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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1798	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
	465 - 466	
Dated	24-11-1876	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 465. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th November 1876, No. 2,864:—

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 15th November 1876, No. 229.

THE circumstances of the season up to date have been so continuously unfavor-

- able, that I am now induced to ask the Board of Revenue to recommend to Government an allotment of Rupees 25,000* for relief works to be opened out in this district, in the localities where want of employment to agricultural field hands and to others of the poorest class may be experienced.
1. Copy of Sub-Collector's letter, No. 229 of 11th November 1876.
 2. Copy of Head Assistant Collector's letter of November 1876, received 13th November 1876, with two Statements, and No. 160 of 11th November 1876.
 3. Translation of the Sattiamungalam Tahsildar's Arzi, No. 459, dated 20th October 1876.
- * From Provincial Funds—A. W.

2. I was in hopes that the early part of November would have made up in rainfall for the deficient quantity which fell in October, average 2.12 against a normal rate of 6 inches; but though rain may still come, in 1871 it fell as late as the 26th of November, there can be no present doubt of short crops over most of the rain-fed lands.

3. Some taluqs are in a worse state than others. Pollachy, for instance, is in a fair state, having partly the benefit of the south-west monsoon, and having had many good showers in October.

Oodoomulpettah which gets none of the south-west monsoon, except the disadvantage of a high and dry wind is very backward; three-fourths of the black-soil lands not being sown as yet with cholum (the staple there). Dharapuram has the advantage of a considerable area watered by the Ambravutty river, the owners of irrigated lands are well off, but the dry land ryots are the reverse.

Caroor, lower down the Ambravutty irrigation, is less favored.

Erode had a very bad season last year for its dry crops, and this year is an aggravation of the failure. The same remarks apply to Palladam in a greater degree.

Bhowany has been very dry, likewise Collegal and Sattiamungalam. In Coimbatore, the dry crops (not under wells) will prove short, and the Noyel irrigation (as in last year) is much circumscribed.

4. In fact, with the exception of the first-crop irrigation of the Bhowany, Ambravutty and Aulier, as regards Government irrigation, and of wells under private irrigation, the crops are much below the average. A large amount of the stored grain has been brought out, and sold for exportation under the influence of the very

high prices, due to the demand from the central part of the Presidency. Raggy and cholera now rule nearly as high as in the distressed districts.

5. On a consideration of the general state of the district, I am of opinion that the time has come to ask for relief to be applied locally, according to the judgment of the district officers. Improvements of village communications, which the state of the Local Fund does not permit of being undertaken, may now be taken in hand, which will have the advantage of employing people near their homes and proportionately to their numbers.

6. A detailed list will follow.

7. Mr. McWatters, who has been over his sub-division, asks for Rupees 10,000. Mr. Mackenzie who has just returned from a tour in his division, Rs. 25,000. The northern division may require Rupees 2,000. I have asked Captain Awdry in charge of the Superintending Engineer's Office, to arrange for the speedy expenditure of Local Funds in road repair.

8. There will be no crowds of people gathered on any special work, the work, I propose, is that which, though advantageous to the villages, cannot be undertaken from want of funds in ordinary years, yet to which the land-holding rate-payers have a certain claim. It is suitable for unskilled labor. I consider it of less use improving tanks, which indeed are generally in repair but destitute of water, unless road work is wanting—such work would require estimates and skilled supervision—nor in deepening wells in private property, the owners of which are well to do—for that infers blasting of rock—which is undertaken by a special class of laborers always in demand. Some sanitary improvement of villages in filling up hollows and removing noxious vegetation may be found appropriate.

9. It is not usual to make remission on dry lands, and though the crop was a failure in the centre of the district (part of Erode and Palladam) last year, none were recommended; but a second bad season is very trying to the resources of the poorer ryots, and under the circumstances of the present season, I beg to recommend the suspension of the kists for the first two months of the fasli year on dry lands in the taluqs of Palladam, Erode, Dharapuram, Caroor, and Oodoomulpettah.

