M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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## Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1104 Press ~~Mis~~

489-490

Dated 23rd. April ~~19~~ 1869

***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*
*23rd April* 1869.

No. 489. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th April 1869.

Read the following letters :—

From the Collector of Madras, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 5th April 1869, No. 89.

ADVERTING to paragraph 3 of the Board's Proceedings of the 24th February last, No. 1,249, I have the honor to report on the state of the season since the date of my last report.

2. There was rain one day in the month in all the talooks, with the exception of Sydapet. It was heavier in the talook of Conjeveram, the north-western portion of Trivellore, and the Ootramallore division of Madurantacum Talook, than elsewhere; and from it a few of the tanks there received a small supply of water; owing, however, to the excessive heat of the weather, that supply is already almost exhausted from evaporation. The fall in the Chingleput and Ponnery Talooks was so slight that it but just moistened the surface.

3. The settlement of all the three talooks in the principal division has been completed, with the exception of about fifty villages in the Sydapet and Ponnery Talooks: the settlement in these also will be completed in the course of the next ten days. The result of the settlement of the talooks of Trivellore and Ponnery, as far as it has gone, although not satisfactory, is better than I anticipated in the second paragraph of my letter to Board, dated 19th February last, No. 50.

4. Of Sydapet Talook, however, I regret I cannot say the same. All the villages under the great Chembrambakum tank, except those possessing well-irrigation, have had little or no crop; and even Kunnatoor, one of the largest villages under the tank, the revenue of which is 8,000 Rupees in a fair average season, has been settled this year at Rupees 900, or a little over one-eighth of the average beriz; and even of this settlement the Ryots complain.

5. The northern part of the Sydapet Talook, bordering on the Ponnery and Trivellore Talooks, has, however, suffered less than the portion above spoken of, and its yield has been calculated at about a quarter of the average.

6. Both the Ponnery and Sydapet Talooks having suffered generally so much, I had to give large remissions in both of them for short crop; but in the Trivellore Talook the necessity for such relief seems to have been less urgent. In the two former talooks, shavi and short crop remissions, as far as the settlement has been completed, have amounted to Rupees 77,663, whereas in the Trivellore Talook the remissions have amounted to the comparatively small sum of Rupees 15,071, and the settlement there resulted, therefore, in an increase of Rupees 62,945, or fifty-one per cent. over the beriz of last year. It is to be remarked that the Season Reports from the Trivellore Talook have throughout the year been more favorable than from the other

| | | | Rs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ponnery ... | Shavi ... | ... ... | 15,026 |
| | Short Crop | ... ... | 9,404 |
| Sydapet ... | Shavi ... | ... ... | 37,951 |
| | Short crop | ... ... | 15,282 |
| | | Total... | 77,663 |
| Trivellore... | Shavi ... | ... ... | 10,298 |
| | Short Crop | ... ... | 4,773 |
| | | Total... | 15,071 |

talooks, which is due perhaps to the talook being bounded on two sides by hills and jungles full of springs, and to its being traversed for some length by the rivers of Narranaveram and Naggery, both always supplying more water than the Cooum river, the chief resource of Sydapet, or the Kortelliar, that of Ponnery.

7. The settlement of Ponnery also, as far as it has been completed, is more than last year by Rupees 2,884; and I have every reason to hope that, when the settlement of the remaining portion of it is also completed, the beriz will be nearly two-thirds of the average.

8. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings of the 24th February 1869, No. 1,249, I have the honor to state that funds have been allotted, to the extent named below, for five out of the seven lines of road referred to in Mr. Crole's letter of the 5th February 1869, No. 41.

| Roads. | Grant for 1869-70. | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Original works. | Maintenance. | Total. |
| *Local Fund Budget.* | | | |
| Road from Wallajahbad to Trunk Road No. 1, via Tenneri ... ... | ..... | Rs. 1,000 | Rs. 1,000 |
| Do. to Trunk Road No. VIII. near Irumbalyoor... ... ... | 2,000 | 1,800 | 3,800 |
| Do. from 41st mile-stone on Trunk Road No. VIII. to Ootramalloor. | 2,720 | 2,000 | 4,720 |
| Do. from Caringuli to Nallavoy (joining the above.) ... ... | 2,000 | 1,000 | 3,000 |
| *Salt Works Budget.* | | | |
| Road from Saravambakam or thereabouts on Chotoopakum Road to Madurantacum. | 10,000 | ..... | 10,000 |
| Total... | 16,720 | 5,800 | 22,520 |

