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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

656

Press
Mis.

Dated 29-5-1874 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

NO 124/RH

656
1

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
29th May 1874.*

No. 281. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th May 1874, No. 1,169 :—

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 7th May 1874, No. 107 :—

IN conformity with the Orders of Government, dated 10th March 1874, No. 330, in Proceedings Board of Revenue, No. 1,643, dated 11th March 1874, I have the honour to forward for information copy of a letter to my address from Mr. Underwood regarding the apprehension of scarcity anticipated by Mr. Rice in his late division.

2. The long drought seems to have been, as might be expected, most prejudicial to the cattle which are never at any time too highly fed. It is the same everywhere, where forage is not stored, and cattle are turned out to find their own pasture.

3. Mr. Underwood has found no failure of crop in the Palladam Taluq; there has been very little, if any, in the Coimbatore Taluq, and nothing very serious in the Pollachy Taluq. The Tahsildars informed me that they made no reports, official or unofficial, to the effect that distress was anticipated.

4. Rain has been late of coming, having held off during most of April, but now having fallen, has enabled agricultural operations to be commenced for the sowing of the early dry crop, cholum. There is therefore no reason to anticipate a want of employment.

5. Some public wells have been reported as having become dry, and for the further deepening of these, allotments will be made from the Local Funds. As regards the subject of remission on lands under tanks and channels out of repair, adverted to in paragraph 9, inquiry will be made whether the apparently permanent transfer of the lands in question from nunjah to punjah is owing to causes beyond control, such as the silting up and inadequate capacity of tanks, and the necessity of such transfer is from preventible causes.

6. So for the present, at all events, there seems no reason for the commencement of any relief works.

— — —
ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From W. G. UNDERWOOD, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated Avenashy, 28th April 1874, No. 88.

I HAVE visited a great part of the Palladam Taluq, and from an examination of the taluq officials and accounts and of the fields, I have the honour to state that as yet there seems to be no ground for apprehending any want.

2. This taluq is later than Pollachy, being farther removed from the Western Ghauts and the early rain, and depends chiefly on the north-east monsoon.

3. It has a very rich soil and a very extensive well cultivation.

4. The want in this taluq will not be felt severely :—

(1.) On account of the extensive well cultivation which is now chiefly sown with cholum.

(2.) On account of the large tracts of black-cotton soil, where up to this time a great deal of employment was to be had by coolies in quest of work in picking the cotton. It is true the women and children chiefly do the work, but then the earnings go to the family. The crop has been about an average half-one.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
29th May 1874.*

5. The staple grain of the taluq is cholum, and it and the other crops are generally sown as follows:—

PUNJAH CROPS.

Grain.	UNDER WELLS.		On punjah land dependent on rain.
	1st-Crop.	2nd-Crop.	
1. Cholum...	March and April.	October and November.	April and May.
2. Cumboo ...	Do. do.	Do. do.	Do. do.
3. Raggy ...		Do. do.	
4. Grains ...			July, August.

6. LAND DEPENDENT ON RAINFALL.—I have not found any land dependent on rainfall for water ploughed, except a few isolated patches of light black-cotton soil on the tops of ridges. There is no red soil ploughed; but, as will be seen from the above list, it is not too late to expect rain. The ryots seem quite easy in their minds, and I received no complaints except at Mandiripolliem, a rocky village on the road from Palladam to Oodumulpetta. They said "there was no water in the wells, and no food for the cattle, and that the Curnam, Monigar and Inspector have reported falsely." But the general freedom of the ryots from anxiety makes me believe there will be no great want.

7. WELL LANDS.—There is no lack of water in the wells, and the soil being rich, the crops are very fine. The wells are by no means full; but from an examination of a great number in most parts of the taluq, I am of opinion there is sufficient for the present crops even though no rain fell. At the present time the well land is wholly under cultivation. In places, the grain is already in flower; but the ryots are very irregular in cultivating under wells, and do not keep to the months laid down.

8. NUNJAH LANDS.—The crops on these lands have been rather more than ordinarily good.

9. There has scarcely any remission been granted. A large proportion of the remission granted is on land entered as nunjah, but for which first class punjah only has been charged for a number of years back, as the supply-channels or tanks have been out of repair. The only fears there are, are for sugar-cane and betel, etc., under tanks and not supplemented by wells. The water is very low, but the sugar-cane, etc., has not as yet suffered.

10. CATTLE.—The want of fodder at present is the most serious evil. The cattle are in very poor condition, and there is very little for them to eat. I have heard that owners have pulled the thatch off their houses to feed them, but I don't place much reliance on the rumour. Where the cotton is picked they are turned out; but I notice they did not seem to care for the leaves, and preferred any dried weeds or straw they could find. The sheep nipped off the tops of the plant, but refused to eat the leaves.

