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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT

|          |             |       |
|----------|-------------|-------|
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| Dated    | 24. 3. 1874 | 196 . |

*Not to be folded or roughly handled*

378

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
24th March 1874.*

No. 211. Read the following Proceedings of the Court of Wards, dated 14th March 1874, No. 590 :—

Read the following letter from W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Court of Wards, dated Ramnad, 2nd March 1874, No. 29.

With reference to the Court's Proceedings, Miscellaneous No. 1,125, dated 19th February 1874, I have the honour to submit copy of a letter from the Special Assistant in charge of the Ramnad Zemindari, dated 24th February, No. 29.

2. I have seen the worst part of the Zemindari, and think that the future condition of the people depends on the result of the harvest of the Koday crop which will be reaped in July. The merchants at Keelakaray expect grain from Burmah in their own ships, and the prices at our sea-ports are not likely ever to be much higher than they are at Negapatam. I enclose four statements which will give an idea of the existing import and export trade in rice at the ports in the Zemindari. The markets are sufficiently supplied, and I have no distress of an exceptional character to report at present.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. LEE-WARNER, Esq., Special Assistant Collector, Ramnad, to W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, dated 24th February 1874, No. 29.

To allay the apprehension of an immediate outbreak of distress in the district, I have the honour to inform the Court of Wards that, from the 17th to the 20th instant, heavy showers of rain fell throughout the entire estate, which, though coming too late to restore the already withered wet crops, have softened the ground for ploughing, have given a present supply of water for the cattle as well as the people, and have revived the hopes of all as to the future. But for this providential change in the weather, it is impossible to think how matters would have gone on, where so early in the season the remaining water in the wells was barely enough for household purposes, and cattle had to be taken immense distances to be watered.

2. I found in my tour, which for purposes of famine prospecting happily terminated at Sayelgudy, that the ryots, who had settled to remain in their villages for the last season, hoped to pull through it somehow or another, the rich helping the poor; and their only anxiety was to secure a positive promise from me that I would send them an advance to commence the repairs of their tanks at once. I saw in my zigzagging rides from village to village many a tank which will pay immediate attention; and the opinion that I have formed is that it will pay the estate well to repair the tanks of the Kamudy Taluq in preference to any other in this division from end to end.

3. Prices of all sorts of grain are now nearly exactly double what they were at this time last year. I account for this by the badness of last season, the drain on the market for the supply of the Government in Bengal, and the fact that the Cowledars are generally storing all their share of the "Melwaram," and not letting the ryots buy it on the ground. If prices rise hereafter, which I hope they will not, and if there are any signs of a scarcity of food-supply, I shall keep you informed. Unfortunately for the dweller in the south, their known character as thieves and the awful state of communications over that black cotton and clay sponge act as effectual checks on the free importation of grain from other places. But I see that the weekly fairs of Kadalady and Kamudy will make admirable centres at which we can introduce relief into those parts by sending down a supply of grain from Keelakaray and other ports under protection, if even there is a necessity for taking so decided a step. Luckily it is the normal state of things for the poorest

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
24th March 1874.*

ryots of the most ill-supplied villages on the estate to emigrate in search of employment to other districts and to Ceylon, as soon as the crop is off the ground, and this emigration relieves the market for the time.

4. I have only now to request that you will authorize my entering the sum of Rupees 7 in the chuttrum accounts, paid by me in anticipation of your sanction, for commencing to excavate the ~~pond at the bottom of the pond attached to the Kadugansalai chuttrum~~ a very necessary ~~work~~ as the water had already fallen so low that it could only be collected in ladles, and smelt offensively. The rough estimate was only 15 Rupees, but the progress of the digging was interrupted by the rain.

5. I am now going up to the taluqs of Arunoothumangalom and Anumantagudi, whence I had received reports prior to this fall of rain, however, that the ryots were crying for labour on the tanks, and were much distressed for water.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 2 to 5.—Statements.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The reports of the Collector and Special Assistant are satisfactory. The timely fall of rain from the 17th to 20th February seems to have been highly beneficial in its effects, although too late to save the withered crops.

3. The Court trust to Mr. Lee-Warner to keep them accurately informed of any change in the prospects of the Zemindari, and will be glad to learn that the tank-repairs, for which the people seem so anxious, have been put in hand, and are should be carefully watched.

4. The Court will be prepared, if necessary, to increase the allotment for tank-repairs. Judicious expenditure on works of irrigation in Ramnad must be remunerative in a fiscal point of view, and will be of great assistance to the people in a year like the present.

No. 212.

ORDER THEREON, 24th March 1874, No. 378.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

C. G. MASTER,  
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. W. H. French.

of a scarcity of food supply.  
I shall keep you informed.  
Unfortunately for the dwellers  
in the South, their known charac-  
ter as thieves, and the awful  
state of communications over that  
black cotton and clay sponge  
act as effectual checks on the  
free importation of grain from  
other places. ~~But in the North~~  
weekly fairs of Heelakady and  
Heamudy will make admirable  
centres, at which we can intro-  
duce relief into those parts by  
sending down a supply of grain  
from Heelakarai and other ports  
under protection, if even there  
is a necessity for taking so decided  
a step. Luckily it is the normal  
state of things for the poorest  
ryoto

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

11<sup>th</sup> March 1874.