10. The question of remission, if any, and to what extent, on dry land assessment, is more appropriate for consideration further on in the season when knowledge of the harvest reaped is gained.

11. But at the present time there are cases where it is inadvisable to press the ryots, discouraged by the failure of their harvest of last year and by their unfavorable anticipations of this year.

12. The occupied area of what is called dry land (in some taluqs, notably Coimbatore,) has large proportion secured against the season by crops raised from wells; but most of the uplands have no such resource. Should the season still allow of the planting of cotton, a considerable tract of land might yet be profitably cultivated; but now it is late for any sort of cereals dependent on rain-fall alone.

13. The sum of the above remarks is—

(1.) That it is necessary to be provided with an amount of money as a provision for relief works on distress breaking out.

(2.) That the failure of rain has been very general over the district, and worst in its centre.

(3.) That the season for dry crops last year was unfavorable generally, and in several taluqs particularly so.

(4.) That as the failure of rain has been general, the relief must be, if not very heavy, widespread.

(5.) The relief works proposed have been generalized.

(6.) That in consideration of a failure of dry crops last year and in anticipation of, at all events, short crops this year over dry lands in certain taluqs, there should be a suspension of the first two kists, leaving remissions for after inquiry and consideration.

14. As the relief works will be individually small and scattered, I propose to entrust them to Tahsildars and Revenue Inspectors, the rates to be paid in money to have some proportion to the amount of food purchaseable. I would suggest 2½ Annas for men, 2 Annas for women, and 1 Anna for children; the men will work with momaty, the woman and children with baskets. The employment of women and children is a great relief to each family, in proportion to its mouths; all the working members of the family (even children take a considerable part of such work) being provided for, there will be something over for the aged and infirm of the family; the work so paid will not attract able-bodied men from other labor, if available. It will be necessary to constitute the Munsif Monigar-supervisor of labor in his village; there is a great competition for office, and his conduct will be watched by his rivals, and exposed, if inefficient; and the knowledge that the outlay is for village improvement and if mismanaged, will not be repeated, may induce a desire to have it effective. Every ryot knows how to improve a lane and smooth a passage for his cart.

List of Roads recommended for Relief Works.

Name of Road.	Length in Miles.	Rate per Mile.	Amount.	Total.
		RS.	RS.	
1. Palladam to Chettipolliem	12	200	2,400	
2. Tirupoor to Perindoray	10	110	1,100	
3. Kunjapully to Somanoor	10	300	3,000	
4. Mangalam to Tirupoor	5	300	1,500	
5. Palladam to Avenashy	14	200	2,800	
6. Mondipolliem road	4	200	800	
7. Theekalur to Cheyoor	6	200	1,200	
8. Cheyoor to Coonator	12	200	2,400	
	...	...	...	15,200

(Signed) G. MACKENZIE,
Acting Head Assistant Collector.

NOTE.—A list in the proper form has been called for.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

M. Monison, except the disadvantage of

LIST of Tanks, &c., recommended for Relief Works.

Name of Tank, &c.	Total Ayacut.	Assessment.	EXTENT NOW CULTIVATED.		Amount.	Collector's Remarks.
			Acres.	Assessment.		
	A. D.	RS. A. P.	A. D.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	
Teroopoor Pond. ...	...	...	...	...	300 0 0	
Palladam do. ...	...	...	...	...	300 0 0	
Oodderpolliem Tank ...	303 91.	1,973 2 0	143 81	954 12 8	1,000 0 0	} Not approved.
Chamalapuram do. ...	196 94	1,192 3 10	190 94	1,170 0 7	1,000 0 0	
Thoolookanuthur do. ...	36 81	262 13 5	12 66	95 4 3	500 0 0	
Cheyur do. ...	94 99	571 10 1	89 80	545 15 2	500 0 0	
Removing prickly pear from important litary path ...	...	...	...	...	5,000 0 0	
For deepening the public well ...	...	...	...	...	1,000 0 0	This must be Wad-der's work.
	...	...	...	...	9,600 0 0	

(Signed) G. MACKENZIE,
Acting Head Assistant Collector.

