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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 237 Press
B.P. No. — Mis. —

Dated 18-1-1877 196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

(3) Initials of the Reference.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th January 1877.

No. 525. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th December 1876 :—

Read the following letters :—

From J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 18th December 1876, No. 581.

In their Proceedings of the 27th October last, No. 2,685, the Revenue Board ruled that "the state of South Arcot is not such as to cause the least apprehension," and they ordered the despatch of special reports regarding the district to be discontinued. The manuscript copy of those Proceedings reached me on the 30th idem, and the printed copy on the 20th November. On the 24th November I received from the Head Assistant Collector two reports, dated 20th and 22nd idem, on the condition of the two taluqs* constituting his division. The earlier report contained the Head Assistant's own impressions regarding the state of the Villapuram Taluq up to the 4th November, and an abstract of the Tahsildar's report up to the 13th idem, as well as an abstract of the reports of the Revenue Inspectors of the Tindivanum Taluq which accompanied the Tahsildar's season report of the 5th November, and Mr. Thomson's own impressions of the state of the western part of that taluq derived from personal inspection of the country while marching from Tindivanum to Trinomalai between the 13th and 17th ultimo. The second report merely forwards a translation of the Tindivanum Tahsildar's Arzi of the 20th ultimo. I enclose both reports and the translation of this Arzi for the Board's perusal, and request they may be returned.

* Tindivanum and Villapuram.

2. The general impression to be derived from these reports is that, while the villages in the eastern portion of the Tindivanum Taluq are better off than those in the western portion, the prospects of these latter were becoming gloomy, particularly in respect of a supply of drinking water; while as regards Villapuram the state of affairs was not very encouraging.

3. The Board are aware that between the 7th and 11th ultimo there was a heavy fall of rain at Cuddalore, amounting in all to 11·89 inches, and I had hoped that it had extended over the whole district, but such, I regret to say, was by no means the case; for while at Chedambaram 11·25 inches fell between 8th and 11th, the fall at Tindivanum was only 1·05 on the 9th, 10th, and 12th; at Kallakurchi only ·70 of an inch from the 9th to the 11th; at Trinomalai only ·90 of an inch on one day (the 8th November); and at Villapuram, Virdachellam, and Trikalore only 2·80, 1·85, and 2·35 inches, respectively, between the 8th and 11th. In the Chengam Division of Trinomalai no rain at all fell during any part of November till the 30th, and then a mere shower. The list of prices ruling all over the district during last month has already been sent to the Board. They may be best described briefly as very high, being about double what they were this time last year.

4. On the 25th ultimo I started from Cuddalore with a view thoroughly to inspect the Trinomalai Taluq, where, the rain-fall having been slightest, there was reason to apprehend the first symptoms of distress. I travelled, via Villapuram and Vetavallam, right through the Villapuram Taluq, reaching Trinomalai the same evening. The Tahsildar of Villapuram, whom I saw at his cusbah, had just returned from a tour through the west and north-west part of the taluq. His opinion, expressed verbally, was that there would be no necessity for punjah remissions in the taluq, though the state of the punjah cultivation was generally bad. So far as I could judge from the crops I saw on each side of the road (which were nearly entirely cholam, tovarai, and castor, where there was any cultivation at all), their condition was better than I had expected, though not by any means as good as could have been wished. Raggi and varagu, where visible, looked unhealthy. In the Vetavallam Valley the dry crops were generally the best I saw at any place along the line of road, but on the west of Vetavallam, in the Trinomalai Taluq, the scene rapidly changed for the worse. The standing crops were few and far between, and looked much less promising. Shortly after leaving Villapuram I met a long string of empty carts from Chetput and thereabouts going; so the drivers said, south to get grain, thus showing pretty

clearly the exhaustion of surplus supplies in the Gingi Division, of Tindivanum Taluq, through which they had passed.

5. While at Trinomalai I went to the top of the hill to have a bird's-eye view of the whole taluq with the aid of a telescope. Unfortunately the summit was shrouded in mist, and I only got a momentary glimpse before I had to return; but both on the way up and while coming down I had several excellent opportunities of examining the appearance of the western, southern, and eastern parts of the taluq, and the impression I derived therefrom was certainly not re-assuring. In very few tanks was any water at all visible. The big Samudram tank near Trinomalai was almost dry, and a large tract of rice-lands irrigable by it was lying waste. The Kartigai festival, which was in progress at the time of my visit, was well attended, and the crowds of cattle brought to be sold seemed to me larger than usual, nor was their general condition poor. In spite of the high prices ruling at the time, the usual gratuitous distributions of rice by the Nattukottai Chettics and others were carried on with all their customary admirable liberality. The crowd of beggars and others who received food at some of these institutions was very great. The general health of the people was everywhere strikingly good.

6. On the 29th I started south-west for Tandrampett, having determined to go thence to Chengam and so via Dandampett, Ravandavadi, Motakal, and Malayanur to Peringolathur and so to Trikalore. My movements were not as rapid as I could have wished as the difficulty of having more than once, owing to the want of a road, to send my camp round 40 miles to get to a new camping ground not more than 10 or 12 miles off from where I was, necessitated my halting at least three days at two or three places.

7. On leaving Trinomalai a slight drizzling rain commenced and lasted at intervals for an hour or two. In the afternoon, however, a smart shower fell, lasting quite an hour or more. At Trinomalai 1½ inches of rain fell, and I should think nearly as much must have fallen at Tandrampett. This fall of rain, however, was confined to the eastern half of the taluq. On the 30th heavy rain fell again for about two hours. This rain was more general, but was heavier in the eastern than in the western part of the taluq. The crops all about Tandrampett, Agaram, and Radapuram were looking poor and stunted; the Radapuram and Agaram tanks had very little water in them, and almost all the ayacut under them seemed to be waste. The people said the rain was too late to be of any use, and complained of the want of food and water.

8. On the 1st instant I went to Chengam, passing through Sathanur, Kottakolam, and Manmalai, and seeing something of the cultivation in and around Sheyanandal. The state of affairs at Sathanur seemed very dismal. All the villagers turned out in a body, and begged to have the collections of kist stopped and for assistance, complaining also of want of drinking-water and food. I examined their drinking-water tank. There were still 2 or 3 feet of water in the inner tank, but a good deal might be done to it in the way of repairs and deepening. There were no crops visible, except some very wretched-looking varagu. The people looked famished, and the Monegar showed me some yellow-looking beans and some leaves which he said are to be found in the jungles, and alleged that the villagers lived, to a great extent, on them, though they were not wholesome and tended to produce diarrhœa and dysentery. At no place along the road did the crops look really healthy. The rain of the 29th and 30th seemed to have done very little good on the ground.

