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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~	1834.B.	Press / ~~Mis.~~
Dated	28.5.1877	~~197~~

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

28th May 1877, No. 1,834-B.

Famine Relief.

Read the following papers:—

No. 540-C. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th May 1877, No. 2,278.

Read the following letter from C. G. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chetterpore, 27th April 1877, No. 1,475:—

HAVING observed in a Madras paper, dated 15th February last, a telegram, dated Aska, indicating that the "unusual and unseasonable rain" which had "been falling all this month in this district" bore a strong resemblance to a similar fall, but less which "occurred in 1865, year before the famine," I made inquiries as to whether, in the opinion of the different officers consulted, the fall adverted to had been beneficial or otherwise.

2. From the replies received, I find that in Parla Kemidy no harm had been done. "Crops in irrigable ground suffered, but at the same time an equal area of high land was brought under cultivation, so that outturn should rather be more than less. As far as pasturage is concerned, the rain has been decidedly beneficial."

3. In the sub-division generally green gram, gingelly, raggy, and other dry crops had benefited. Those crops which were ripe or nearly so when the rain fell were damaged, but, on the whole, the rain had done more good than harm.

4. The reports from Berhampore Taluq showed that the rainfall in February was heavier than that of the previous twenty years. Raggy, cotton, and castor-oil plants had benefited, but other* grains and crops had suffered. Paddy in the threshing floor had been much injured, and the mango harvest, which had promised well, had been almost entirely destroyed.

* Horse gram.
Red gram.
Mustard.
Green gram.
Tobacco.

5. In Gumsoor the rain had been beneficial in renewing a crop of grass, the want of which had begun to be felt, and in slightly replenishing the tanks. It was not on the whole beneficial to the vetch crops. The grams that had flowered and formed pods benefited, but those not so far advanced sprang at once into full leaf and bore little grain. Castor-oil was improved, mango flowers destroyed.

6. Mr. Minchin of Aska told me that the 4 inches which had fallen up to 23rd February filled all hearts with dismay as it was so unusual. The cane crop had been seriously damaged, judging from the watery character of the juice. The mango crop was said to have been destroyed; the green gram damaged, and much paddy was lost.

7. In the Maliahs the mango crop was little damaged, and here, as indeed everywhere throughout the district, ploughing operations were much advanced by the downfall.

8. Since then the district has undergone another singular elemental disturbance, extending over a fortnight and bringing with it an unusual quantity of rain. I enclose a statement showing an average rainfall of 31 inches during this period of 18 rainy days. This is more than any of the previous 12 years with the single exception of 1871. The country presents an appearance very different from the burnt-up look it bears ordinarily in April. There is water in the tanks running to waste in some cases, and much of the low-lying country has been flooded and subsequently ploughed. Grass is plentiful. Dry crops, such as gungelly, have been put down earlier than usual.

* *Memorandum showing the Rainfall for four Months all every year from* 1865 *to* 1877.

Years.	January.	February.	March.	April.	Total.
1865	..	1	1	1	3
1866	..	..	1	8	9
1867	..	2	2	3	7
1868	..	..	3	1	4
1869	..	1	..	3	4
1870	1	1	1	6	9
1871	..	..	1	4	5
1872	..	1	1	6	8
1873	..	..	..	1	1
1874	..	..	..	6	6
1875	..	6	..	3	9
1876	..	6	..	2	8
1877	..	7	2	3	12

* For April 1877 the entry refers to the first nine days of the month only.

9. Notwithstanding these outward signs of prosperity, there is a general feeling that these unusual rains portend no good to Ganjam, and that in all probability one or other of the monsoons will fail us. It is significant that a similar season in 1865 should have been followed by the famine of 1866, and that the 6 and odd inches which fell in 1871 (*vide* marginal statement above) should have preceded a failure in the north-east monsoon of the same year.

