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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1834.B.	Press
B.P. No.		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 Chatterpore, 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.

Revenue Department, 28th May 1877, No. 1,831-B.

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, 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, and much of the low-lying country has been flooded and subsequently ploughed. Grass is plentiful. Dry crops, such as gingelly, have been put down earlier than usual.

AVERAGE OF THE DISTRICT.

Years.	January.	February.	March.	April.	Total.
Inches.	Tenths.	Inches.	Tenths.	Inches.	Tenths.
1865	1	1	1	1	4
1866	1	1	1	1	4
1867	1	1	1	1	4
1868	1	1	1	1	4
1869	1	1	1	1	4
1870	1	1	1	1	4
1871	1	1	1	1	4
1872	1	1	1	1	4
1873	1	1	1	1	4
1874	1	1	1	1	4
1875	1	1	1	1	4
1876	1	1	1	1	4
1877	1	1	1	1	4

* 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 Rambah 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, 28th May 1877, No. 1,831-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

th Days inclusive.

Stations.	MARCH.					APRIL.									Remarks.
	28th.	29th.	30th.	31st.	1st.	2d.	3rd.	4th.	5th.	6th.	7th.	8th.	9th.	Total.	
Northern Ganjam ...	0.20	0.40	0.10	2.00	2.00	2.00						0.60		5.20	
Chitacole ...			2.30		1.65							0.60		5.05	
Southern... {	0.25		0.55	0.05	0.01				0.30	0.30	0.20			1.68	
Patalimedy ...			0.75							0.75				1.50	
Nuramapetta... {		0.70		2.80					0.10	0.10	0.60			4.30	
Chatterpore ...	0.27		0.13	0.08										0.46	
Gopalpore ...				0.30				0.15			0.60		0.25	1.80	
Ichhapore ...			1.70											1.70	
Pandy ...			1.63	1.63										3.25	
Calingsapatam ...			0.30		0.09				1.55	0.70		0.70		5.75	
Sanpatta ...		0.05	1.23	0.05	0.05	0.85		0.15	0.02				0.15	5.16	
Ruselcondah ...	0.70	0.80	0.10	1.10	1.10			0.30				1.00	0.35	6.15	
Aska ...		0.35	1.30	0.05	1.60			0.85				1.40	0.30	6.25	
Furshotpore ...					1.35			0.50						2.50	
Tekaly ...			1.00											0.85	
Surada ...		0.35												1.40	
Pudanuri ...	0.30		0.50											1.90	
Odayagiri ...	0.30	1.20	0.30	0.10											
Berhampore ...		1.43	0.23	0.15	3.35	0.05		0.30	0.12	0.15	0.17		0.16	5.31	Average
Total...	2.67	7.41	12.04	9.19	13.06	1.00		1.75	2.09	2.00	2.07	4.10	1.21	58.19	8.23

(Signed) C. G. MASTER.
Collector.

Revenue Department, 28th 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.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

Ganjam Revenue Department
 Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
 17 May 1877

Read the following;

From The Collector
 Ganjam
 To The Secretary
 Board of Revenue
 Madras
 Dated Chitturpore 27 April 1877

Sir
 Having observed, in a Madras
 paper dated 15 February last, a tele-
 gram dated Aska, indicating
 that the "unusual and unseasonable
 rain" ~~had been falling all~~
 "this month in this district" be-
 strong resemblance to a similar
 fall, but less" which occurred in
 1865 year from the famine, I made
 enquiries as to whether, in the opinion
 of

Govt. of (1877) Madras

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

AC., AC., AC.

Dated May, 28th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O. 28th May 1877, No. 1,831-B.

MAY.

Nos. 510-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 intelli-
 gence 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, I
found that in Parlatemdy no harm
had been done, crops in low-lying
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 con-
cerned, the rain has been decidedly
beneficial.

3. In the Sub-Division generally
grain, principally raggy, and
other dry crops, have been benefited.
Those crops which were ripe or
nearly so, when the rain fell, were
damaged but on the whole, the
rain

183
Rain had done more good than
harm.

4. The reports from Berampore
Taluk shew that the rain fall
in February was

of the previous 20 years. Raggy, and
Castor oil plants had bene-
fitted, but other grains and crops
had suffered. Paddy in the thrashing
floor had been much injured and
the Mango harvest which had prom-
ised well, had been almost entirely
destroyed.

5. In Gumsur the rain had
been beneficial
of grass, the want of which has
begun to be felt and is slight-
ly replenishing the tanks.

