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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

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Read the following :—

No. 565.

MEMORANDUM.

1. SOUTH ARCOT.—I began my investigation into the condition of the crops and people in the northern talooks of Coast Talooks. South Arcot in the Tindevanum Talook, having made some inquiry into the condition and prospects of the sea-board talooks at Cuddalore, and in the neighbourhood of Pondicherry. Mr. Lister has likewise made complete examination in regard to Tindevanum. The result of these inquiries leads me to believe that there is no cause at present for anxiety in respect to the sea-board talooks of this district.

2. A large proportion of the cultivation in these talooks is on irrigated lands, and, as a rule, the population is well to do, and there must be considerable accumulated agricultural profits to enable them to tide over an occasional unprofitable year, such as the present one. Labor, too, can be more readily obtained in the large coast towns and villages which are sufficiently numerous in these more developed talooks.

3. There is no doubt that in this year these talooks have suffered like the rest of the adjacent country, and much less human food has been produced than is ordinarily the case. The crops were put down late, and the yield suffered proportionately. The out-turn of crops on wet lands will not exceed two-thirds of the yield of an average year. A considerable portion is returned actually withered (Shavi), and a still larger area will produce a very small crop. For a month or two to come it will be impossible to form any definite opinion as to what will be the condition of the people in these parts as the season advances; but there is no cause for immediate anxiety. The dry crops, so far as I can learn, have suffered seriously throughout the coast districts; but the proportion they bear to the whole cultivation, and to the ordinary food of the people, is less than it is in the inland talooks; disaster, therefore, to this class of cultivation is not so serious a matter.

	Holdings.	Waste.	Cultivation.	Withered.
	Cawnies.	Cawnies.	Cawnies.	Cawnies.
Wet ..	16,214	1,430	14,784	66
Dry...	60,212	6,400	53,812	149
Total	76,426	7,830	68,596	215

N.B.—The head "Withered" is not an ascertained fact. The cultivation accounts are in course of preparation, and will present a more correct view of the loss under this head.

N.B.—In this talook the Revenue servants have adhered strictly to the Shavi Rules, and a large quantity of crops, which has returned little more than the seed, has not been shown as Shavi. talook is estimated by the Curnums and Tahsildar at very little, if anything over half the yield of a bumper season; perhaps two-thirds of the yield of an ordinary year has barely been reached in the rice crops. Under this head of wet cultivation, there is considerable further loss from the comparatively small area of

4. TINDEVANUM TALOOK.—The old talook of Tindevanum, excluding the Gingee Division, affords probably a fair specimen of the coast talooks of the district. Of the wet lands, 8·8 per cent. is returned as untilled, chiefly from want of water; little actual withered crop (Shavi) is shown in the accounts, so far as they had been prepared up to the time of my visiting the talook; but a good deal more appeared to be in jeopardy. The out-turn (Kulamudal) of the whole wet cultivation of the coast district of this

land which can be put under second crop, in consequence of the lateness of the first harvest, and the want of water now prevailing.

5. DRY CULTIVATION.—The principal difficulties of a year of this kind arise from the very general failure of the dry crops, on which, it is almost unnecessary to mention, the poorer classes are in a very great measure dependent. Upwards of sixty per cent. of the dry crops in the Tindevanum Division appear to consist of Varagoo, and about ten per cent. of Cumboo. Both of these have suffered very severely, the yield probably not exceeding thirty-five to forty per cent. of that of an ordinary year. The other grains, such as Raggy, Maize, &c., are small in quantity, but likewise very poor in out-turn. Gingelly-oil seed and Horse-grum are almost failures.

6. CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.—The condition of the agricultural population is indicated by the marginal classification of the payers of revenue. Sixty-three per cent. of the whole pay less than 10 Rupees a year, and are, for all practical purposes, laboring cultivators, who are in a great measure dependent on the out-turn of the crops of the year.

N. B.—This statement is for the whole talook, including the Gingee Division. The proportion of small Puttahdars is larger in the Gingee Division than in the Tindevanum Division of the talook.