9. While at Chengam I visited the villages noted in the margin. In all of them what crops were standing, and these were few, were looking very bad. Cholam and tovarai seemed the only two which were likely to yield anything, and in the case of the former the ryots said "the milk had not risen," and that the outturn would be next to nothing. I saw the tank at Paramanandal which had been deepened and cleared of its silt, at a cost of Rs. 400, alluded to in Deputy Collector Stri Baliah's letter of the 14th October last (*vide* Board's Proceedings of 27th October 1876, No. 2,685). The work had been finished. In that letter the Deputy Col-

1. Paramanandal.
2. Alaputtur.
3. Puchapatti.
4. Sarukkupatti.
5. Munurmangalam.
6. Duvadanad.
7. Kuylam.

lector reported cumboo to be selling at Chengam at 14 measures per rupee. While I was there I saw a man with a sack over his shoulder. I asked him what he had, he said a rupee's worth of cumboo, and on asking how much that was, he said seven measures. If the statement was true, prices would seem to have doubled at Chengam during the last two months.* In the evening of the first day of my arrival a great number of ryots of 15 villages all round Chengam came and petitioned me to stop collections and give them congee. Foremost among them was the brother of the Monegar of Kottakolam. I asked him if he and the ryots of his village would work if work was given them to do. He said "yes" after a little hesitation. It is a curious fact that in this district the poorest puttadar considers it disgraceful to work for hire at earth-work, even to keep himself alive. At Tandrampett when I suggested working at making a road to the villagers, they declined point blank, saying that they did not understand such work being cultivators, and two Native officials of long service gave it to me, as their opinion, that the ryots would sooner starve than work for cooly.

*My Vernacular Clerk who was at Chengum with me has since informed me that cumboo was selling at 6½ measures per rupee when I was there.

10. On the 4th December I went to the frontier of the district about 3 miles beyond Dandampett, returning to the latter place to camp. The villages I passed through on my way, or which were within sight of the road, were Valiyampet, Fakiri Polliam, Mel-Chengam, and Authanur. At every village the villagers came out to ask to have collections stopped, and said they were in want of food and had no water. The crops were every where in a very bad way. At Mel-Chengam I saw two banyan trees to which my attention was directed; the ground was strewed with their leaves and with broken twigs, and I was informed that this had been caused by the trees having been stripped of their fruit for food by the villagers.

11. From Dandampett I went to Ravandavadi on the 5th. Here things looked a little better. There was a well of fine water which had been recently deepened and repaired at the cost of Local Funds, but the people all wanted collections stopped. The crops were not flourishing. The Monegar, I was informed, was a very wealthy man of miserly habits, who affected poverty, but had enough grain in store to feed the whole village for two months. While here I visited the villages of Puliampatti, Mannikal, and Ramapuram. The crops in all were looking bad, varagu particularly. I went on to the Ponniar to see if there was any water in it, but found the merest trickle at the "Perikadavu," a rocky gorge through which the river passes. In connection with this spot I beg to suggest that it be examined, by a competent officer, with a view to seeing whether it would not be practicable and worth while to build an anicut there with one channel going north-east through Sathanur to Samudram tank at Trinomalai or even farther eastwards, and the other south-east through Chinniampett into the Kallakurchi and Trikalore Talugs. The natural features of the place seem to me so admirably adapted for building an anicut at a small cost that, if the levels would admit of it, I cannot help thinking such a work would prove very remunerative.

12. On the 8th I went from Ravandavadi to Malayanur. The path lies nearly the whole way through jungle. While there I examined the cultivation in the villages marginally noted. In the first village some of the crops looked rather better than what I had last seen; but the varagu was a failure. Water seemed scarce. There is a small river or stream called the Chekkadi or Pambanar which passes by Malayanur and falls into the Ponniar about 4 miles west of Manalurpett. There are several old anicuts on it, but all in ruins or in bad repair. The villagers from the surrounding villages, many of which might get a supply of water for their tanks and fields, if these anicuts and their dependent channels were restored or put into repair, begged to have them repaired, and asked for remissions of assessment, and declared they were starving. The remission of assessment, however, seemed to be what they chiefly wanted.

1. Reddipolliem.
2. Kil-Pashar.
3. Mil-Pashar.
4. Motakal.
5. Bimdrapatti.
6. Mil-Muttanur.

13. From Malayanur I went on the 11th through Reddipolliem, Chinniampett, Karkal Bowanthai, and Kolakaruppai, to Peringolathur. At Chinniampett I saw about 20 or 30 cawnies of nunjah with a good rice-crop on it, and rapidly maturing. The last drops of water

were running out of the tank-sluices however, and the crops were being kept alive by well irrigation. It was the only flourishing-looking crop I had seen since I left Villapuram, and it was the only crop in the village that looked really promising. The punjah crops were poor. The heads of cholam had a blighted appearance, and on examining one I found that the grains were unusually small. The punjah paddy looked better, though the grains were small. The dry raggi and varagu were stunted, and though green in some places, was nowhere likely to yield anything of value. [illegible] From Peringolathur I went to Kilvelur where a Local Fund Free School has recently been opened. The crops there looked no better than those at Peringolathur. The large tank at this latter village had so little water in it that there was no cultivation under it, and the rice which had been planted round it had withered and the fields were lying waste.

14. Two or three miles after leaving Peringolathur on the 13th, I entered the Kallakurchi Taluq and crossed the northern end of it towards Trikalore, passing through or close to the villages noted in the margin. The dry crops at Sirunvalur and its neighbourhood showed a decided improvement, I thought, on those in and about Peringolathur, though they were really by any means fine. The cholam had improved in appearance, and though the varagu did not look promising, the heavy dews and a fall of rain, if there is one soon, may yet enable them to struggle on to a harvest. I did not see any ryot-cultivation however. The people all along the road complained chiefly of the collection of kists and of the want of water. They did not seem in actual want, however, judging from their appearance.

1. Manalur.
2. Sirunvalur.
3. [illegible]
4. [illegible]
5. Manalur.
6. [illegible]
7. [illegible]
8. [illegible]
9. [illegible]

15. On the 14th I went to Trikalore passing through Elayur, Tagadi, Mallyanur, Kavoor, and Chinnathoppett. At Elayur the punjah ayacut was nearly all waste. A little was cultivated here and there, and kept alive by well irrigation. The supply of drinking water seemed to me, however, exceptionally good, one well having 8 feet of beautifully-clear water in it. The appearance of the punjah crops (cholam, tovarai, and varagu) did not appear to me to be bad, though the villagers said that the seed in the ears would not ripen. Their chief anxiety seemed to be about the collection of kists.

16. From Trikalore I went, via the Ponniar anicut and the Pombay channel, to Villapuram and back to Cuddalore where I arrived the day before yesterday. I found a very marked improvement in the punjah crops all along the route to Villapuram, though an almost entire absence of punjah cultivation. The villages I passed through or close to were Kil-Kondur, Veesalapuram, Ayanthur, Gudalur, Chennakunam, Malipett, Mel[illegible]lapett, and Tirumbakam. The Ponniar had not had a drop of surface water in it at the anicut since the 20th October, so the Superintendent told me, and the Pombay channel was quite dry. The villagers of Ayanthur and Gudalur were clamorous for remissions and for conjee-houses, but did not seem to care about working for their food. Some of them, however, at length offered to work at clearing out silt from the Pombay channel.

