M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1063	Press ~~Mis.~~
403-04 Dated	19-4-1869	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th April 1869.

No. 403. Read the following letter from the Collector of North Arcot, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Chittoor, 17th March 1869, No. 14:—

As directed in the Acting Under Secretary's official memorandum, No. 16, dated 11th February 1869, I have the honor to submit my report on the state of the season, past and prospective, in this district.

2. The season on the whole has been even more adverse than that which preceded it.

The north-east monsoon only showed itself in a scanty and very late (December) burst along the eastern side of the district. As it passed inland it dwindled away into light and most unequally distributed showers, which neither supplied the tanks nor brought flood-water down the rivers.

The rain-fall, registered during October, November, and December, was only 9-6 inches. In 1865, 20 inches fell during the north-east monsoon.

3. Fortunately the south-west monsoon, though at no time heavy, set in early, and brought with it a longer duration of showery weather than the district has had for years past.

The rain-fall from April up to the end of September was 13 inches 9 cents. (15 inches would be a fair average for this monsoon).

4. There was thus an early impetus given to cultivation of all kinds, and although the eventual failure of the north-east monsoon has entailed very heavy loss in wet crop, the outturn of the earlier dry grains was above the average.

5. In the Palmanair Talook and, in fact, all along the western high lands, the raggi and cholum harvest was unusually abundant; and as these grains form the great staple of food in those parts, the condition of the laboring classes there is better than it has been for years.

	Dry.		Wet.		Total.	
	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.
	Acs.	Rs.	Acs.	Rs.	Acs.	Rs.
Up to February of official year, 1868-69.	390,499	5,69,378	172,035	9,84,686	562,534	15,54,064
Do. 1867-68 ...	389,349	5,63,304	156,971	9,59,327	546,320	15,22,631
Increase ...	1,150	6,074	15,064	25,359	16,214	31,433
Decrease ...	.....	.....	... ..	.....	.....	.....

Note.—In much wet land dry crop was raised, but returned as wet in the accounts. This partially accounts for increase shown in wet cultivation.

6. The accounts, as made up to end of February 1869, show an increase in the average under cultivation both in wet and dry land.

These figures must not be accepted as a criterion of actual results, as until the settlement is made all land brought under the plough, whether sown or not, is treated in the accounts as "under cultivation".

The settlement is now in progress, and heavy remissions are being made on account of wet land left waste; and second crop not raised owing to the want of water in the tanks and channels. Remission is being given for withered crop as the accounts are received and verified, and looking at the present chances of the crops now standing on the ground, I cannot but anticipate a very heavy loss of agricultural produce and revenue between this time and the close of the agricultural season.

[illegible] a special Remission [illegible]

7. I have not as yet found it necessary to give remission for waste in dry land, but in the higher and poorer parts of the Chittoor Taluk, with which I am now engaged, it will have to be granted; and in some of the talooks in the Sub-division, claims of this nature will have to receive the fullest consideration and indulgence.

8. All the dry crop is now off the ground, and there are no fresh agricultural operations of any kind going forward, except under wells and river-channels.

9. As already remarked the yield of the earlier sowings of raggi and cholum, and, I may add, of red-gram (kandulu,) was good; but the horse-gram, samé, and varagu crops suffered greatly from the failure of the north-east monsoon; and the yield in all varied from one-fourth in the poorer soils to three-fourths of an average crop in the richer and moister lands.

10. The outturn of the wet cereals has, of course, varied with the circumstances under which they have been raised; but the yield, except in the most favored situations, has, generally speaking, been much below the mark both in quantity and quality.

11. Thus on the whole the harvest has again been a bad one, and the stocks in hand of all local produce are lower than would be compatible with moderate prices were the district dependent on its own resources.

12. And this brings me to the consideration of the present condition and future prospects of the laboring masses during the period which must intervene between the agricultural season which is closing and the resumption of operations in June, when the early rains may be looked for.