7. The farm hands in this talook are comparatively well off; they receive subsistence wages throughout the year, and a share (*Kallavassun*) of the crops at the usual rate of 10 in every 120 measures. Wages can probably be obtained more easily in this wealthy part of the district than elsewhere, as before observed. I think, therefore, that we may wait safely for some time, and allow circumstances to develop themselves, with the hope that any measures beyond the fiscal relief already sanctioned, and the ordinary works of the year, may not be urgently required.

8. GINGEE DIVISION.—The inland or Gingee Division of this talook seems to require special notice. It consists of the upper water-sheds of the Kilinjar or Pondicherry river. A large proportion of the cultivation is dry, and the effect of the drought shews itself more as we proceed inland. The rain which fell about the 25th January, seems to have lightened off considerably the further the fall receded from the coast. Here we have a very much larger proportion

	Holdings	Waste	Cultivation	Withered
	Cawnies	Cawnies	Cawnies	Cawnies
Wet	14,749	864	13,885	614
Dry	42,902	6,413	36,489	1,460
Total	57,651	7,277	50,374	2,074

N. B.—There is some doubt in my mind as to the accuracy of these returns, but I have not the means of verifying them.

of the holdings returned as waste (*Bunje*) and withered (*Shavi*), and the results of my own, and Mr. Lister's examination of the cultivation accounts and inquiries amongst the Curmums and Ryots of a large proportion of all the villages of the division, shew that the yield, under all heads, is estimated considerably below that of the coast division of the same talook. The out-turn of the rice crop is generally stated to be not more than one-half that of an average year; the loss would have been very serious, but for wells which are numerous, and to which

no doubt the population is in a great measure indebted for the portion of the wet crop that has been saved. Little or no second crop can be looked for.

9. DRY CROPS.—Under the head of dry crops, there has been a considerable return of withered Varagoo, Cumboo, and Raggy, and from all I can learn the general yield of these crops appears to have been less than one-third of the ordinary out-turn. Gingelly-oil seed, which in this division is a considerable article of cultivation, has suffered even more severely; and Gram will yield little or no crop. In both divisions of this talook Indigo is largely cultivated, and the late rains have proved very favorable for the early sowings of this valuable product; the seeds appear to have germinated freely.

10. CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.—The population of this comparatively dry hilly country is decidedly less wealthy, and with fewer means of meeting the difficulties of the season than the inhabitants of the Tindevanum Division. I am satisfied that pressure will arise amongst the poorer classes of this division, which will have to be met by expenditure on Public Works. I learn from the Range Officer that he has already submitted estimates for minor works of agricultural repair within the division, amounting to about Rupees 4,000. These works should be at once sanctioned and put in hand, and I have requested the Head Assistant, Mr. Lister, to place himself in communication with the Tahsildar and Range Officer, and prepare a list of works to be carefully selected with reference to localities where agricultural losses have been most serious, for submission through the Collector for sanction. These, I think, might be undertaken by the villagers under the superintendence of the Revenue Officers. I have ascertained that the Sub-Magistrate of Gingee has very little to do; he might be entirely relieved of the few magisterial cases that fall to his lot, and be required to devote himself to itinerating amongst the people, and watching the execution of works entrusted to the Monigars of villages. Here, as elsewhere, works to be executed by the villagers themselves must be started by a small advance, for an agricultural population, with very deficient crops, cannot have capital on hand to invest in Public Works which may not be measured up and

N. B.—Since writing the above, I find that the Collector has placed Rupees 4,000 at Mr. Lister's disposal for these purposes.

paid for for some works. Mr. Lister will likewise consult the Range Officer as to the desirability of opening out any local roads. The water-supply in several parts of this division, for both man and beast, is very bad, and I propose to place 1,000 Rupees in the hands of the Head Assistant for employment in clearing out wells, &c., for drinking purposes.

TIAGADROOG,
7th March 1868.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Additional Member of the Board of
Revenue on special duty.

No. 566.

MEMORANDUM.

1. TRINOMALAI TALOOK.—The talook of Trinomalai consists of the upper water-shed of the Cheyar river, and of the tributaries of the Pennair river; the western extremity lies between the Javali and Kullacoorch hills, where it joins on to Uttengerri Talook of the Salem District.

