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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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

1866

Press
Mis.

Dated 30-11-1826 196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1856

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th November 1876.

No. 601. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th November 1876, No. 2,960 :—

Read the following letter from H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vallam, 21st November 1876, No. 4,190 :—

I HAVE the honor to report on the present agricultural condition of this district.

2. FRESHES IN RIVERS.—The first floods of the south-west monsoon commenced to come down the Cauvery and its branches about the 12th of May. Though scanty, the freshes continued in the same state till the end of June when, all on a sudden,

high floods came down the Cauvery and Vennaur and caused breaches in several places in the Tanjore and Combaconum taluqs. It will be seen from the table given in the margin that the height to

which the floods had risen in the Cauvery at the chief towns through which it passes ranged from 3 feet to 10 feet, and in the Vennaur, at Tanjore, the floods rose to 12 feet. These floods subsequently subsided as suddenly as they rose, and since then the rivers have been left almost dry.

3. RAIN-FALL.—Till the beginning of November, the north-east monsoon had almost completely failed ; but about the middle of the month, rain fell throughout the district for about three or four days, and since then there has been no rain at all anywhere. From the abstract given below it will be seen that the rain-fall has been gradually decreasing year after year and this year more particularly :—

Months.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
April... ..	3.12	5.39	6.64	1.68	1.68
May	6.42	1.92	2.04	1.72	3.68
June	1.4	1.15	2.32	1.04	9.68
July	4.96	1.28	2.74	5.59	8.68
August	4.7	3.38	3.35	5.1	15.64
September	2.92	3.71	6.83	4.6	2.35
October	6.78	15.15	6.52	7.12	1.77
November... ..	14.64	6.57	8.49	7.41	6.91
Total	44.94	38.55	32.93	27.98	22.25

4. DRY CULTIVATION.—This cultivation is carried on to any considerable extent only in the parts of the district beyond the influence of river irrigation. It therefore depends solely on local rains whose absence has dried up almost all the tanks in these parts. The chief dry crops cumboo, raggy and cholam have been harvested, but the yield is said to have been very poor and of an inferior kind. The other grains, dholl, horse-gram and ulundu are said to have been nearly destroyed by the drought.

5. WET CULTIVATION CROPS AND THEIR OUTTURN KAR CROP.—The agricultural operations in the lowland parts of the district were begun with the scanty waters in the rivers. The high floods above referred to washed away the seeds sown in some

parts as well as the nurseries of paddy plants in others. The kar crop thrived pretty fairly in a few villages. In others, the outturn is expected not to exceed three-quarter of an ordinary crop. In many places it has also totally failed.

6. **SAMBAPISANAM CROPS.**—In the eastern part of the Tanjore taluq, the Sambapisanam crops have not sprung up more than about a span height; in some villages of the Combaconum taluq they are perishing, and in others the fields have cracked. In the Tritrapundy and Mannargudi taluqs a small proportion has suffered. In the Nannilam taluq, the crops in some places are said to be in a thriving condition, while in others they are withering. In the Negapatam and Pattucottah taluqs, the outturn is expected to be only quarter, half, or three-quarters of a full crop.

7. On the whole the outturn of these crops is expected to fall considerably if the rains still continue to hold off. In the upland parts of the district which depend solely on falling rains, wet cultivation was commenced in parts only but with no good results. It is, I believe, hopeless to expect any return from this cultivation if the season continues as it is at present.

8. **PRICES.**—The freshes being scanty, the monsoon holding off, and the cultivation being limited, the prices began to rise as a necessary consequence prior to 8th

* 11½ Madras measures per Rupee.
† 12 Do. do. do.

November; the price of a kalam of paddy rose to Rupees 2-2-0* in Tanjore and Rupees 2† at Negapatam. The price of

husked rice was as usual about double that of paddy. In other taluqs, too, the prices had an upward tendency. Some grain riots were apprehended at Combaconum and Pattucottah, and special precautions were taken by the Police and the Magistracy to obviate any such disturbances. There was a little idle talk of the same sort in Tanjore too; prices began to fall after the 8th, on which day the rain fell and they are now again rising.