Recd.

G. O. 24th March 1874, No. 373.

MARCH

Nos. 211-212.

State of Season in Rannet Zemindar.  
Madura District.—Records Proceedings Court of  
Wards reporting favourably regarding the —.

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Villages on the Estate to emigrate  
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The

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racter to report at present.

Madura Collrs Office } I have recd  
(Camp) Rannad } E. W. McLuhae  
2<sup>d</sup> March 1874 } Collector

N<sup>o</sup> 29

Rannad 24<sup>th</sup> February 1874

From

J. Lee Warner Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Special Assistant Collector  
Rannad

To

W. McLuhae Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Collector of Madura

Sir,

To allay the apprehen-  
sion of an immediate out-break  
of distress in the southern angle  
of the Estate, such as my letter  
N<sup>o</sup> 23 dated 3<sup>d</sup> Instant may have  
excited I have the pleasure

to inform the Court of Wards that  
from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> Instant  
heavy showers of rain fell  
throughout the entire Estate, which  
though coming too late to restore  
the already withered wet crops,  
have softened the ground for  
ploughing, have given a present  
supply of water for the Cattle  
as well as the people and have  
revived the hopes of all, as  
to the future. But for this  
providential change in the  
weather it is impossible to think  
how matters would have gone  
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the remaining water in the  
wells was barely enough for  
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5  
378  
Cattle had to be taken immense  
distances to be watered.

2. I found in my tour,  
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prospecting happily terminated  
at Layelgudy, that the ryots, who  
had settled to remain in their  
Villages for the last season,  
hoped to pull through it some-  
how or another, the rich helping  
the poor; and their only anxiety  
was to secure a positive promise  
from me that I would send  
them an advance to commence  
the repairs of their Tanks at  
once. I saw in my zigzagging rides  
from Village to Village many  
a Tank which will pay im-  
mediate attention; and the opinion  
that

that I have formed is that  
it will pay the Estate well  
to repair the Tanks of the Faamdy  
Tahsy in preference to any other  
in this division from end to end.

3. Prices of all sorts of  
grain are now nearly exactly double  
what they were at this time  
last year. I account for this  
by the badness of last season,  
the drain on the market for  
the supply of the Government in  
Bengal, and the fact that the  
Cowledars are generally storing  
all their share of the "Melwarum",  
and not letting the ryots buy it  
on the ground. If prices rise  
hereafter, which I hope they will  
not, and if there are any signs  
of

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Court of Wards  
dated 14<sup>th</sup> March 1874

No. 29

Read the following

From,

W. Mc Lachlan Esquire

Collector of Madras

To,

J. Lyrose Esquire

Secretary to the Court  
of Wards, Madras

Sir,

With reference to the  
Court's Proceedings Miscellaneous  
No. 1125 dated 19<sup>th</sup> February 1874,  
I have the honor to submit  
copy of a letter from the Special  
Assistant in charge of the  
Rannad

Ramnad Zemiindari dated  
24<sup>th</sup> February No. 29.

2. I have seen the worst  
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in July. The merchants at  
Keelekarai expect grain  
from Burmah in their own  
ships and the prices at our  
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import and export trade in  
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Rupees, but the progress of digging  
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5. I am now going up to the  
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and Annamangudi, whence I  
had received reports prior to  
this fall of rain however that  
the ryots were crying for labour  
on the Tanks, and were  
distressed for water.

I have on  
(Sd) J. Lee Warner  
Manager  
(True copy)  
(Signed) W. McQuhae  
Collector

Submitted for the in-  
formation of Government.

2. The reports of the Collector  
and Special Assistant are

satisfactory. The timely fall of rain from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February seems to have been highly beneficial in its effects although too late to save the withered crops.

3. The Court trust to Mr. Lee Warner to keep them accurately informed of any change in the prospects of the ground and will be glad to learn that the tank repairs for which the people seem so anxious have been put in hand and are progressing satisfactorily. The progress of the Koday crop towards maturity should be carefully watched.

4. The Court will be prepared

378  
prepared if necessary to increase the allotment for tank repairs - judicious expenditure on works of irrigation in Ramnad must be remunerative in a fiscal point of view and will be of great assistance to the people in a year like the present.

True copies & Extracts

H. P. K. S. S.

Acting Sub Secretary

To,  
The Acting Secretary to Government  
Revenue Department  
with 4 original statements to be  
- returned

C. M. Narasimha Chetty

C. M. Narasimha Chetty

Revenue 1874 Deficit  
\$850

Proceedings of the  
Board of Wardens

Sept 14<sup>th</sup> March 1874

Sept 14<sup>th</sup> — " —

Dec 16<sup>th</sup> — " —

Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 1875

Submitting 1874

with remarks refer

from Coll<sup>rs</sup> of Wash

on state of ocean

in Penn and Del

= Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 1875

13th Nov 1874 Dec 25 3 79