13. Notwithstanding the premature cessation of ordinary agricultural employment, I cannot learn that any actual distress has yet arisen from this cause among the able-bodied poor.

14. My Tahsildars, one and all, report that there is employment for all who wish it for a month to come; but that it may afterwards become necessary to provide for their subsistence in the form of relief works.

15. The new Budget allotments, amounting under all heads to Rupees 1,95,680, will be available in April, and as the expenditure will be pretty fairly distributed over the length and breadth of the district, I do not myself anticipate the necessity of initiating any fresh projects for the employment of our able-bodied poor.

For 1869-70.	Rs.
Imperial.	
Agricultural repair	1,00,000
Do. minor new works	9,000
	1,09,000
Local.	
New...	15,410
Repair	71,270
Total ..	86,680
Grand Total...	1,95,680

16. If the Government are pleased to accept the recommendations made in the Board's Proceedings, dated 4th March 1869, No. 1,438, the fund available for expenditure will be raised to Rupees 4,00,680, which will more than provide for every contingency.

17. Thus the only class of work for which it may hereafter become necessary to make special provision is, the improvement of the supply of drinking water for man and beast. In some parts of the district this want is already making itself

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felt; but as there have been some showers within the last week, the necessity of undertaking some such works is no longer so immediate.

18. The retail prices of the food-grains most generally in use are as follow:—

	Number of Madras Measures per Rupee in		
	Fusly 1276.	Fusly 1277.	Fusly 1278.
Paddy, 1st sort	17⅞	16⅝	18 1/16
Do. 2nd ,, ...	19	17	19 1/16
Raggi	10¼	12 3/16	16 5/16
Cholum	10	10 1/16	15
Cumbu	11⅛	12⅝	17 3/16

From this Government will learn with pleasure that present prices contrast favorably with those of the two preceding years which were, it is true, high. As the market quotations now stand, the price of second sort rice is moderate, whilst raggi and cholum are much cheaper than they have been for five years past. The fall in the price of these two important grains is probably due to the outturn of the harvest in the Mysore country, where I am informed the raggi crop especially has been unusually fine.

19. Prices have hitherto been very stationary, and although they will probably rise gradually, Railway imports will, (as was the case last year under more unfavorable conditions,) influence the local markets, and keep prices within reach of the needier classes.

20. The local markets continue to be well supplied, and there is nothing in present appearances which would lead me to anticipate any disturbance of the natural equilibrium.

21. The public health has been almost exceptionally good. No outbreaks of cholera are reported, and the Sivarathri festival (at Calastri) passed off without a single case of epidemic disease.

22. Notwithstanding the scarcity of pasture and water, the condition of the farm stock is on the whole satisfactory.

There have been some outbreaks of murrain of the more ordinary kind in the southern talooks, but in other parts the cattle are reported to be healthy.

23. In conclusion, I may observe that although there is thus no immediate cause of alarm, the position of the district is nevertheless at this moment one of considerable anxiety. Had it not been that existing arrangements provide for a large and well-distributed expenditure, it would have been necessary to set in motion some special works for the employment of the agricultural masses who begin to find a difficulty in earning a subsistence in their ordinary avocations.

24. Meanwhile, the Government may rest assured that I shall watch prices and the state of the labor-market closely, and will not fail to bring to their immediate notice any circumstances which may indicate the necessity of their more direct intervention on behalf of the district.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th April 1869.

No. 404. ORDER THEREON, 19th April 1869, No. 1,063.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED with reference to the G. O., under date 9th April 1869, No. 977.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Season Report from North Arcot
No 870. circulated for
orders in continuation of
Memo on No 798 *

The Collector has not
known that any special
expenditure is needed in
the R. A. District for the
purpose of averting famine.
Labor is said to be abundant
and there is no scarcity of
food, Prices are unusually
low; and the regular budget
provisions (Imp & Local) allow of an expenditure
of 2 lacs of rupees in the
District during the coming
official year. It seems to the
undersigned that this letter
affords additional proof
that the Govt would
not be justified in sanction-
ing a special Famine Grant

* Will the member of Govt
with whom the Memo on
No 798 is, be good enough
to endorse it with these
papers in the "Special"
Cover.