17. While at Peringolathur I received from Deputy Collector Stri Baliah a demi-official report of his having visited Kanji and the north-east part of the Trinomalai Taluq which I did not see, and of its condition being as bad as that of the Chengam Division. He also reported officially regarding the state of the villagers of Sibbandi Nunmianthal, a small village near Kanji, of Christian settlers from North Arcot whose state was so critical that he strongly recommended relief works being started for their assistance at once. In proof of their being in such a state he stated that the ryots of the village and their families were all engaged in repairing a tank in another village. I enclose a copy of his report*. As the matter appeared urgent, I at once sanctioned the expenditure of Rs. 200, as suggested by him, on relief works in anticipation of the Local Fund Board's sanction, and, on arrival at Trikalore, arranged with the Deputy Collector personally that it should be expended on deepening the village drinking-water pond

* Dated 9th December 1876, No. 852.

and such road-repairs or other works of a local character as would give employment to the people.

18. The impression left on me by my tour through Trinomalai is that throughout the Chengam Division generally there is likely to be a failure of the dry crops now standing; that this failure superadded to a failure of the cumboo crop in August and September makes the position of the division precarious; that for the most part throughout the taluq the varagu and dry raggi crops are almost certain to fail or to give a very short produce, unless there is rain soon; that in several parts the want of water for men and cattle is being severely felt, and must later on be even more so; and that the extremely high prices now ruling place it out of the power of the poorer classes to purchase a sufficiency of food for their daily wants; while the wages with which it might be procured are not readily to be had owing to the want of employment. As regards the Gingee Firkah, of the Tindivanum Taluq, I do not think there is much difference between it and the Trinomalai Taluq. If its condition was as bad as Mr. Thomson describes it a month ago, it cannot be better, but is most probably worse now; and I therefore consider that it is now time to take measures to meet the most pressing cases of distress in both tracts of country.

19. I have ventured to submit the result of my observations to the Board because, although they have directed the discontinuance of special reports in the Proceedings quoted at the beginning of this letter, yet from what I have seen and what has been reported to me, I am satisfied that in a great part of Trinomalai and in the Gingee Firkah the prospects of the season are so bad that I should be failing in my duty if I did not report the matter. It is true that Deputy Collector Stri Baliah, in his letter printed in the above-mentioned Proceedings, alluded to the effects of rain which fell in the end of September and the beginning of October as being sufficiently heavy to bring one or two months' supply of water into tanks generally, excepting that of Sathanur, and that the standing crops were doing well; but more than two months have passed since he wrote; the monsoon rains which were then expected have failed almost entirely, except in the vicinity of the sea coast; prices have risen to a point, never I believe, yet exceeded (second-sort rice now selling in Cuddalore at 4 and at Trikalore from 3½ to 3¾ measures per rupee), while the varagu crop throughout the taluq is likely to fail, and the yield of cholam and tovarai to be small. More rain is hardly to be expected, and if it falls will be of little or no use for agricultural purposes, seeing that the cultivation season is fast drawing to a close; that on the greater part of the rice-lands the crop has failed or the lands themselves have been left waste, while there are eight months more before we can expect another harvest of any kind. Moreover, judging from the state of the tanks in the taluq now I am satisfied the Deputy Collector overestimated the results of the rain-fall he reported in his letter; and, indeed, he admitted as much to me at Trinomalai. The ground when that rain fell was exceedingly dry, no rain having fallen in the taluq for many months before, and the loss by absorption was therefore very great. I have no doubt that many of the complaints made to me during my tour were very highly colored. The people of South Arcot have long had a reputation for being proficients in exaggeration and deceit, but after making allowance for all this there is no doubt that in Trinomalai drinking-water is in many places scarce and the crops generally a failure; and I therefore beg to recommend that Rupees 10,000 be placed at the disposal of the General Duties Deputy Collector, and Rupees 5,000 at that of the Head Assistant Collector for commencing relief works, such as deepening drinking-water ponds and wells, clearing out irrigation channels, destroying prickly-pear within village limits, and repairing or making village-roads on the distinct understanding that if the villagers themselves do not labor the work be stopped.

20. As regards the rest of the district generally there is no present cause for uneasiness, apart from the very high price of food-grains. I believe there is a fairly good supply of grain in most parts of the district, but the owners will not sell it readily. In the east part of Tindivanum and throughout Villapuram and Cuddalore, I do not at present think there is likely to be any necessity for punjah remissions, nor in any of the taluqs of the sub-division, though the loss of revenue owing to the great extent of nunjah waste and shavi in all the taluqs, except perhaps Chedambram, will be very great. Taking Trikalore as an example, I subjoin a comparative

statement which shows that in that taluq the remissions on account of nunjah waste will probably be about Rupees 70,000, and if half the cultivated nunjah gives a crop the remissions for shavi will run the total up to somewhere not far short of Rupees 1,25,000 out of a nunjah demand of Rupees 1,86,000.

	Dry.	Assessment.	Wet.	Assessment.	Total.	
	ACRES.	RS.	ACRES.	RS.	ACRES.	RS.
Holdings in Fasli 1285.	111,141	1,72,071	34,912	1,85,942	146,051	3,58,013
Do. do. 1286.	110,235	1,72,703	35,016	1,86,047	145,252	3,58,751
Cultivation in do. 1286.	83,942	1,36,110	20,873	1,15,172	104,815	2,51,283
Waste	26,293	36,592	14,142	70,874	40,436	1,07,467
Waste in Fasli 1285.	15,957	23,389	1,402	6,887	17,359	30,276

21. The prices in this district are now, I believe, as high as those in the neighbouring ones, and in consequence thereof, and because of the large imports of grain into Madras and its diffusion thence, the exports to other districts are, I believe, stopped or stopping.

22. At Pondicherry the state of the market is good. At the meeting of the Colonial Council on the 22nd ultimo the condition of the Settlement was discussed, and it was unanimously resolved that beyond the highness of prices there was then no cause for uneasiness or interference on the part of the Government. The imports of grain by land which, in October, were almost entirely from the southward, that is, from Cuddalore and Chedambram, during November were almost entirely from the direction of Tindivanum. One ship-load of rice was landed here by a French Firm and then sent to Pondicherry by land to avoid the export duty leviable on rice exported by sea from British Indian ports to Pondicherry, the export by land being free under long-existing arrangements. According to the statement of Mr. Councillor Cornet it is cheaper to land rice at Pondicherry than at Cuddalore by about 0-2-10 per bag, while the English export-duty being 6 Annas per bag of rice; there is a considerable saving by landing rice at Cuddalore and sending it by land to Pondicherry. It was also pointed out by the Procureur-General at the Council that in searching some villages for stolen property all the granaries were found to be full (*vide* Supplement to the *Moniteur Officiel* of the 15th instant.)

23. In conclusion, I beg to state that being satisfied that the greatest possible relief would be afforded to the people of the district by the temporary suspension of the collection of kists in those parts where the state of the crops was bad, and having consulted the Head Assistant and General Duties Deputy Collector, and been assured by them that collections were being got in with difficulty owing to the great unwillingness of the people to pay them, I resolved, in anticipation of the Board's approval, to direct that after the collection of the November and December kists, divisional officers might exercise their discretion in suspending the rest until the Jamma-bandi was over, as otherwise it would be necessary to resort in every instance to coercive process, and to sell the cattle of the ryots and their other movables or even their lands in a season of unexampled severity. I enclose a copy of my order to divisional officers on the subject, and trust my action will be approved by the Board. If it is not, collections can be attempted as usual if early orders are sent to me, as the January kist is not over-due till the 15th of that month; but it will, I feel sure, only end in failure and in general discontent. I hope the settlement will be over early this year, and that the balance of the demand may be in process of realisation all over the district before the end of March.