(True Copy.)

NOTE.—A list in the form prescribed in the Board's Proceedings, No. 1,807, of 14th July 1876, has been called for.

(Signed) J. C. WINSOM,
Collector.

From G. MACKENZIE, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq.,
Collector of Coimbatore, dated November 1876.

On Saturday I had the honor to address you on the present state of Udumulpettah Taluq, and to solicit sanction for certain relief works in that taluq. I also requested sanction for the immediate commencement of the repairs proposed to the abandoned line of road between Avenashy and Palladam.

NOTE.—These were sanctioned from Local Funds.
(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

2. This morning I have received from the Tahsildar of Palladam intimation that matters in that populous taluq are such as to give rise to very grave anxiety. In January last the then Tahsildar, Venkatachellam Pillai, proposed to apply to the Board for sanction for very large remissions for dry crops in Palladam Taluq. There were no sufficient data given, and I did not forward the recommendation for remission. The ryots paid their sists with some difficulty, and there are still arrears for about Rs. 5,000 outstanding. Thus this is the second bad season that these ryots have experienced, and in the northern part of the taluq there has not been a good season for some years past, and many of the wells are dry. I have seen the state of the country near Cheyur, Avenashy, and Tirupur myself, and am surprised that the people have been able to exist so long without relief. This afternoon I leave for the southern part of the taluq which I have not seen since June last.

3. Of the extent of dry land in Palladam Taluq usually sown with food-grains at the "ear" season, about $\frac{1}{3}$ was cultivated, about $\frac{1}{3}$ of this came to harvest, and the outturn is estimated at $\frac{1}{3}$ of the average. At the second or "Paravam" season, an attempt was made to cultivate the other fields, and about half of them were sown; but the crop which is now being reaped is very meagre indeed; 2,700 acres were sown with cotton, but of these very little has germinated. In garden lands under wells about half an average crop was reaped for the first crop, but many of the wells are now dry, and in few cases has any attempt been made to sow a second crop.

4. The whole extent of cultivable land in Palladam Taluq is 3,66,790 acres.

Arable land ...	366,790
Deduct ayen grass ...	7,635
	359,155
Cultivated as above ...	181,000
Left waste ...	178,155

We may expect to be obliged to recommend a remission on dry lands in this taluq alone of about Rs. 1,59,000.

5. I have already requested sanction for relief works in Udumulpettah to the extent of Rs. 1,100, and I enclose estimates of the Tahsildar of Palladam for relief works amounting to Rs. 25,000, in his taluq Palladam is a populous taluq. At last census 235,000 souls, and I do not think that this sum is too large from what I have myself seen in the taluq. We will probably have to begin these works in a few days.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From G. MACKENZIE, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq.,
Collector of Coimbatore, dated 11th November 1876 No. 160.

2. There is no cause for apprehension in Pollachy Taluq, unless it is in the north-east corner where it adjoins Palladam. If supplies run short, the markets will be replenished from Malabar.

3. In Udumulpettah Taluq a good crop of paddy has been reaped under the Amberavutty, but the series of tanks in Boodinathum village have not had a drop of water. Under wells some cultivation has taken place, but the vast extent of dry lands was not even ploughed until the showers of the end of September and first few days of October. There has been no rain since then to enable the ryots to sow these fields. Some few fields have been sown with gram, and there is a little cumboo, but fully three-fourths of the fields are not yet sown, and unless rain comes at once it will be too late to sow even gram.

4. The laboring classes are already put to considerable straits, and on Monday last, when I was at Udumulpettah there was a very threatening mole in the market. If rain does not come at once any day may see the people beginning to starve.