W.O.L

A.J.D.

of 2 Cases of Rupees for
this District. Though prices
may not be an infallible
~~test~~ index of the condition of the
labouring classes, they are
a fair ~~test~~ index. So long
as prices are low the
individuality will ~~still~~ still
support the poor, and it
is when prices so rise as
to affect the former class
that real pressure begins.

And

P.S. The report should
have been submitted to
the Board of Revenue.
Does the Govt deem it
necessary to call for the
Bd's observations upon it?

the attention of the Govt
should be called to the
prevention of these famine
wars of starvation which
are precipitated by a famine
in which [illegible] Board
no doubt, but it will
suffice, I think to note this
circumstance as usual and
the Govt refer to the Collector
through the Bd.

employment. Spanish Lear-
that any actual distress has yet
arisen from this cause among the
able bodied poor.

11 . . My Salaried Officers and
all Persons that have employ-
ment for all who wish it for a
month to come, but that it may
after that become necessary to
provide for their subsistence in
the form of Relief Works.

15 . The New Budget Estimate
for 1869-70 amounting under
Imperial the head of Public Works
Agricultural Repair 1,00,000. to 1,95,680, will be
Do Minor Works 9000 available in April
1,09,000 and Public expenditure
Local 15410 will be practically
New — 71270 distributed over
Repair — 86680 the length and breadth of the District.
Total 1,95,680.
It does not specify participate the

Statistics
Revenue
Dept.

necessity of initiating any fresh projects for the employment of our able bodied poor.

16 If the Court are pleased to accept the Recommendations made in the Board's Proceedings dated 1st March 1869 No 1438, the Funds available for expenditure will be raised to Rupees 6,22,680 which will more than provide for every contingency.

17 Then the only class of work for which it may here after become necessary to make special provision is the improvement of the supply of drinking water for man and beast. In some parts of the District that want is already met by Kuchi tanks, but others have been pronounced without the last week, the necessity of undertaking

good. No outbreaks of cholera are reported and the Sunrathri festival at Calastri passed off without a single case of epidemic disease.

22 Notwithstanding the scarcity of pasture and water, the condition of the Pastoral Tribes, on the whole is satisfactory.

There have been some outbreaks of Murrain of the more ordinary Kind in the Southern Talooqs but in other parts the Cattle are reported to be healthy.

23 In conclusion I may observe that although there exists no immediate cause of alarm, the position of the District is nevertheless at this moment, one of considerable anxiety. Had it not been that existing arrangements provide for a large and well directed expenditure, it would become

been necessary to put in motion some
of the agricultural classes who
by such a course are rendered
a particular source in their ordinary
avocations.

We therefore beg to submit
that a proper and the state of the labour
market clearly and will not fail
to bring to their immediate notice
any circumstances which may arise
to render the necessity of their more
direct intervention on behalf
of the District.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obed. Servant
D Dillon
Collector

Collectors Office
Clifden 17 March
1869

To The Right Hon. R. P. Ellis C.B.
Chief Secy. to Govt
Fort Saint G.

W 1063.

Received with reference to the
G.O. under date 9th April 1869 No 977

19th April 69.

14 Copies Letter & Copy Cover Despatch 220.

97

Revenue 1869 No 95

From the Collector of
North Arichat

To
The Chief Secretary to
Government Fort
Saint George

Dated 17th March 1869

Received 19th
No 14

Submits Report
on the Trade of the
Custom Six Districts
for 1868-69 with
Statistical Tables

Read

19 March 69 Rec'd 25 Rec'd
19 Mar

Cont. of {1869} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated April, 19*th*.

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 19*th April* 1869, *No.* 1,063.

APRIL.

Nos. 403-404.

Season in North Arcot District.—Report of the Collector on its past and prospective state, recorded.