

433

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- (1) Number of Pages.....32
- (2) Date of repair.....9.8.66.
- (3) Initials of the Referencer.....

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

.....Revenue.....DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	433	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	10 - 4 -	1874 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

433

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th April 1874.*

No. 58. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st April 1874, No. 768 :—

Read the following letter from W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd March 1874, No. 77 :—

WITH reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 12th March 1874, No. 557, I have the honour to submit copy of a report from the Additional Deputy-Collector, who was deputed to inspect the Melur Taluq. This taluq, with the part of Madura Taluq adjoining it, is the least fertile tract of country in the district. The soil is poor, and irrigation depends almost entirely upon small rain-fed tanks, of which there are 2,771 in Melur alone. In all years, there is a good deal of emigration from this part of the district to Ceylon, and, in a bad season, it is the place where actual distress may be expected to make its first appearance.

2. The Deputy-Collector suggests—

(1.) That all estimates already prepared for the repair of irrigation-works in Melur be sanctioned, and the work executed at once. Between April 1873 and February 1874, estimates, amounting to Rupees 14,350, were countersigned and sent to the District Engineer, and many of these works have not been commenced. Orders for their immediate execution might be issued in the Public Works Department.

(2.) That the Kunnathur tank be repaired. The District Engineer has been asked whether the estimate for the repair of this tank can be sent in at once.

(3.) That the Local Fund roads from Melur to Shevagungah and from Madura to Alagarcovil be pushed on. The District Engineer has been requested to have this done, and sufficient funds are available.

3. The Deputy-Collector thinks that immediate expenditure on the works he mentions will prevent distress till the commencement of the next cultivating season. He is intimately acquainted with this district, and no one is more competent to form a correct opinion regarding the actual state of any part of it; but unfortunately he has been suffering from fever since his arrival, and consequently has not yet seen so many villages as I intended. Revised proposals for the remission of punjah assessment in this taluq will be submitted shortly, some modifications being necessary in the proposals made in my letter of the 24th February last.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From P. SOOBIEN, Temporary Deputy-Collector, Madura, to W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, dated 17th March 1874.

ADVERTING to your letter, No. 255, I have the honour to submit a brief report on the present condition of Melur Taluq.

2. I took a tour into the taluq in each direction whereby I was able to learn the state of the whole taluq, and I actually visited fifteen villages.

3. According to the rain reports kept in the taluq and those furnished by village-officers, there is no question as to the scantiness of the rains during the current official year. It must be

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th April 1874.*

remarked here that even these rains did not fall generally throughout the taluq, or at least throughout any section of the taluq. While there was rain in one village, the neighbouring village had none. Instances have also come to my observation, in which the same village was partly favoured with rains and partly not.

4. In about thirty villages of the taluq, it has been the practice to sow a species of cumbu on dry lands in the month of April or May, and to sow pulse grains on the same lands in the month of August or September for the second crop; while in the other parts of the taluq only one crop is raised on dry lands, the sowing season commencing from July. Accordingly, the rains, which fell in May, were availed of for sowing cumbu. But there having been little or no rain in June and July, the result, as may be expected, seems to have been almost a failure of harvest. The crops raised in the subsequent months have likewise suffered for want of good rains in October and November. There was one heavy rain in December, which, however, was, for the most part, too late to do any good.

5. On the whole, it may be said, without exaggeration, that only one-half of the taluq reaped a half of the average produce, and that in the rest of the villages there was only a nominal harvest; because no ryot appeared to possess, at the time of my inquiry, any surplus stock in hand. This taluq, which is well known to supply the Madura market and other adjoining districts with staple pulse grains of black, green, and horse-grain, has failed to do so this year. Hence, the exorbitant high price of those species at this time of the year.

6. Before, however, determining whether the ryots are entitled to any special indulgence on account of their dry lands, it becomes necessary to take conjointly into consideration what has been the outturn of their wet cultivation; because Melur is neither a wet nor a dry taluq, and because there is hardly a village in which the failure of one description of crops could not be compensated by the good outturn of the other.