9. The road from Tandlam to Coovam is a new line proposed by Mr. Crole now for the first time; that from Kilumbakum to Chingleput, via Tiroporoor, was undertaken last year out of Famine Fund, as will be seen from the statement of famine works executed last year, sent to Board with my letter of the 23rd March last, No. 80. A sum of Rupees 1,754 was spent upon it; but there being no funds available for further expenditure on it this year, no allotment can now be made. This road, however, should, in my opinion, be considered purely a salt road, as it leads direct from salt-pans to the interior, and should never have been included under local or famine works; and if the Board can provide funds for it from the saving of other districts, I hope they will do so, more especially as the tract of country through which it passes has suffered much this year from the drought, and has fewer public works going on in its neighbourhood than the rest of the district.

10. I beg to enclose copy of a letter, received from Mr. Crole, the Acting Sub-Collector, regarding the state of the season in the sub-division talooks, and the settlement of Conjeveram, the only talook he has as yet completed. In this letter, Mr. Crole strongly recommends a grant for two lines of road in addition to those already named by him, *viz.*, one from Chingleput to Conjeveram and another from Manimungalum to Streeparmatoor. Mr. Crole estimates the cost of thoroughly repairing the first named line at Rupees 25,000. Doubtless this line is



an important one, and I would gladly allot funds out of Road Cess if I had any; but as the whole for the current year have been already allotted for other roads, another year must pass before anything can be done. The line of road between Manimungalum and Streeparmatoor was undertaken last year out of Famine Funds, and a sum of Rupees 2,893 was expended thereon. The Range Officer, Mr. Ottman, estimated that a further outlay of Rupees 12,000 is required for the completion of the line; but I have already communicated my views regarding this line of road, (*vide* paragraph 4 in my letter of the 23rd March last, No. 80). But if the Board differ from me, and can place me in possession of funds I need not say that I shall be only too happy to have this and the other lines of road, referred to in paragraph 8 of this letter, set a-going at once.

11. With regard to Mr. Crole's request that, 2,000 Rupees for each talook might be placed at his disposal for clearing out ponds, etc., for the supply of drinking water to cattle, I beg to state that I quite endorse it, and would further request that a similar sum may be granted specially for the three talooks of the principal division, making a total of 12,000 Rupees. I make this request, as I found, during the Jummahbundy, that the general cry of the ryots was more for this species of help than any other.

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From C. S. CROLE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to the Collector of the Madras District, dated Camp at Mamandur, 13th March 1869, No. 49.

In compliance with the wish of the Board of Revenue, contained in paragraph 3 of its Proceedings of the 24th ultimo, I have the honor to submit a report on the sub-division for the interval which has elapsed since my No. 41 of the 5th idem.

2. No rain fell up to the 8th instant, during the night of which there was a slight and partial thunder-shower, which increased to a heavy down fall as it swept over the Ootramallore division of the Madurantacum Talook, in which up to this time the rain-fall appears to have been scantier than in the worst parts of the other two talooks.

3. The annual settlement of the Conjeveram Talook came to a close on the 5th instant, and resulted in a sacrifice of Rupees 1,08,300 out of Rupees 3,00,000, or one-third of the beriz. Of this, Rupees 39,000 was remitted on account of shavi and short produce, estimated by me, in my last letter, as likely to reach Rupees 40,000.

4. The condition of the talook was found to be very unequal; so that, while villages under river-channels and those tanks which this year benefited by the Kambakal were in as fair order as they possibly could be without seasonable rain, what may be roughly termed the eastern half of the talook required the most liberal treatment. Accordingly it was found necessary to remit somewhere about three-fourths of the beriz in the Takhils mentioned in the margin. These comprise part of the tract alluded to in my letter of the 24th December last.

Maturamangalam. Padepee.
Amarambedu. Vadakaput.
Manemungalum.

5. The orders of the Board in regard to remissions were carefully carried out, and every effort made to apportion the relief with fairness.

6. Advantage was also taken of the settlement to collect information in regard to useful repairs and new works, and to decide on places in which it would be advisable to expend money on improving the sources of water-supply for the use of man and beast. I hope to be able to submit a complete list of these last in a few days, and have, in the meantime, urgently to recommend that a grant be made for the purpose. When examining the Talook, Treasury of Conjeveram

the other day. I found a sum of Rupees 1,000, the unexpended balance of an allotment, for this purpose last year. I request you will instruct me whether this may be devoted to the above object. The Tahsildar has been directed to redouble his exertions this year; so that the benefits of any grant of this kind may be as widely diffused as possible. In the majority of villages I fear that it will be difficult to obtain a contribution from the people equal to the Government grant. We may, however, in most expect to come to terms as to the supply of a portion of the labor.

