

(1) Number of Pages.....16.....
 (2) Date of repair.....23. 6. 1966.....
 (3) Initials of the Referencer.....*[Signature]*.....

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	276	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	27. 2.	1874 196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 265. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th February 1874, No. 307:—

Read the following letters:—

From R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 1st February 1874, No. 58.

In continuation of my letter, No. 42, dated 22nd ultimo, reporting the failure of the north-east monsoon, I have the honour to inform you that a few local showers have fallen, and a slight fresh, down the river, has filled the upper channels; the state of things is, therefore, no worse than when I last wrote, and a part of the rice crop is now being harvested.

2. I enclosed a resumé of the state of each taluq as far as can be gathered from the Division Officers and Tahsildar's reports and from my personal inspection in some cases.

3. The people confidently expect rain in a few days, and in the meantime arrangements have been made to turn all the water available to the crops in the ear, and to sacrifice those in the blade. Unless rain falls, the whole of the latter will perish, as they still require from forty to sixty days water, and this will add 30 per cent. to the estimated amount of remission.

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From the same Officer, dated 3rd February 1874, No. 63.

In reply to Board's Proceedings, dated 30th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that the dry lands of the Senkranainarkovil and Nanganery Taluqs have not returned the seed sown, and as the rain-fed tanks throughout these taluqs have failed entirely with the exception of a few to the west of the trunk road in Nanganery, we cannot do less than remit half the dry and all the wet land assessment; there will be no difficulty in making such a remission; a notice in the Gazette to the effect that the ryots of Senkranainarkovil and of all Nanganery, east of the trunk road, will receive a remission equal to the whole of the "Ponakulam Nanjai" assessment and 50 per cent. of the Punjai assessment will comfort all concerned and prevent any misappropriation of the money; and that these localities need such remissions, is shown by the enclosed copies of letters from the Sub-Collector, Mr. Happell, and the Assistant Collector, Mr. Bird, who are devoting all their time and attention to Nanganery and Senkranainarkovil respectively.

2. The Assistant Engineer, Mr. Grant, who is moving about in Nanganery and has great opportunities for observing the state of the crops, has also furnished the Statement enclosed.

3. The additional Sub-Collector is making a careful inspection of the villages of the Tinnevely Taluq, and I have just returned from a tour through the villages under the southern channel from the Strivaigundam anicut. The Head-Assistant is about to visit the villages under the northern channel.

4. From my general knowledge of the country and the numerous reports received, I consider that nothing very exceptional has occurred in the three northern taluqs of Satoor, Strivaliputur and Ottapidarum; the black soil holds the moisture, and the dry crops have only failed in places.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th February 1874.*

5. The irrigation of these taluqs is in considerable except at the foot of the hills, and there is no special failure; elsewhere the tanks have more or less failed, but some still hold water, and in these taluqs, it is customary to supplement direct irrigation with water raised from wells.

6. I do not, therefore, anticipate much more than an ordinary remission, estimated in the aggregate at Rs. 67,000 for these three taluqs.

7. In the adjoining taluq of Senkranainarkovil the case is very different; there the soil is red sand, spread over a sub-stratum of gravel, and the failure of wet and dry crops, except under the river-fed tanks, is general; no rain has fallen since the middle of November, and what did fall then soon soaked into the ground. The rain-fed tanks have not held any water to speak of this year, and there would have been no cultivation under them, had it not been the custom of that taluq to raise the seedlings under wells or river channels; to plant out under the rain-fed tanks, as soon as the soil is softened by rain; it would have been better of course had the land been left unploughed, but, as it is, the Government must bear its share of the loss, and in a tract where no wet crops are grown and there is no money in the hands of the ryots, it would be difficult to collect the assessment of the dry lands, which have failed equally with the wet.

8. Mr. Bird, the Assistant Collector, has long been in charge of the taluq and knows every village in it; he is there on the spot giving his undivided attention to the important work in hand, and I feel perfect confidence in the ability and judgment, which he will bring to bear on the subject; he does not propose availing himself of his leave till April, and will complete the Jummabundy of his taluq before he leaves.

9. In Tenkasi there is nothing specially amiss; the Ghaut mountains bound the taluq on two sides, and there is more rain at Tenkasi than elsewhere; the numerous minor rivers that supply the tanks in this taluq are fed by every shower that falls on the hills, and the rain-fed tanks are few, and these have only partially failed. I have just spent five months in this taluq, and during the settlement, have seen every thing that there is to see, so thoroughly, that I feel no anxiety about Tenkasi, and do not consider any further inspection by a European Officer to be at all necessary; the estimated remission is only Rs. 11,000, and this applies to the rain-fed tanks to the south-east of the taluq, and to the occasional failure of crop in other places.

10. In the high lands, bounding the river valley in Ambasamudram and Tinnevelly, the dry crops have failed throughout, and the rain-fed tanks are a total failure; as the dry crops are insignificant and the irrigated lands in the river valley are quite safe in Ambasamudram and two-thirds of those of Tinnevelly will be saved, I do not here propose any remission for dry crops.