5. I have, therefore, the honor to submit a list of small local relief works in Udumulpettah Taluq, and to solicit your sanction for the Tahsildar's commencing at once to set in hand any one of them or all of them if distress appears. They are judiciously selected.

6. In Palladam Taluq the black lands on the south are, to a great extent, left uncultivated, and many thousands of laboring people in that taluq must find it difficult to gain a living. The northern part of the taluq near Avenashy has suffered much from want of rain, and as the rain-fall there has been deficient for the last few years many of the wells are dry. The abandoned line of road from Avenashy to Palladam passes through the worst part of the taluq. In the supplemental estimate which has not yet been passed by the Board of Revenue, it is proposed to repair this road at a cost of Rs. 1,400. I have the honor to suggest that you permit this road to be taken in hand at once in anticipation of the sanction of the supplemental estimate. It will be a feeder for the new station at Mungalam.

(True Copy.)

NOTE.—The works herein proposed were sanctioned from Local Funds.

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

From SOOLOOR SOOBIAH, Tahsildar, to A. MARTINDALE, Esq., Assistant Collector in charge Northern Division, dated Sattiamungalam, 30th October 1876, No. 456.

Owing to failure of rain this year in several poonjah villages, most of the lands have not even been ploughed, and the plants in a few of the fields ploughed have withered away.

2. In most villages people and cattle suffer for want of water for drinking purposes. In consequence of the great diminution of supply of water in the Bhowny river, an adequate quantity of water does not flow in the channels, which has resulted in the "car" crops in some of the nunjah lands proving a failure. The Iyen nunjah lands in low places are tolerably well irrigated: those on a higher level are not irrigated, and the crops are withering away. There has been no rain at all. It is a time of famine now.

3. Grains are sold at the following rates:—

Rice, of boiled paddy, at 4 measures per rupee.	
Rice	at 4 " " "
Raggi	at 7 " " "
Cumboo	at 7 " " "
Cholum	at 7 " " "

Severe as the distress is, 50 and even sometimes 100 bandies are every day coming from Mysore territory for transporting raggi and rice from cusbah as well as from villages—a circumstance which has led to the fact that the taluq people are positively prohibited from transporting grains, the products of the taluq, people will perish by hundreds from sheer famine. I am not aware of any authority by which I can interdict the transport of grain to foreign territory. I have laid these matters before you, and beg for instructions.

(True Translation.)

(Signed) A. MARTINDALE,
Assistant Collector in charge.

N.B.—In subsequent reports the Tahsildar informs that the bad state of the season continues. He, with the assistance of wealthy ryots, has arranged for conjy being supplied to the poor at Suthyalam.

COIMBATORE,
15th November 1876.

(Signed) A. MARTINDALE,
Assistant Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From G. McWATTERS, Esq., Ag. Sub-Collector of Coimbatore, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated Kanghiem, 11th November 1876, No. 229.

I HAVE the honor to request that Rs. 10,000 may be placed at my disposal to commence relief works in the sub-division.

2. The state of the season is gloomy in the extreme, and unless we get rain soon there will be a total failure of most of both the dry and wet crops.

3. The Adi cumboo and cholum crops have generally failed, and the cumboo now in the ground will wither to a certainty if there is not rain within ten days or a fortnight. A small quantity of raggi has been harvested in garden and wet lands, but the outturn was a long way below the average. If it rains, cholum may yet be cultivated in garden lands.

4. I have been on a tour in the sub-division lately, and I found the cumboo sown in September and October still green, and in most places an early fall of rain would save it. I

therefore defer giving particulars for a few days longer until I see whether it will rain and until I go over the worst villages and personally inspect them. Meanwhile, it would be well to have funds at hand to meet the worst that may befall.

5. The greatest grievance apparently is the new kistbundy, judging from the numerous personal complaints I have received. It is unfortunate that the change should occur in so bad a season, and I would suggest as some alleviation that the November and December kists be postponed.

