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M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	393	Press / Mis.
Dated 30-3-1874		196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 30th March 1874.

No. 243. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th March 1874, No. 647:—

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 17th March 1874, No. 69.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following remarks on the prices of dry grains in the taluqs of Mr. Rice's division, in which he anticipated distress from high prices.

2. *Pollachy* produces much cholum; the selling price in that taluq last year was 18 measures per Rupee; in the month of February it was 12½ measures. The next staple is cumboo; the rise in this is measures 14¾ against 28 for last year. Ragi, an irrigated crop, has the third place as a staple. It is usually imported into Pollachy. Prices 14¾ against 28.

3. *Pulladum*, like or more than Pollachy, is a dry taluq; the comparative prices of the three staples are as below:—

		1872-73.	1873-74.
Cholum	Measures	17	12 per Rs.
Cumboo	,,	24	18 ,,
Ragi	,,	24	16 ,,

4. *Coimbatore* being nearer the source of the Noel has more river-fed irrigation than Pulladum, but yet it may be called also a dry taluq, very greatly improved by the numerous wells which have been sunk, which produce ragi to a large and cholum to a small extent: the prices are this year as against last:—

		1872-73.	1873-74.
Cholum	Measures	13½	12 per Rs.
Cumboo	,,	19	14 ,,
Ragi	,,	18	14 ,,

—	Latter Rain-fall from October			
	1872.		1873.	
	Rainy Days.	Rain-fall.	Rainy Days.	Rain-fall.
Pollachy.				
October	2	·80	5	1·55
November	13	4·29	3	2·15
December	4	1·13	2	·25
Total ...	19	6·22	10	3·95
Pulladum.				
October	3	1·21	8	6·10
November	7	1·95	3	1·98
December	4	1·27	1	·38
Total ...	14	4·43	12	8·46
Coimbatore.				
October	9	3·74	13	7·86
November	14	5·58	3	·69
December	6	1·29	1	·09
Total ...	29	10·61	17	8·64

5. I was perfectly well aware that the dry crops had in most taluqs suffered to a considerable extent owing to the deficient rains during and after the month of November 1873, but a quarter or $\frac{6}{16}$ crop is no ground for an anticipated scarcity; heavy dry crops are not a rule in this district which are ordinarily ¾ to ½.

6. We cannot altogether go on rain-fall for an estimate of dry crop production, as the fall is registered only at the cusbah, and its value for dry crops is estimated more by the number of days than by the fall of rain.

7. As regards rain-fall, Pollachy Taluq is most favoured in the early part of

the year, as it gets a share of the south-west monsoon, and is better supplied than Coimbatore, which seldom gets rain owing to the barrier of the western ghauts, diverting the clouds of the south-west monsoon. A different state of things, however, obtains in the north-east monsoon, and Coimbatore and Pulladum then get a better rain-fall.

8. The outturn of wet crops in the taluq reported on was better than the average.

9. I have been a great deal about the district, but no Tahsildar has thought of imagining a scarcity which should necessarily lead to relief measures.

10. We do not export rice from this district; we rather import it. A rise in the price of rice does not affect the bulk of the ryots nor of the labouring poor. This rise may doubtless be anticipated when the demand to Bengal causes rice to flow there instead of being purchased for import here.

11. The question is narrowed to the fact of whether or not there is such a rise in the price of food-staples as to justify any relief works.

12. From my local knowledge of the three taluqs, observation of their productive powers, and general seasons, I should certainly not encourage Tahsildars to project works of relief before any appearance of distress has come to light.

13. At the same time on the very suspicion of distress, the exact means of meeting it must be at once determined, for bad becomes worse so rapidly, and a dejective dietary lays the system open to numerous diseases and premature death.

14. I agree with the Board of Revenue that unskilled labourers can assist in constructing tank-bunds, but when the question is a partial failure of dry crops, tank-bunds do not concern the same, and such repairs are best under professional direction; the same remarks apply to clearing of channels which do not exist in dry grain tracts.

15. As regards the exhortation to expend Local Funds, we are now in the last month of the official year, when our funds are all expended; and as roads are repaired by contract, they are not a means of temporary relief.

16. Any passing distress, therefore, should it appear to have any good foundation, will be best met by the repair of village communications, the sanction for which I asked and obtained of Government* in anticipation of its possible necessity.

