might then be carried out, to the benefit of the ryots, and improvement of the revenue.

Vaithanangkuppam and Kilvalechoor spring channels (Nos. 1 and 3), to the bund\* and calingulah of the Kavanur tank (No. 4), to the small tank at Lateri No. 6, and spring channel of Calamput, No. 10, on the list of irrigation repairs, and the repair to the Durma tope well at Melmoil, No. 19, and the Picchanoor Gunta work, No. 22 in the list of miscellaneous works, will afford ample occupation for the next three months to the unemployed laboring poor of the villages lying in the valley through which the road passes. The repairs to this road could of course be undertaken as soon as the labor of the neighbourhood requires more extensive employment. The same is the case as regards Item No. 4, viz., repair of the road from Satghur to Ambur, which, though a useful work, is not, with reference to the present condition of the people, an emergent one.

I also append a statement of some of the works which have come under my observation during my recent tour, and which commend themselves to me as worthy of adoption. Those works, or as many of them as are necessary, might be undertaken, should the condition of the people depending on the aspects of the coming season demand a more liberal and extensive outlay in the form of relief works, than that entered in the budget already submitted for sanction.

TALOOK.

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List of Irrigation, Communication, and Petty Miscellaneous works.—(Concluded.)

| Talook | Situation.         | Village.    | Name of work.                                                      | Special allotment. | Remarks.—Villages from which labor is likely to be obtained.                                               |
|--------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1      | 2                  | 3           | 4                                                                  | 5                  | 6                                                                                                          |
|        |                    |             | <i>Petty Miscellaneous works.—(Concluded.)</i>                     | rs.                |                                                                                                            |
|        | West of Gudiathum. | Morasapalli | To complete the well sunk during the late famine.                  | 60                 | Morasapalli.                                                                                               |
|        | East of do.        | Pichanoor   | Pichanoor guntah                                                   | 2,000              | Gudiathum, Kallapadi, Putani, Ramali, Pakum, Kondasamudram, Alathur, Nagal, Cheruvanki, Kullurpettai, &c., |
|        | West of do.        | .....       | Gravelling (with small bridge) approach from Satghur.              | 240                |                                                                                                            |
|        |                    |             | Total Petty Miscellaneous works...                                 | 5,840              |                                                                                                            |
|        |                    |             | Total of Irrigation, Communication, and Petty Miscellaneous works. | 19,560             |                                                                                                            |

(Signed) W. H. COMYN,  
Acting Sub-Collector.

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

Of these Petty Miscellaneous works the following numbers are more urgent and should be put in hand at once.

| Nos. | Special allotment. | Amount for which money order is now sent. |
|------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 3    | 150                | 75                                        |
| 4    | 250                | 100                                       |
| 6    | 250                | 100                                       |
| 9    | 100                | 50                                        |
| 10   | 250                | 100                                       |
| 13   | 50                 | 25                                        |
| 12   | 200                | 100                                       |
| 14   | 250                | 150                                       |
| 16   | 200                | 100                                       |
| 17   | 200                | 100                                       |
| 18   | 200                | 100                                       |
| 19   | 150                | 100                                       |
| 20   | 100                | 50                                        |
| 21   | 60                 | 30                                        |

(Signed) W. H. COMYN,  
Acting Sub-Collector.

B.

Supplemental list of works.—Vide paragraph 24 of the Report on Gudiathum Talook.

1. Repair of the Sirdar Khan and Greeme Saib tank bunds, and constructing a supply channel from Kondunavathi river south of Moodikuppam.
2. Raising bund of Paranamputt tank.
3. Clearing a second spring-channel at Vythanangkuppam.
4. Repair of sluices to Alathur tank, and diversion of supply channel from bund to the further part of the bed.
5. Clearing and widening Arakuttai spring-channel.
6. Repair of Alatur "Oteri" tank bund.
7. Clearing supply channel, and strengthening bund of Periaravakam Hissa tank.
8. Clearing and deepening spring-channel in the same village.
9. Repair of road from Gudiathum to Gadambur.
10. Repair to old square tank "Annajikolam" at Kathuvalum.
11. Do. do. Pachanapalli.
12. Do. do. "Savadiammah kolum," Karambur.
13. Do. do. Komaramungalum.
14. Clearing spring-channel, do.
15. Clearing and widening spring-channel at Karambur.
16. Repairing bund of Manayagarkuppam small tank.
17. Strengthening bund and repairing sluice of Shanakuppam tank.
18. Repair to bund of Dhalavanaik tank in Shanakuppam.
19. Repair to square tank ("Gosazi") at Machamputt.
20. Deepening and widening spring-channel at Balur.
21. Repairing spring-channel head, Kempusamudram.
22. Digging and repairing "Samarao" square tank at Satghur.
23. Do. "Vaniemkolam" tank on Gudiathum road, near Katpadi.

