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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1336	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	26-9-1876	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 268. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th September 1876, No. 2,363 :—

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 14th September 1876, No. 425.

I HAVE the honor to report that I have just returned from an extensive tour of inspection through the chief portion of the district, which I undertook in order to satisfy myself as to the agricultural condition of the country. From my own observations, and from inquiries made of intelligent Revenue officials and ryots, I am of opinion that the state of the season is not now by any means as bad as it was a few months ago. Smart showers have lately fallen throughout the district, especially in the south, and the rain-fall in Arcot, Vellore, Wandiwash, &c., has been copious. The northern portion of the district, however, has not been as fortunate as the south. In the Venkatagherikota Division of the Palmanair Taluq and in the Kangundi Zemindari it is true there has been a very good fall of rain, and the tanks have received some months' supply of water. The crops under wells are generally good. The cumboo crop is in excellent condition, though raggy, which is the chief article of food of the lower classes in the district, is not so well off. Although the prices are high there has been as yet no want of grain in the markets.

2. Last week I was at Chendragheri and Tripatti, and the crops around those places were in excellent condition, and the Tahsildar of Chendragheri Taluq gave me no alarming news; but to-day I have received a report from him in which he states

1, Adenapalli; 2, Senkampalli; 3, Thotiwokulapalli; and 4, Dasollapalli. that the village officers of the marginally named villages have reported to him that the ryots of those villages are now suffering from a scarcity of food, and are eating the boiled leaves of Devadori trees and the boiled roots of aloes, and that a want of drinking water is very much felt in those places.

3. From a demi-official letter that I have just received from the Tahsildar of Palmanair, I learn that a scarcity of drinking water is greatly felt in the town of Palmanair and in the neighbourhood. The water in the wells has fallen very low, and the standing crops are parched by the heat of the sun. He also reports that in some villages the people are in a starving condition, and subsist on boiled leaves of jungle trees and aloe-roots.

4. During the past few months I had been at Palmanair from time to time, and was aware that there was, as in many other places, a great scarcity of water, and I caused several wells to be deepened and a new one constructed to supply the towns-people, and for some time the supply was much increased. Now, however, I learn that all the wells so improved are rapidly drying up, and that the town is threatened with a water-famine of a very serious kind.

5. I am proceeding to Palmanair to-morrow night, and will personally ascertain the exact state of things. If I find it absolutely necessary I shall, in anticipation of the Board's sanction, commence relief works to a limited extent, directing my attention to the deepening of the existing wells, &c.

6. I have requested my Acting Head Assistant Collector, who is about to proceed to Tripatti, to be present there during the great annual festival at the pagoda on the

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th September 1876.*

upper hill to ascertain, by personal inquiries, the necessity for opening relief works in the above-named villages of the Chendragheri Taluq, and, if absolutely required, to put them in hand at once.

7. The Board will observe that I anticipated* that no relief works were required in the taluqs of Palmanair and Chendragheri, but they have received a very meagre share of the late falls of rain, and in consequence, as I have shown, I fear I may have to open a few relief works.

8. In conclusion, I beg to assure the Board that I shall not spare any pains or exertions on my part to ascertain the real wants of the people, and where actually necessary due assistance to the sufferers shall be promptly afforded. I shall report more fully hereafter.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The Collector's action is approved by the Board. He will apply at once for funds if needed.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed)

H. E. STOKES,

Acting Secretary.

No. 269.

ORDER THEREON, 25th September 1876, No. 1,336.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government await the further report promised.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

133/25
Revenue Department.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Dated 16 September 1876.

No. 2682
Read the following

No. 425.

From

W. S. Whiteside Esqr.

Collector of North Arcot.

To,

C. A. Galton Esqr.

Ag. Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir

I have the honor to report that I have just returned from an extensive tour of inspection through the chief portion of the District, which I undertook in order to satisfy myself as to the agricultural condition of the Country. From my own observations and from enquiries made of intelligent Revenue Officials and Ryots, I am of opinion that the state of the season is not now by any means as bad as it was a few months ago. Smart showers have lately fallen throughout the District especially in the South, and the Rainfall in And Vellore, Wandewash &c has been copious. The northern portion of the District, however,

Obdt. of 1876

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated September, 20th.

Recd.

Encl.

O. O. 25th September 1876, No. 1836.

SEPTEMBER

No. 268-269.

Season in North Arcot—Awaiting further report promised with reference to the bad state



has not been as fortunate as the South.
In the Venkotasgherikola Division of
the Palunais Taluk and in the Hongundi
Zemindari, it is true, there has been a
very good fall of rain, and the tanks have
received some months' supply of water. The
crops under wells are generally good. The
cumbu crop is in excellent condition
throughout Raggy which is the chief article
of food of the lower classes in the district
is not so well off. Although the prices
are high, there has been as yet no want
of grain in the markets.

2. Last week I was at Chendragheri
and Inpatti, and the crops around
these places were in excellent condition
and the Tahildar of Chendragheri
Taluk gave me no alarming news.
But to-day I have received a report
from him in which he states that
the village officers of the following
named villages have reported to him

1. Adenapulli
2. Chikimipulli
3. Thokimipulla
4. Sarallopuli

that the ryots of these villages are now
suffering from a scarcity of food, and are
eating the boiled leaves of Sivadani trees
and the boiled roots of atoro, and that a
want of drinking water is very much felt
in these places.

3. From a demi-official letter that I
have just received from the Tahildar of
Palunais, I learn that a scarcity of
drinking water is greatly felt in the town
of Palunais and in the neighbourhood.
The water in the wells has fallen very
low, and the standing crops ^{are} parched by
the heat of the sun. He also reports that
in some villages the people are in a
starving condition, and subsist on boiled
leaves of jungle trees and also roots.
4. During the past few months, I
had been at Palunais from time
to time and was aware that there
was, as in many other places, a
great scarcity of water, and I learned

several wells. One deepened, and a new one constructed to supply the town people and for some time the supply was much increased. Now however, I hear that all the wells so improved are rapidly drying up and that the town is threatened with a water famine of a very serious kind.

5. I am proceeding to Paluanai to-morrow night; and will personally ascertain the exact state of things. If I find it absolutely necessary, I shall in anticipation of the Board's sanction commence Relief works to a limited extent, directing my attention to the deepening of the existing wells &c.

6. I have requested my Acting Head Assistant Collector, who is about to proceed to Kripetta to be present there during the great Annual

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Annual festival at the Pagoda on the upper hill, to ascertain by personal enquiry the necessity for opening relief works in the above named village of the Chendragheri Taluk, and if absolutely required, to put them in hand at once.

7. The Board will observe that I anticipated that no relief works were required in the Taluks of Paluanai and Chendragheri, but they have received a very meagre share of the late fall of rain, and in consequence, as I have shown, I fear, I may have to open a few relief works.

8. In conclusion I beg to

* Vide para. 12 of letter to H. J. 2nd June 1876 at 244.

to assure the Board that
I shall not spare any pains
or exertions on my part to
ascertain the real wants
of the people, and where
actually necessary due
assistance to the sufferers
shall be promptly afforded.
I shall report more fully here-
after.

I have ge-
t. tract (in office) 15/1 W. S. Whitkade
(Chittor 14th Sept. 1876) } of elec. m.

Submitted for the information
of Government.

2. The Collection action
is approved by the Board. It will
apply at once for funds if needed.

True Copy and E. tract

W. S. Whitkade

Secretary

Secretary to
Government N. D.

S.

W. S. Whitkade
C. B.

And copy to the Boarding Dec. 20th 1876
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