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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE**GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS**Revenue DEPARTMENTG.O. No.
~~B.P. No.~~

1866

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated 30-11-1876 196

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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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,

		Feet.	
Cauvery.	(Trivady	9	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.
	(Combaconum	10	
	(Mayaveram	3	
Vennaur	Tanjore... ..	12	

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	1.72	1.68
May	6.42	1.92	2.04	1.04	3.9
June	1.4	1.15	2.32	.59	.8
July	4.96	1.28	2.74	5.1	5.64
August	4.7	3.38	3.35	4.	2.35
September	2.92	3.71	6.83	7.12	1.77
October	6.78	15.13	6.52	7.41	6.91
November... ..	14.64	6.57	8.49		
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 Ma-las 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 directed 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:—

<i>Kar.</i>				<i>Samba.</i>			
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

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

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.

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No 4190.

From H. S. Thompson as before.

Member of Janjore.

To Mr Stokes Esq

Secretary to the Board of Revenue.
Madras.

Sir I have the honor to report

in the present agricultural condi-

son of Miss Dr. Rich.

2. Freshes in Rivers The first flood

of the South West Museum Com-

enced ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{the} Carvery

and its branches about the 12th

9 May. Hugh seen by the pre-

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at the end of June, when, all

in a sudden, high floods came down

Chapman

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[illegible]

down the Canary and Venam
and caused breaches in several places
in the Junjere and Cambacum

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Canary { Inwady. 9
Cambacum 10
Mayavaram 3 } table given
Venam. 12 } in the margin
that the height

to which the floods had risen in
the Canary at the Chief Towns through
which it passes varied from 3 feet
to 10 feet and in the Venam at
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These floods subsequently subsided
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3 Rainfall. Till the beginning
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1866/67
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August	4.7	3.38	3.35	5.1	5.84	-creasing year
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in these parts. The chief dry crops
Cumbro, Ruffy and Cholum have
been harvested but the yield is
said to have been very poor and of
an inferior kind. The other grains
Dholl, Horsegram and Uluandee
are said to have been nearly des-
troyed by the draught.

5- Wet Cultivation crops and
their culture. ^{Wet} Wet crop. The agri-
-cultural operations, in the low land
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1866/5
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Wet
crops

6. Sambapisanam crops. In the eas-
tern part of the Bangalore taluk, the
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span height; in some villages of
the Tanjavaram taluk they are
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and Mannargudy taluks a small
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1365
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& 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 Tanjore and $\times 11\frac{1}{4}$ maddas } Rs. 2 at Nagapattinam.
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1866/4
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ascertained; I have desired the
Divisional officers to submit as
soon as they can ascertain with any
exactness the actual loss, suffered
by the proprietors, 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
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end of January, I have thought
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1866/9
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<u>Rur.</u>		<u>Samba</u>	
November - 20		February - 10	Total 100 mean 12.5% less 10% of the year per cent
December - 40		March - 20	
January - 40		April - 30	
		May - 25	
		June - 15	
	100		100 but

13/10

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1866
11

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ing 4 months. To explain more
fully

fully the incidence of this change
in the first bundy I beg to submit
a statement shewing the amount
that such murasidars has to pay
now for each list in comparison
with what he used to pay formerly.
11. The change in the practice
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-tions have been received by divi-
-sional officers to request to be added
first bundy. I have therefore the
honor to request that at least
during this exceptional year the
Board will be pleased to order
the collection of lists 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, Vakkam (Sd) H.S. Thomas.
21st Novr 1896 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.

1896/11
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) lacs of rupees. 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.

/ True copy &c. truly

To

W. H. Thomas

W. H. Thomas

The Secretary to Government, No. 12, with original statement &c. &c.

Rev: 19th Dec 1869.

Pro Mend of Men.

Sailed 24 Dec 1869.

Dec 25 - 1869

The Mend of Men, are
approved. The question of the
Largeness of the body should
be brought forward and by some
it is not clear why the
Largeness did not arise when the
change was made in the
conformation. It is here
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removed at the time.
Duty for self preservation
of first. Little from
all of any one before.
-int in the system.
-small condition of the
bit & bys search for
improvement of self preservation
by Mend of Men.

Rev: 19th Dec 1869.

Rev: 19th Dec 1869.
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