7. But, from what has been already stated, it would appear that the season was not favourable for nunjah also. Excepting a few villages benefited by streams from Nutham hills (even these do not bring down a continual supply), the taluq, consisting of tanks, depends entirely upon rains. The tanks being generally small, and not capable of holding water sufficient to produce a crop, and the rains, subsequent to the planting season, having been very little, as already stated, wet crops commenced to wither just at the time of the sprouting of the ears, and there would have been an entire failure of paddy-crop, had not the rain, which fell in the beginning of December last, saved them to a little extent. Except a very few peculiarly favoured villages, the general nunjah outturn of the taluq is supposed to have been a little above a quarter of the average, omitting the extensive shavi that has taken place out of account.

8. Under these circumstances, I consider it necessary that, in addition to remissions on account of nunjah, which will be regulated according to the rules by the settling officer, a percentage remission on the punjah holding must also be granted to a selected number of villages, where both nunjah and punjah have been a failure, and where the ryots are, in consequence, not in a position to pay the Government demand without feeling it a hardship. I will submit shortly my proposals on the receipt of information from the taluq.

9. I have, however, to bring to your notice that, in villages most affected, some ryots have emigrated to Ceylon or to some villages in Madura Taluq, or in the Shevagungah Zemindari, where the harvest has not yet ceased; others are selling their cattle or borrowing money for their subsistence. I think that, even supposing there will be a good season for coday cultivation, the people of the above-mentioned villages will feel difficulty in maintaining themselves until they could reap the fruits.

10. I would, therefore, suggest—

(1.) That all estimates for repairs of irrigation-works in Melur Taluq, which have, up to this time, been submitted for sanction, may be sanctioned at once, and the works commenced at the very beginning of the next official year.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government Revenue Department,
10th April 1874.*

NOTE.—I have ascertained from the Taluq Overseer that estimates, amounting to Rupees 8,100, have been submitted for sanction.

(2.) That repairs to the large tank of Kunnathur village, in Madura Taluq, which is in the proximity of the said affected villages, and which is in need of repair, be likewise ordered to be undertaken at the beginning of April. It is said that measurements were made a year ago for framing an estimate to this tank.

(3.) That the next year's allotment for the construction of the road from Melur to Shevagungah, sanctioned by the Local Fund Board at the early part of the current official year, be ordered to be worked out in the commencement of the year. The work does not appear to make a fair progress under the contractor, the amount spent up to the end of February being only about 1,000 Rupees, though the allotment was Rupees 5,000.

(4.) The construction of a road from Melur to Alagarcovil, which has also been sanctioned, should likewise be undertaken.

11. If the above suggestions were carried out, I believe, the ryots in question will have no cause to feel any distress until the ensuing cultivating season. Some of the above works are likely to benefit the ryots of the Madura Taluq also, who are, in my opinion, not placed in a better circumstance than those for whose benefit their early execution is now recommended.

12. I would have submitted this report some time ago, had I not been labouring with fever for the last ten days.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The information given regarding the state of the Melur Taluq is sufficient to show that some exceptional remissions will have to be granted eventually, but that work is the thing which is most urgently required.

3. The Board think the Collector should be authorized, as President of the Local Fund Board, to employ a larger number of Overseers and Maistries than usual in supervising work on roads. Without such supervision, the work will be badly done, and the daily payment of labourers will be impossible. All the road-work entered in the budget has been approved by the Board, so that the President might be authorized to push on with it at once, though the budget has not been sanctioned by Government. He should also consider and, if necessary, represent to the Local Fund Board the expediency of sanctioning work upon wells and ponds which supply drinking water.

4. The suggestions that the repairs to irrigation-works, which have been already estimated for, should be commenced at once, and that the repair of the Kunnathur tank should be undertaken seem to be judicious. In the case of these works, also, more supervision than usual will be necessary, and the labourers, so long as the distress lasts, should be paid daily.

5. With regard to the exceptional remission, the Board await the promised report. As at present informed, they think it will be best to give remission on the ground that some particular crop, such as varagu, has failed conspicuously throughout a tract where there has been no compensating profit from wet crops.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th April 1874.*

No. 59.

ORDER THEREON, 10th April 1874, No. 433.

Miscellaneous.

His Excellency the Governor in Council approves of the suggestions made by the Board for the immediate commencement of the works entered in the Local Fund Budget, as well as of the irrigation-works in the Melur Taluq. The employment of extra Overseers and Maistries in both cases appears desirable, and it will be considered in the Public Works Department how this can be arranged.

2. The question of the repair of Kunnathur tank will be referred to the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Public Works Department.
,, the Financial Department.

953
4

The Temporary Deputy Collector
Madurai.

The Collector of Madras.

