

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	909	Press
		~~Mis~~
86-87		
Dated	5-4-1889	19

Not to be folded or roughly handled*File*

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
5th April 1869.*

No. 86. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd March 1869 :—

Read the following letter from the Officiating Collector of the Kistna District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Masulipatam, 10th March 1869, No. 56.

With reference to the official memorandum, No. 16, dated 11th ultimo, from the Under Secretary to Government, calling for a report upon the state of the season, with some account of the outturn of the crops, the condition of the poorer classes, and the ruling prices, I have the honor to state that the past season in

Season.

this district was on the whole pretty good. Mr. Comyn's report, embodied in the Board's Proceedings, No. 325, dated 19th January 1869, contains full particulars of the state of the season and crops up to 31st December 1868. In January and February last there was no rain-fall in the district, except three cents in Nandigama Talook.

2. I annex a comparative statement of rain-fall during the past two seasons :—

Months.	FCSLY 1277.		FUSLY 1278.	
	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.
June	1	77	5	12
July	1	97	8	20
August	6	47	3	59
September... ..	8	83	6	53
October	7	26	1	75
November... ..	0	20	0	33
December... ..	0	62	0	0
January... ..	0	0	0	0
February... ..	0	0	0	3
	27	12	25	55

It will be observed from the above statement, that though the total rain-fall in the current year was only 1 inch 57 cents less than in the previous year, the north-east monsoon was almost a complete failure. The staple crops begin to ear in October, and at this time the plant requires water which just at this period failed this year.

3. The inadequate fall of rain towards the latter part of the season also rendered it difficult to plough and sow the lands for the later or pyra crops. The extent of land cultivated with dry crops in the current year is 1,165,359 acres against 1,185,172 in the previous year, the decrease being 19,813 acres.

11,85,172

4. The season began extremely well with abundance of rain everywhere in the district. The prospects of the season were such that people thought it promised to be the best season that had been known for many years, and anticipated that the prices would be reduced by one-half. Prices did fall for some time; but as the rains ceased they rose again to some extent, and have since remained almost stationary.

5. CROPS.—The poonassa or early crops, such as sujja, giddajonna, which are extensively cultivated in the western talooks, yielded a good outturn. The

11,65,359

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
5th April 1869.

mookka jonna in the eastern talooks was not, however, so good, owing to heavy rains in July.

6. DRY.—Of the staple crops, *velaradam jilama*, *ludama* (black paddy crops), suffered the most, as they require more rain than any other dry crop. In the delta these crops were watered by the anicut-channels wherever water was available; but in the upland talooks the black paddy was an entire failure.

7. Jonna or cholam suffered much in the eastern talooks by drought; but in the upland talooks it yielded a fair return. In the latter it is generally sown earlier, and the effects of the drought late in the season did not affect it much. In the eastern talooks it is sown in September, and consequently the want of rain from October damaged the stalk, and the yield was not even half the average.

8. WET.—The wet paddy in the delta gave a good outturn under the influence of the anicut-channels but with some more showers in October and November would have done better. The anicut-channels are utilised as far as they go; but in seasons of drought their supply is inadequate for the irrigation of the large area of land cultivated with wet crops in the delta. Only with the help of seasonable rains they supply the necessary water. In the inland talooks, the supply from tanks proved insufficient to bring the crop to maturity. The out-turn was, therefore, less than half of the average quantity. There was a decrease in the wet cultivation as noted in the margin.

Fusly 1277	ACRES.
1278	132,969
Decrease...	122,196
	10,773

9. PYRA CROPS.—Of the later crops the most extensively cultivated is *parige*, and in this the ryots suffered a considerable loss. Like jonna, where it was sown earlier, it yielded half and three-fourths of the average; but in other places the want of one or two showers injured the crop to a serious extent, and the yield was not more than one-fourth of the average.

10. On the other hand, *Bengal-gram* and *castor-oil seeds* were extremely good. Gram and other species of pulses, as well as Tobacco and chillies, also produced well.

Fusly 1277	ACRES.
1278	194,295
Decrease	176,580
	17,625

11. *Indigo* did not grow well, owing to the insufficiency of rain; but the cotton crop was very fair, though the extent of cultivation was less than in the preceding year, as shown in the margin.

12. There is no second crop cultivation in this district.

13. THE CONDITION OF THE POOR CLASSES.—The poorer classes of agriculturists are evidently in a bad condition in this year. The more substantial ryots, who have large holdings, had a good profit from their early crops, and they can, therefore, easily tide over the losses resulting from the failure of the later cultivation; but the poorer ryots, of the coast villages in particular, who have no good lands to cultivate the poonassa crops, suffer from the failure of their staple crop. All that they require is some remission of assessment on these sandy dry lands; but there is no need of any further anxiety about them, as they have all had fair profits from their cultivation in past years, owing to the prevalence of high prices.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
5th April 1869.

14. As regards the poorer classes among the non-agriculturalists, it may be stated that they are not in any way in a worse condition than usual, for the wages of the laboring classes rise with a rise in prices. There is ample work available for them both in the Department Public Works and elsewhere.

15. PRICES.—A statement of the prevailing prices of the food-grains most generally in use, as compared with the prices of previous years, is entered below:—

	1274.	1275.	1276.	1277.	1278.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Paddy, 1st sort	197	179	216	152	179
Paddy, 2nd "	178	168	199	142	165
Maize	228	191	238	189	161
Sujjaloo	210	198	207	285	136
Raggy		179	207	153	148
Gram	261	268	292	169	201

It will be observed from the above statement that the price of paddy has risen compared with Fusly 1277, although it is lower than the prices in the previous three years. The rising is partly due to exportation. The prices of maize, sujjaloo, and raggy have fallen; that of ~~grain~~ has risen compared with the previous year. The fluctuations in prices are not very remarkable. If exportation is limited prices fall; if it is large they rise; and it may be generally stated that the produce of this district, owing to improved irrigation, has always been sufficient for home consumption, and affords a considerable supply for annual exportation.

This report is submitted to Government, with the remark that the fiscal relief, in respect to which discretionary powers have been conceded to Officers, will suffice to relieve any immediate need.

2. There is no present cause for anxiety in regard to any class of inhabitants.

3. The Collector is directed to keep himself fully informed of the condition of the poorer classes as the season advances.

No. 87. ORDER THEREON, 5th April 1869, No. 909.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

No 20 Feb 1869
D. 355-358

Rev. 1869 Sept 3rd
No 938.

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue -

Date 22nd March 1869
Sept 21st - do
Rev 23rd.

No

Season, Crops, &c in
District, Collector's report
on state of, submitted to
Government with remarks.
Collector directed to keep
himself fully informed
of condition of poorer class
as season advances -

1869

RECORDED.

36-87

5th April 1869

14 copies to be sent to the Board of Revenue.

March 1869

Calcutta 11869

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated April 5th.

Recd.

G. O., 30th April 1869, No. 563.

APRIL.

1868-69.

Extract from Minute Proceedings
of the Board of Revenue on the report of the
Collector, forwarded.