24. I may mention that the public health throughout the Trinomalai Taluq was exceptionally good, there being an entire absence of the fever which is usually so prevalent at this time of the year.

From J. G. HORSFALL, Esq., Acting Collector of South Arcot, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 22nd December 1876, No. 590.

In continuation of Mr. Garstin's letter, dated 18th instant, No. 581, I have the honor to forward, for the Board's information, a copy of the last report (in original) received from Mr. Thomson, the Acting Head Assistant Collector, on the state of the season in his division.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. It is clear from Mr. Garstin's exhaustive report that the time has arrived for opening relief works in the Head-Assistant's and Deputy Collector's divisions, and the Board sanction the Collector's placing Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 10,000, respectively, at the disposal of these officers for this purpose.

3. This is done, as distress in parts of those divisions appears to be imminent, but in submitting the application for funds the Collector should have submitted a list of works with the approximate estimated cost of each. In deciding upon the works to be taken in hand, the Collector should, in communication with the District Engineer, give the preference to works which have already received the sanction of Government, but the execution of which has been delayed for want of funds; it being, of course, understood that such works are of a nature to be carried out by unskilled labor, and that they are conveniently accessible to the locality where employment is so sought. The Board believe that in most districts there are matured projects of this description, and the opportunity now offered of carrying them out should be taken advantage of. It is expedient where possible to afford work at a moderate distance from the villages whence the supply of labor is derived, in view to the people being able to return to their own homes at night, the necessity for halting the laborers being thus avoided. The works described in paragraph 19 are in this respect very suitable, and may freely be undertaken where the number of laborers is limited. The clearance of prickly pear is, however, considered by Government to be unsuitable as a relief work. The Collector should lose no time in submitting a list of works with their estimated cost, and will forward a weekly report of expenditure in the accompanying form with an illustrative map on a scale of 4 miles = one inch; a file of orders of general application regarding the conduct of relief works will be furnished for the Collector's guidance.

4. The Collector's action in regard to the temporary suspension of collections has the Board's approval. His attention is called to G.O. on the subject, No. 1,857, Revenue Department, dated 29th November 1876, in the file now sent. In regard to remissions the Board await definite proposals. They are glad to learn that the other parts of the district do not at present afford cause for anxiety. Mr. Horsfall will carefully watch the progress of events, and keep the Board duly informed.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 526. ORDER THEREON, 18th January 1877, No. 237.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Financial Department.
" the Accountant-General.
" the Public Works Department
" the Inspector-General of Police.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

5
237

N° 1295.

Circular.

To All Divisional officers-

Sir,

The state of the rice-
=crop at this advanced pe-
=riod of the year and
the almost total failure
of the North East monsoon
rains except on the Coast
and for some distance in-
land, combined with
the scarcity of fresh-
ies in the rivers on which the
Channel-fed tanks of the
Districts principally de-
=pend for their supply, pre-
=cludes all probability
of anything like a toler-
=ably good rice harvest being
got in this Fasli, and

necessitates immediate
inspection of all stan-
=ds there and make
with a view to the suspen-
=sion of the collection of
rents. There therefore
the hour to request you
will at once issue orders
to your Tahsildars and
Deputy Tahsildars to call
on all village officers for
statements of crops
under and Stocks in their
respective villages and
have these statements ready
=dy as quickly as possi-
=ble by personal inspection
by means of all the Taluq
officers available for the

purpose. The Tahsildars,
Deputy Tahsildars and
Revenue Inspectors must
all devote themselves with
as much energy and care
as possible to this work.

2. In connection with
Punjab lands it is still
too early to say with any-
=thing like confidence what
will be the outturn of the
present dry crops, but all
inspecting officers should
be ordered to note in their
own handwriting in their
inspecting reports their
opinion of the general con-
=dition of these crops in
each village they inspect,
noting, particularly, the

the condition of the Kharif,
Cholam and Kambu
crops and the probable
average outturn of each
of these crops throughout
each such village.

3. The Collection of
the Arrears and Demand
= for kists should not be
suspended but the other
kists maybe, until the
settlement is over or until
further orders.

4. I request you
will issue your directions
in case applying these
instructions to those por-
= tions of your division
where you may consider

6/33

the state of the crops and
the prospects of the season
to be such as not to neces-
= sitate the suspension of
Collections.

Collector's Circuit office
Camp: Thandampatti
29 November 1920

I have &c
sd/- J. H. Garstin
Collector

/True Copy/
sd/- J. H. Garstin
Collector.

/True Copy/

Asst Secretary

Head Quarters Quebec
No 6682. 12 December 1848.

From
J. Thomson Esq
Actg Assistant Quarter Master General
Canada East

To J. S. Cameron Esqre.
Secretary of State &c &c

Sir

I have the honor to report further on the reference with which you favored me on the 22nd ult. requesting a report upon the claim of Mr Joseph Lacoste for the sum of £2.5. for the use of a room for the accommodation of the Militia Court of Inquiry held on the 20th day of Oct. last.

2. In reply I have to state that the Court in question was held in the house of Mr Lacoste, which is situated in the Suburbs of the City, and that the room occupied by the Court was the only one in the house that could be conveniently used for the purpose. The building is a small one, and there were no other rooms in it that could be spared for the accommodation of the Court.

I have &c
(signed) J. Thomson
Actg Assistant Quarter Master General
Canada East

Enclosure in No 3
Copy to the Secretary to Government
R. O. dated 30th December 1848.

Rec'd 4/1/49
Troops Diary 1/49 p. 525.

Copy of Circular from the Colonial Secretary, to all the Divisional Officers dated 29th November 1848 Cpy 1270.

Condition, worse than
Vasagam. In the tanks there
is no water except in a few
villages in the North of
the Taluq. The Tahsildar
says there is sufficiency
of drinking water, but
petitions from 2 or 3 villages
state the contrary.

3. In Tindivanam the
rainfall at the same period
was only .55 inches. There
was none in the South East
of the Taluq and but little
in the end of it. The parts
North and North East of
the Cuddalore Road fared
best and in three quarters
there is still some water
in the Tanks. The Vasagam
was enabled to struggle on
a little longer but is

growing parched as before.
Cholam, grain and gingelly
are looking comparatively
well, the pasture and drink-
ing water are sufficient
for the present.

4. I have run this
Taluq along the Salem road
upto Tindivanam recently
and upto near Chettpet
this morning. There is no water
to speak of in any tank.
Much paddy a foot or
15 inches high is dead or dying.
The ryots will only keep alive
a certain small extent;
after the tanks gave out
the ryots carried on as much
as they could by the wells but
gradually had to curtail
their irrigation. Cholam has a

a fairly bold of the earth
and will come to harvest.
Forages short up after the
last rain but cannot continue
= tinue without more rain.
There is not much ground
nut in the Valley. I go to-
= morrow towards Villapunni.
5. I do not hear of any
sickness. The grass choppers
are not well off and when
asked, say they are fasting
which means that they
have reduced the fairly
number of their meals.
6. Prices are much as
before and there is still
exportation of oilseeds
though much less than be-
= fore. This morning I met
5 bandies of tavern going
from a village near this to
a town though but little
was offered in the last
Gingee weekly market. The
Cattle have little or nothing
to do and a slight extra
fair tempts their owners
to go after it. Some ploughing
and sowing of millets is
going on.