It

It was not on the whole beneficial to the rice crops. The grains that had flowered and formed panicles, 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. Menchum of Asaka told me that the 14 inches which had fallen up to 23^d February, filled all hearts with dismay as it was so unusual. The cane crop had been seriously damaged - muzzing from the watery character of the juice. The mango crop was said to have been destroyed, the green grain damaged

and much paddy was lost.

7. In the Malakhs, 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 singular elemental disturbance extending over a fortnight, & bringing in an unusual quantity of rain. I enclose a statement showing an average rainfall of $3\frac{1}{4}$ 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 Memo showing the Rainfall for 4 months all every year from 1865 to 1877.

Average of the District

Year	January	February	March	April	Total
1865	1	1	1	1	4
1866	1	1	1	1	4
1867	1	3	1	1	6
1868	1	1	1	1	4
1869	1	1	1	1	4
1870	1	1	1	1	4
1871	1	1	1	1	4
1872	1	1	1	1	4
1873	1	1	1	1	4
1874	1	1	1	1	4
1875	1	1	1	1	4
1876	1	1	1	1	4
1877	1	1	1	1	4

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
1865	1	1	1	1	4
1866	1	1	1	1	4
1867	1	3	1	1	6
1868	1	1	1	1	4
1869	1	1	1	1	4
1870	1	1	1	1	4
1871	1	1	1	1	4
1872	1	1	1	1	4
1873	1	1	1	1	4
1874	1	1	1	1	4
1875	1	1	1	1	4
1876	1	1	1	1	4
1877	1	1	1	1	4

Remarks. The country presents an appearance very different from the burnt up look it bears ordinarily in April. There is water in the tanks running in the

For April 77 the entry refers to the 1st of the month only. Country has been flooded & subsequently ploughed. Grass is plentiful.

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

9. Notwithstanding these outward signs of prosperity, there is a general feeling that these unusual rains portend no good to the crops. It is probable that 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 to the notice of the Government the prevalent opinion about it, because if a failure did take place the District might be in a precarious state owing to

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 are. I have given information 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 benefited the well-to-do ryots, but a bad season will certainly affect the poorer classes, whose stocks will soon be exhausted & these at all events will have but little money to fall back upon.

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

1834 9
8

Submitted for the information of
Government.

2. Mr. Allister reports on the unusual
fall of rain in the Gungah District &
in the district, but 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)

W. H. S.
Secretary

To The Additional Secretary to
Government
with copy of statement.

W. H. S.
M

W. H. S.

15

Eleutherium in Portus
Aboucampi 17th June 1897.
 dated 17th June 1897.

dated 17th Decy 1871.

2366977

4-6. 28 clay 177 to 1540

of testimony & every line

Seventy-five

in the Grand Ave. West

between the dates 28th May

Aug. 26 April 1877. Duane

8.

82

7. No 3669
Burgum 1893
Garnicida
—

Proceedings of the
Board of Trustees

2. Sept 14 Aug 1777.
 2nd 17
 21st Dec 18th

Submitting for the
information of the Board
my remarks, letter
from the collector of
Georgia regarding
on the mineral sale
of iron in the State.

(Faint handwritten notes, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side)

2200

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

1834
9

March														
Stations	28 th	29 th	30 th	31 st	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	Total
Northern Ganjam	0.20	0.40	0.10	2.00	2.00	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.50	.	5.20
Chilacole	.	.	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
Muramapatta	.	.	0.75	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.75	.	.	.	1.50
Chatterpore	.	0.70	.	2.60	.	.	.	.	0.10	0.10	0.60	.	.	4.30
Gopalpore	0.27	.	0.13	0.06	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.46
Eastern Idchapore	.	.	.	0.30	.	0.10	.	0.15	.	.	0.50	.	0.25	1.30
Poondy	.	.	1.70	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1.70
Baliyapada	.	.	1.62	1.63	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3.25
Saunpatta	.	0.95	0.80	.	0.90	.	.	0.15	1.55	0.70	.	0.70	.	5.75
Rusulunda	0.05	1.23	0.06	0.95	0.95	0.85	.	0.30	0.02	.	0.60	.	0.15	5.16
Aska	0.70	0.80	0.10	1.10	1.10	.	.	.	.	.	.	1.00	0.35	5.15
Purshottapore	.	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
Sura Deo	.	0.35	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.35
Padamurri	0.90	.	0.50	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1.40
Godayajiri	0.30	1.20	0.30	0.10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1.90
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.

Secretary.

Exp. D. S. P. M.