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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1748	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	18-5-1977	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

18th May 1877, No. 1,748.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 353. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th April 1877,
No. 1,782.

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to
H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 9th April 1877,
No. 120:—

With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th February 1877, No. 518, calling for some further information regarding the state of the district, and observing that I have not given credit for an average rainfall of the south-west monsoon, as shown in the rain register and cultivation accounts, I have the honor to state that rain registers and cultivation accounts are very fallacious guides in judging of the state of agriculture.

2. It matters little that 12 inches of rain were registered at Coimbatore from April to September when not a tank got a supply, when there was not a single sufficiently good fresh in the Noyah river during the whole of the south-west monsoon and for dry crops even; what are 12 inches in 6 months, what is the value of 2 inches in the month or $\frac{1}{3}$ inch in the week.

3. I can understand some benefit in 2 inches per week at the cultivating season; at all events I am able from personal inspection to see the result of an unfilled tank if it be irrigated land and if unirrigated, and unsown field or a withered crop.

4. The cusbah rain registers, too, are fallacious guides. I saw 2 inches of rain fall in one hour, and for one hour only; this ran off the surface, evaporated, left not a trace behind; it extended over only a small tract of country. Mr. Chisholm, who was travelling by rail on that day, told me he thought it the monsoon, but soon travelled out of it into fair weather.

5. As for cultivation accounts their fallacy is but too well known. In the Ceded Districts great attention used to be paid to them, and they were often to some degree reliable, but in this district I found it often a practice for the Carnums to copy the last year's cultivation, or to omit to furnish the accounts regularly, and include the cultivation of two or three months in one. I also found the Revenue Inspectors *lucis a non lucendo* doing any thing but inspect crops or check village returns; they were the Tahsildars' Deputies, employed on reporting on all other subjects but cultivation, or reporting without inspecting it.

In the Pollachy Taluq a great quantity of land under putta was under-reported. Some Inspectors were incapacitated for locomotion on pony back, none making tours without compulsion, and accepting without examination the village cultivation returns. I have paid much attention to these points, and done all that is necessary to amend this faulty state of things.

6. I judge of the rainfall and cultivation in one taluq, Coimbatore, during all the months when rainfall has any thing to do with cultivation from July to November, and it affects all but well lands. What was the state of things; why, leaving the cultivation under wells, there was scarcely any crop at all. Cholum was a failure. Cotton was a failure. When these rain-fed crops fail on the black soil lands, the state of other rain-fed crops may be estimated.

7. A large tract of fertile country to the east of Coimbatore was never sown at all, and not even ploughed. I have myself inspected the crops in various parts of the taluq. If parts of the Coimbatore Taluq, skirting the Nilgiris, get a few extra showers and present a failed cholum and cotton crop, what must be the state of the great plains to the east—Polladum and Erode, Oodumulpetta and Caroor—cropless. In Oodumulpetta, for instance, from April to September, 8.89 inches of rain were registered at the cusbah against an average of 9.77. Mr. Head

Revenue Department, 18th May 1877, No. 1,748.

Assistant Collector Mackenzie wrote to me in November last that "the vast extent of dry land was not even ploughed till the showers of the end of September, and fully three-fourths of the fields were not yet sown (11th November); and unless rain comes at once, it will be too late to sow even gram." October to December there was 4 inches against an average of 10.73, and the dry crops were nearly a total failure. A radius of 25 miles from Palladam as a centre includes the most distressed part of the district. I saw the results in December. No such are very different things from harvest returns.

to be a pity that the term "dry" for well lands was ever associated with "dry" assessment. If they were separately classed, that is, wells in panjab, and not in panjab lands, their cultivation and outturn would be more distinct, and be an interesting and useful record of their benefit to a district.

9. With regard to the query in paragraph 9 of the Board's Proceedings, directing me to report to what area does the estimate of crops saved refer, I have the honor to state that from the division officers' reports it appears that they have taken into consideration both early and late crops when framing the estimate.

The Board are well aware that rainfall returns and cultivation accounts may sometimes mislead, but they are, as a rule, more trustworthy, as indications of the state of agriculture and its probable results than general impressions. As to the rainfall in Coimbatore in 1876, the Board's remarks in paragraph 8 of their Proceedings are almost exactly to the same effect as those now submitted by the Collector; and as to the cultivation returns, the Board would regret to believe that Mr. Wedderburn's special exertions to improve them, which he has described in his letter and which have doubtless been continued during the long period he has had charge of the district, have been altogether without effect.

2. The Collector's letter will be submitted to Government with reference to paragraph 9, in which he states that the estimates of crops outturn referred to the total yield of both early and late crops.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. SYOKES,
Secretary.

No. 354.

ORDER THREESON, 18th May 1877, No. 1,748.

Miscellaneous.

In paragraph 9 of his letter, the Collector does not directly answer the question put to him, though it may be inferred from what he does say that the estimate of outturn related to the whole area cultivated.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue,
the Financial Department.

Edw A. F. Godall.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

MAY.

NO. 353-361.

WARRANT RELIEF, No. 1197.

Statement of Extension of Cultivation in Coimbatore District. - Observing that the Collector has not directly answered the question put to him, though it may be inferred from his report that the estimate of outturn related to the whole area cultivated.

CP 1702

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 19th April 1877

Read the following

Board GR No 3844

No 120

From

A. Wedderburn Esquire

Collector of Coimbatore

To

H. E. Stokes Esquire

Secretary to the Board of Revenue

Madras

Sir

With reference to the Proceedings

Board of Revenue dated 7th February 1877

No 518, calling for some further information

regarding the state of the District, and

observing that I have not given credit

for an average rain-fall of the South

West Monsoon, as shown in the rain

register and cultivation accounts, I have

the honor to state that rain registers

and cultivation accounts are very

fallacious

fallacious guides, in judging of the state of agriculture.