Thanking &c

Sd/ J. Thomson

Ag Head Assistant

Collector.

/True Copy/

D. Lukins

Asst Secretary

Statement showing the Comparative prices of food grains from the 1st to 10th of Novem in this and the last years in Kushtea Villupuram

Month & Date		November 1875					November 1876				
		Rice	Paddy	Wheat	Cumbu-ol	Ragy	Rice	Paddy	Wheat	Cumbu-boo	Ragy
November	1	10	22½	6	21	21	6	13	4½	10	10
	2	10	22½	6	21	21	6	13	4½	10	10
	3	10	22½	6	21	21	6	12½	4½	9	9
	4	10	22½	6	21	21	5¾	12½	4½	"	9
	5	10	22½	6	21	21	5	12	4½	9	8
	6	10	23	6½	20	20	5	11	4½	9	8
	7	10	23	6½	20	20	4½	10½	4½	9	8
	8	10	22½	6	20	20	4½	10½	4½	9	8
	9	10	22½	6	20	20	4½	10½	4½	9	8
	10	10	22½	6	20	20	4¾	10¾	4½	9	9

Srinivasa Rao
20th November 1876

Proj. J. Thomson
Asst to the Asst Collr

No 622 Head Assistt Collectors Office
Camp Trinomalai
20th November 1876.

From

J Thomson Esquire
Ag Head Collector of
South Arcot.

To

J. H. Garstin Esqre
Collector of South Arcot.

Sir.

The season is now so far advanced that there can be but small hopes of any further considerable rain fall and I therefore think it necessary to inform you as fully as I can of the circumstances of the Division. On the 8th instant I called on the Tahsildars to furnish me without delay with information grounded

grounded on their own knowledge of the condition of the crops and of the selling prices of food grains as compared with those of last year at this period. The Tahsildar of Villupuram replied on the 13th the report from Tindivanam has not yet been received.

2 The Tahsildar of Villupuram states that no proper supply either to the river or rain-fed tanks has been received during the year, but that some of these that are rain-fed and some in Ariyanthangal (the Northern) Division received enough to allow the commencement of Nanjah Cultivation, the others running more and that the land lands and

and Manavari down lands with the Solum, Varagu and groundnut on dry lands are suffering.

3 The total of the rainfall from January to 10th November is 24.425 inches as against 30.625 inches of the same period of last year, the 24 odd inches being spread over 47 raining days.

4 On the 8th, 9th, and 10th of this month 2.8 inches of rain fell. This brought no water into the Tanks but kept the Ponjah Crop alive and the springs and drinking water wells supplied.

5. According to the account of last January, 37,227 acres were under Cultivation; while up to the end of October of this Fasli, only 19,904 acres have been brought under the plough.

6 The

The selling prices were as follows:— From the 1st instant rice 4½ measures, paddy 10½ measures Cumbrow 9 measures Kawarum 8 measures and wheat 4½ measures per rupee. A statement is appended showing the comparative prices of food grains from the 1st to 10th November in this and the last years and shows there, roughly speaking, to have about doubled. The principal reason of the high prices is said to be exportation to other districts which has been very considerable.

7. The pasture is sufficient.

8 I passed through the Valley by Pakam, Hundamaya Lam, Villapuram, and Vikkaramady between the 17th and 28th October,

The only bank that I saw contained water was that at Vikkaramady and with the exception of the cultivation on the wet lands under it, all other wet cultivation I saw was dependent on wells/irrigation. The Singale Crops were looking tolerably well with the slight rain that had fallen on the 16th & 17th. Last the area under Cultivation seemed very small, chiefly round the Villages round Hundamaya Lam between the Pinnaie and Kemair. I was in Villapuram Valley again on the 3rd and 4th instant, and observed a change for the worse in the general appearance of the Country. I have not the daily rainfall of October by me, but from the 18th to the 26th October there

there was no rain; on that day there was a slight shower and two heavy showers on the 28th (October) while I was in Vizianagram or its neighbourhood. The total rainfall registered at the Circle for the month is, as you will observe, only 2.05 inches.

9. As regards Tindivanam Taluq I am able only to give the result of my own observations as to the recent events. The last season report of the Tahsildar is dated the 4th November and gives an account of things for the 15 days preceding the 5th instant. It states that the rainfall in that period was .25 inches and that rain was much wanted.

There

The was little grain in the Market and the prices of paddy and ragi at 5 and 8 measures per rupee respectively, while Cumbu and Cholam were not to be had. On turning to the enclosures to the Appeal, being reports from the Revenue Inspectors, the Alampundi (the western) Girka Inspector states that the crop on the ground was withering; the pasturage becoming insufficient, the water in the wells failing, and except a 2 Months' supply of Ambiha Ma kind of paddy known in Tamil) and Cumbu there was no other grain in hand. The Kollar (east of Alampundi) Inspector's report is that the dry Crops were partly in fair partly in

partly in indifferent conditions
but required rain: while the
Nunjah Crops except those
dependent on well irrigation
were on the high road to ruin.
The stock of grain, the poorer
ryots had was about out
Months supply of Kamru
the Cumbu being almost ex-
hausted. The Station (Moreaum)
Inspector reports that the
Crops were in fair Condition
by the rain of the 16th & 24th
(October) the paddy Cultivation
far from completely in hand
and that if more rain did
not fall there would be some
50% of that under Cultivation.
Cattle disease had slightly

appeared in the neighbourhood
of Velur, and there was no grain
being offered for sale. Some villages
also were not over supplied with
drinking water (Stir generally
so in some of his villages in a
time of drought) The Tirubal
furkal Inspector states that
the out turn of Kamru and
Kumaragu (a kind of Varagu)
harvested in the preceding 15
days ranged from 8 to 25 Calams
per Cowry according to how they
had been supplied with water.
while of the paddy, Solam and
Varagu some were in a back-
ward condition from want of
water and the most forward
if rain fell would shortly
come to harvest. The reports
are

are dated the 1st or 2nd of November.

10 The heaviest rains of the Monsoon broke in Sindiamunai on the 8th and ended on the 11th. The amount registered up till the 11th morning was (I am obliged to trust to memory) 2.1 inches. It cannot have exceeded this rain fall in the corresponding period in Villupuram 2.8 inches and I doubt if so much fell in the eastern part of the Valley. On the 13th morning I left for Gingee. Since the 11th I have encountered no rain and the sky has shown no signs of any anywhere. Three 4 days' rain was scarcely at any time more than quite

showers

18/757

showers and brought no appreciable supply into any tank under my observation. It has of course enabled the dry crops to hold on but its effects must lie by this time almost suspended.