(Signed) W. H. COMYN,  
Acting Sub-Collector.

= do

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

No. 375.

ORDER THEREON, 18th February 1868, No. 458.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government have perused with much interest Mr. Comyn's very full report on the state of the Gudiat-tum talook when inspected by him in December and January, but they do not find that any further orders are now needed from them than those already passed on the reports received from Mr. W. Robinson.
2. The total of the estimate included in Mr. Comyn's list A., viz. Rs. 20,745, very nearly corresponds with the amount (Rupees 20,060) proposed by Mr. Robinson, and already sanctioned.
3. Orders will be issued in the Department Public Works for the repair of the sluices of the Kavanur tank, referred to in paragraphs 9 and 24 of the Report.
4. The works included in list B. seem well selected, and suitable for the employment of the laboring poor should those already sanctioned prove inadequate for the purpose in view; but the Government trust that the late fall of rain, which must have afforded sensible alleviation of much of the more pressing distress, may tend also to revive the ordinary demand for labor, and render unnecessary more extended operations at public expense.
5. Should this, however, unfortunately not prove to be the case, the great point will have been gained, that no time will be lost in selecting the field for further operations, and the discretion with which Government have already vested the Collector will enable him, in anticipation of more precise sanction, to prevent any interruption in the relief works so long as a necessity for continuing them may prevail. Should he find it necessary to undertake the works in list B., he will report to Government the probable amount of expenditure to be incurred on them.
6. The Collector will convey to Mr. Comyn the thanks of Government for the evident care with which he conducted the investigation that was entrusted to him.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of North Arcot.  
,, the Accountant General.  
,, the Department Public Works.  
,, W. Robinson, Esq.  
,, the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Revenue Department  
N. 458.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.  
under date the 18th February 1868.

Read the following  
letter from the Collr.  
of North Arcot.

Submitting Mr. Comyn's  
report on the present  
state of the Gudiat-tum  
Taluk & requesting Govt.  
recommendations to  
Govt. for the acceptance  
of all the projects in  
the two lists submitted

Here enter 20th Jan 1868.

The Govt. have  
perused with much  
interest Mr. Comyn's  
very full report  
on the state of the  
Gudiat-tum Taluk  
when inspected by  
him in Decr. and  
January, but they  
= do

N.  
W.R.

for

do not find that any  
further orders are  
now needed from  
them than those  
already passed on the  
reports received  
from Mr. W. Robinson

The total of the  
Estimate included  
in Mr. Conyn's list  
A. viz. Rs. 20,745 very  
nearly corresponds  
with the amount  
(Rs. 20,060) proposed  
by Mr. Robinson  
and already sanctioned

Orders will be  
issued in the D.P. No.  
for the repair of the  
sluices of the Kavanur  
Tank referred to  
in Paras 9 & 24 of  
the

the report:

The works  
included in list B  
seem well selected  
and suitable for  
the employment of  
the labouring poor  
should those already  
sanctioned prove  
inadequate for the  
purpose <sup>object</sup> in view, but  
the Govt. trust that  
the late fall of rain  
which must have  
afforded sensible  
alleviation of much  
of the more pressing  
distress may tend  
also to ~~show~~ <sup>reduce</sup> the  
ordinary demand  
for labor and  
render unnecessary  
~~more~~ <sup>more</sup> extended operations  
= at

at public expense.

Should this however unfortunately not prove to be the case, the great point will have been gained, that no time will be lost in selecting the field for further operations and the discretion with which Govt. have already acted the Colls will enable him, in anticipation of more precise sanction to prevent any interruption in the relief work, so long as a necessity for continuing them may prevail.

The

Shd. he find it necessary I understand to take the books in List. B. he will report to Govt. the probable amount of expenditure & be incurred on them.

The collector will convey to Mr. Comyn the thanks of Govt. for the evident care with which he conducted the investigation ~~that~~ which was entrusted to him.

2 Copies Letter Comy to Govt. to him -

1 Copy to Acett Genl. -

1 " " D.P. 10 -

1 Copy Mr. Robinson Esq. -

14 Copies D.P. of Revue -

By J. Holding

Reported to England  
D 20<sup>th</sup> February N. 9 of 1868

Revenue 1868 Dept.  
No of Govt. for February

Mr. Conington  
Report on the  
N. 458. Taking

No of the Madras Govt.  
D 18<sup>th</sup> February 1868.

No. 192  
1-4-12/67  
356-57  
22-1-68.

No P. M. Dept. D  
12 May 1868 No. 1619

N. 374. 375.