M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 3173 Press ~~Mis-~~

194-195

Dated 14th December 1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 194. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd December 1869 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of South Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 20th November 1869, No. 277.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Board and Government, that heavy rain has fallen very generally throughout this district during the last month, and the quantity gauged at my own Office, since the 25th October, is noted in the margin.

Dates.	Inches.	Tenths.
25th and 26th October... ...	...	...
27th do.	1	...
28th do.	1	4½
29th do.	...	3½
31st do.	6	5½
1st November ...	...	5½
2nd do.	...	7
3rd do.	1	7½
4th do.	4	5
5th do.	1	3
6th do.	1	7½
7th do.	2	4½
11th do.	...	3½
13th do.	...	6½
15th do.	2	4½
16th do.	4	...
17th and 18th do.	...	...
	29	8½

2. Prior to this, all river-fed sources of irrigation had received a full supply for the season, and my only fear has been that tanks and reservoirs would have burst their banks, but happily as yet nothing of the kind, to any material extent, has been reported, owing to timely precautions to let off all surplus water. Rain-fed tanks, very generally throughout the district, have also received a full supply; and the season altogether promises to be one of the most propitious we have had for a series of years for both wet and dry cultivation.

3. It will be seen that the rain-fall in less than a month has nearly equalled the average amount in past years, and, if we only have a renewal of showers in the beginning of January, I am sanguine that there will be a very large increase of revenue in the current Fusly year, and that remissions will be almost unknown.

4. This sudden propitious change in the prospects of the coming season throughout this part of the country cannot be over-estimated; and it is only a Revenue-officer perhaps who can fully enter into the relief and blessing attending such a change, after the anxiety and distress occasioned by a succession of bad seasons; and I have thought the altered position of the year's prospects were a fitting subject for a special report, for if, as I believe, these prospects are much the same throughout the Presidency, the Board and Government will not fail to share in those feelings of gratitude and thankfulness, which every head of a Province must experience on witnessing his district suddenly turned from a desert into a garden, and promised abundance and plenty where only shortly before all looked gloomy and threatening.

5. Although the past few months, or since April, have been somewhat anxious to me, yet it is gratifying to find that all my calculations and anticipations, recorded in my letter to the Board of the 13th February last, No. 43, (*vide* Board's Proceedings, No. 1,596, of 9th March,) have proved correct and been fully realized.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th December 1869.

The retail prices of all grains have averaged throughout from 30 to 35 per cent. cheaper than in Fusly 1276-77, and there has been neither suffering or distress in any part of the district calling for special measures of relief; so that my expectations as to the real condition of the people, and my knowledge of the resources of the district available to meet any pressure, as given in paragraphs 10, 11, and 12, of that letter, have all been borne out—a result which has been very satisfactory however great my anxiety and watchful oversight may have been in the intervening period as the season of drought progressed.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

No. 195. ORDER THEREON, 14th December 1869, No. 3,173.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)
(Signed) H. WELLESLEY,
Acting Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of {1869} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated December, 14th

Read. Encl.

G. O., 14th *December* 1869, *No.* 3,173.

DECEMBER.

Nos. 194-195.

Season in South Arcot District.—Report of the Collector on the heavy fall of rain throughout the district, recorded.