9. **REMISSIONS.**—In consequence of this exceptional state of the season numerous petitions for the remission of assessment, both on dry and wet lands, are pouring in daily. The loss of crops on these lands under the different heads of Waste, Shavi, &c., cannot be given now, as the exact loss in some places has not yet been ascertained. I have desired the Divisional Officers to submit as soon as they can ascertain with any exactness, the actual loss suffered by the Mirassidars, after examination of the fields, and I shall do myself the honor of reporting again on the subject when their reports are received. Meanwhile, as no remissions can be granted on dry lands unless the Board's sanction is obtained before the end of January, I have thought it necessary to represent the state of things as they are. The peculiar circumstances of the season requires in my opinion liberal remissions of assessment on dry cultivation, and as the exact amount to be remitted cannot be given at present with any degree of accuracy, I have the honor to request sanction for the remission of 25 per cent. of the dry assessment. According to the last year's holdings, the area of dry lands in the taluqs

Tanjore.
Pattucottah.
Mannargudi.

Tritrapundy.
Negapatam.

marginally noted amounted to 205,386 acres, assessed at Rs. 2,27,742. Twenty-five per cent. of this amount will be

Rupees 56,935. In consideration of the failure of the dry crops, I have directed that no coercive processes for the realization of revenue should be issued until the Board's order on this reference is received. I may here remark that had it not been for the

few showers we have had about the 8th, the cultivation would have entirely failed and much distress would have resulted. At present there is no reason to believe that there will be a famine, but if the rains still hold off and the wet cultivation proves a complete failure and the Mirassidars export their rice largely, the distress will be very serious. On precautionary measures for relief thereof, I am addressing the Board separately.

10. **PAYMENT OF KISTS.**—As the ryots have not realized much in the shape of wet crops by the disposal of which they used to pay their first three kists, they have represented their inability to pay the regulated instalments under the present kistbundi, especially this year. Formerly, there were eight instalments for the payment of revenue, viz., from November to June. Each instalment consisted of certain percentage of the revenue ranging as follows:—

Kar.				Samba.			
November	...	...	20	February	...	...	10
December	...	...	40	March	...	...	20
January	...	...	40	April	...	...	30
				May	...	...	25
				June	...	...	15

but at present the number of instalments is reduced to six, and the payment is regulated at so many Annas in the Rupee. According to the latter, the Mirassidars have to pay more in the first three instalments than in the corresponding ones under the old ruling. The Board are perhaps aware that the first kists are generally paid from the sale proceeds of the kar produce, and the subsequent instalments by the disposal of the samba produce. There are Mirassidars in this district who have to pay their kists either for kar or samba alone or for kar and samba together, according as they cultivate only one or both kinds of crop. Under the present kistbundi those who have to pay for kar alone may manage to pay though this year they do so with much difficulty. The case of those who have to pay for samba alone is quite different. In each of the first three instalments they have to pay at 2 Annas in the Rupee of the assessment, although their crops have not yet been harvested and sold. In former years these Mirassidars paid their kists in February and the following four months. To explain more fully the incidence of this change in the kistbundi, I beg to submit a statement showing the amount that each Mirassidar has to pay now for each kist in comparison with what he used to pay formerly.

11. The change in the practice no doubt presses hard on all land-holders and numerous applications have been received by Divisional Officers to revert to the old kistbundi. I have therefore the honor to request that at least during this exceptional year, the Board will be pleased to order the collection of kists in this district in instalments according to the old rules.

12. I am afraid, however, that the difficulty will still be a difficulty next year and that it is better to revert finally to the old kistbundi.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Statement.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The Collector describes the freshes in the river as having been moderate till the end of June, when after a high fresh, which did some damage, they ceased and the

river has been nearly dry ever since; the ground is now hard and dry and the growing rice crops are already failing in some places.

3. The state of the dry lands is far worse, and he recommends a remission of 25 per cent. on an area assessed at about $2\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs of Rupees; the Board sanction this remission which will amount to Rupees 56,935.

4. The Board further approve of the Collector's suggestion to revert to the former kistbundi for this year at all events as likely to afford the ryots some measure of relief.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 602.

ORDER THEREON, 30th November 1876, No. 1,866.

Miscellaneous.

THE Board's Proceedings are approved.

2. The general question of the Tanjore kistbundi should be brought forward in a separate report without delay for further consideration.

3. It is not clear why the Collector did not object when the change was ordered or was in contemplation. It is presumed that the Collector was consulted at the time.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

„ the Financial Department.

„ the Inspector-General of Police.

„ the Public Works Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

9/1/11 ✓

10/9/11

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REVENUE.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 601-602

Approved: Condition of the District
Board of Revenue with reference to rainwater
sewerage on dry lands, and directing them
being forward the general question of the
low lands in a separate report for their
consideration.



writing - in the chair

Revenue Department.

