

29 District Engineer's Office
29 October 1876
(2) Date of report
(3) Initials of the Referencer *her AC*

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2808	<u>Press</u>
<u>B.P. No.</u>		Mis.
Dated	24. 11.	1876

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No 2779

District Engineer's Office
 Pulney 29 October 1876
 Deskd 2-176

From

Sient Colonel J. Fischer Esq
 District Engineer, Madras

To

Major General G. W. Walker Esq
 Secretary to Government

Sir

In continuation of my
 letter of the 26th instant No 2741
 I have the honor to submit for
 the consideration of the Govern-
 ment the prices of — grains now
 prevailing at this place, Pulney,
 and the average rates ruling
 here in ordinary seasons.

	Average prices	Present prices	And of prices per cent
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1 st sort rice	8 1/2	5 1/2	37 1/2 per cent
2 nd Do	9	6 1/2	30 Do
3 rd Do	9 1/2	7	30 Do
Cholam	18	8	1,6 Do
Ragga	20	10	50 Do
Bombay	20	10	50 Do
Lyam	18	10 1/2	39 Do

It will be seen from the above as
I had already anticipated that
the rise of prices especially of
the ordinary food grains of the
laboring population has been
most rapid, having occurred
within the last 10 days and the
rains still holding off it is
not too much to say that very
great distress already exists
amongst the laboring classes.

Had the works I
projected 2 years ago for the
Shummooganuddi been put
in hand or means even allowed
for their investigation much
of this evil could certainly
have been greatly mitigated
if not entirely overcome for
even in this extraordinary
season of failure of the rains
considerable volumes of water
have passed to waste by the
Shummooganuddi, a great
deal of which could have been
stored in the reservoirs the
sites for which had been already

2
pointed out, the losses ~~incurred~~
incurred will I fear fall entirely
on Revenue and the cultivators
means and it will be long
before these can be recovered.
3 With such a large
population as exists in this
District and so rapidly increa-
sing as it is, it is quite evident
from the great rise in prices
which has already occurred
in the last 10 days that the
means of production as existing
are totally inadequate to
meet the demand for ordinary
living amongst the laboring
classes, it is then absolutely
necessary to provide them with
means for so doing and to obtain
from their industry such results
as shall be most reproductive
for the future to the Government
and the interests of the cultivators.
I have in consultation with
the Ag. Collector proposed in
the first instance to take up
the metalling of the main roads
of the District so as to reduce

cost of transport as much as possible,
some new lines of road are still
required for the District and
estimate for the earth works of
these will be sent in shortly
and in all cases where tanks
or wells can be repaired, such
works could be put in hand
these are the only suggestions I
can propose at present as it has
been determined to postpone
the consideration of the most
important and necessary
irrigation works to secure the
District against such contingencies
as have now occurred, but
I beg respectfully to add if
it is absolutely necessary to
provide all existing native
irrigation works with gigantic
means of washing water, such
a season as this most clearly
demonstrates that the right
policy to pursue is to secure
these, which it is allowed
do exist by proposing to provide
for their waste, and not to
provide no sufficient information

on the subject has been afforded
when all the formulae are
ordered to use ^{for simplicity} clearly show that
these are available and it only
requires the exercise of ordinary
professional judgment and
experience to turn them to account.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Most Obedt Servt
W. T. Tucker Esq. M. A.
District Engineer

N^o 2808

Transferred to the 39th Regt
in continuation of docket of 39th
Oct/76 on letter from the District
Engineer of 26th Oct/76
27/4/ recorded in B's Pios 1st
Nov 76, No 2719

2 B's Pios 7/29-11- 24 Nov 76

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The prices of grain—
Details—prevailing
at the Madras
District and affords
his opinion in con-
= nection therewith—
M. M. B. S.

~~Added~~ 29th Oct/76.
~~Recd~~ 24 Nov 76

No: 2719

To the Secretary
to Government
@ M. F.
The District Engineer
Madras
7th Nov 76
From: 1876. 23rd 4
7th Nov 76

Transferred to the
Revenue Department
in continuation of the
District Engineer's letter
of the 26th October which
was transferred on the
30th Idem.

Major General
Lieut. Col. R. S. S. S.
24/11

22nd Nov 76