M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

(1) Number of Pages 10

(2) Date of repair 22-10-68.

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2535	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.

Dated 2-12-1875 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 649.

From

The Acting Collector

Ganjam

To

The Secretary to Government

Revenue Department

Fort St. George.

Dated Camp Itchapore 7th August 1875.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that the South West Monsoon burst throughout this District generally from the 16th to 19th June last in a double and undemonstrative manner, that had it not been for the monsoonish appearance of the weather, and the direction in which the rain set in, or almost the exact date on which it was anxiously expected, it would hardly have been distinguishable at first from heavy ordinary rain.-

2. After some heavy showers,

we

we had breaks of hot sunny days, which brought a great deal of land into admirable condition for ploughing and other agricultural purposes and a considerable extent of country was sown broadcast with paddy, and seed-beds of paddy and raggy for transplanting purposes were got ready.-

3. During the alternate breaks of wet and sunny weather, that we have since had, the broadcast paddy and transplanted raggy have done fairly well, but as the usual freshes in the rivers had not come down and as the tanks were not filling, I determined to make a tour of inspection through the Quiver and part of the Perlaneloor Taluq, which constitute the main portion of the Principal Division with

with the intention of communicating the result for the information of the Board. I therefore proceeded from Chikati where I had been encamped, to Perlampore, and thence to Russelkondah via Atcha, returning to Metlapore by the Atcha and Surla road via Digupudi.

4. It was on my arrival here that your letter dated 21st July No. 1520 and 1521 reached me, and without waiting for the returns called for which will be forwarded very shortly, I beg to offer the following remarks on the present state and prospects of the District, as the result of my personal inspection and of reliable information which I have obtained from various sources.-

5. During the unsufficiency of rain and to the absence of fresh in

in the rivers, agricultural operations throughout the District are in a backward state, and the harvest will be a late one.-

6. In the Hilly Taluq of Guntur rain has been more abundant than elsewhere, consequently the paddy crop both broadcast & transplanted, and the transplanted raggy crops are doing well at present, but the tanks for the most part have a very scanty supply of water, and unless they fill, the eventual safety of the transplanted rice crop may be seriously endangered, though the broadcast paddy and transplanted raggy may be sufficiently nourished by occasional showers to withstand the trying effects of the season.-

7. I should therefore say the

be so fortunate as to have heavy rain shortly, the crops throughout Guntur, and the adjoining Zemindaries will be good; at present they have not suffered, it is the absence of stored water that occasions anxiety.-

8. In the Berhampore Taluq, matters are worse. As a rule the Telugu ryots adopt a higher standard of agriculture than the Guntur ryots, consequently they transplant paddy to a larger extent in preference to sowing it broadcast.-

9. For transplanting purposes it is essential that the ryots should have an abundant supply of water, without it they cannot prepare their fields.-

10. Unfortunately the supply of water has hitherto this season been insufficient, consequently the nurseries

are

are still untouched in many instances and the land is not ploughed up.-

11. Late as it is however, a crop of transplanted paddy would still be obtainable, could we only get heavy rain shortly.-

12. Farmers are do, I greatly fear the paddy crop throughout the Perhampore Taluq will be a very short one.-

13. I regret that I am unable to report more favorably of the Subdivision. Matters there appear to be in much the same state as in the Berhampore Taluq.-

14. At my request my senior assistant is inspecting the crops to the Southward of this, and I have requested Mr. Graham to make a tour through the Subdivision, and to keep me accurately informed regarding its condition.-

15. Were the ryots to sacrifice their paddy nurseries now, they might I think in many instances secure a late broadcast crop of paddy, or a transplanted crop of ragi.-

16. They clings to the reasonable hope however of an early flood from to remove all difficulties, and gaining that they will spare rather leave their lands waste in the expectation of being granted remissions, than raise inferior food grain crops on them.-

17. I shall make it an important part of my own and my Divisional officers' duty, to point out to the ryots, that the Government cannot be deprived of its revenue for ought the eye

to

to perceive themselves and the general
Community to suffer from high prices,
to promote a sentimental theory which
would appear to prevail largely here,
that under all and every circumstances
will Government grant remission where
the ordinary staple crop fails, owing
to a deficient supply of water; and I shall impress
that unless they make vigorous Efforts upon them
to substitute some other crop in lieu
of paddy, their applications for remission
will not have the effect which they
may anticipate.—

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedient Servant
S. Blackburn.
Acting Collector

Copy rec'd by
Mr Cayley
Exec. Clerk

R.J. Since writing the above the information
called for in your letter dated 21st ultimo No 152 has
come to hand and been noted.—

Rec.d 1875 : Dept
Town
No. 3199.
Fire Arms Collect.
Caucasus
Fire Secretary to Govt.
Finance Depart.t
Collection

Date No.
Desp.d 5th
Rec.d 10th August 1875

No. 649
Report on the state
of Caucasus & Crops &c.

No. 2535

2d Dec.r 75