

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	489	Press Mis.
445-46. Dated	21-2-	1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled*11/2*
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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st February 1868.*

No. 445. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th February 1868.

Read the following letter from the Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Bonavaram, 7th February 1868 :—

1. I regret that I was not able to send the usual telegram in the beginning of the week, owing to the defective state of the local returns, and delay in their receipt caused by my absence from head-quarters on Jummabundy.

2. RAIN-FALL.—The local returns are even yet very meagre and incomplete, but they suffice to shew that the recent rains have not at all been as general and abundant as might be inferred from my last reports. In the Wallajah talook (from

Talooks.	Last week ending 27th January 1868.			This week ending 3rd February 1868.		
	IN.	T.	D.	IN.	T.	D.
Chittoor	0	6	88	.....	.....	.....
Chendragherry ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Palmanair	2	5	0	.....	.....	.....
Gudiattum	3	5	0	.....	.....	.....
Vellore ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Polur	4	1	25	.....	.....	.....
Wandewash	3	9	40	.....	.....	.....
Arcot	3	9	38	.....	.....	.....
Wallajah ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kungundy ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Average	2	8	7	.....	.....	.....

which those reports were made) and in those of Arcot and Wandewash heavy rain fell during the 23rd, 24th, and 25th January. In the margin is shewn the rain-fall in all the talooks so far as it has been rendered. At Chittoor the rain-fall could not be registered, owing to some accident to the rain-gauge.

From Polur the actual rain-fall is not stated in the Tahsildar's report, and at Cooppum, in the Kungundy Zemindary, there never has been a rain-gauge.

3. The reports, however, shew clearly that the heaviest rain fell in the Wallajah, Arcot, and Wandewash talooks, and on the eastern side of the Vellore talook. In the Polur and Gudiattum talooks the fall was much lighter, and in the western highlands and lowland country, north of the valley of the Palar, there were mere showers which moistened the ground to the depth of from four to eight inches, but brought no supply to any of the tanks, nor sent any flood down the streams.

In the Wallajah, Arcot, and Wandewash talooks, most of the tanks received water, varying, according to circumstances, from half to two and a half months' supply.

4. There were no freshes in the Palar and Ponna rivers, but some surface drainage from the adjoining country found its way into those rivers near the anicuts, and passed down the main channels which lead from them. There were small freshes in the Cheyar and Secar rivers.

5. CULTIVATION AND CROPS.—The rain, however, has given a fresh stimulus to agriculture, which had almost ceased throughout the district. The cultivation of dry crop has been resumed, and Cholum, Chilli, Tobacco, Gingelly-oil, have been put down to a considerable extent in the finer and moister red soils.

In wet and dry lands, which have well irrigation to fall back on, Raggy, Navara, and Manakutti paddy have been planted out, and every patch of ground where there is a reasonable prospect of the water supply holding out has either been planted out or is now under the plough. In the talooks situated in and south of

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the Palar valley, much wet crop, which would otherwise have inevitably perished, will now be recovered, although the out-turn naturally will be far below an average in quantity or quality.

6. Above ghaut, the crops wet and dry, reaped during the fortnight, have been scarcely worth cutting, and there have been very heavy losses in sugar-cane.

In the lowland talooks, some Black, Red, and Green Gram has been cut in dry land, and Sambava Pishanum rice crop in wet. The yield in all has been less than half of an average crop.

7. PRICES.—Prices continue stationary. The import in Rice and Raggy during the weeks ending the

Name of Stations received.	From what Station.	Rice.	Paddy.	Raggy.
Sholinghur ...	Madras, &c., places.	B. Mds.	B. Mds.	B. Mds.
Arcot ...		76	97	3,639
Vellore ...		2,266	4,643½	72½
Gudiatum ...		5½	80½	
Ambur... ..		70		
Tirtani ...		118½		
Puthur ...		150		
Tirpathi ...				
Arconum ...				

18th and 25th January were, as may be seen from the table in the margin, considerable. An active trade and partial improvement in agricultural prospects will probably keep prices steady for the present.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH.—With the exception of a few cases of cholera in the Walajah and Arcot talooks, the general health is good.

9. CATTLE.—The late rains have been a great boon as respects the cattle, and remove all present apprehension regarding pasture and water. The farm-stock is generally healthy, although there are here and there outbreaks of murrain reported.

1. Submitted for the information of Government.

2. With reference to the concluding remark in paragraph 2 of the Collector's letter, Mr. Pogson will be requested to supply a Rain Gauge for the Kungundy Sub-Magistrate, and to inform the Board whether he considers that the rain-fall of the country is sufficiently gauged by the existing number of Pluviometers, and, if not, to suggest any additional localities in which he considers that they should be maintained.

No. 446. ORDER THEREON, 21st February 1868, No. 489.

Miscellaneous.

1. Recorded.

2. It is observed that according to the telegram, dated 2nd February 1868, received from the Assistant Collector at Chittoor, the rain-fall in Palmanair talook on 24th and 25th January was five inches, which from the present report would appear to be over-stated.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) F. BRANDT,

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
.. the Relief Committee.
.. W. Robinson, Esq.

Erd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 489 -

Record.

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Relief Committee of Board of Revenue
1 Copy Relief Committee
1 Copy W. Robinson Esq.

21st Feb'y/68

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To the Board
,, the Relief Committee.
,, W. Robinson, Esq.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

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