7. An idea of the state of the water-supply in the eastern portion of the talook may be gathered from the condition of the Streeparmatoor Tank—a work calculated to hold eight months' supply. At the end of February this year, it was, with the exception of a slight fringe of foul muddy water, empty, while last year, bad as that was, the same tank held a sufficient supply for all the purposes of the villagers and their cattle in the month of May.

8. I heard in one or two places that the poor had emigrated; but this is usual in bad years. No actual distress came under my observation. The time to expect that has not arrived. Against its coming I respectfully urge that all the Range Officers and the Tahsildars be put in funds, as suggested by me in this and former letters. Rupees 2,000 per talook will, in my opinion, be enough to give the Tahsildars, in the meantime, for the clearing out of spring, ponds and wells.

9. In addition to the works mentioned in my last letter, I have the honor to recommend a grant for the two following roads, namely:—

1. From Chengleput to Conjeveram, repair and metalling.
2. Manimungalum to Streeparmatoor, construction.

10. The first of these connects the Zillah Station with the important town of Conjeveram and would be in part a Railway feeder. It is bridged and tunnelled throughout, but unaccountably no maintenance allowance has been allotted for it this year. Its state is consequently deplorable. The bridges are in many cases much above the present level of the road, and uncovered; so that the unprotected arches are exposed to destruction from every wheel which passes over them. The state of this road is so bad that it takes about twelve hours with good bullocks to traverse the twenty-four miles of its length, and even to ride over it fast is impossible owing, to the sand, of which it is now composed, being worn away into ups and downs like a honey-comb. I enclose an approximate estimate for Rupees 25,000 for its repair, and would most strongly recommend that it be not allowed to go to ruin.

11. No. 2 on my present list has been partly commenced. It connects Streeparmatoor, the head-quarters of the Deputy Tahsildar of the division, with one of the largest villages in it, and joins the Wallajahbad and Irumbalyoor road under the Manimungalum tank bund. At present this route is almost impassable, and my Cutcherry people preferred this year to go round by Saint Thomas' Mount to trying this the direct way to the eastern villages of the Conjeveram Talook.

12. I have now commenced the settlement of the Madurantacum Talook. The want of rain, when the tanks were becoming exhausted in December or January, has caused a large amount of shavi and short produce. The same cause operating more strongly here than elsewhere has caused the failure more or less of the punjah crops, as the punjah beriz is very high (1,00,000); this is all the more widely felt. There seems to be little doubt that Madurantacum has not suffered so much for the last ten years, and the ryots of this generally favored talook not having become accustomed to the excessive caprices of the north-east monsoon, which have lately affected those of Conjeveram and Chingleput, are loud in their complaints, and desponding beyond what the circumstances appear to warrant.

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From the same Officer, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapett, 6th April 1869, No. 92.

With reference to the official memorandum* of the Acting Under Secretary to Government, in the Revenue Department, requesting me to send, through the Board of Revenue, a report upon the state of the season (past and prospective), I have the honor to refer the Board to the various letters addressed by me on the subject since January last, as per margin*.

* No. 8, dated 15th January 1869.
,, 50 ,, 19th February ,,
,, 89 ,, 5th April ,,

2. I enclose a list of the ruling prices of food-grains this year, as compared with the prices of the last five years, from which the Board will see that the present prices are not very far beyond the average, and certainly below last year's prices in all grains but two, *viz.*, first sort paddy and cholum.

3. As to the condition of the poorer classes, I am glad to have to state that I do not at present see any cause for alarm, as I consider that the large public works being undertaken in and around Madras, and throughout the district, will afford ample employment for some time to come.

