

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	765	Press ~~Off~~
⁴²²⁻³ Dated	25-3-	1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th March 1868.*

No. 422. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th March 1868,
No. 1,963.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Salem, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue,
dated 16th March 1868, No. 69 :—

24th January 1868.

1. Since I have last had the honour of addressing the Board on the state of the season in this district, every talook has been visited either by myself or by my European Subordinates, and their state ascertained as accurately as possible.

2. The Sub-Collector, Mr. Price, has been all over his Division, and Mr. Leggatt, the Deputy Collector of the Namkul Division, has inspected most of the important parts in his charge. My Head Assistants, Messrs. Daniel and Best, and the Assistants, Messrs. Woodroffe and Lee Warner, have made a protracted tour through the Tripatur and Uttengherry Talooks, while the Ahtur and Salem Talooks were inspected by myself besides my Assistant, Mr. Irvine, who examined and reported upon the state of some of the villages in the Ahtur range.

(S. and N. B. sides.)

3. The usual Punjab season in this district begins in March and April. The rains in these months of 1867 were such as to encourage the Punjab cultivation extensively, but the subsequent failure affected the crops somewhat seriously. The chief Punjab products are Raggy and Cholum, and the outturn of these has scarcely been one-half the average yield. In the talooks which have suffered the most, namely, Uttengherry, Tripatur, Kistnagherry, and the Senkerrydroog Sub-division of the Trichengode Talook, the outturn has not exceeded two-fifths, if so much; as for pulse crops, such as Dhall, &c., the failure has been very considerable.

4. The Punjab season begins generally in July and August, but there having been no rain to fill tanks till the end of September, the Punjab cultivation actually commenced only in October. The supply which the tanks received in September did not last over three months, and the consequence was that in January all the standing crops were either perishing or had perished; but the heavy fall of rain on the 25th of January and on the following two days averted the impending danger and saved much which would otherwise have entirely become shavy.

5. In the Salem Talook, the Jummahbundy of which I have just finished, I remitted Rupees 9,000 on account of Punjab waste and shavy, and the Sub-Collector had under one tank alone remitted Rupees 1,000. The waste and shavy in the other talooks will be scrutinized and dealt with under the rules. It is the Punjab shavy, however, which requires consideration under present circumstances. The Punjab in the whole district is only 70,000 acres, while the Punjab is ten lacs of acres, and is chiefly held by the poorer classes of people. It will be seen by a reference to the rent roll, that out of the total number of puttahs, namely, 2,05,399, 1,43,436 are held by those who pay under ten Rupees. These are certainly no capitalists. They live from hand to mouth, and what they grow is for their own consumption and not for profit. If they sell a portion of their produce, it is chiefly for meeting the Government demand. It would be very harassing to these petty landholders, if the rules in regard to Punjab remissions are not relaxed in their favour in a season like the present. I am perfectly satisfied that the outturn of the crops (dry) has not exceeded half, and that in several instances the returns have been *nil*. It would be altogether wrong to require those who have thus lost their chief sources of support to pay the Government demands. It would simply ruin them. Our great object should be to place the poor ryot in such a position as to enable him to re-commence his cultivation, and this certainly cannot be done if we deal harshly with him. The talooks which are most in need of consideration are Uttengherry, Tripatur, and Kistnagherry. I laid the whole matter before Mr. Robinson, of your Board, and he has fully approved of the measures I have adopted.

6. I must now refer to the measures necessary for the relief of those suffering from the adverse character of the season. There is no necessity for the establishment of any Relief Houses, all that is now wanted is to find employment for those who are in need of it, and this is at present chiefly requisite in the talooks of Tripatur, Uttengherry, Kistnagherry, and Senkerrydroog. In Tripatur, there are two or three important Local Fund works under progress.

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In Uttengherry, I found it necessary to advance 2,000 Rupees from Local Funds to provide labour to the distressed in certain villages in that talook. These villages are situated on the line of the road between Salem and Tripator, known as the Nunjavady ghaut road. I have put the repair of this road, which was very much wanted, in hand. My Local Fund Budget for the approaching official year contains an allotment to the amount of Rupees 70,850, but as the whole amount will not be available at once, and as it is distributed over the whole district, I request that the Board will be pleased to obtain the sanction of Government for a special grant of 30,000 Rupees to be expended upon petty irrigation and other works in localities where distress may appear. Enclosed is a list of the works which I propose should be undertaken at once from the special grant. These are situated in the talooks above alluded to, and are chiefly irrigation works. They have been chosen not only to suit the capabilities of the poor, but also with an eye to their usefulness to Government. A list of works for the Kistnagherry Talook will follow. I might as well here state, that out of the grant of 50,000 Rupees allowed in 1866 for relief works, only Rupees 8,497 were spent, and the balance was re-credited to Government.

7. In regard to public health, I am glad to say that Cholera has entirely disappeared from the Salem town, and I mainly attribute this to the exertions of the Municipal Commissioners. It now prevails in the Ahtur and Namakul Talooks. There is not much cattle disease, but the want of pasture and water is beginning to be felt in the Trichengode, Kistnagherry, and Uttengherry Talooks. If no rain falls there within a month, it will become a serious matter; but I have reason to hope a downpour before long, as the clouds have been gathering for the last few days.

8. I wrote to you a couple of days back, (No. 63,) and hope the Board will sanction the request therein made as soon as possible, as the settlement is now being carried on in the talooks mainly requiring assistance by Punjab remission.

Enclosure No. 1

Abstract.—Budget showing the special works proposed for certain talooks in the Salem District.

1. Submitted for the information of Government.
2. The Board have already, in their Proceedings dated 16th March 1868, sanctioned the application of the Remission Rules to the unirrigated or 'Punyah' lands of the district.
3. They now request the sanction of Government to a special grant of Rupees 30,000 for the purpose of providing labour for the able-bodied poor. It will be observed that the Collector has already submitted an estimate for works costing upwards of Rupees 28,000.

No. 423. Order thereon, 25th March 1868, No. 765.

Miscellaneous.

The proposed special grant of Rs. 30,000 for relief works in the more suffering parts of the Salem District is sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

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

By S. T. Augustin.

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(A true Copy and Extract.)

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Salem.

to W. Robinson, Esq., C. S. I.,

Additional Member to the Board of Revenue on special duty.

Requesting sanction for a special grant of Rupees 30,000, for providing labour for able bodied poor, in Salem District.

Exd. T. Cartledge.

No. 1,963.

Dated 19th March 1868.

1868. Department.
Bo of Govt for Salem

No. 936.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Secretary.

Referred to England
By 30th March 1868