Adverting to your letter No. 255,
I have the honor to submit a brief report
on the present condition of Melior Island.

2 I took a tour into the Talug
in each direction whereby I was able
to learn the state of the whole Talug
and I actually visited 15 villages

3 According to the rain reports kept in the Taluk and those furnished by Village officers there is no question as to the scantiness of the rains during the current official year. It must be remarked here that even these rains did not fall generally throughout the Taluk or at least throughout any section.

to order (improvement)
tank repairs to
be referred to S. B.
for work. J. M.

Just under the ad
 additional information
 above the caption
 of relief work / 2.7.81
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 on. But neither way
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 needed is priced - re-
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 created - makes of the
 only before 2000
 9/14 58

Proceedings of the Board
of Revenue.

Dated *10th*
 Despd. *1st*
 Recd. *23*
en 2 ✓

April
 1874

SUBJECT.

Submitting to you, with
 remarks & letter from folks of
 Okla. a submitting copy of
 a report regarding state
 of dooms in Okla's & Long
 & promising to submit short
 revised proposals for
 English revisions in
 the Long.

S.O. No 433-101/174

section of the Talag. While there
was rain in one village the neigh-
-bouring village had none. Instances
have also come to my observation in
which the same village was partly
furnished with rains and partly not.

4 In about 30 villages of the Talag
it has been the practice to sow a
species of cumboos on dry lands in the
month of April or May and to sow
pulse grains on the same lands in
the month of August or September
for the 2nd crop, while in the other
parts of the Talag only one crop is
raised on dry lands the sowing
season commencing from July. Accord-
-ing to the rains which fell in May were
availed of for sowing cumboos. But
there having been little or no rain
in June and July, the result, as may
be expected, seems to have been al-
-most a failure of harvest. The
crops raised in the subsequent
months have likewise suffered for
want of good rains in October
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and November. There was one heavy
rain in December which however was
for the most part too late to do any
good.

5 On the whole it may be said
without exaggeration that only one
half of the Talag reaped a half
of the average produce and that in
the rest of the villages there was
only a nominal harvest, because
no ryot appeared to possess at the
time of my enquiry any surplus stock
in hand. This Talag which is well
known to supply the Madras Mar-
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with staple pulse grains of black-
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But from what has been
already stated it would appear
that the season was not favorable
for Kungah also. Excepting a few
villages, benefited by streams from
Nathur hills (even these do not bring
down a continual supply) the Taluk
consisting of Tanks depends entirely
upon rains. The tanks being generally
small and not capable of holding
water sufficient to produce a crop
and the rains subsequent to the
planting season having been very
little as already stated wet crops
commenced to wither just at the
time of the sprouting of the ears and
there

Rs
Kungah - 98,000
Kungah - 114,000

Shani reported
Rs 12,000

there would have been an entire failure
of paddy crop had not the rain which
fell in the beginning of December
last saved them to a little extent.
Except a very few peculiarly favor-
ed villages the General Kungah
out-turn of the Taluk is supposed
to have been a little above $\frac{1}{4}$ of the
average omitting the extensive Shani
that has taken place out of account.

Under these circumstances
I consider it necessary that in addition
to remissions on account of Kungah
which will be regulated according
to the rules by the settling officer
a per centage remission on the Kungah
holding must also be granted to a
selected number of villages where
both Kungah and Pungah have been
a failure and where the ryots are,
in consequence, not in a position to
pay the Government demand without
feeling it a hardship. I will submit
separately

shortly my proposals on the receipt
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the fruits.

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tion works in Melur Taluk which
have up to this time, been submitted
for sanction, may be sanctioned
at once and the works commenced
at the very beginning of the next
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Note

I have ascertained from the
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2 That repairs to the large tanks
of Chumathur villages in the Madura
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I have seen

Signed / P. P. P. P.

Temporary Dy. Collector

/ True copy /

/ Signed / P. P. P. P.
Collector

/ True copy /

J. G. Gole

23^d - March 1874

N^o 77

From

W. Mc Luer Esq^d,
Collector of Madura

Sir

I have the honor to submit copy of a report from the Additional Deputy Collector who was deputed to inspect the Melur Talug. This Talug with the part of Madurai Talug adjoining it is the least fertile tract of country in the District. The soil is poor and irrigation depends almost entirely upon small rain-fed tanks of which there are 2771 in Melur alone. In all years there

Carthage in Nov
the Board of Comm
to the Secretary
Nov 19. 8. Laet
not paid 7/4.