11. In that part of Sindiamunai Valley along the railway between the Cinibah and the Villupuram boundary, the tanks had a little water in them about the 3rd of November and the paddy under them and under the Gingee and Chennarpinnai channels looked fairly well for the most part except at the extremities of the systems, but I am unable to state how it may appear now and fear the worst where the supply is

is by tanks solely. In coming
here from Trincomalee I
inspected each tank along or
near to the road and from
2 miles west of Trincomalee
till the extremity of the
Tiger boundary, the only
tanks with water in them
were Pattiamungalam which
is supplied from the Ginger
river and Sambadie. These
have water covering their low
level sluices but all that is
in them can be of little
use. The Periatalu large
tank and the other along
the coast road including
the coast Tank are utterly
empty. It will thus appear
that whatever water crop is
in

existence is or must shortly be
dependent on well irrigation
almost entirely, and the ryots
about Gingee and Mattur and now
complain that that supply is
unequal to the demand upon
it. Of the dry crop Varagu
drags out a dying existence for
the most part, about and west
of Gingee there are some small
green patches of cholam the
strength and forward state of
which may bring it to a harvest
of some value. Some little ploughing and sowing of Cumbu and
horsegram goes on now recently
going on. Along the coast road
road and from Periatalu to
Trincomalee 3 days ago some
diminutive gingelly showed
a wish to live with the other
dews

drew and the morning dews on it. But the soil is so thin that it must perish if without rain much longer.

12 The prices of grain at Tindivanam are similar to those ruling at Villupuram. The export is very considerable being mostly of Kamboo picked up about Mattai, Villupuram and Punnoty along the Chetpet and Vellimedu roads, that through Trinomalai is said to come from Elavanasur, Kallakurichi and even Coimbatore.

When this is pointed to on Complaints made of the present or imminent scarcity of grain the answer returned is that not the exports but the merchants who had advanced on the crops before they were reaped are the exporters.

13. I have received numerous applications to stop the last Collections and a body of Moingars about Gingee even petitioned to have a Kanji house opened. They did not suggest that they might have some work given them to do.

13 From enquiries quietly made I believe there is sufficient grain in the division for present wants. Ryots, if prefered will confess to one or two or even more months supply in hand but undoubtedly that class that lives from hand to mouth must find the times hard. No one has come to me with the round and unvarnished tale that he is starving.

14 Cattle pasture is of Course failing off more or less. There is no sickness to speak of.

15 With this bad season on the back of a former bad one and our last Cumbu Crop not above a fair one taken roundly the outlook is far from pleasant.

The

The early mornings are cold, the days hotter than usual at this season, and the sky wears a settled aspect of dry weather.

Thine &c.

[illegible] J. Harrison

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

South Quay Office
No 6225.
Chairman's Office
Custom House, Dublin, 21st
22nd November 1876

Sir,

I am directed by the Board of Customs to transmit herewith for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury a Copy of a letter of the 22nd instant from the Collector of Customs at Kinsale, reporting the seizure of a quantity of Tobacco and Cigars found concealed in the Cabin of a Boat which arrived at that Port from Cork.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant
J. G. W. Gamble Esqr
Secretary to the Treasury.

Enclosure in Proceedings of the Board of Customs to the Secretary to Govt. R.D. dated 30th December 1876.

Rec'd 4 Jan 1877

Copy of letter from the Asst. Collr of South Street to the Secy to the Board of Customs dd 20th November 1876 No 6222

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of the Board that on the 18th instant Head Constable Kavanagh of the Water Police reported to me that he had received information that a quantity of Tobacco and Cigars was concealed in the Cabin of a Boat which arrived at this Port from Cork on the 17th instant.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your obedient Servant
[illegible]
Asst Collector

Collectors Office
Cuddalore
18th December 1826.

No. 581.

From

A. B. Gordon Esquire
Collector of Sea Customs.

To

B. Ellis Esquire
Acting Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir,

I am directed by the Revenue Board
to transmit herewith Cowle No. 2605 the Revenue Board
Cowle Mahtab of South Arcot in favour of Sooba Cowle
"Sai to Cover the Cost of Expedition" Cowle Mahtab
ordered the despatch of Peon Cowle Mahtab despatched
the District to the Encampment. The enclosed
Copy of three Proceedings received per the
30th ultimo and the Commissioner's Copy of
ditto ditto per the 24th November
20th November. On the 24th November
I received from the Head Assistant Collector
two reports, dated 20th and 22nd Instant, the
enclosures of the 2 latter Copy of
the Condition of the 2 Talliyo Contracting Co
Division. The Sunkie report contained the
Head Assistant's opinion respecting the

Enclosure in 8th
Proc to the Secretary
to Government
R. D. dated 31st de-
cember 1826.

3
Rec 48 pp
Proceedings 27th Dec 1825.

Copy of letter
from the Acting Head
Assistant Collector
to the Collector of
Vellore dated 22nd
December 1826. 625.

State of the Villupuram Taluq up to the 4th November and an abstract of the Tahsildars report up to the 13th idem as well as an abstract of the reports of the Revenue Inspectors of the Tindivanam Taluq which accompanied the Tahsildars Season report of the 5th November, and Mr. Thomson's own impressions of the state of the western part of that Taluq derived from personal inspection of the country while marching from Tindivanam to Tirumalai between the 13th and 17th ultimo. The Sundr report merely forwards a translation of the Tindivanam Tahsildars arze of the 20th ultimo. I enclose both reports and the translation of this arze for the Boards perusal and request they may be returned.

2. The general impression to be derived from these reports is that while the Villages in the eastern portion of the Tindivanam Taluq are better off than those in the western portion the prospects of these latter were becoming stormy, particularly in respect of a supply of drinking water, while as regards Villupuram the state of affairs was not very encouraging.

3. The Board are aware that between the 7th and 11th ultimo there was a heavy fall of rain at Cuddalore amounting in all to 11.89 inches and I had hoped that it had extended over the whole District but such, I regret to say, was by no means the case, for while at Chedambaram 11.25 inches fell between 8th and 11th the fall at Tindivanam was only 1.05 on the 9th, 10th

And

and 12 P., at Kallakurchi only .70 of an inch from the 9th to the 11th, at Tirumalai only .90 of an inch on one day (the 8th November) and at Villupuram, Vridachellam and Tirukalur only 2.80, 1.85 and 2.35 inches respectively between the 8th and 11th. In the Chengam Division of Tirumalai no rain at all fell during any part of November till the 30th and then a mere shower. The list of prices ruling all over the district during last month has already been sent to the Board. They may be best described briefly as very high being about double what they were this time last year.

4. On the 25th ultimo, I started from

Tirukoilur with a view to inspect the Tirumalai Taluq, where the rainfall having been slightest there was reason to apprehend the first symptoms of distress. I travelled, viâ Villupuram and Vetavalam, right through the Villupuram Taluq reaching Tirumalai the same evening. The Tahsildar of Villupuram whom I saw at his cutcherry had just returned from a tour through the west and North-west part of the Taluq. His opinion, expressed verbally, was that there would be no necessity for Punjah remissions in the Taluq though the State of the Punjah cultivation was generally bad. So far as I could judge from the crops I saw on each side of

of the road (which were nearly entirely
Cholam, tovarai and Castor where there
was any Cultivation at all) their con-
-dition was better than I had expected
though not by any means as good as
could have been wished. Raggi and
Varagu, where visible, looked unhealthy.
In the Vatavallam valley the dry crops
were generally the best I saw at any
place along the line of road, but on the
west of Vetavallam, in the Tirumalai
Valley, the scene rapidly changed for the
worse. The standing crops were few and
far between and looked much less promising.
Shortly after leaving Villupuram I met a
long string of empty carts from Chetput
and thereabouts going, to the drivers

said

said, seem to get grain, thus showing
pretty clearly the exhaustion of surplus
supplies in the Cuddapa Division of Sindiva-
-nam Valley through which they had passed.