11. I enclose three Statements A. B. and C., which, though not perfectly accurate perhaps as applied to the whole taluq, will show sufficiently well for practical purposes, the comparisons intended between this and last year, which was an average one.

12. A. is compiled from Taluq Account D., and shows the actual area in acres under cultivation in the two last months and first three months of the year for the current and last faslies. From it, it will be seen that in the month where the decrease in area is the greatest it is only 40,000 acres roughly, and in January was only 500.

13. B. is a comparison of the rainfall for the three preceding and the present fasli up to date as registered at the Cusbah. It may not apply to the whole taluq; but, wherever I have been, there has been the same want of rain. It will be seen that up to April the rainfall does not compare so very unfavourably with any of the previous faslies, which were all good years, 1867 being the last case of famine.

14. C. is a comparison of prices of grain for the same months, as mentioned in paragraph 13, with salt added. It gives the numbers of measures procurable for the Rupee in Palladam

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
29th May 1874.*

Cusbah. The rise in wet grains is not serious; but it is curious to remark that whilst in the past fasli cholum rose in price, in this fasli it has remained stationary. It seems to bear out the remark I made, that the ryots have no fear of the crops failing. The price of cumboo and raggy give no ground for alarm.

15. There has been no increase of agricultural crime.

16. So to answer your letter No. 236, dated 3rd March 1874, *seriatim*, I have to state that in this taluq no scarcity is apprehended. The crops have nowhere failed, and are generally been only slightly below an average half-crop. I do not think that the cultivators have suffered, and now that the rain has fallen, the labourers will not lack employment. The comparison of prices does not show such a rise as to lead to the belief that the labourers will be pinched. The state of the cattle was the worst feature of the season.

17. Most of the above report was drafted and corrected as I marched to this place. Now that the rain has fallen, all anxiety has ceased. I, however, send the report in to show what the actual state of the taluq was before the rain.

18. There have been two showers as yet; one began about 4 p. m. of the 25th April, and it rained steadily till about midnight. Up to the north of this, where I have been, the rain was much heavier. The second shower was on the 27th, and was not nearly so heavy. I have not ascertained what rain fell to the south; but, according to the rumours brought in by persons coming to the festival, it has been very heavy.

19. The Pollachy Tahsildar reports that to the east and west of that town the rain has fallen to a depth of about an inch, and that the people have begun to plough, and that there is every sign of more rain. He states rain had not fallen in two villages to the north.

20. In Coimbatore, I believe, the rainfall was over an inch; but I have received no report from the Tahsildar.

21. Here there is every sign of more rain falling again to-day, as the clouds are blowing up as they did last Saturday and Monday.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) B. HORSBRUGH,
for Collector.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 2 to 4.—Statements.

The Board are glad to receive this reassuring report which shows that the Collector's views were correct throughout. In all probability, more rain has fallen since Mr. Underwood wrote.

2. Paragraph 9 of Mr. Underwood's letter, with the Collector's remarks thereon, will be forwarded to the Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement, who has, it is believed, a field party now at work in Palladam.

No. 282.

ORDER THEREON, 29th May 1874, No. 656.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. W. H. French.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

REVENUE.

Govt. of 1874. Andrews

A

Surzah

1282 1283 increased 1282
fully.

month

acres acres acres acres acres

Remember _____ 214629199916 14713 10468 14337

December 27, 36, 23, 65, 92, 40, 74, 15, 137, 18, 232

January — 283,542,826 1/2 513 17,794,211 90

February ————— 296,810 283,701 13,109 286,604 21190

March 296,810,290,948 5,862 28,604 21,190

Camp Avenashy. }
28th April 1874.

(Signed) W. G. Underwood
A. G. H. D. insect collector
(True copy)

M. M. Bingham
for collector

Rev. ⁴ 1657/4.

July 1657/4

Rev. 308/78

B

<u>May</u>	"	"	2	15	1	21	"	85
<u>June</u>	"	"	"	"	3	71	"	"
Total up to end of March	11	37	14	34	18	97	18	99
Season	"	"	Average	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good.

Camp Avenashy }
28th April 1874 }

Signed / W. G. Underwood
Ag. H. D. West. Collector

(True copy)

B. Mordley
for Collector

In a letter from the
Collector of Cincinnati
to the Secretary to the
Board of Commerce
dated 7. January 1874
we say -

Per. $\frac{3}{1008/34}$

Dec 27 27/74

Statement showing
the actual area in
acres under cultivation,
comparison of grain
bush & prices of
grain.