6. There is grain in stock, but the prices are so high that cattle have to be sold at a sacrifice to pay for it, and it would be pressing the ryots to extremity to send batta peons to collect the November and December kists by distraint under such circumstances. Besides in case the monsoon fails, there must be heavy remissions both dry and wet.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. These reports show a very serious condition of things in Coimbatore. The Collector asks for permission to suspend collection of the two first kists in November and December, and promises further report as to the extent of punjah remissions which it will be necessary to grant, and which the Board fear will be very heavy. Mr. Wedderburn also requests sanction for a grant of Rupees 25,000 to be expended in to be expended in works of village improvement by the Village Monigars under the supervision of the taluq and divisional officers. The proposal is a practical and well considered one, and is fully approved by the Board. The Collector is also authorized to suspend collections as suggested, and his further report is awaited.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 466. ORDER THEREON, 24th November 1876, No. 1,798.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED. Mr. Wedderburn's proposals are moderate. They are approved with the exception of the rates of wages proposed which are rather high. His further report is awaited.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Accountant-General.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Dated 17 November 1876
Read the following
Circular both in office
15 Nov 1876.

No. 229.
From. A. Wedderburn Esqr.
Collector of Coimbatore.
To. H. E. Stokes Esqr.
As Secretary to the
Board of Revenue Madras.

- Encls:
1. Copy of Sub.
Circular letter, No.
229 of 11-11-76.
2. Copy of H. E.
Stokes Esqr's
letter No. of
Nov 1876, dated
13 Nov 1876, in
2 statements & No.
160 of 11 Nov 76.
3. Translation
of the Sathnamam
- Salami Sahil -
- Dars Wazir
No. 456 of 30
Oct 1876.

Sir.
The circumstances of the season up to date
have been so continuously unfavourable that I
am now induced to ask the Board of Revenue
to recommend to Government, an allotment of
Rs 25,000 for relief works, to be opened out in
this District, in the localities where ^{want of} employment
to agricultural field hands & to others of the poorer
class, may be experienced.

- + from Provin-
- cial funds.
2. I was in hopes that the early part of November
would have made up in rain fall for the deficient
quantity which fell in October, average 2.12
against a normal rate of 6 inches, but though
rain may still come, in 1871 it fell as late as
the 26 November, there can be no present doubt
of short crops over most of the rain fed lands.
3. Some taluqs are in a worse state than others
Pollachi, for instance is in a fair state, having
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- Coimbatore which gets none of the
S.W. monsoon, except the disadvantage of

a high & dry wind, is very backward. $\frac{3}{4}$ of the black soil land not being sown as yet with bladem (its staple there). Sharapuram has the advantage of a considerable area watered by the Ambavanthi river, the owners of irrigated lands are well off, but the dry land spots are the reverse. Caroor, lower down the Ambavanthi irrigation is less favored. Erode had a very bad season last year for its dry crops & this year is an aggravation of the failure. The same remarks apply to Palladium in a greater degree.

Bhowany has been very dry; likewise Collegal & Sathiamangalam. In Coimbatore, the dry crops (not under wells) will prove short, & the Royal irrigation (as in last year) is much circumscribed.

4. In fact, with the exception of the first crop irrigation of the Bhowany, Ambavanthi & Aulias, as regards Government irrigation & of the wells under private irrigation, the crops are much below the average. A large amount of the stored grain has been brought out & sold for exportation, under the influence of the very high prices, due to the demand from the central part of the Presidency. Ragi & bladem now rule nearly as high as in the distressed districts.

5. On a consideration of the general state of the district, I am of opinion that the time

199/4
has come to ask for relief to be applied locally. According to the judgment of the District Officer, Improvement of Village Communications, which the State of the L. Fund does not permit of being undertaken, may now be taken in hand, which will have the advantage of employing people near their homes & proportionately to their numbers.