Rec. $\frac{1}{1100/74}$

I am at present
 from the temporary
 Deputy of the National
 Anti-Slavery Society
 Committee of the
 Anti-Slavery Society

Ms. 2710
Du. 13. 1. 58

Edw. Mayhew
Capt. Leg. C. Wozz

there is a good deal of emigration from this part of the District to Ceylon and in a bad season it is the place where actual distress may be expected to make its first appearance.

2. The Deputy Collector suggests (1) that all Estimates already prepared for the repair of irrigation works in Melur be sanctioned and the work executed at once. Between April 1873 and February 1874 Estimates amounting to Rs 14,350 were countersigned and sent to the District Engineer and many of these works have not been commenced. Orders for their immediate execution might be issued in the Public Works Department.

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27/10
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3. The Deputy Collector thinks that immediate Expenditure on the works he mentions will prevent distress till the commencement of the next cultivating season. He is intimately acquainted with this District and no one is more competent to form a correct opinion regarding the actual state

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-posals for the remission of Punjab
assessment in this Taluk will be
submitted shortly, some modifications
being necessary in the proposals made
in my letter of the 24th February
last.

I have &c

(Signed) W. McQuhae.

Collector.

(True Copy)

J. G. Rose
Secretary

[Signature]

C.P.R.

Revenue Department
Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 1st April 1874

Read letter from the Col-
lector of Madras dated 23rd March
1874 No. 77 submitting copy of a re-
port regarding the state of the season
of the Melur Taluq received from
the Additional Deputy Collector
who was deputed to inspect that
Taluq and stating that revised
proposals for Puriya remission
in the Talook will be submitted
shortly.

Submitted for the orders
of Government.

The information given re-
garding the state of the Melur Taluq
is

1874 April 10
In 13.11.58.
Enclosure in Proceedings
of the Board of Revenue
to Secretary to Govern-
ment, Revenue Deptt
dated 1st April 1874.

Rev. 1102/74

Copy of a letter from
the Collector of Madras
dated 23rd March 1874 No. 77
submitting copy of a report
regarding the state of the
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received from the Additional
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The Board think the Collector should be authorized as President of the Local Fund Board to employ a larger number of overseers and Maistries than usual in supervising work on roads. Without such supervision the work will be badly done and the daily payment of labourers will be impossible. All the road work entered in the Budget has been approved by the Board so that the President might be authorized to push on with it at once though the Budget has not been sanctioned ^{by}

by Government. He should also consider and if necessary represent to the Local Fund Board the expediency of sanctioning work upon wells and ponds which supply drinking water.

The suggestion that the repairs to irrigation works which have been already estimated for should be commenced at once and that the repair of the Kammathur Tank should be undertaken seem to be judicious. In the case of these works also more supervision than usual will be necessary and the labourers, so long as the distress lasts, should be paid daily.

With regard to the exceptional remission the Board await the promised

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the ground that some parti-
-cular crop such as Varagu
has failed conspicuously through-
-out a tract where there
has been no compensating
profit from wet crops.

| True Extract |

To,
J. G. G. G.
Secretary
The Acting Secretary to Govern-
-ment, Revenue Department
with copies of collector's letter
and its enclosure

C. M. Karasim Chavys

C. M. Karasim Chavys

No. 433 — 10 April 1874

H. E. the G. in C
approves of the
suggestions made
by the Board for
the immediate
commencement
of the works en-
tered in the Local
Fund Budget as
well as of the irri-
gation works in
the Helur Taluk.
The employment
of extra overseers
& maintainers in both
cases appears
desirable and
it will be considered
in the Public Works
Department how
this can be arranged



ms

[Handwritten signature]

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1874

Boht. of 1874 *[illegible]*

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE

Dated April 10th

Recd

APRIL

No. 69

[Faint, mostly illegible text, possibly a stamp or official notice.]



Question of the
The repair of
Kumathur Tank
will be referred
to the P.W. Dept.

Q.M.

The Board of Revenue des. in No. 10.4.74

P.W. Dept. _____ do _____
Encl. Dept. _____ do _____

14 S.C. 70 Memo of Rev des 20 April 74
21 — P.W. Dept. —
5 — Encl. Dept. —

58-59

90



Learn to write

July —

Keep
Bent Case