1827
June 28
1827

C

656
5

	November		December		January		February		March		April	
	1282	measures	1283	measures	1282	measures	1282	measures	1282	measures	1282	measures
1 st Sort Rice	7		7		7	6	7	6	7	6	7	7
2 ^d Sort do.	8		8		8	8	8 1/2	7	9	7	8 1/2	8
1 st Sort Paddy	16		16		16	14	16	14	16	14	16	14
2 ^d do do	18		18		18	16	19	16	18	16	18	16
Chalum	19		12		16	12	18	12	18	12	16	12
Kumboo	24		20		24	22	24	18	24	18	22	18
Raggi	24		22		25	22	24	16	22	16	20	16
Gram	16		12		18	14	18	14	18	14	17	14
Wheat	6		6		6	6	6	6	6	6	6 1/2	6
Salt	8		8		8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8

Camp Avenashyp. }
28 April 1874 }

/Signed/ W. G. Underwood
Ag. & asst. Collector

(True copy)

P. M. M. M.
for Collector

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 19th May 1874.

Read the following:—

No 107.

From,

A. Wedderburn Esquire,

Collector of Coimbatore.

To,

J. Grose Esquire,

Secretary to the
Board of Revenue,
Madras.

Sir,

In conformity with the orders
of Government dated 10th March 1874,
No 330 in Proceeding Board of Revenue
No 1643 dated 11th March 1874, I have
the honor to forward for information copy
of a letter duly address from Mr. Under-
wood regarding the apprehensions of
scarcity

scarcity anticipated by Mr. Rice, in
his late division.

2. The long drought seems
to have been, as might be expected, most
prejudicial to the cattle which are never
at any time too highly fed. It is
the same everywhere, where forage
is not stored, and cattle are turned
out to find their own pasture.

3. Mr. Underwood has found
no failure of crop in the Palladam
Taluk - there has been very little if any,
in the Coimbatore Taluk - and nothing very
serious in the Pollachy Taluk. The Taluk-
sildars informed me that they made
no reports Official or unofficial, to
the effect that distress was anticipated.

4. Rain has been late

656
of coming, having held off during
most of April, but now having fallen,
has enabled agricultural operations
to be commenced for the sowing of the
early dry crop - Cholam. There is therefore
no reason to anticipate a want of
employment.

5. Some public wells have been
reported as having become dry, and
for the further deepening of these, -
allotments will be made from the Local
Funds. As regards the subject of
remission on lands under tanks and
channels out of repair, adverted to in
para 9, enquiry will be made whether
the apparently permanent transfer of
the lands in question from Nargah
to Pungah, is owing to causes beyond
control,

control, such as the sitting up, and in-
adequate capacity of tanks. and the ne-
cessity of such transfer is from preven-
-tible causes.

6. So for the present, at all
events, there seems no reason for the
Commencement of any relief works.

Coinhabatol Collector's } I have re.
Office, 7th May 1874 } (signed) A. Wedderburn
Collector.

The Board are glad to
receive this reassuring report which shows
that the Collector's views were correct
throughout. In all probability more rain
has fallen since Mr. Underwood wrote.

Para 9 of Mr. Underwood's
letter with the Collector's remarks thereon
will be forwarded to the Officiating Director
of

656
of Revenue Settlement who has it is
relieved a field party now at work
in Palladam.

(True copy & Extract)
(signed) J. Grose
Secretary.

To, The Collector of
Coinhabatol.

(True copy)
J. Grose
Secretary.

To, The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
with copy of Head Assistant Collector's
letter and 3 original Enclosures, to
be returned.

C. B. M. H. P.
copying
W. S. S. S. S. S.

C 223. May 14 1874

281-282.

Submitting Report
letter from Col. B. to
= before forwarding copy
of one from Head Quarters
regarding apprehended
scarcity in this division.
No. 656.
Recd. & filed
24 May 1874
B. M. M.

Dated 19th May 1874
Received 20
see file

No. 1605.
Revenue 1874 Sept.
Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue.

4288.

Head Assistant
Collector's Office, Camp.
Madrash 28 April 1874.

From,
The Head Assistant Collector
Coimbatore.
To,
The Collector
of Coimbatore.

Sir,
I have visited a great
part of the Palladam Taluk and
from an examination of the Taluk
Officials and accounts and of the
fields, I have the honor to state
that as yet there seems to be no
ground for apprehending any want.
2. This Taluk is better than
Pollachy being farther removed from the
western ghats and the early rains
and

and depends chiefly on the N. E. mon.

-soon.

3. It has a very rich soil and a very extensive well cul-

-tivation.

4. The want in this Taluk will not be felt severely.

5. On account of the extensive well cultivation which is now chiefly sown with Cholam.

2^d On account of the large tracts of black cotton soil, where up to this time a great deal of employment was to be had by coolies in quest of work in picking the cotton. It is true the women and children chiefly do the work, but then the earnings go to the family.

