Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th January 1872.

No. 210. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th January 1871, Miscellaneous No. 303 :—

Read the following letter from the Acting Deputy-Collector, for Acting Collector of Ganjam, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Baligada, 30th December 1871, No. 1,585.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following particulars relating to the state of the season :—

2. *Market and Crops.*—In *Gumsur* supply of grain is ample. The prices in the neighbourhood of Jagannadaprasad and Kurcholi are lower than elsewhere. At *Aska* paddy obtainable, both country and foreign, new and old. In *Hautghur*, *Dharacote*, *Shergada*, and the three Malugdaree estates of *Aska*, the probable yield of paddy is expected to be not less than six-sixteenths and not more than eight-sixteenths. In one mootah of *Hautghur* ten villages have yielded a full crop, seven villages half, twenty-seven villages a quarter, and eighteen villages, the crop has been entirely lost. In this mootah paddy is selling at 51 seers per Rupee and raggy at 42 seers. *Chinnakimedy* being on a higher level than other talooks, and few of its villages being irrigated from rivers, the paddy crop is more deficient than elsewhere. In one mootah only (Ottagisi) is the yield expected to be a three-quarter one. The Aska Deputy-Tahsildar believes that as soon as the crops are threshed the prices will rise. In *Peddakimidy* it is reported that the crops have failed, that the poor people are badly off for food, and that paddy-straw is with difficulty procurable for cattle. The *Thurla* Zemindary has yielded a full crop; *Teckally* exactly half. The Malugdaree estates near *Teckally* have had three-quarter crops, with the exception of *Pedda Tungam*, which yielded only a quarter. The raggy crop in this part of the district is estimated at half the usual outturn. In that division the paddy-harvest is not less than last year. There is no difficulty in procuring food. The *Mandasa* Zemindar reports that nothing like starvation is probable or possible in his Zemindary. In the Zemindary and Malugdaree estates under the Chicacole Tahsildar, namely, *Srikurmam*, *Karkavalsa*, *Gottipilly*, and *Munaguvalsa*, the probable outturn is estimated at 10-16 to 12-16. Paddy is here 50 Rs. per garce.

3. *Labour, etc.*—In *Gumsur* there is no special want among the labouring classes at present. Coolies from the low country have not been employed as is usual in good years. The crops have been harvested by the ryots and local labour. The poorer classes have earned enough food for a month; they will be badly off and require employment between March and August. In the neighbourhood of *Aska* labour is at present obtainable in the fields in some parts. Where the harvest is in, the labourers have as usual taken to cutting fuel and drawing water for the cane fields. There is no present difficulty about food. In portions of *Hautghur* it is stated that after the harvest is over it will be necessary to find employment to avert starvation.

4. *Water-supply.*—In *Gumsur* most of the tanks have been drained for cultivation. Four only retain some water. The want of water for cattle is much felt in ten* places. There is enough water for the people in the inferior wells which they dig in tank-beds and river-

* I have requested Captain Beckley to have wells dug at once.

beds. Near *Aska* some of the tanks have dried up earlier than usual. Water obtainable in wells and rivers. In that part of *Hautghur* neighbouring on Purushottapur want of water for domestic purposes is much felt in many villages. In the *Teckally* division the tanks contain but little water. In 130 or 140 villages of the *Peddakimidy* Talook it is stated that water is barely procurable either for man or beast. I am writing to Captain Beckley about this. Between 40 or 50 wells are being dug in the Berhampore Talook at the recommendation of the Tahsildar and the Executive Engineer. Applications for wells are daily received from this part of the district. The *Sompetta* Deputy-Tahsildar thinks that wells may be eventually required at Hurripur and Sompetta.

5. *Emigration.*—From *Gumsur* it is stated that no emigration has taken place from the regular population. The tank-digging tribes are moving towards Sumbulpore and Navagada, and other wandering tribes have also passed up the same way. A few families from *Peddakimidy* and *Surangy* moved into Gumsur in November, owing to failure of crops and dearth of water. The *Peddakimidy* Zemindar gives the number of emigrants from his talook at 150 women and 200 men.

6. *Health.*—In *Gumsur* health of people good. Cattle suffering from hoof and mouth rot. *Aska* health good, a little fever expected. In *Hautghur* cattle suffering from attacks of wild beasts. In *Teckally* both people and cattle are free from disease. From *Chicacole* the accounts are similarly good.

7. *Grain in Stock.*—The Deputy-Tahsildar of Aska reports that 15,000* burnums of paddy are stored in the talooks forming his division. The *Teckally* Deputy-Tahsildar thinks that there is no great stock of old paddy in his talooks. The new paddy is already stored. The prospects of the season were so good in the early part of the year that the merchants stored but little.

* Daracote ... ... Rs. 3,300
Hautghur 3,500
Aska three Malukadary Estates ... 4,100
Chinnakimidy 2,000
Shargada 2,100
15,000

Holders of grain do not readily part with it hoping for a further rise in price consequent on the distress in Vizagapatam. The importation of grain from Orissa continues as brisk as ever both by Chilka Lake and by road. Mr. Harris reports that 3,789 bandies have passed in from Rumbah between the 7th and 15th instant, and that between 4,000 and 5,000 carts have gone empty to Orissa to fetch grain. The bulk of these find their way towards Digupudy, Surangy, Chikati, and Nowpadah, and the price was stated to be 16 Rs. a bandy, which is a considerable reduction on the rates ruling when I left Chetterpore in the middle of last month. There is a little exportation going on from Chicacole into Vizagapatam.

8. The accounts from Purlakimidy are as satisfactory as when I reported to the Board on the 14th instant.

9. I have had several demi-official communications from my Senior Assistant Mr. Crosthwaite, who is now on circuit in the Zemindaries round Berhampore. He does not think that there is any immediate danger of starvation from hunger or thirst, but considers that it is absolutely necessary to undertake public works, as no employment will be available after January.

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10. I feel no doubt myself that it will be unnecessary to do more than find work at various points for the poorer classes, and I hope to be able to arrange with Mr. Thornhill, whom I expect to meet in a few days, where these relief works may be best undertaken.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

No. 211. ORDER THEREON, 17th January 1872, No. 107.

Miscellaneous. ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)
(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, G. Thornhill, Esq.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Rec: 18th Dep.t
N: 140
Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Dated 12th January 1872
Dep.d 12 — " ——
Recd 13th — " — ".

Mis: Ct. 303.

Submitting report
From Coll.r of Tanjore
on season, crops, water
supply, public health
&c.a.

14. Board of Rev.e Dep.t 18 Jany 72
1. G. Thomas Esq.r Coll.r &c.

No. 210-21

C. 14 Jany: R 16th

17th Jany 72.