

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	908	Press Mis.
¹³⁰⁻³¹ Dated	6-4-	1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th April 1868.*

No. 130. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th March 1868, No. 2,266.

Read the following letter from the Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated on Circuit at Chendragherry, 13th March 1868, No. 74 :—

1. Having just completed the settlement of the Wallajah Talook, the richest and most populous tract in the district, a report of results may not be out of place as bearing on the question of the General Revenue for the year.

2. The area of the talook is 512 square miles, with a population of 191,850, being 375 to the square mile.

3. Of this population, 129,000 are Agricultural, and 62,700 Miscellaneous. The Revenue is paid by 21,697 Puttahdars in the proportions shown below:—

Classification of Puttahs.

Classification.	No. of Puttahdars.
Paying below Rupees 1,000	45
Do. „ 250	343
Do. „ 100	1,088
Do. „ 50	6,659
Do. „ 10	13,562
	21,697

Population.

Agricultural... ..	129,111
Miscellaneous... ..	62,740
Total population...	191,851

4. Thus in this the most highly developed talook in the district, the great bulk of the agricultural section are a mere laboring peasantry, absolutely dependent on the out-turn of the season for their daily subsistence.

5. In the subjoined table are shown the entire cultivable area of the talook, the proportion occupied and proportion actually cultivated during the year under report, with its revenue as compared with the average of Land Revenue receipts of the past five years.

Item.	Total Ayacut.		Under Ryots' holdings for Fusly 1277.		Actual cultivation in Fusly 1277.		Average Beriz including waste charged and actual cultivation for past five years.	Difference of Columns 7 and 8	Percentage of occupied waste upon Ryots' holdings.
	Extent in Acres.	Assessment.	Extent in Acres.	Assessment.	Extent in Acres.	Assessment.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Punjab ...	129,529	1,53,007	71,775	85,196	58,070	72,561	.....	...	...
Nunjah ...	61,233	2,97,600	48,639	2,40,914	32,638	1,73,736	.....	...	...
	190,762	4,50,607	120,414	3,26,110	90,708	*2,46,297	3,36,380	90,083	20½

*N.B.—This includes the second crop assessment in two crop lands and the amount of Shavi.

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6. The subjoined Statement gives the particulars of remissions under all heads so far as these have yet been settled. There are still large Shavi claims to be dealt with which can only be settled as the fields are inspected and the accounts verified. The additional loss under this head may, however, be pretty nearly set down at Rupees 47,630. As set off against this, there will be the revenue from land cultivated after the accounts were closed for the Jummahbundy; and from such further cultivation, wet and dry, as may have been made under the encouraging change which took place in January, and the favourable terms offered in the Government Orders cited in Dated 31st December 1867, No 3,948. the margin, I had hoped there would have been larger results from the two latter causes; but it does not appear likely that the whole amount of such prospective revenue in the talook will exceed Rupees 13,000. The Ryotwary revenue of the talook for the year may thus be set down in round numbers at Rupees 2,02,900, and falls short of the five years average (Rupees 3,27,800) by Rupees 1,24,900.

Particulars of remission granted for lands in the Ryots' holding.

	Punjah.	Nunjah.	Total.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Waste	10,489	57,705	68,194
Puldi	748	3,684	4,432
Stalacummi or Shamlat Bunjar	1,398	5,789	7,187
Shavi	181	917	1,098
Bhoganashti ... ..	.....	7,553	7,553
	12,816	75,648	88,464
	Balance		2,37,646
Average settled Beriz of past five years exclusive of remissions of all kinds			3,27,892
	Decrease		90,246

7. Thus if the loss under all heads of purely Ryotwary revenue ascertained and prospective be summed up, it will amount to 38 per cent. on the average Ryotwary revenue of the talook.

8. I should mention that the figures thus brought into comparison do not give an entirely accurate result, as in ordinary seasons remissions under all heads are but sparingly given, whereas in the year of which I speak the indulgence has been absolute. I am here speaking of the Ryotwary Revenue derived from land actually cultivated, as the Jummahbundy accounts are not yet closed and the income from other sources has yet to be ascertained.

9. The several sources of irrigation, public and private, with the proportion "in repair" and "out of repair" are exhibited in the subjoined table:—

Particulars of Irrigation.	GOVERNMENT.		PRIVATE.		DESABUNDAM.	
	In order.	In dis-order.	In order.	In dis-order.	In order.	In dis-order.
Tanks	394	45	10	.....	33	1
River channels	23	2	.....	.....	.....	.....
Spring ditto	30	20	.....	.....	.....	.....
Anicuts	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Minor drains or weirs	13	9	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wells ... ..	.....	.....	9,579	939	.....	.....
	462	76	9,589	939	33	1

10. The two anicuts over the Palar and Ponney rivers feed many of the larger tanks in the talook. The latter river had only slight freshes in the month of August, and the tanks dependent upon this anicut were thus far short of their ordinary complement of water.

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11. The large Caveripauk tank which is fed from the Palar anicut and should contain 14 months water, received only 2½ months' supply.

12. The stock of water in this tank when I saw it in the middle of February, would not, it was calculated, last with the utmost economy for more than three weeks, and even then the standing crop was suffering from scanty irrigation. The old farmers about the neighbourhood told me that they had not seen the tank so low at that season for the last twenty-five years.

13. The large tanks of Sholinghur and Kodakal which have near failed since they were connected with the Ponney Anicut works were, when I saw them last month, so low, that a large breadth of standing crop will probably never attain maturity.