2. I consider that this high dry talook has been more seriously tried by the recent drought than any part of the country I have visited, except the Palmanair and Polar Talooks of the North Arcot District. The Polar and Trinomalai Talooks are one and the same tract of country, and have been similarly affected in every respect. I have travelled over the whole talook, and carefully examined the cultivation accounts and the Curnums and principal Ryots of every part.

3. From the marginal statement, it will be seen that dry cultivation largely

	Holdings.	Cawnies.
Dry ...	69,764	
Wet ...	12,095	

preponderates in this talook. Nearly six-sevenths of the whole area brought under the plough this year consists of dry lands, while the irrigated area

barely exceeds 10,000 acres. The great bulk of the people's food, therefore, is dependent on the falling rain and its seasonable distribution. In both respects the past monsoon was a failure. Rain in sufficient quantity for agricultural purposes did not fall till late in the season. In November, a most important month, there were only a few partial showers, and from early in that month till late in January not a drop fell. The fall of rain on the 24th and 25th January at Trinomalai was less than half of what fell on the coast, and in the west of the talook about Chengam, and at the foot of the Javadi and Kullacoorchi hills (Chekkady), there was showery weather rather than heavy rain. So far as agriculture is concerned, the fall at the end of January seems to have been of very little direct advantage; it supplied water for a fortnight or three weeks to standing crops, but of course could not retrieve the disasters of protracted drought; it relieved the incessant labor at the wells for a time, and left those in a condition, which is enabling the latest sowings to be carried to maturity, and is providing sufficient water for small garden crops, such as Tobacco, Chillies, &c. But the rain was far too late to do good to the dry crops which, in this part of the country, were earlier sown than on the coast. The disaster to crops of all kinds, though varying slightly in degree, has been general and very decided.

4. I have endeavoured to ascertain the opinions of old and experienced Monigars and Curnums as to the conditions of the present season and its agricultural results compared with former seasons of agricultural disaster. They seem to be unanimous in opinion that the season under consideration is very decidedly worse than 1865-66; when, though Cumboo suffered severely from early drought, Varagoo and other dry grains were comparatively much better than in this year, in consequence of the rain that fell in December of that year. This view is borne out by

the Comparative Returns of withered crops as shewn in the margin. The

aged and more intelligent inhabitants seem to think that since the years (Taranna) 1823-24 and (Nundanna) 1833-34 agricultural disaster has never been so complete under all heads, nor the crops on the whole so short. These

two well known famine years are

quoted simply as landmarks. I must not be misunderstood to be drawing the

	1865-66.		1867-68.	
	Cawnies.	Assessment.	Cawnies.	Assessment.
Wet ...	632	4,328	2,079	12,484
Dry ...	Not re- turned.	25,407	24,063	49,775

slightest parallel between the calamities of those seasons and the prospects of the present one. All I mean to say is that the well-informed ryots tell me, and I have seen nothing to lead me to doubt their opinion, that since (Nundanna) 1833-34 the agricultural prospects of no season have been so unfavorable as those of the present year.

Tanks containing six months' supply ...	84
Do. " 4 " " " ...	126
Do. " 3 " " " " ...	272
Do. " 2 " " " " " ...	96
Do. " 1 month's " " " " ...	29
	587

River-channels ...	90
Spring do. ...	12
Anicuts ...	68
Wells ...	8,843

N. B.—I have examined a large number of tanks, and have not seen one which was in good repair.

during the past three months. The January rain gave but from ten to twenty days' water to an ordinary rain-fed tank, and now, with few exceptions, even the most capacious are dry. The river-channels and anicuts are taken from the upper parts of rivers and mountain streams which are themselves generally small; the rivers and streams from which they are derived had no freshes, and but a limited and uncertain supply of water at any time.