6. A detailed list will follow:—

7. Mr. McWaters, who has been over his subdivision asks for Rs 10,000. Mr. Mackenzie who has just returned from a tour in his division, Rs 25,000. The Northern Division may require Rs 2000. I have asked Capt. Reddy in charge of the Suptt. Engrs office to arrange for the speedy expenditure of local funds in road repair.

8. There will be no crowd of people gathered on any special work, the work I propose is that, which though advantageous to the villages cannot be undertaken from want of funds in ordinary years, yet to which the land holding rate payers have a certain claim. It is suitable for unskilled labor. I consider it of less use improving tanks which indeed are generally in repair, but destitute of water, unless road work is wanting. Such work would require estimates, & skilled supervision - nor in deepening wells in private property, the owners of which are

well-to-do - for that infero blasting of rock which is undertaken by a special class of labourers always in demand. Some sanitary improvements of villages in filling up hollows & removing noxious vegetation may be found appropriate.

9. It is not usual to make remissions in dry land & though the crop was a failure in the centre of the district (part of Erode & Palladium) last year some were recommended, but a second bad season is very trying to the resources of the poorer ryots & under the circumstances of the present season, I beg to recommend the remission of the kists for the first 2 months of the Fush year on dry land in the Taluqs of Palladium Erode, Dhara, Ponnani, Caror & Bodumpettali.

10. The question of remission, if any, & to what extent, on dry land assessment, is more appropriate for consideration further on in the season when knowledge of the harvest reaped, is gained.

11. But at the present time there are cases where it is inadvisable to press the ryots, discouraged by the failure of their harvest of last year, & by their unfavourable anticipations of this year.

12. The occupied area of what is called dry land (in some Taluqs notably in Tambav) has a large proportion secured against the season by crops raised from wells.

1791/2
But most of the up lands have no such resource should the season still allow of the planting of cotton, a considerable tract of land might yet be profitably cultivated, but now it is late for any sort of cereals, dependant on rain fall alone.

13. The sum of the above remarks is, that it is necessary to be provided with an amount of money, as a provision

for relief works, in distress breaking out. (2) That the failure of rain has been very general over the district, and worst in its centre.

(3) That the season for dry crops last year was unfavourable generally and in several Taluqs, particularly so.

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at all events, short crops this year, one dry land in certain taluqs, there should be a suspension of the first two lists, leaving remissions for after enquiry and consideration.

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Shaw &c
(2) A. Wedderburn
Collector

1728/00
Submitted for the information of Government

2 These reports show a very serious condition of things in Cumbhane. The Collector asks for permission to suspend collection of the two first lists in November & December, and promises further report as to the extent of Punjab remissions which it will be necessary to grant, and which the Board fear will be very heavy. Mr. Wedderburn also requests sanction for a grant of Rupees 25,000 (twenty five thousand) to be expended in relief works. The amount appears to the Board moderate and is sanctioned. It is to be expended in works of village improvement by the Village Muzdars under the supervision

supervision of the Balug and divisional
offices. The proposal is a practical
and well considered one and is fully
approved by the Board. The Collector
is also authorized to suspend collections
as suggested and his further report
is awaited.

/ True copy & extract

W. H. Thomas
Secretary.

To
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department,
with 4 encls. & he returned

Revenue 1876 Definite
No 4967. 10

Forwards of
the Board of Revenue.

Dated 18 Nov 1876.
Signed 1876 -

At 400 No 1798-24-1776.

Recorded - 1876
Revenue's professional
are moderate - 1876
then report to society.

Forwards of
the Board of Revenue
the information
concerning, with re-
-ments, letters, the
other of committee,
regarding the 1876
Revenue in his district
one (1876-1)

14 To the Board of Revenue 18 Dec 1876
15 The Financial Dept.
16 The Accountant General

1876 No 4967. 10