2 It matters little that 12 inches of rain were registered at Baintatore from April to September, when not a tank got a supply - when there was not a single sufficiently good fresh in the Moyel River, during the whole of the South West monsoon, and for dry crops even, what are 12 inches in 6 months, what is the value of 2 inches in the month or $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in the week.

3 I can understand some benefit in two inches per week, at the culti-
2 vating season - at all events, I am able from personal inspection to see the result of an unfilled tank, if it be irrigated land, and if unirrigated, an unseasoned field, or a withered crop.

4 The Cusbah Rain registers too, are fallacious guides - I saw 2 inches of

of rainfall in one hour, and for one hour only, this ran off the surface, evaporated, left not a trace behind - it extended over only a small tract of Country - Mr. Schisholm who was travelling by rail on that day, told me he thought it the monsoon, but soon travelled out of it, into fair weather.

5 As for cultivation accounts their fallacy is but too well known. In the Ceded Districts great attention used to be paid to them, and they were often, to some degree, reliable; but in this District, I found it often a practice for the Carnams to copy the last year's cultivation, or to omit to furnish the accounts regularly, and include the cultivation of two or three months in

in one. I also found the Revenue Inspectors, *lucus a non lucendo* doing anything but inspect crops, or check Village returns. they were the *Tahsildars* Deputies, employed on reporting on all other subjects but cultivation, or reporting without inspecting it.

In the Pollachy Taluk a great quantity of land under *puttah* was under reported - Some Inspectors were incapacitated for locomotion on pony back, none making tours without compulsion and accepting without examination, the Village cultivation Returns. I have paid much attention to these points, and done all that is necessary to amend this faulty state of things.

I judge of the rainfall and Cultivation in one talook, *Cambay*, during

17 W/5
during all the months when rainfall has anything to do with cultivation from July to November, and it affects all but well lands - what was the state of things - why, barring the cultivation under wells, there was scarcely any crop at all - *Cholum* was a failure - cotton was a failure - when these rain fed crops fail on the black soil lands, the state of other rain fed crops may be estimated.

7 A large tract of fertile country to the east of *Cambay* was never sown at all, and not even ploughed. I have myself inspected the crops in various parts of the Taluk. If parts of the *Cambay* Taluk, skirting the *Nilgherries* get a few extra showers, and present a failed *cholum* and cotton crop, what must be the state of the great

great plains to the east - Pulladam
and Erode. Oodumalpetta and Caroor -
crop less. In Oodumalpetta for instance,
from April to September 8.89 inches of
rain were registered at the Cusbah,
against an average of 9.77. Mr Head
Assistant Collector Mackenzie
wrote to me in November last that
"the vast extent of dry land was not
even ploughed till the showers of the
end of September - and fully three-fourths
of the fields were not yet sown (11th November)
and unless rain comes at once, it will
be too late to sow even grain". October
to December there was 4. inches against
an average of 10.73, and the dry crops
were nearly a total failure. A radius
of 25 miles from Pulladam as a centre
includes the most distressed part of
the

174/6
the District. I saw the results in
December. No proper judgment can
be formed of a District by adding
up the rain column, or by trusting
to the cultivation accounts, which
are very different things from harvest
returns.

8 It seems to me to be a pity that
the term "Garden" for well lands
was ever abolished - well lands are
classed as "dry", not because they produce
"dry" produce, but because they pay
"dry" assessment - If they were
separately classed, that is, well
in Puzos and not in Kungah
lands, their cultivation & outturn
would be more distinct, and be an
interesting and useful record of
their

their benefit to a District

9. With regard to the query in para 9 of the Board's Proceedings, directing me to report to what area does the estimate of crops & area refer, I have the honor to state that from the Division Officers' reports, it appears that they have taken into consideration both the early and late crops, when framing the estimate.

Cambatore
Collector's Office } I have the
9th April 1877 } Ld A Wedderburn
Collector

The Board are well aware that rainfall returns & cultivation accounts may sometimes mislead but they are as a rule more trustworthy as indications of the state of agriculture and

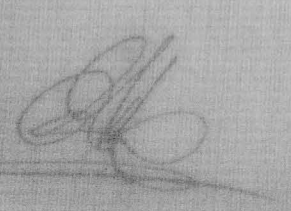
and its probable results than general impressions. As to the rainfall in Cambatore in 1876 the Board's remarks in para 8 of their Proceedings are almost exactly to the same effect as those now submitted by the Collector, and as to the cultivation returns, the Board would regret to believe that Mr Wedderburn's special exertions to improve them, which he has described in his letter and which have doubtless been continued during the long period he has had charge of the district, have been altogether without effect.

2 The Collector's letter will be submitted to Government with reference to para 9 in which he states that the estimate

estimates of crops outturn referred
to the total yield of both early and
late crops.

(True Copy Extra)

To
The Secretary
The additional Secretary to Government
Revenue Department



128
8

S. G. M. 11/10 dist. 1867

Nov. 1877 27/19

Proceedings of the
Board of Penitentiaries
Date 19th April 1877

Submittal to report
with remarks letter

from the Collector
of Camberland stating
that said register
and collection seems
are very fallacious
guiding in respect of
the state of agriculture

20/11/77

In Para 9 of his letter the Collector does
not answer the question put to him, though
it might be inferred from what he does say that
the estimate of population related to the whole
area is inflated. He fails to state
if this inference is correct.

I think the reply 27/11
is clear without
further reference - it
is the whole area

HL

18/11/77

14/11/77

Spent one or two
the Col. M
18/11/77

2nd Sept. 1877
S. G. M. 11/10 dist. 1867

200-4-77 1877-5-77