10. I think it my duty to bring this to notice, both because of the prevalent opinion about it, and because, if a failure did take place, the district might be in a precarious state, owing to the partial exhaustion of stocks from exportation. Grains were a short time since double their normal rate, and rice fifty per cent. higher than usual, showing how small stocks must be. I learn from inquiries I have made that the ryots generally have as usual not more than enough food to last them to January. Merchants have, it is said, supplies for six months more irrespective of Rumbah rice, the supply of which, of course, depends on the state of the season in Orissa. The present prices have benefited the well-to-do ryots, but a bad season will certainly affect the poorer classes, whose stocks will be soon exhausted, and these at all events will have but little money to fall back upon.

Revenue Department, 28*th May* 1877, *No.* 1,834-*B.*

Enclosure No. 1.

Statement showing the Rain-fall of several Stations in the Ganjam District between the Dates 28th March to 9th April 1877 both Days inclusive.

Stations.	March.			April.								Remarks.
	28th.	29th.	30th.	31st.	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	5th.	6th.	7th.	8th.	9th.	Total.	
Northern Ganjam	0·20	0·40	0·10	2·00	2·60	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0·60	.....	5·20	
Southern... Chicacole	.....	.....	2·20	.....	1·55	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0·50	.....	3·05	
Parlakimedy	0·25	.....	0·35	0·05	0·01	.....	.....	.....	0·30	0·30	0·20	.....	.....	1·66	
Narsannapetta...	.....	.....	0·75	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0·10	0·75	0·50	.....	.....	1·50	
Chettierpore	.....	0·70	.....	2·30	.....	.....	.....	.....	0·10	0·10	0·50	.....	.....	4·30	
Gopalpore	0·27	.....	0·13	0·05	.....	.....	.....	0·15	.....	.....	0·50	.....	0·95	0·46	
Itchapore	.....	.....	.....	0·80	.....	0·10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1·80	
Eastern ... Pondy	.....	.....	1·70	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1·70	
Calingapatam	.....	.....	1·62	1·03	.....	.....	.....	.....	1·55	0·70	.....	.....	.....	5·23	
Soapetta	0·05	0·80	.....	.....	0·99	.....	.....	.....	0·02	.....	0·60	.....	0·18	5·75	
Russelcondah	1·23	0·05	0·05	0·05	0·05	0·65	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1·00	0·35	5·16	
Aska	0·60	0·10	1·10	1·10	1·10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1·40	0·30	5·15	
Parlakhimedy	0·35	.....	0·05	0·05	1·60	.....	.....	0·85	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5·25	
Teckaly	.....	1·00	.....	.....	1·65	.....	.....	0·50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2·50	
Western ... Surada	0·35	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0·35	
Pedamurri	.....	0·50	0·50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1·40	
Oedayagiri	1·20	.....	0·30	0·10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0·10	1·90	
Berhampore	1·43	.....	0·23	0·15	3·35	0·05	.....	0·30	0·12	0·15	0·17	.....	0·16	5·31	
Total...	7·41	12·04	9·19	12·66	1·90	.....	.....	1·75	2·69	2·60	2·07	4·10	1·21	58·19	
	2·67													Average	3·23

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Collector.

Revenue Department, 28*th May* 1877, *No.* 1,834-*B.*

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. Mr. Master reports on the unusual fall of rain in the Ganjam District and states that there is an uneasy feeling in the district lest it should be followed by a failure of one or other of the monsoons as was the case after similar heavy falls of rain in 1865 and 1871.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,

No. 540-D. ORDER THEREON, 28th May 1877, No. 1,834-B.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED to be communicated to the Government of India.

2. The Government rely on the Collector to watch the state of the season and to give them timely intelligence of any symptoms indicative of a failure of the periodical rains.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue,
,, the Financial Department.
,, the Public Works Department

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Ganjam

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

D/17th May 1877.

Read the following:

No. 475.

From The Collector of Ganjam

To The Secretary Board of Revenue Madras.

Dated Chatterpore 27th April 1877

Sir,

Having observed, in a Madras paper dated 15th February last, a telegram dated Aska, indicating that the "unusual and unseasonable rain" [redacted] "been falling all this month in this district" bearing resemblance to a similar fall, but less" which occurred in 1865 year from the famine, I made enquiries as to whether, in the opinion

Govt. of (1877) Madras.

