

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	787.	Press ~~Mis.~~
560-61		
Dated	22 nd March	1967

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd March 1869.*

No. 560. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th March 1869, :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated Camp at Nursepatam, 22nd February 1869, No. 104.

1. As directed in the Official Memorandum, dated 11th February, No. 16 of the Acting Under Secretary to Government, I have the honor to report again on the state of this district.

2. I beg to refer to my letters of the 10th November last, No. 839, and 28th November, No. 877, in which the state of the season, and the out-turn of the crops as far as it had come within my knowledge were reported.

3. Shortly after forwarding the last report I proceeded to Jeypore, and after an extended tour through all the best cultivated portions of the territory, I was glad to find that although a slight failure of the latter rains was generally complained of, there had in fact been gathered an ordinary average crop, and the whole country was teeming with grain, the stock of former years. Owing to the utter want of communications between Jeypore and the rest of the district, the price of rice and other grains is about one-half what it is below the ghauts, but I have brought this whole subject prominently to notice in the report on my Hill tour recently submitted to Government, and I would only state here, that in case of need, it would be easy to obtain large supplies of grain from Jeypore, by making arrangements to obtain the necessary bullock carriage. In the village of Kottapad, I saw in the granaries of the Rajah, about twenty tons of paddy, besides other grains, which he would be glad to sell at a very moderate price, such as would amply remunerate any trader, who would arrange to transport it to the Coast.

4. From Jeypore I marched through the north of the district, and the fertile talook of Palkonda, back to head-quarters. Mr. Crnikshank, the Acting Senior Assistant, informed me, that in the greater portion of his charge, the whole of which, except Palkonda, is Zemindary, there had been some loss in the latest wet crops, but one which the great rise in prices had more than compensated to the ryots. I conversed with many smaller Zemindars on the state of their villagers, and found that in some of the poorer villages it would not be possible to collect the whole instalment of their last kists, which they would allow to lie over until the first instalment of the next year would be due.

5. Throughout the large and rich talook of Ganapur, the latest crops only were slightly below the average; with rare exceptions, the whole kists had been paid before the close of December last, and the agricultural classes had really benefited by the sudden rise in prices.

6. It was the middle of January when I reached the talook of Palkonda, rented out by Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., but though there were no crops then on the ground, I was informed by Mr. Mackie that throughout his admirably managed talook, the crops had been quite equal to those of an average year, and I had the satisfaction at that late season of seeing the river channels still flowing, and the ryots busily occupied in irrigating their fields for their hot weather Indigo sowings.

7. There can be no doubt that the breadth of land under Indigo must be greatly reduced in this talook in so dry a season as the present, but the ordinary

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grain crops were fairly successful, and Mr. Mackie informed me that he had not been asked to remit one Rupee of the revenue. The satisfactory condition of this talook in an unfavorable season, which has been ensured by the attention paid to the works of irrigation, is a just return for the liberality of the renters, and their Agent's efficient management.

8. Throughout the whole of the north and centre of the district, there is no lack of grain. Although there has been a great rise in price, reaching almost to that of the bad season of 1866-67, there is no reason to anticipate any further rise in the current season; with a decided diminution in this year's out-turn, the plentiful harvest of the preceding year is mostly in store, and I have witnessed no sign amongst the people any where, of distress, or even scarcity.

9. An attack of fever, brought on by my tour in the Jeypore country, detained me for some days at head-quarters, but on Mr. Sewell's arrival, I came on with him to the southern talooks, and for the last week have been residing with him at Nursepatam, where he has been conducting the settlement of that talook.

10. There is no doubt that the pressure in these talooks was justly described by Mr. Hutchins as great, and the loss of out-turn owing to the complete failure of the North-east monsoon is probably greater than in any other part of the district. The Jummahbundy of this talook has not been closed, but it is necessary to grant large remissions under the usual rules for waste and withered wet cultivation. There has not however been any demand for remission on dry crops, and there is no doubt that the early dry crops were more than usually remunerative.

11. On the first panic occasioned by the failure of the North-east monsoon, prices rose here considerably, and I am informed, that at one time in Nursepatam, rice reached the famine rate, (for these parts) of seven seers for the Rupee. It is now selling freely at sixteen seers the Rupee, and I have seen no signs of scarcity amongst the people. There is no want, there is at present no increase of crime. The produce scanty though it be, is being threshed out in all the fields, and the grain is left in heaps without any special precautions. There is dearth of provisions, but the plenty of the previous year prevents scarcity.

12. With regard to the remaining talook of Sarvasiddy, I have as yet less knowledge, but I shall proceed there this week with Mr. Sewell, when the settlement of this talook is completed. I know, however, from reliable information, that there are ample stores of grain in the Sarvasiddy Talook, and as the reconstruction of the Northern Trunk road, which runs through the length of the talook is now being carried on, work close at hand, is afforded to all the poorer classes. Captain Beatty informed me that he was at present employing six thousand people on this one line of road, and will be able to continue to do so until the close of the official year. There is no necessity at present for undertaking any special works.

13. Appended is a Statement, showing the average prices of the district per Madras garce, for the last three years. The ample harvest of the year 1867-68 brought down the high rates of the previous year of scarcity on an average to one half. They have again nearly risen to the same high-water mark. I learn from all quarters that there is an ample store of grain in the district, and I do not anticipate any increase in price during the current season. If we are favored

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with early rains in the next agricultural year, I trust the present pressure will be very temporary.

14. In another month I shall make a final report on this subject, when I trust I may be able to give an approximate Statement of the loss on the out-turn of the crops in the two Government talooks which at present I cannot attempt to estimate correctly.

Statement shewing the prices of the several articles of food during the last 3 years.

Species.	Fusly 1276.	Fusly 1277.	Present prices January 1869.	Remarks.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	
Paddy 1st Sort...	163	85	162	The prices here given are per Madras Garce con- taining 3,200 Madras measures, equal to 4,800 seers of Vizagapatam.
Do. 2nd ,, ...	152	77	138	
Rice 1st ,, ...	383	208	373	
Do. 2nd ,, ...	351	189	290	
Cholum or Javary ...	213	103	182	
Cumboo or Bajiru ...	165	77	197	
Raggy ...	197	97	209	
Horse-gram ...	235	124	167	
Harraek or Vargoo ...	136	56	92	

VIZAGAPATAM,
22nd February 1869.

(Signed) J. I. MINCHIN,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The Collector's report removes all apprehension as to the fairly prosperous condition of the District of Vizagapatam both below the ghauts, and above them in Jeypur.

No. 561. ORDER THEREON, 22nd March 1869, No. 787.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Erd. G. A. Turton.

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reaching almost to that of the bad season of 1865/67,
there is no reason to anticipate any further rise
in the current season, with a decided dimi-
-nution in this year's outturn, the plentiful
harvest of the preceding year is mostly in store,
and I have witnessed no sign amongst the people
any where of distress or even scarcity—

9. An attack of Fever, brought on by my
tour in the Jeypore Country, detained me for
some days at the Dinnington, but on the
Sewell's arrival I came on with him to the
Southern Talook, and for the last week have
been residing with him at Parsipatam where
he has been conducting the Settlement of that
Talook.

10. There is no doubt that the pressure in these talukas was justly described by Mr. Hutchins as great, and the loss of ~~the~~ outturn owing to the complete failure of the North East monsoon is probably greater than in any other part of the District. The

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State of Tennessee, County of Davidson, ss. I, John C. Hester, Clerk of said County, do hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original as the same appears from the records on file in my office.