14. The Poondy and other tanks dependent on the Palar anicut were even worse supplied, and probably at the most favourable computation did not contain more than one-fourth of their complement of water. As may be supposed, the rain-fed tanks were even in a worse flight. I never remember the springs in the wells so low as they now are at any time of the season during the eight years and upwards I have been officially connected with the district.

15. The rain-fall during each month of the year is given below. Compared with the average of the five previous years, it was only two-thirds of the fall of ordinary years.

Month.	Amount of rain-fall in 1867-68.	Average amount of rain-fall during last five years.	COMPARISON BETWEEN COLUMNS 2 AND 3.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
1	2	3	4	5
1867.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
April	72	96	.....	96
May	18	111	.....	39
June	5	28	.....	262
July	542	319	181	.....
August	454	653	.....	111
September	236	4	54	.....
October	198	76	.....	524
November	212	6	.....	42
December ... ..	.....	354	.....	142
1868.	392	36	356	.....
January ... ..	.....	67	.....	67
February ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total...	2624	3676	591	1643

16. The rain-fall I may mention is registered at Wallajapet, but it was so partial and irregular in its distribution, that this figure is not true of the northern and western parts of the talook where the showers are much lighter and less continuous. Thus for instance, the rain in January which fell heavily for two days in the neighbourhood of Wallajapet took the form of light flying showers in that part of the talook which lies north of the line of Railway.

17. In those parts of the talook where the January rains were heaviest, much standing crop, particularly that growing in wet land, which would inevitably have perished, was saved. The tanks, as more or less favourably circumstanced, received fresh supplies varying from ten days to two months, and all the better class well lands were put under raggy and cholam crop. But even in these more favoured parts the results of this renewed industry will fall far short of what might at first have been anticipated, as a large proportion of the water thus unexpectedly obtained was required to bring the then perishing crop to some sort of maturity, and the season was too far advanced to make it safe to embark on fresh agricultural enterprises on an extended scale. A good deal of Manakattai paddy (a 3½ months crop) has been put down, and under the larger and

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better supplied wells some fair crops of cholum and raggy may be cut; but I do not anticipate that these grains, when they do come to market, will effect any marked influence on the prices which may then be ruling. To give the Board some idea of the comparative value of the several sources of irrigation in such an exceptional season as I now speak of, I subjoin a table showing the proportionate per-centages of waste to actual cultivation in holdings under each class of water supply:—

Whether Nunjah or Punjah.	Sources of Irrigation.	Per-centage.
Nunjah.	Under purely river channels	8½
Do.	Do. spring do.	17½
Do.	Tanks and river or spring channel jointly irrigated	34½
Do.	Tanks dependent upon anicut or river channels	10
Do.	Rain-fed tanks west of the talook	42
Do.	Do. east of do.	25
Punjah.	Punjah waste in the western part of the talook	50
Do.	Do. do. eastern do.	31

18. The following Memorandum exhibits the average yield of crops raised under the several sources of irrigation above referred to:—

Item.	Description of crops raised.	Average of the usual out-turn.
Punjah.	Samaloo... ..	Between one-eighth and one-fourth.
Do.	Arika	Do.
Do.	Cholum	Do.
Do.	Sazzaloo... ..	.....
Do.	Oil Seeds	One-half.
Do.	Nat Raggy	No cultivation this year.
Do.	Punjah Raggy	One-sixteenth.
Do.	Gingelly-oil seeds	One-fourth.
Do.	Red-gram	One-sixteenth.
Do.	Horse-gram ... ..	.....
Nunjah.	Average... ..	Three-sixteenths.
Do.	Under River channel	One-half the produce.
Do.	„ Wells... ..	Do.
Do.	„ Gohuts*	One-third.
Do.	„ Tanks... ..	Generally one-fourth, in some parts still less.
	Average... ..	Six-sixteenths.

* Spring channels.

19. The sanitary state of the talook has been below its ordinary standard. I have not the Mortuary Returns by me to refer to, but cholera mostly of a sporadic type broke out in different parts of it, and small-pox has been, and in fact still is, very general. Cattle disease is spreading, and the mortality from murrain in its various forms has been very considerable. In the village of Nagavedee, in the neighbourhood of Arconum, 170 head of farm stock have died within the last two months.

20. PASTURAGE.—The January rains did much for the pasturage, and it is expected that with withered crop and the straw in stock there will be a middling supply of food for the cattle of this talook for two months to come.

21. The regular farm servants will not, as far as I could learn, be discharged, but as the grain perquisites which form part of their remuneration depend on the out-turn of their employer's crops, they will hold their places on reduced wages. The disasters of the season will fall more heavily on the hiring labourer whose employment depends on the greater or less activity of agricultural operations, and on the peasant farmer who tills his own little holding for the subsistence of himself and family.

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22. No works of a remedial character have yet been undertaken in this talook. There will be a considerable sum available for expenditure next month under the regular heads of allotment in the Budget of 1868-69, and it may not, therefore, be necessary to supplement the means of

Submitted for the information of Government.

ORDER THEREON, 6th April 1868, No. 908.

No. 131.

Communicated to the Department Public

Miscellaneous.

Works.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Public Works Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Reported to England
22nd April 1868
Mis.

Rev: 1868. Department.
Pro: of the int- for April
No. 1118.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 28th March 1868.
Dec 23 April 1868
R.S. L.

No. 2,266.

Submitting for information letter from Col-
lector of North Arcot reporting results on set-
tlement of Wallajah taluk.

N. 1304131

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14 Copies of the Report of the Revenue Department