1866/11

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.
Dated 24th November 1866.

Read the following: No 2900:-

No 4190.

From W. S. Thom Esq.

Collector of Tanjore.

To W. S. Stokes Esq.

Secretary to the Board of Revenue.
Madras.

Sir I have the honor to report
on the present agricultural condi-
tion of this District.

2. Freshes in Rivers. The first floods
of the South West Monsoon com-
menced some days the Canvey
and its branches about the 12th
of May. Though heavy, the fre-
shes continued in the same state
till the end of June, when, all
in a sudden, high floods came
down.

down the Cavery and Vennam
and caused breaches in several places
in the Junjore and Combacomm

Salys. It will be seen from the
Cavery { Inwady. 9
Combacomm 10
Mayavaram 3 } table given
Vennam & Junjore 12 } in the margin
that the height

to which the floods had risen in
the Cavery at the Chief town through
which it passes varied from 3 feet
to 10 feet and in the Vennam at
Junjore the floods rose 8 to 12 feet.
These floods subsequently subsided
as suddenly as they rose and since
then the rivers have been left
almost dry.

3 Rainfall. Till the beginning
of November, the North East
monsoon

¹⁸⁶⁶ monsoon had almost completely
failed, but about the middle of
the month, rain fell throughout
the District for about 3 or 4 days
and since then there has been no
rain at all any where. From the

Months	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches
April	3.12	5.39	.54	1.	.68
May	6.42	1.92	2.04	1.72	3.
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that the rain-
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creasing year
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4 Dry Cultivation. This cultivation
is carried on to any considerable ex-
tent only in the parts of the Dis-
trict beyond the influence of
river irrigation. It therefore depends
solely

solely in local rains whose absence
has dried up almost all the tanks
in these parts. The chief dry crops
Caucho, Raggy and Chulam have
been harvested but the yield is
said to have been very poor and of
an inferior kind. The other grains
Dholl, Horsegram and Ulemdue
are said to have been nearly des-
troyed by the draught.

5- Wet Cultivation crops and
their culture. ^{Kar} Kar crop. The agri-
-cultural operations, in the low land
parts of the District were begun
with the scanty waters in the
rivers. The high floods above refer-
-red to washed away the seeds sown

1866/6
in some parts as well as the nurseries
of paddy plants in others. The
Kar crop thrived pretty fairly
in a few villages. In others the out-
turn is expected not to exceed $\frac{3}{4}$
of an ordinary crop. In many places
it has ^{also} totally failed.

~~Wet~~
~~crops~~

6. Sambapisanam crops. In the eas-
tern part of the Bangalore taluk, the
Sambapisanam crops have not
sprung up more than about a
span height; in some villages of
the Tanjavur taluk they are
perishing and in others the fields
have cracked. In the Tirupurudiy
and Mannargudi taluks a small
proportion has suffered. In the
Nannelam

Kannalam During the crops in some places are said to be in thriving condition while in others they are withering. In the Megapattam and Pattucottah taluqs, the outturn is expected to be only $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ of a full crop.

7 On the whole the outturn of these crops is expected to fall considerably if the rains still continue to hold off. In the upland parts of the district which depend solely on falling rains, wet cultivation was commenced in parts only but with no good results. It is I believe, hopeless to expect any return from this cultivation.

1866
cultivation of the season continues as it is at present.
& Prices. The prices being scanty, the monsoon holding off, and the cultivation being limited the prices began to rise as a necessary consequence prior to 8th November, the price of a Kalam of paddy rose to Rs. 2-2- in Bangalore and
x 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ Madras } Rs. 2 at Megapattam.
measures per }
Rupee. } The price of husked
@ 12- " }
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and the Magistrate to obviate
any such disturbances. There was a
little idleness of the same sort
in Bangalore too; prices began to fall
after the 8th on which day the rain
fell and they are now again rising.