11. There is nothing amiss with the valley of the Satoor, but the irrigation under the last anicut on the Pachiyar has failed so entirely, that though some 20 acres are said to be likely to yield, I have ordered all to be treated alike and remission to be made for all.

12. Mr. Arundel who has been a great deal about this taluq during the settlement is now taking each tract in succession, and will submit his proposals shortly.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th February 1874.*

13. Tenkarei is perhaps quite as well off as in ordinary seasons; the Marudur channels are dry and part of the crop must perish, but there is more water in the tanks under the new Strivaigundum anicut than ever was known before; the rain-fed tanks on the uplands have failed, but along the terei and to the south of the taluq, there is no particular loss; the dry crops in this taluq have not entirely failed, and the palmyras will yield their juice, which is the food of many thousands of people throughout the coming hot weather.

14. I have myself inspected the villages on the south bank of the river, and the Head-Assistant will take up those on the north; there is nothing very special in this taluq, and the remission is estimated at Rs. 52,000.

15. Nanguneri, like Senkranainarkovil, has a thin, sandy soil, spread over a gravelly stratum; the rain fall here is always less than in other parts of the district, and as the ryots persist in retaining in their puttas dry lands that they can only cultivate perhaps once in four years, there is always great distress to the south-east, where whole villages habitually emigrate to subsist on the charity of Travancore, during some months every year.

16. This year the crop is so much worse than usual, that it has failed altogether instead of yielding next to nothing, and as the rain-fed tanks have also failed, the ryots have nothing wherewith to pay the kists.

17. Mr. Happel is now in Nanganery and can confine his attention to that taluq, as the rest of the sub-division requires no special measures. I propose remitting 50 per cent. of the dry assessment throughout, and all the rain-fed tank assessment in the south-eastern part of the taluq.

18. The good old revenue system now in force has assessed this impoverished tract, where the rain-fall is less than any where else in the Presidency, at higher rates than prevail in even the most fertile villages of the Cavery or Tambrapurni, and were it not for the assistance afforded by the Palmyra forest to the east of the taluq, the Coffee Estates on the hills to the west, and the charities of Travancore to the south, the poorer tracts of this taluq would have been depopulated years ago.

19. I do not propose taking my leave till the end of this month, and shall have made all arrangements that can be made ere then. The damage that we must sustain will be well known and recorded before the end of this month, and all needful inspection will have been made; on return in June, I propose making the Jummabundy of the three taluqs, in which settlement operations have been carried on this year.

20. With the exception of making remissions, the principles and details of which will all be well settled before hand, the Jummabundy of these taluqs will be merely nominal, as much more than an ordinary Jummabundy has been going on throughout the year; the puttas have been changed, the common lands divided, and all disputes have been settled; there remains, therefore, nothing to do but to issue puttas for the current fasli, exhibiting the remissions now determined on.

21. To avoid confusion, I do not propose issuing the new settlement puttas until the close of the current fasli, so that they will not come into operation until the commencement of the coming fasli.

22. To summarize the foregoing, I propose making a remission of 50 per cent. on the entire dry assessment of two taluqs. To remit the entire rain-fed tank assessment of two taluqs, three-quarters of the rain-fed tank assessment of five taluqs, one-half of the rain-fed tank assessment of two taluqs, and so much of the assessment of the river-fed lands as circumstances may require; this may be approximately set down, as under—

	RS.
Dry Assessment	1 lakh.
Rain-fed tank Assessment	2 lakhs.
River-fed do.	1 lakh.
Total...	4 lakhs.

detailed particulars of this remission, as far as it can be estimated at present were given in my letter of yesterday's date.

The Collector of Tinnevely now reports more in detail upon the state of his district and upon the amount of remission that it will be necessary to give during the current fasli.

2. Fortunately there does not appear from Mr. Puckle's report to be any present actual scarcity of grain, although the failure of the dry crops, and of the paddy harvest, to a large extent under the rain-fed tanks, has naturally raised prices to about double the quotations of this time last year. The taluqs that have suffered most severely are Nanganery and Senkranainakovil; and for these Mr. Puckle proposes alleviations amounting to Rupees 85,000 in the former and 98,000 in the latter.

3. Mr. Bird, the Assistant Collector, has been making careful personal inquiries into the condition and wants of Senkranainakovil and does not intend to take his leave until the Jummabundy of this taluq has been completed.

4. Mr. Happell, the Sub-Collector, has been similarly engaged with regard to Nanganery and will devote his attention thereto, as the Collector is of opinion that "the rest of the Sub-Division requires no special measures.

5. Mr. Puckle has himself made a tour through a portion of the villages in the Tinnevely Taluq, and the inspection is being completed by the additional Sub-Collector.