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*Statement showing the prices now prevailing, as compared with the prices of the last five years.*

| Articles. | Fusly 1278 per garce. | Price in the previous 5 years per garce. | | | | | | Average price per garce. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Fusly 1273. | Fusly 1274. | Fusly 1275. | Fusly 1276. | Fusly 1277. | Total. | |
| Paddy, 1st sort ... ... | 219 | 149 | 172 | 207 | 185 | 211 | 924 | 185 |
| ,, 2nd ,, ... ... | 201 | 137 | 156 | 192 | 166 | 198 | 849 | 170 |
| Cholum ... ... ... | 230 | 195 | 225 | 290 | 298 | 212 | 1,220 | 244 |
| Cumboo ... ... ... | 226 | 177 | 161 | 279 | 283 | 237 | 1,137 | 227 |
| Raggy ... ... ... | 242 | 189 | 261 | 283 | 312 | 242 | 1,287 | 257 |
| Varagoo ... ... ... | 158 | 140 | 252 | 210 | 221 | 170 | 993 | 198 |
| Horse-gram ... ... | 265 | 236 | 261 | 398 | 365 | 261 | 1,521 | 304 |

Sydapett,
*6th April* 1869.

(Signed) E. G. R. FANE,
*Collector.*

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The Board resolve to submit these letters for the information of Government.

2. The Collector's report is on the whole favorable, and shows that there is at present sufficient work provided for the laboring classes. The Board are not of opinion that sufficient grounds have been shown for special grants for the two roads alluded to in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Collector's letter of the 5th April, namely:—

1. Kilumbakum and Chingleput.
2. Manimungalum and Streeparmatoor.

3. The Collector concludes by asking that a special grant of 2,000 Rupees for each of the six talooks may be made for the purpose of improving the supply of drinking water for man and beast.

4. The Board are of opinion that it is desirable to sanction this provision for a purpose so intimately connected with public health, and the prosperity of agricultural stock.

5. It is well known that the drought of last year reduced the springs to a very low ebb, and that there has been again a most unusually deficient rain-fall. The Engineer of the East Coast Canal lately reported that the water at the lock between Madras and Ennore was, by the register, lower than it had ever before been known to be.

6. The Board, therefore, recommend that, as requested by the Collector, a sum of Rupees 12,000 may be sanctioned for the improvement of village wells and ponds.

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No. 490. ORDER THEREON, 23rd April 1869, No. 1,104.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government concur with the Board in considering that the Collector has not shown sufficient grounds for a special grant of funds for the prosecution of work on the two roads referred to by the Acting Sub-Collector.

2. It seems questionable also whether the condition of the district and people is such as to authorise any special outlay in the sinking of wells or improving the supply of drinking water. If, however, the Collector is satisfied, after personal inspection by himself or his Sub-Collector or Tahsildars, that the condition of any particular village is such as to justify any special outlay of this description, he is authorised to incur it, reporting the same to the Board of Revenue for confirmation. The Collector will, of course, be careful, in every case of this nature, to endeavour to induce the people of the place to contribute towards the work, either by donations in cash or by labor.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant-General.
,, the Public Works Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Rev. Dept. No. 1234. 321 :
Consult - 24. 365

Perumo 1869 Vol.
Pp. 1257.

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Recd. 17th April
1869

Recpd. 17 do
Read 19 do
E.A.
Solo 1104. 232 Appd
1/4

Season in Madras Dist:—
Collrs letters reporting on
state of the crops & condition
of the poorer classes & their
Agrarian classes & their
Cattle-Printing prices of
Grain & Cattle &c &c

489

Govt. of {1869} Madras.

REVENUE.

26

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

&c. &c. &c.

Dated April, 23rd.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 23rd April 1869, No. 1,104.

Pro. of the Board of Revenue 25 May 1709.

APRIL.

Nos. 489-490.

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*Season in Madras District.*—Collector's report on this subject and on the condition of the poorer classes, with orders thereon.

RD 64.

No 1104

Pro. of the Madras Govt. under date the 23d April 1869 read the following Pro. of the Bd of Rev. — dated 14th April 1869 —

The Govt. concur with the Board in considering that the Collector has not shown sufficient grounds for a special grant of funds for the prosecution of work on the two roads refused by the Asst. Collector.

It seems questionable also whether the condition of the District, and people is such as to authorize any special outlay in the sinking of wells or improving the supply of drinking water. If, however, the Coll. is satisfied after personal inspection by himself

or his Sub. Collector, or Tahsildars,
that the condition of any particular
village is such as to justify
any special entry of this
description, he is authorized
to enter it, reporting the
same to the Board of Revenue
for confirmation. The Collector
will of course be careful, in
every case of this nature, to
endeavour to reconcile the
people of the place to contribute
towards the work either by
donations in cash, or by labour.

14. To the Board of Revenue Dec 28 April
b " the Revenue and Survey Dl
21 " the Public Works Do Dec 1/2 "

DSL
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