6. WET CULTIVATION.—The whole wet cultivation of this talook is confined, as shewn in the margin, to about 12,000

	Full- crop.	Waste.	Cultiva- tion.	Withered crops (Shavi).	
	Cawnies.	Cawnies.	Cawnies.	Cawnies.	Per cent.
Dry ...	69,764	4,097	65,667	24,063	36.6
Wet ...	12,095	1,629	10,466	2,979	19.8
Total...	81,859	5,726	76,133	26,142	34.2

Per cent. on dry ... 5.8.
Do. on wet ... 13.4.

N. B.—In the Shavi Accounts are included crops so raised that not more than the seed sown has been threshed out of the crop when the straw has been gathered for fodder, &c.

as shewn in the margin, to about 12,000 cawnies; of this, 13.4 per cent. remained waste in consequence of want of water, and the returns of withered crop (Shavi) up to date show 2,079 cawnies, or 19.8 per cent., as entire loss. In respect to the out-turn of the remainder, the testimony of the Monigars and Curnums is but partially reliable. In the eastern part of the talook, and down its centre about Trinomalai, Pachel, &c., the out-turn of rice crops may be taken at a half crop. In the north, on the Polar side, wet crops suffered more seriously. The same may be said of the southern villages lying near the Kullacoorchi and Ellaymasur frontier. In the Chengamali gap, between the Javadi and Kullacoorchi hills, the loss has been very serious, with the exception perhaps of the Kuttikotum and Kariamungalam villages where the artificial supply of water is good.

7. DRY CROPS.—The dry crops throughout the talook have turned out very badly. Of the whole area, more than one-third (24,063 cawnies, or 36.6 per cent.) is

returned as absolute loss. Herein, too, there is some variety in the extent of the disaster in different localities. In the eastern parts more has been harvested, but as we proceed west we find that the out-turn falls off. Cumboo has been harvested to some extent, perhaps a fourth to a three-eighth crop. Varagoo and Raggy have failed entirely in several parts, and nowhere present any favorable return; average crops are probably under one-fourth. Gram and Gingelly-oil seed will do little or nothing. Castor-oil is likely to give a better return in most places. The area of land under Tobacco has considerably decreased, and while on the whole there

N. B.—A specimen of the diseased root has been sent to the Horticultural Society, as it is a disease which does not frequently appear.

seem to be promise of a fair yield; the root of the plant has, in many neighbourhood, been attacked by a disease, which is causing anxiety to the growers, and evidently very considerable loss.

8. CHEYAR GORGE VILLAGES.—Certain localities in the western part of the talook require particular mention, as they have suffered with exceptional severity, and will require expenditure on Public Works. The six villages in the Cheyar gorge between the Tenmal-lays and Javadi hills appear to have lost a very large portion of all crops; eighty per cent. are returned entire loss. The crops were saved only on low lying land on the bank of the mountain torrents. Fifty per cent. of the demand (Rupees 1,091) has been collected. No works can be devised within this group of villages, but the people will work on the Paramandal tank and the agricultural works at the entrance of the gorge.

Six villages, population 1,206.

Cultivation.	Withered.	Reaped.
Acres 1,301	1,046	255

N. B.—This acreage is approximate only, as the settlement is still on the ploughs, from 10 to 13 Rupees per plough (quinty in number), and less (eight in number), at 2 Rupees each.

9. The group of villages round Chengam have likewise suffered very seriously, and will require employment.

10. RAVANTAVADI, &c., 23 VILLAGES.—The villages in the gap between the Javadi and the Kullacoorchi hills, and adjoining the Salem District, including the so-called forest (*Pattikad*) villages on the bank of the Pennair, have likewise lost very seriously. The marginal statement shews that Ravantavadi, and twenty-three other villages in the direction of Ravantavadi have lost more than one-half of their whole cultivation, and the out-turn of the rest is very poor. Water too is scarce, and on the whole their prospects are gloomy; they will require work.

Twenty-three villages, population 6,150.

	Hold-ings.	Waste.	Culti-vated.	Withered (Share).	
	Cawnies.	Cawnies.	Cawnies.	Cawnies.	Per cent.
Dry ...	5,001	361	5,240	3,148	60.0
Wet ...	480	83	382	104	27.2
Total ...	6,050	444	5,622	3,252	57.8

7.3 per cent.