REVENUE.

To the BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated May, 28th.

Read,

G.O., 28th May 1877, No. 1,834-B.

MAY.

Nos. 540-C—540-D.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 1,206-B.

Unusual fall of Rain in the Ganjam District.—Communicating to the Government of India report on the —, and relying on the Collector to watch the state of the season and to give timely intelligence of any symptoms indicative of the failure of the periodical rains.

of the different Officers consulted the fall adverted to had been beneficial or otherwise.

From the replies received it is found that in Parlakimidy no harm had been done, "Crops in irrigable ground suffered, but at the same time an equal area of high land was brought under cultivation, so that out turn should rather be more than less." As far as pasturage is concerned, the rain has been decidedly beneficial."

3. In the Sub-Division generally the grain, generally raggy and other dry crops, had benefitted. Those crops which were ripe or nearly so, when the rain fell, were damaged but on the whole, the rain had done more good than harm.

4. The reports from Berahmpore Taluq shewed that the rain fall did [illegible] of the previous 20 years. [illegible] and Castor oil plants had been fitted, but other grains and crops had suffered. Paddy in the threshing floor had been much injured and the Mango harvest which had promised well, had been almost entirely destroyed.

* Horse gram
Red gram
Mustard
Green gram
Cotton

5. In Gumsur the rain had been beneficial [illegible] of grass, the want of which was begun to be felt and in slight by replenishing the tanks.

A

It was not in the whole beneficial to the rabi crops. The grass that had flowered and formed seed, germinated but those not so far advanced, sprang at once into full leaf and bore little grain. Castor oil was improved mango flowers destroyed.

6. Mr. Menekes of Aska told me that the 4 inches which had fallen up to 23rd February, filled all hearts with dismay as it was so unusual. The cane crop had been seriously damaged — purging from the watery character of the juice. The mango crop was said to have been destroyed, the green gram damaged and much paddy was lost.

7. In the Mallahs, the Mango crop was little damaged, & here as indeed everywhere throughout the District, ploughing operations were much advanced by the downfall.

8. Since then the District has undergone another irregular elemental disturbance extending over a fortnight, & bringing an unusual quantity of rain. I enclose a statement showing an average rainfall of 3/4 inches during this period at 18 stations. This is more than has fallen in any of the previous 12 years with the single exception of 1871. The country presents an appearance very different from the burnt up look it bears ordinarily in April. There is water in the tanks running — ... & much of the low lying country has been flooded & subsequently ploughed. Grass is plentiful.

⊗ Memo showing the Rainfall for 4 months all every year from 1865 to 1877.

Average of the District

Years.	January		February		March		April		Total	
	Inches	Tenths	Inches	Tenths	Inches	Tenths	Inches	Tenths	Inches	Tenths
1865	—	—	6	7	2	1	1	8	5	6
1866	—	—	—	9	—	—	3	—	3	9
1867	—	3	—	—	1	3	1	4	3	—
1868	—	—	—	5	—	3	—	6	1	4
1869	—	—	1	1	—	8	4	7	2	6
1870	1	1	—	—	—	4	—	9	2	4
1871	—	—	1	5	1	6	3	4	6	5
1872	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	3	—	6
1873	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	6	1	2
1874	—	6	—	1	—	3	—	3	1	3
1875	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	9	1	4
1876	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	6	1	9
1877	—	7	2	3	1	8	1	5⊗	6	3

Remarks.

⊗ For April 77 the entry refers to the 1st 9 days of the month only.

Dry crops such as gingelly have been put down earlier than usual.

9. Notwithstanding these unusual signs of prosperity, there is a general feeling that these unusual rains portend no good to [illegible] or other of the monsoons will fail us. It is significant that a similar season in 1865 should have been followed by the famine of 1866 and that the 6 and odd inches which fell in 1871 (vide Marginal Statement above) should have preceded a failure in the North East monsoon of the same year.