6. The amount of revenue to be foregone is Rupees 56,000 for this taluq.

7. In the three northern taluqs of Satoor, Strivaliputur and Ootapadarum Mr. Puckle estimates that alleviations to the amount of Rupees 67,000 will be necessary, but it does not appear that this tract of country has been visited by any special officer.

8. Owing to its proximity to the mountain ranges, Tenkasy has fared better and suffered only as regards the rain-fed tanks on the south-east, and other occasional failures elsewhere. Here the remissions are set down at Rupees 11,000 and as Mr. Puckle has spent five months in this taluq during the progress of his settlement work, no further examination can be required.

9. Tenkarai has apparently been saved to a considerable extent by the new Strivvyguntum anicut. The inspection of this taluq has been partially carried out by Mr. Puckle, and will be completed by the Head-Assistant. The remissions are estimated at Rupees 52,000.

10. Ambasamudram is safe as far as the river irrigated villages are concerned, but the lands under rain-fed tanks have yielded nothing, and the remissions thereon together with alleviations for failures under certain channels are set down at Rupees 49,000. It is not quite clear by whom the examination into the state of this taluq has been made. The total amount of revenue which will, by Mr. Puckle's estimate, have to be foregone is Rupees 4,18,000; but the Board regret to find, from the Collector's letter of the 1st instant, that, unless rain falls all the crops in the blade will perish, and there will in all probability be need of further concessions to the amount of Rupees 1,25,400, thus bringing up the total loss to Rupees 5,43,400. This is a serious diminution in the anticipated revenue of the province, and had there been a fair amount of rain in December or even in January, the loss might, to a great extent have been averted, as from the monthly reports it appears that the rain-fall was good in November. Upon the understanding that, with the aid of the special officer lately deputed, those parts of the district not yet inspected will be examined by responsible officials; and that Mr. Puckle will not publish the Notices he proposes in the Gazette until he is satisfied that each tract so notified really demands the sacrifice made, the Collector's proposals are approved.

11. Mr. Puckle will of course report to the Board at once should there be any reason to apprehend scarcity of grain.

No. 266. ORDER THEREON, 27th February 1874, No. 276.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Esd. G. A. Turton.

Revenue Department *No. 7*



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Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 12th February 1874

Read letters from the Collector of
Tinnevely, dated 1st and 3rd Instant Nos.
58 and 63 submitting report on the State of
the Season in the District.

The Collector of Tinnevely now
reports more in detail upon the state
of his District and upon the amount
of permission that it will be neces-
sary to give during the current Fashy.

Fortunately there does not ap-
pear from Mr. Puckle's report
to be any present actual scarcity
of grain although the failure of

Obdt. of 1874
REVENUE.
THE BOARD OF REVENUE.
Dated February 21st.
G. O., 27th February 1874, No. 270.
FEBRUARY.
Nos. 265-266.
Remissions in Tinnevely District.
Records Board's Proceedings regarding the grant
of — consequent on the state of the season.

the dry crops, and of the paddy harvest, to a large extent under the pained tanks, has naturally raised prices to about double the quotations of this time last year.

The Taluqs that have suffered most severely are Kanguanary and Saukaranainarkovil; and for these Mr. Puckle proposes alleviations amounting to Rupees 85,000 in the former and 98,000 in the latter. Mr. Bird, the Assistant Collector has been making careful personal enquiries into the condition and wants of Saukaranainarkovil and does not intend to take his leave until the *jamabundy*

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jamabundy of this Taluq has been completed.

Mr. Happell the Sub Collector has been similarly engaged with regard to Kanguanary and will devote his attention thereto, as the Collector is of opinion that "the pest of the Sub Division requires no special measures."

Mr. Puckle has himself made a tour through a portion of the villages in the Tiruvellu Taluq, and the inspection is being completed by the additional Sub Collector.

The amount of Revenue to be foregone is Rupees 56,000 for this

this Talug.

In the three northern Talugs of Sator, Strivalliputer and Pota-hadaram Mr. Puckle estimates that alleviations to the amount of Rupees 6,000 will be necessary, but it does not appear that this tract of country has been visited by any Special Officer.

Owing to its proximity to the Mountain Ranges, Turkasi has fared better and suffered only as regards the rain-fed tanks on the South-East, and other occasional failures elsewhere. Here the remissions are set down at Rupees 11,000, and as Mr. Puckle has spent five

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five months in this Talug during the progress of his Settlement work, no further examination can be required.

Turkarai has apparently been saved to a considerable extent by the New Sringuntum Aikut. The inspection of this Talug has been partially carried out by Mr. Puckle, and will be completed by the Head Assistant. The remissions are estimated at Rupees 52,000.

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should there be any reason to
apprehend scarcity of grain.

True extract,

Wm. J. Grose
Secretary

To The Collector of
Tinnevely.
(True copy)

Grose
Secretary.

To The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
with 2 original letters and
7 original enclosures to be re-
turned.

C. M. M. M.
Copy to Madras

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Resumed 1874 before
proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

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1874

Pat. 12
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