11. FOREST (PATTIKAD) VILLAGES.—The condition of the twenty-four (*Pattikad*) forest villages further south, which I have carefully examined, is worse. The

industrious and quiet population (1,320) have little or no wet cultivation, and depend almost entirely on dry crop. The country is rocky, and somewhat inaccessible under its present condition. From the marginal abstract of the cultivation accounts it appears that twelve (11.9) per cent. of the land remained untilled, and 91.4 per cent. of the whole cultivation came to nothing; the out-turn of the rest did not exceed one-fifth of an ordinary crop. Work must be provided for these parts, and I would recommend that a road be carried from Chengam via Ravantavadi right into the (*Pattikad*) forest group of villages. It would prove a most useful forest road, and might be carried through into the Kottaputty valley of the Salem District, and made to meet a road, which I am about to recommend, to open up the Chekkady lapsed Jaghire.

Twenty-four villages, population 1,320.

	Hold-ings.	Waste.	Culti-vated.	Withered (Share).	
	Cawnies.	Cawnies.	Cawnies.	Cawnies.	Per cent.
Dry ...	2,100	247	1,803	1,701	91.2
Wet ...	23	7	21	21	100
Total ...	2,123	254	1,884	1,722	91.4

11.9 per cent.

12. THE CHEKKADY LAPSED JAGHIRE.—No part of this talook has suffered more than the lapsed Jaghire of Chekkady. I have, therefore, carefully examined this part with Mr. Lister, who visited it for a second time. The lapsed Jaghire consists of the tract of country lying between the southern bank of the Pennair river and the slopes of the Kullacoorchi hills. It is naturally a dry and hilly country, but with some fine fertile tracts intervening. It was an ancient Jaghire mismanaged and reduced to a very low condition before it lapsed. The old systems of settlement have continued, and little improvement in administration seems to have been introduced since the estate was resumed. As far as I can learn, no public expenditure has been extended to this out-of-the-way corner of the district. There is no road, and the tanks, &c., are in wretched condition. The marginal abstract of the cultivation accounts of the year shows that nearly the whole cultivation is dry. There are but 235 cawnies of wet land, of which two cawnies only were put down to rice crops this year. Not that there is not a good deal of land which once was, or might now be, converted into wet land, but of the means of water storage have been neglected, and the miserable native system of sharing rice crops equally between Government and the cultivator stifles the interest of the people in their wet lands, discourages them from providing by wells on wet lands against such seasons as the present, and forces them to put down inferior dry crops where rich rice crops might be grown. The above given

12. THE CHEKKADY LAPSED JAGHIRE.—No part of this talook has suffered more than the lapsed Jaghire of Chekkady. I have, therefore, carefully examined this part with Mr. Lister, who visited it for a second time. The lapsed Jaghire consists of the tract of country lying between the southern bank of the Pennair river and the slopes of the Kullacoorchi hills. It is naturally a dry and hilly country, but with some fine fertile tracts intervening. It was an ancient Jaghire mismanaged and reduced to a very low condition before it lapsed. The old systems of settlement have continued, and little improvement in administration seems to have been introduced since the estate was resumed. As far as I can learn, no public expenditure has been extended to this out-of-the-way corner of the district. There is no road, and the tanks, &c., are in wretched condition. The marginal abstract of the cultivation accounts of the year shows that nearly the whole cultivation is dry. There are but 235 cawnies of wet land, of which two cawnies only were put down to rice crops this year. Not that there is not a good deal of land which once was, or might now be, converted into wet land, but of the means of water storage have been neglected, and the miserable native system of sharing rice crops equally between Government and the cultivator stifles the interest of the people in their wet lands, discourages them from providing by wells on wet lands against such seasons as the present, and forces them to put down inferior dry crops where rich rice crops might be grown. The above given

	Holdings.	Cultivation.	Withered crops (Share).	
	Cawnies.	Cawnies.	Cawnies.	Per cent.
Dry ...	11,953	11,045	6,850	62.0
Wet ...	235	2	...	...
Total ...	...	11,047	6,850	62.0

N. B.—If rice be cultivated upon any lands, the crop is shared, the Government taking a full half share of the gross produce. The Government share in kind is then thrown on the hands of the ryot, who has to pay not the local value of the paddy, but the ascertained market prices at Trichinopoly—a market some twenty to thirty miles off. This commutation entails a further loss to the ryots of five to ten per cent. on the value of the Government share. This system of sharing does not apply only to lands irrigated from Government sources, but also to lands where artificial irrigation is provided at the cultivator's own cost.

13. CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.—The population of the Trinomahli Talook is entirely agricultural. The marginal statement shows the classification of the *Puttahdars*; 58·8 per cent. of whom pay revenue under 10 Rupees each. The farm laborers are in a fair position; they

16. **EMPLOYMENT FOR LABORING POOR.**—I have carefully examined, in company with the Head Assistant, the different parts of the country with reference to its requirements for the employment of the people, and I have inspected a number of works, which, we are satisfied, will give profitable employment to the laboring poor where pressure is most likely to arise. I find that the Range Officer has submitted for sanction a Budget for 11,805 Rupees for twenty-six irrigation works in this

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talook. All of which should at once be sanctioned and put in hand. The three largest works included in the list, viz. :—

	RS.
Channel from Eriyoor to Samudrum tank	6,000
Repairing the Chengamah tank with supply channel	1,605
Repairing Kariamungalum tank	800

are important works, and will give labor where very urgently required. The other works are of a minor character, and should be proceeded with at once. In addition I propose (1) a road from Trinomalai right up to the head of the Chekkady valley ; many of the villages between Trinomalai and Chekkady have suffered severely, and within the Chekkady Jaghire work is urgently called for ; (2) a road from Chengum through Ravantavadi into the forest (Pattikad) villages tract. For the commencement of these works, I beg that the Government will provisionally sanction Rupees 5,000, and direct them to be undertaken at once.

17. I am informed that the Range Officer has submitted, for sanction, estimates for two roads :—

(1.) From Trinomalai to Vettavalam.

(2.) Do. do. to Mahaloorpet.

The first would be a useful road, and might be commenced, but the second is not in the opinion of Mr. Lister, the Tahsildar, and myself, of any urgent need ; it might be postponed for the present.

18. Mr. Lister and myself have, in communication with the Tahsildar and Monigars, selected a number of irrigation repairs and minor works, which the people are willing to undertake and execute. But as we have not had the advantage of consulting the Range Officer on these works, I have requested the Head Assistant to take the list and go through it with Mr. Graham, and then to submit the list with the amounts for which the Monigars are prepared to contract for the works. I beg that the Government will provisionally allot Rupees (5,000) five thousand to be expended on these works, as need arises. Mr. Lister will put the list into shape, and submit the details, through the Collector, with as little delay as possible.

19. The Collector has assigned the Jummabundy of this talook to Mr. Lister, whose painstaking investigation of every part of it fits him especially for this important work. His presence will give much confidence to the people as well as to the Revenue servants. I am much indebted to him for his excellent work as my Special Assistant throughout my tour of inspection. The Government may safely entrust any measures that may be required in his hands. The Tahsildar is a young and energetic man, thoroughly acquainted with the wants of his talook, and alive to the interests of his people, and will no doubt acquit himself well should any emergency arise.

20. I am about to meet the Collector, and will carefully discuss with him projects for the permanent development of the talook. For, with the Cheyar river on the north, and the tributaries of the Pennair running through it towards the south, the country has good capabilities for extended irrigation. Both the Eolur and Trinomalai Talooks require increased attention to the water-supply.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Acting Member of Board of Revenue.

Trinacoor,
31st March 1868.

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31st March 1868.*

No. 567.

MEMORANDUM.