5. While at Tirumalai I went
to the top of the Hill to have a birds eye
view of the whole Valley with the aid of
a telescope. Unfortunately the Summit
was shrouded in mist and I only got
a momentary glimpse before I had to return;
but both on the way up and while coming
down I had several excellent opportunities
of examining the appearance of the
western, Southern and Eastern parts of
the Valley and the impression I derived
therefrom was certainly not reassuring. In
very few tanks was any water at all
visible. The big Samudram tank near

Tirumalai

Irinomalai was almost dry and a large tract of rice lands irrigable by it was lying waste. The Kartigai festival, which was in progress at the time of my visit, was well-attended and the crowds of cattle brought to be sold seemed to me larger than usual, nor was their general condition poor. In spite of the high prices ruling at the time the usual gratuitous distributions of rice by the Nattukottai Chettis and others were carried on with all their customary admirable liberality.

4. The crowd of beggars and others who received food at some of these institutions was very great. The general wealth of the people was everywhere striking[ly] [illegible].

6. On the 29th I started South west for Tandrampatt having determined

to

to proceed to Chengam and thence via Pandampatt Ravandavadi, Motakal and Malayanur to Periyolapur and so to Trikalore. My movements were not as rapid as I could have wished as the difficulty of having more than once, owing to the want of a road, to send my Camp round 40 miles to get to a new Camping Ground not more than 10 or 12 miles off from where I was, necessitated my halting at least 3 days at 2 or 3 places.

7. On leaving Irinomalai a slight drizzling rain commenced and lasted at intervals for an hour or two. In the afternoon, however, a smart shower fell lasting quite an hour or more. At Irinomalai 1/2 inches of rain fell and I should think nearly as much must have

fallen

fallen at Sandrampett. This fall of rain however, was confined to the eastern half of the Taluq. On the 30th heavy rain fell again for about 2 hours. This rain was more general but was heavier in the eastern than in the western part of the Taluq. The crops all about Sandrampett, Afsaram and Raidapuram were looking poor and stunted, the Raidapuram and Afsaram tanks had very little water in them and almost all the Ayakat under them seemed to be waste. The people said the rain was too late to be of any use and complained of the want of food and water.

5. On the 1st Instant I went to Chinsam, passing through Sannaur, Kottakolam and Mannalai and seeing Something

Something of the cultivation in and around Thorapavandal. The State of affairs at Sannaur seemed very dismal. All the Villagers turned out in a body and begged to have the Collectors of Rice stopped and for assistance, complaining also of want of drinking water and food. I examined their drinking water tank. There was still 2 or 3 feet of water in the inner tank but a good deal might be done to it in the way of repairs and deepening. There were no crops visible except some very wretched looking ragi. The people looked famished and the moniagar showed me some yellow looking beans and some leaves which he said are to be found in the jungles and alleged that the villagers lived to a great extent on them though they were not wholesome and tended to produce

diarrhoea

diarrhœa and dysentery. At no place along the road did the crops look really healthy. The rain of the 29th and 30th seemed to have had very little effect on the ground.

9. While at Chengam I visited the villages noted in the margin. In all of them what crops were standing, and these were few, were looking very bad. Cholam and torvaci seemed the only two which were raising their heads, and in the case of the former the ryots said "the milk had not risen" and that the outturn would be next to nothing. I saw the tank at Paramanandal which had been deepened and cleaned of its silt at a cost of 400 Rs, alluded to in Deputy Collector Shri Balaji's letter of the 14th October last (vide Board's Proceedings of 27th October 1876 No 2685). The work

1. Paramanandal
2. Alapuram
3. Pattanpattu
4. Sarathangattu
5. Nammarmangalam
6. Ammadabad
7. Kuyilam

1 My Vernacular clerk who was at Chengam with me has since informed me that Cumbu was selling at 6½ measures per rupee when I was there

work had been finished. On that latter the Deputy Collector reported Cumbu to be selling at Chengam at 4 measures per rupee. While I was there I saw a man with a sack over his shoulder, I asked him what he had, he said a rupee worth of Cumbu, and on asking how much that was he said seven measures. If the statement was true price would seem to have doubled at Chengam during the last 2 months.

On the evening of the first day of my arrival a great number of ryots of 15 villages all round Chengam came and petitioned me to stop collections and give them Conjee. Foremost among them was the Trustee of the Monegar of Kottakolam. I asked him if he and the ryots of his village would work if work was given them to do. He said "yes" after a little hesitation

hesitation. It is a curious fact. that in this District the poorest Puttahdar considers it disgraceful to work for hire at Earth work, even to keep himself alive. At Tandrampett when I suggested working at making a road to the Villages they declined point blank, saying that they did not understand such work, being Cultivators, and a Native Officials of any Service gave it to me as their opinion that the ryots would sooner starve than work for Coolys.

10. On the 4th December I went to the Frontier of the District about 3 miles beyond Dandampett returning to the latter place to Camp. The Villages I passed through on my way, or which were within sight of the road were Valiyampett, Sattiri Pottiam, Mel Chumpam and

Ann Manur. At every Village the Villagers came out to ask to have collections stopped and said they were in want of food and had no water. The crops were everywhere in a very bad way. At Mellampam I saw 2 banyan trees to which my attention was directed, the ground was strewed with their leaves and with broken twigs and I was informed that this had been caused by the trees having been stripped of their fruit for food by the Villagers.

11. From Dandampett I went to Rávandaváði on the 5th. Here things looked a little better. There was a well of fine water which had been recently deepened and repaired at the Cost of Local Funds but the people all wanted Collections stopped. The crops were not flourishing. The manjar I was informed, was a very

wealthy

wealthy man of miserly habits who affected poverty but had enough grain in store to feed the whole village for 2 months. While here I visited the villages of Puliampatti, Mannikkal and Ponnapuram. The crops in all were looking bad, varagu particularly. I went on to the Ponniar to see if there was any water in it but found the merest trickle of the "Periakadavu", a rocky force through which the river passes. In connection with this spot I beg to suggest that it be examined by a Competent Officer with a view to seeing whether it would not be practicable and worthwhile to build an Anicut there with one Channel going North East through Sattanur to Samudram tank at Sirumalai or even further

Eastwards

Eastwards and the other South east through Chinniampatti into the Kallakurchi and Sirkalore Taluqs. The natural features of the place seem to me so admirably adapted for building an Anicut at a small cost that if the levels would admit of it I cannot help thinking such a work would prove very remunerative.

12. On the 8th I went from Ravandavadi to Malayanur. The path lies early the whole way through jungle. While there I examined the cultivation in the villages marginally noted. In the first village some of the crops looked rather better than what I had last seen, but the varagu was a failure. Water seemed scarce. There is a small river or stream called the Chittaru or Pambanar which passes by Malayanur and falls into the Ponniar about 4 miles west of Manaberpatti. There are

Several

1. Ratipolliam
2. Kil Pashar
3. Mill Pashar
4. Mottakal
5. Bimarapatti
6. Mélidattanur

Several Anicuts on it but all in ruins or in bad repair. The Villagers from the Surrounding Villages many of which might get a supply of water for their tanks and fields if these anicuts and their dependent channels were restored or put into repair begged to have them repaired and asked for remissions of assessment and Tuccavi they were starving. The remission of assessment however seemed to be what they chiefly wanted.