10. I think it my duty to bring [illegible], both because of the prevalent opinion about it, because if a failure did take place, the District might be in a precarious state owing to the partial exhaustion of stocks from exportation. Grains were a short time since double their normal rate, and rice fifty per cent higher than usual, showing how small a stock [illegible] I can gather from inquiries that the ryots generally have as usual not more than enough food to last them to January. Merchants have, it is said, supplies for 6 months more irrespective of Rumbah rice, the supply of which of course depends on the State of the season in Orissa. The present prices have benefitted the well-to-do ryots, but a bad season will certainly affect the poorer classes, whose stocks will soon exhausted & these at all events will have but little money to fall back upon.

I have &c
(Sd) C. G. Master
Collector.

1834 3
8

Submitted for the information of
Government.

2. Mr Alexander reports on the unusual
fall of rain in the Gonjam District &
in many parts
in the district such it should be fol-
-lowed by a failure of one or other of
the monsoons as was the case after
similar heavy falls of rain in 1865
& 1871.

/True copy + Extract/

J Rankin
Secretary.

To The Additional Secretary to
Government F D
with Copy of Statement.

Dat-1877

Enclosure in Board Proceedings of Govt. R. dated 17th May 1877.

7 3669/77

Ry. 23rd May 77 L 1 560

Statement showing the rainfall & general state in the Ganjam District between the dates 28th Sept. & 4th April 1877. Enclosure

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 17 May 1877.
Read 17
Rec'd 18

Submitting for the information of Govt with remarks, letter from the Collector of Ganjam reporting on the unusual fall of rain in the Dt

Statement showing the rainfall of several stations in the Ganjam District between the dates 28th March &
9th April 1877 both days inclusive.

1834/9

Stations	March 28th	29th	30th	31st	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	Total.
Northern Ganjam	0.20	0.40	0.10	2.00	2.00	"	"	"	"	"	"	0.50	"	5.20
Southern Chicacole	"	"	2.90	"	1.65	"	"	"	"	"	"	0.50	"	5.05
Southern Parlakemidy	0.25	"	0.55	0.05	0.01	"	"	"	0.30	0.30	0.20	"	"	1.66
Southern Narsannapetta	"	"	0.75	"	"	"	"	"	"	0.75	"	"	"	1.50
Eastern Chetterpore	"	0.70	"	2.80	"	"	"	"	0.10	0.10	0.60	"	"	4.30
Eastern Gopalpore	0.27	"	0.13	0.06	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	0.46
Eastern Ichapore	"	"	"	0.30	"	0.10	"	0.15	"	"	0.50	"	0.25	1.30
Eastern Poondy	"	"	1.70	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1.70
Eastern Calingapatam	"	"	1.62	1.63	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	3.25
Eastern Sampetta	"	0.95	0.80	"	0.90	"	"	0.15	1.55	0.70	"	0.70	"	5.75
Western Russelconda	0.05	1.23	0.06	0.95	0.95	0.05	"	0.30	0.02	"	0.60	"	0.15	5.16
Western Aska	0.70	0.80	0.10	1.10	1.10	"	"	"	"	"	"	1.00	0.35	5.15
Western Purushottapore	"	0.35	1.30	0.05	1.50	"	"	0.35	"	"	"	1.40	0.30	5.25
Western Zerkaly	"	"	1.00	"	1.00	"	"	0.50	0.	"	"	"	"	2.50
Western Surada	"	0.35	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	0.35
Western Vadamurri	0.90	"	0.50	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1.40
Western Codagagiri	0.30	1.20	0.30	0.10	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1.90
Western Berhampore	"	1.43	0.23	0.15	3.55	0.05	"	0.30	0.12	0.15	0.17	"	0.16	6.31
Total	2.67	7.41	12.06	9.19	12.66	1.00	"	1.75	2.09	2.00	2.07	4.10	1.21	58.19 average 3.23

(True copy)

(Signed) C. J. Master
Collector.

D. Ellis
Secretary.

Exd. Ramapatlam