

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	508	Press Mis.
<i>483-84</i> Dated	24.2.	18 68.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 483. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th February 1868.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Nellore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Nellore, 4th February 1868, No. 279:—

I have the honor to submit a weekly season report of the Nellore District from 12th to 18th January 1868.

1. RAIN.—None during the week; stock of water in tanks accordingly running low, and in the Udayagiri talook the want has been reported to be much felt by both man and beast.

2. STATE OF CROPS.—Harvest in the anicut villages generally favorable. The partial produce of the wet crops, sown in the early stages of the season, is being reaped: subsequent cultivation suffering for want of timely and sufficient rains. Jonna, Variga, Bengal gram, and other dry crops are growing tolerably well. Ariga is withering in some parts, and the lamp-oil seed is to some extent blighted.

3. PRICES.—Slight rise in Kavali, Nellore, Gudur, Kanigiri, Udayagiri, and Atmakur talooks; stationary in Rapur and Kandukur, and falling in Ongole, owing to imports from the Kistna District.

4. PUBLIC HEALTH.—Generally good: small-pox, ague, and fever appearing only in a few villages of Kandukur, Kanigiri, Nellore, Gudur, and Rapur talooks; generally of a mild form.

5. CATTLE.—Some deaths reported in the Gudur talook from cattle murrain. It prevails in a good many villages of the Nellore talook, and in a few in Kandukur. It is subsiding in the Rapur talook. Pasturage scarce in the Udayagiri talook.

6. Mr. C. J. Knox, Assistant Collector, has sent in a report of his recent tour through the talooks of Atmakur and Udayagiri, from which I make the following extracts.

7. ATMAKUR.—In by far the greater portion of the talook dry crops, especially Jonna, predominate. Taking an area of twenty villages, Mr. Knox observed that of wet lands in possession seventy-four per cent. are cultivated, but only forty-two per cent. with rice this year, mainly due to the difficulty of getting a sufficient supply of water for rice. “I observed that the little rice there, was in fair order, but “apparently of only two or three months’ growth, and requiring, therefore, a further “supply of water for varying periods from one to three months. The water, however, “I found not to be available, as a large number of the tanks are quite dry, or have “from ten to twenty days’ water in them. From these considerations I am forced to “the conclusion that over sixty per cent. of the rice cultivation will perish if there “is not a further supply of rain.”

8. With reference to the dry lands, Mr. Knox observes that in the area he has taken, ninety-six per cent. of the occupied lands are cultivated, and that sixty-three per cent. is given up to Jonna. The Jonna harvest, he thinks, will be a good one, even without more rain. The raggy, he thinks, requires another inch of rain to bring it to perfection. The Ariga he found withered and stunted. Grain and oil-seeds a good deal blighted. The garden crops in good order, the wells for the most part being sufficiently filled. He thus concludes—“In spite of the threatened failure “of the wet crops and of some of the dry, I think there is no fear of anything “approaching to a famine, nor even of any great want of food, as the Jonna, which

Succed."

Udayagiri-g. Mr. Knox was only able to visit a few Villages in this Taluq which is chiefly a dry one. Here again he found that of the dry land in possession 65 per cent was devoted to Sonma. "The question therefore of famine" he writes "in this part of the Udayagiri Taluq would mainly depend upon the success or failure of the Sonma crop. This is about two months growth and varies in height from 1 to 3 feet; but there is a considerable portion of it only just coming above ground and some very blighted looking. One or two inches of rain would doubtless revive the whole crop but without it the prospect of a good harvest does not seem at all certain; & looks as if it would wither the remainder may be brought on by the dew." I would only add that the portion of Udayagiri Taluq visited by Mr. Knox is the portion where the crops are most favorable. Further west the accounts are very gloomy.

10. As I have commenced the Settlement this year, I would request the Board's sanction to apply the remission rules to the dry lands of the District in any Villages in which this course may appear to be necessary, i.e. the full assessment being remitted on all dry lands left waste and a percentage remission on all lands the crops of which have not come

14 Copies to the Secy of the Board
1 Copy to the Secy of the Committee
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21st July / 68