* *Vide* Board's Miscellaneous No. 1,643 of 11th March 1874.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

No. 244. ORDER THEREON, 30th March 1874, No. 393.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Department

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Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 20th March 1874, No. 667.
Read the following

No. 269

From

[redacted] Esqre
Collector of Coimbatore

To,

J. Grose Esqre
Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras

Sir,

I have the honor to submit the following remarks on the prices of dry grains in the Taluqs of Mr. Rice's division, in which he anticipated distress from high prices. 3

2- Pollachy produces much cholum; the selling price in that Taluq last year was 18 measures per rupee; in the month of February it was 12½ measures- The next staple is cumboo; the rice [redacted] 11 3/4 against 28 for last year- Ragi, an irrigated crop has the third place as a staple- It is usually imported into Pollachy- Prices 14 3/4 against 28. 3

3- Pilladum like, or more than, Pollachy, is a dry Taluq- the comparative prices of the 3 staples are

Govt. of Madras

REVENUE.

To

The BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated March 30th.

Read.

Enclosure

G. O., 30th March 1874, No. 393.

MARCH.

Nos. 243-244.

Prices of Grain in Head Assistant's Division in Coimbatore.—Recording Proceedings of the Board of Revenue submitting the Collector's remarks on the —.

are as below:

	Per Rupee	1872-73	1873-74
Cholum	measures	17	12
Cumboo	"	24	18
Ragi	"	24	16

4. Coimbatore being nearer the source of the Noyil river, [illegible] irrigation than Pulladum, but yet it may be called also a dry Taluq, very greatly improved by the numerous wells which have been sunk which produce ragi to a large, and cholum to a small extent. The prices are this year as last.

	1872-73	1873-74
Cholum measures	13½	12 per Rupee
Cumboo "	19	14 "
Ragi "	18	14 "

5. I was perfectly well aware that the dry crops had in most Taluqs suffered to a considerable extent, owing to the deficient rains during and after the month of November 1873, but a quarter, or 6/16 crops is no ground for an anticipated scarcity

Latter Rainfall from October

	1872 Rainy Days	1872 Rainfall	1873 Rainy Days	1873 Rainfall
Pollachy				
October	2	·80	5	1·55
November	13	4·29	3	2·15
December	4	1·13	2	·25
	19	6·22	10	3·95
Pulladum				
October	3	1·21	8	6·10
November	7	1·96	3	1·98
December	4	1·27	1	·38
	14	4·43	12	8·46
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October	9	3·74	13	7·86
November	14	5·58	3	·69
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	29	10·61	17	8·64

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6. We cannot altogether go on rainfall for an estimate of dry crop production, as the fall is registered only at the Cusbah - and its value for dry crops, is estimated more by the number of days, than by the fall of rain.

7. As regards rainfall, Pollachy Taluq is most favoured in the early part of the year as it gets a share of the S.W. monsoon and is better supplied than Coimbatore which seldom gets rain, owing to the barrier of the western ghauts, diverting the clouds of the S.W. monsoon - a different state of things however obtains in the North-east monsoon and Coimbatore and Pulladum then get a better rainfall.

8. F.L.

8. The out-turn of wet crops in the Taluq reported on, was better than the average.

9. I have been a great deal about the district, but no tahsildar has thought of imagining a scarcity which should necessarily lead to relief measures.

10. We do not export rice from this district, we rather import it - a rise in the price of rice, does not affect the bulk of the ryots, nor of the labouring poor. This rise may doubtless be anticipated, when the demand to Bengal causes rice to flow there instead of being purchased for import here -

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16. Any passing distress therefore, should it appear to have any good foundation, will be best met by the repair of village communications, the sanction

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×Vide Board's Misc: No 1643 of 11th March 1874.

Coimbatore Collectors Office,
17th March 1874.

[illegible] New
[illegible] Wedderburn
Collector. 6
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[illegible] Su[illegible]
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To Govern[illegible]

The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

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(True Copy & Extract)

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Secretary

1874.

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue.

Dated 20th March 1874.
Dup. 20 — " — "
Rs. 21 — a — a

Submitting for info-
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of Mr. Commission in
which distress is anti-
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Received

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