The crop has been about an average half one.

The

5.

The staple grain of the Taluk is cholam and its and the other

crops are generally sown as follows:-

Pungah crops.

under wells. on Pungah land dependent on rain.

1 Grain 1st crop 2^d crop.

2 Cholam March October April and May

3. Amhar - over - over

4. Rajji - October

5 Grains - July, August.

Land dependent on rain fall.

6. I have not found any land dependent on rain fall for water ploughed except a few isolated patches of light black cotton soil on the tops of ridges. There is no red soil ploughed - But as will be seen from the above list it is not too

too late to expect rain. The ryots
seem quite easy in their minds and
I received no complaints except at
Mandiripolliem, a rocky village on
the road from Palladam to Oodamulpet.
They said "there was no water in the
wells and no food for the cattle
and that the Circar, Inamdar and
Inspector have reported falsely". But
the general freedom of the ryots from
anxiety makes me believe there will
be no great want.

Well lands.

7. There is no lack of water
in the wells and the soil being rich
the crops are very fine. The wells
are by no means full; but from
an

(2)

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in most parts of the Taluk I am of
opinion there is sufficient for the present
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the present time the well land is wholly
under cultivation. In places the grain
is already in flower. But the ryots
are very irregular in cultivating under
wells and ^{do} not keep to the months
laid down.

Ningah lands.

8.

The crops on these lands have
been rather more than ordinarily good.

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There has scarcely any
remission been granted. A large
proportion of the remission granted is on
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-plemented by wells. The water is very
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turned

656
turned out but I notice they did not
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tops of the plant but refused to eat
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11. I enclose 3 statements A,
B, and C. which though not perfectly
accurate perhaps as applied to the
whole Taluk will show sufficient well
for practical purposes, the comparisons
intended between this and last year,
which was an average one.

12. A is compiled from Taluk
account D. and shows the actual area
in acres under cultivation in the two
last months and 1st 3 months of the
year

year for the current and last faslis.

From it it will be seen that in the month where the decrease in area is the greatest it is only 40,000 acres - roughly and in January was only 500.

13. B. is a comparison of the rainfall for the three preceding and the present fasli up to date as registered at the Cusab. It may not apply to the whole Taluk; but wherever I have been there has been the same want of rain. It will be seen that up to April the rain falls does not compare so very unfavorably with any of the previous faslis, which were all good years, 1867 being the last case of famine.

14. C. is a comparison of prices of grain for the same months as mentioned in para 13 with salt added. It gives the numbers of measures procurable for

(3)

for the Rupee in Palladam Cusab. ⁶⁵⁶
The rise in wet grains is not serious. But it is curious to remark that whilst in the past fasli cholam rose in price - in this fasli it has remained stationary. It seems to bear out the remarks I made that the ryots have no fear of the crops failing. The price of Amiloo and Rasi give no ground for alarm.

15. There has been no increase of agricultural crime.

16. So to answer your letter No. 236 dated 3 March 1874 serializing I have the honor to state that in this Taluk no scarcity is apprehended. The crops have nowhere failed and have generally been only slightly below an average half crop. I do not think that the cultivators have suffered and

now

now that the rain has fallen the labours -
-ers will not lack employment. The
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a rise as to lead to the belief that
the labourers will be pinched. The
state of the cattle was the worst feature
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I however send the report in to show
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was before the rain.

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as yet. One began about 4 P.M.
of the 25th April and it rained steadily
till about midnight - up to the north

of this where I have been the rain
was much heavier. The 2nd shower
was on the 27th and was not nearly
so heavy. I have not ascertained what
rain fell to the South. But according
to the rumours brought in by persons
coming to the festival it has been very
heavy.

19. The Pollachy Tahildar
reports that to the East and West of
that town the rain has fallen to a
depth of about an inch and that the
people have begun to plough and that
there is every sign of more rain. He
states rain had not fallen in two
villages to the North.

20. In Coimbatore I believe
the rain fall was over an inch; but I
have received no report from the Tahildar.
Here

21. Here there is every sign
of more rain falling again today; as
the clouds are blowing up as they
did last Saturday and Monday.

I have

(signed) W. G. Underwood

Ag. Hd. Asst. Collector.

(True copy)

(signed) B. Horsburgh
for Collector.

(True copy)

J. Grose

Secretary

L. M. Hughes

Asst. Secy

W. H. B. B. B.

Enclosure in Remb's No: 6-
The Secretary Genl.
Revenue Department,
dated 19th May 1874.

P. 1
Rev. 1605/74

Rev 3005/74

From the Circle

Copy of the Circular
read at the 1st meeting
held on the 21st
of the Palladium being.

Ms. D 29 May 1874
In B. No 281