9. Remissions In consequence of
the exceptional state of the sea-
-son numerous petitions for the
remission of assessments, both
on dry and wet lands, are pouring
in daily. The loss of crops on
these lands under the different
heads of waste, Shami &c cannot
be given now, as the exact loss

1866/4
in some places has not yet been
ascertained, I have desired the
Divisional officers to submit as
soon as they can ascertain with any
exactness the actual loss, suffered
by the Mirasidars, after exami-
-nation of the fields, and I shall
do myself the honor of reporting
again on the subject when their
reports are received. Meanwhile
as no remissions can be granted
on dry lands unless the Board's
sanction is obtained before the
end of January, I have thought
it necessary to represent the state
of things as they are. The peculiar
circumstances of the season requires

in my opinion liberal remissions of
assessment in dry cultivation and
as the exact amount to be remitted
cannot be given at present with
any degree of accuracy, I have the
honour to request sanction for the re-
mission of 25 per cent of the dry
assessment. According to the last
year's holdings, the area of dry lands

Dargun	{	in the Enay margin- ally noted amount of 205386 acres assessed at Rs. 227742. 25 per cent of this amount will be Rs 56935.
Pattacottah		
Mannargadi		
Tirupurundi		
Negapatnam		

In consideration of the failure of
the dry crops, I have directed that
no coercive measures for the realization
of

1866/9
of revenue should be issued until
the Board's order in this reference is
received. I may here remark that
had it not been for the few showers
we have had about the 8th
the cultivation would have su-
berly failed and much distress
would have resulted. At present
there is no reason to believe that
there will be a famine but if
the rains still hold off and the
wet cultivation proves a complete
failure and the musaidars ex-
-port their rice largely the dis-
-tress will be very serious. On pre-
-cautious measures for relief
whereof I am addressing the
Board

Bond separately.

10. Payment of Rists. As the ryots have not realized much in the shape of wet crops by the disposal of which they used to pay their first three Rists, they have represented their inability to pay the regulated instalments under the present Rist-bundry especially this year. Formerly there were 8 instalments for the payment of revenue viz. from November to June. Each instalment consisted of certain percentage of the revenue running as follows.

<u>Rur.</u>	
November -	20
December -	40
January -	40
	100

<u>Samba</u>	
February -	10
March -	20
April -	30
May -	25
June -	15
	100

What they mean? It is less than 25% per year per cent

100 but

1866/10

dry crop

but at present, the number of instalments is reduced to 6 and the payment is regulated at so many annas in the Rupee. According to the latter the munsidars have to pay more in the first three instalments than in the corresponding ones under the old ruling. The bond are perhaps aware that the first Rists are sensibly paid from the sale proceeds of the Rur produce and the subsequent instalments by the disposal of the Samba produce. There are munsidars in this district who have to pay their Rists either for Rur or Samba alone or for

for Kar and Senta together according
as they cultivate only one or both
kinds of crop. Under the present
proceedings those who have to pay
for Kar alone, may manage to
pay though this year they do so
with much difficulty. The case
of those who have to pay for Senta
alone is quite different. In such
of the first three instalments they
have to pay at 2 annas in the
Rupee of the assessment although
their crops have not yet been har-
vested and sold. In former years
these murasidars paid their
taxes in February and the follow-
ing 4 months. To explain more
fully

fully the incidence of this change
in the Probandy. I beg to submit
a statement showing the amount
that such murasidars has to pay
now for each kist in comparison
with what he used to pay formerly.

11. The change in the practice
no doubt presses hard on all
Landholders and numerous applica-
-tions have been received by divi-
-sional officers to request to be added
Probandy. I have therefore the
honor to request that at least
during this exceptional year the
Board will be pleased to order
the collection of kists in this
District in instalments according

to the old rules

12. I am afraid however that the difficulty will still be a difficulty next year and that it is better to revert finally to the old Distbundy.

I have &c.

Tanjore Collectors
Office, Vallam (Sd) H.S. Thomas.
21st Novr 1876 Collector.

Submitted for the information of Government.

The Collector describes the freshes in the river as having been moderate till the end of June when after a high fresh which did some damage they ceased and the river has been nearly dry ever since. The ground is now hard

1876/7
hard and dry and the growing rice crops are already failing in some places.

The state of the dry lands is far worse and he recommends a remission of 25 Percent on an area assessed at about $2\frac{1}{4}$ (two and one fourth) laas of rupis - the Board sanction this remission which will amount to Rs. 56,935 (Fifty six thousand nine hundred and thirty five).

The Board further approve of the Collector's suggestion to revert to the former Distbundy for this year at all events as likely to afford the ryots some measure of relief.

One copy by truck

To

Collector

Wd. C. Hogg The Secretary to Government, No. 10, with original statement to be retained

Dec: 19th 2015
No. 5-169

Pro. 18m 2 of 11m.

Dec 24 1896

Dec 25 1896

1896

The Grand Jury have

approved. The operation of the

Lawrence Hills and by should

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It is not clear why the Bill

has not been introduced when the

change was ordered in the

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stated that the Bill was

introduced at the time.

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