1. KULLACOORCHY TALOOK.—Passing from the Trinomalai Talook I collected the Curums and Monigars of the northern portion of the Kullacoorchy Talook at Mahaloor, and carefully examined, with Mr. Gribble and the Tahsildar, the cultivation accounts and those best acquainted with the condition of the crops and the people of that part of the country. The villages of both the Ellavanasur and Kullacoorchy Talooks, which border on the southern portion of the Trinomalai Talook, have suffered very generally, although not perhaps quite in the same degree as the villages in the latter talook. The wet crops are better irrigated, and have produced a better out-turn, but the yield of the dry crops is very poor indeed. Cumboo suffered least, and there may be a half crop ; Varagoo and Raggy are very poor, but I hope better than in the Trinomalai Talook, for, south of the Pennair river, there is a decidedly better soil, and the out-turn of the seed sown is freely admitted to be some fifteen or twenty per cent. larger than the yield which characterizes the Trinomalai Talook. The assessment on dry land is high, and very exceptionally so in the large number of villages interspersed throughout the northern parts of the Kullacoorchy Talook, which were included in the ancient (now lapsed) Jaghire known by the name of the Kassim Khan Jaghire. Here no doubt much consideration will be necessary in fixing the settlement of the year.

2. Further south and about the centre of the talook (Tiagadroog, Kullacoorchy, &c.) the conditions of the agricultures of the year are decidedly better ; more rain fell under the bed of the Kullacoorchy hills, than fell further north in the Trinomalai Talook, which is situated in the gap between the Kullacoorchy and Javadi hills. Showers seemed to have reached this part of the country, which did not affect the Trinomalai Talook, or the south-western part of the Kullacoorchy Talook, which lies beyond their protection, and in the Ahluir gap (Chinna Salem, &c.).

3. On the whole the wet lands of this talook enjoy considerable advantages in respect to irrigation. Nearly one-third of the whole have river or stream supply channels, under which a fair out-turn was everywhere obtained. The dry crops have partially failed everywhere, but under this head, too, better results were obtained than have been realized in many parts of the country. The villages lying under the hills have not been looked up by any European Officer (or by the Tahsildar so recently as I could wish), but the Collector proposes to place the preparation of the Jummabundy in the hands of Mr. Gribble, who will no doubt thoroughly inspect and ascertain the conditions of these parts, and take measures for finding out what is required should any emergency arise ; he has been with me for some weeks, and I am satisfied that he will do this energetically and well. The part of this talook which has been most affected (so far as we now know) is the south-western corner about Chinna Salem. Here there can be no doubt that dry crops have suffered more than they have generally throughout the talook, and the yield, especially in Varagoo and Raggy, the chief food of the poorer classes, and the cereal crops under which the larger portion of the dry land is put, have yielded a bad out-turn. However, at present no serious pressure has arisen. It is exceedingly difficult to form an opinion of what may be the effect on the poorer classes, a few months hence, of a general and very considerable diminution in the yield of inferior dry grains which are their principal food, for it may perhaps be said that rice enters as little into the daily consumption of the poor laboring

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31st March 1868.*

classes of these parts, as wheaten bread did fifty years ago enter into that of the poor laboring classes of Scotland. Rice is in fact consumed locally chiefly by the higher classes, pays the revenue demands, and is exported to Malabar, (where it is the food of all classes,) Mysore, Salem, and other districts for the consumption of the well-to-do. It may be that the prices of rice are not very high, and the markets are fairly supplied, while at the same time the poor can scarcely obtain those inferior grains on which they chiefly depend, and which such as Varagoo and other grains commerce does not supply. The matter will require careful watching.

4. In this talook there is a considerable garden cultivation, consisting of Sugar-cane, Chillies, Tobacco, and such like, the yield of all of which has of course been affected, but less so perhaps than other cereal projects. These matters, however, do not enter so directly in the inquiries of the nature which I have been holding, for these garden and highly productive lands are in the hands of wealthy persons who are in a condition to surmount any pressure that could possibly arise under the circumstances of this season. The advantage which the poor derive from this class of cultivation is that it gives employment to a good many laboring hands in watering, &c. This employment is, however, gradually ceasing; the Sugar Mills are now in full operation, Chillies have for the most part been gathered in, and Tobacco will shortly be cut, when there will be little for the laboring hands to do throughout the talook for the next few months.

5. In Chinna Salem and the surrounding neighbourhood there is an increasing want of water for drinking purposes, and I regret to say that cholera of a virulent type prevails at this moment in the village. Medical aid has been given, and a store of the necessary medicines left in the hands of the local officers. The water in the village is very scarce and very foul. I have directed Mr. Gribble to make any small expenditure which may be necessary for cleansing and improving the sanitary condition of the town, and as I think that it is by no means improbable, as asserted by the Monigars and Caruina and the Tahsildar, that works will be required to relieve the laboring poor during the months that are before us in Chinna Salem, and village in the south-west part of the talook. I have requested Mr. Gribble and the Tahsildar at once carefully to examine a local project for supplying the town of Chinna Salem with water, and to select a sufficient number of useful works in this as well as in the northern parts of the country for execution, as necessity arises. This will be done without delay and effectively, for Mr. Gribble's experience in Trinomalai will be useful to him here.

6. I have taken an opportunity of joining the Collector's Jummalibundy camp in the Cuddalore Talook and have carefully discussed with him the different matters affecting the condition of the people of this district. I have also examined all the reports of the Sub-Collector in respect of his division. We are agreed that no emergencies, except perhaps in Trinomalai, have as yet arisen. The settlement of the year is progressing with much consideration and with that careful examination into individual circumstances and the condition of localities which is certain to bring to light any need of special intervention. The district is well in hand, and local works are being selected by experienced Officers to be undertaken should necessity arise. I therefore think, with the Collector, that there is no further need of my personal inspection of the other parts of this district for the present, and I propose leaving it at once for the Salem District.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
31st March 1868.*

7. Referring to my Memorandum, dated 7th March 1868, on the Trinomalai Talook, I see grounds, after consultation with the Collector, to modify my views in respect to road from Trinomalai to Manaloor; it has already been sanctioned, and will be a useful work in continuation of the fine local road from Tiagar to Trinomalai, which is now under course of construction. As it may also be made to form a part of the Chekkady valley road scheme, it should be proceeded with at once.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Additional Member of the Board of
Revenue, on Special Duty.

CHINNA SALEM,
9th March 1868.

No. 568. ORDER THEREON, 31st March 1868, No. 834.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government are glad to learn that although pressure is likely to be felt, and special aid to be necessary

in the Gingee Division of the Tindevanum Talook, in the Trinomalai Talook, and parts of the Kullacoorchi Talook of South Arcot, the state of things in the greater part of the district is more hopeful and encouraging, and that in fact only in the Trinomalai Talook can any emergency be said to have arisen as yet.

2. The Government approve and sanction Mr. Robinson's proposals for affording relief, and direct the Collector to take steps for immediately carrying them out.

3. The grant of Rupees 10,000, requested by Mr. Robinson, is sanctioned, and orders will be issued in the Department Public Works for setting in hand once the works specified out of the Budget for 1868-69, the expenditure (if any) incurred before 1st April, on which date the official year commences, being adjusted later on.

4. The Government await the detailed lists of works which are promised. They are glad to note the favorable terms in which Mr. Robinson speaks of the assistance he has received from Messrs. L. and Gribble, and rely confidently on those gentlemen's best exertions to give the utmost effect to the remedial measures which it is proposed to adopt in the district.

5. Mr. Robinson's remarks on the state of the irrigation works in the Trinomalai Talook will be communicated to the Superintending Engineer, through the Department Public Works.

6. The Government trust that the Board will be able to apply a speedy remedy to the unsatisfactory state of things in the Chekkadi lapsed Jaghire which Mr. Robinson sketches, and on which he proposes to write separately.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To W. Robinson, Esq.
the Board of Revenue.
the Public Works Department.
the Collector of South Arcot.
the Accountant General.
the Relief Committee.
the Editors Table.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

Memo.

The Assistant in charge, M. R. O. Egnore,
will please send a spare copy of G. O. No. 834,
Revenue, d/ 31.3.1868, ^{Dept.} to the Public (Political)
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fact to the main office. Since the original
of the G. O. is not readily traceable in
the bundle here, he will also please
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