13. From Malayamur I went on the 11th through Reddipollium, Chinniampett, Kárkal, Benavadai and Kolakaruppai, to Periyalathur. At Chinniampett I saw about 20 or 30 Cawnies of Navjah with a good rice crop on it and rapidly maturing. The last drops of water were

were running out of the tank sluice however, and the crops were being kept alive by well irrigation. It was the only flourishing rice crop I had seen since I left Villupuram and it was the only crop in the village that looked really promising. The Punjah crops were poor. The heads of Cholam had a brick red appearance and on examining one I found that the grains were mouldy and were shrivelled between the finger left a black smear as if they were full of soot. The dry raggi and Varagu was stunted and marsh green in some places was nowhere likely to yield anything of a harvest. It was the same all the way to Perin-golamur whenever these crops were to be seen. From Periyolamur I went to Kalamur where a Local

Fund

and the school has recently been opened. The crops here looked no better than those at Periyalathur. The large tank at this later village had so little water in it that there was no cultivation under it and the rice which had been planted out had withered and the fields were lying waste.

14. Two or three miles after leaving Periyalathur on the road I entered the Kallakurchi Taluq and crossed the northern end of it towards Tirkalur passing through or close to the villages noted in the margin. The dry crops at Sirunalur and its neighbourhood showed a decided improvement, I thought, on those in and about Periyalathur though they were not by any means first rate. The

Cholam

x 1. Alandalur
2. Sirunalur
3. Olapalapadi
4. Arubambadi
5. Ulimandur
6. Arumbarangal
7. Sambadare
8. Sirunarangam
9. Ulundurpet

Cholam had improved in appearance and though the crops did not look promising the heavy dews and a fall of rain, if there is one soon, may yet enable them to struggle on to a harvest. Irrigation was very little cultivation however. The people all along the road complained chiefly of the collection of Kists and of the want of water. They did not seem in actual want, however, judging from their appearance.

15. On the 14th I went to Tirkalur passing through Edayur, Tafodi, Mudayanur, Kavadi and Shanmaipatti. At Edayur the Nanjah Ayakat was nearly all waste. A little was cultivated here and there and kept alive by well irrigation. The supply of drinking water seemed to me however exceptionally good, one well having a foot or two of very clear water in it. The appearance of the punjah crops, Cholam, tovaree and varagu did not appear to me to be

bad

had marsh. The villagers said that the seed in the ears would not ripen. Their Chief anxiety seemed to be about the collection of Kisto.

16. From Nickalore I went via the Ponniar anicut and the Pombay Channel to Villapuram and back to Cuddalore where I arrived the day before yesterday. I found a very marked improvement in the Punjah crops all along the route to Villapuram Thence an almost entire absence of Punjah Cultivation. The Villages I passed through or close to were Kil Kudiar, Virasolapuram, Ayanpur, Sudalur, Chunnakunam, Malipatt, Manbalapatt and Perumbakam. The Ponniar had not had a drop of surface water in it at the Anicut since the 20th October, so the Superintendent told me, and the Pombay Channel was quite dry. The villagers of Ayanpur and

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and Sudalur were clamorous for remissions and for Anjie hoeers but did not seem to care about working for their food. Some of them, however, at least offered to work at clearing out silt from the Pombay Channel.

17. While at Perumpolamur I received from Deputy Collector Sri Baliah a demi Official report of his having visited Kanji and the North East part of the Tirumalai Taluq which I did not see and of its condition being as bad as that the Chengam Division. He also reported officially regarding the State of the Villagers of Sibbandi Nunniamutlur, a small village, near Kanji, of Christian Settlers from North Arcot whose state was critical that he strongly recommended early steps being taken for their assistance at once. In proof of their being in such want he stated that the ryots of the Village

Village and their families were all employed in repairing a tank in another Village. I enclose a copy of the report. Dated 9th Dec. 1875. No 888.
As the matter appeared urgent I at once sanctioned an estimate of Rs 200 as suggested by him on relief works in anticipation of the Local Fund Board's sanction, and on arrival at Trikalore arranged with the Deputy Collector personally that it should be expended on deepening the Village drinking water pond and such road repairs or other works of a local character as would give employment to the people.

18. The impression left on me by my tour through Trincomalee is ~~unfavourable~~ as to the ~~Jaffna~~ Division generally here is likely to be a failure of the dry crops now standing; that

Rice

this failure is superadded to a failure of the Cumboo crop in August and September makes the position of the Division precarious; that for the most part throughout the Taluq the voragu and dry naggi crops are almost certain to fail or to yield a very short produce; while there is ~~rain~~ corn; that in several parts the want of water for men and cattle is being severely felt and must later on be even more so, and that the extremely high prices now ruling place it out of the power of the poorer classes to purchase a sufficiency of food for their daily wants, while

while the wages with which it might be procured are not readily to be had owing to the want of employment. As regards the Ginjee Fiskah of the Trinomalee Taluq I do not think there is much difference between it and the Trinomalee Taluq. If its condition was as bad as Mr Thomas describes it a month ago it cannot be better, but it most probably worse now, and I therefore consider that it is now time to take measures to meet the most pressing cases of distress in both taluqs of Cuddapah.

14

19. I have ventured to submit the result of my observations to the Board because, although they have directed the discontinuance of Special reports in the Proceedings quoted at the beginning of this letter, yet from what I have seen and what has been reported to me, I am satisfied that in a great part of Trinomalee and in the Ginjee Fiskah the prospects of the season are so bad that I should be failing in my duty if I did not report the matter. It is true that Deputy Collector Shri Baliah in his letter printed in the above mentioned

Proceedings

Proceedings, alluded to the effects of rain which fell in the end of September and the beginning of October as being sufficiently heavy to bring one or two months supply of water into tanks generally, excepting that of Sathanur, and that the standing crops were doing well, but more than 2 months have passed since he wrote, the monsoon rains which were then expected, have failed almost entirely except in the vicinity of the Sea Coast, prices have risen to a point, never I believe, yet exceeded (second sort rice now selling in

15

in Cuddalore at 4 and at Tri-
-calore from 3½ to 3¾ measures
per rupee) while the Varagu crop
throughout the Talugs is likely
to fail and the yield of Cholam
and Kovaree to be small - Mure
rain is hardly to be expected and
if it falls will be of little or
no use for agricultural purpos
seeing that the Cultivation season
is fast drawing to a close, that on
the greater part of the rice lands
the crop has failed or the lands
themselves have been left waste,
while

while there are 8 months more before
we can expect another harvest of
any kind - Moreover, judging from
the state of the tanks in the Taluq
now I am satisfied the Dy-Collector
overestimated the results of the
rainfall he reported in his letter,
and indeed he admitted as much
to me at Trinomalai - The ground
when that rain fell, was exceedingly
dry, no rain having fallen in
the Taluq for many months before
and the loss by absorption was therefore
very great I have no doubt
that many of the Complaints
made

made to me during my tour were very
highly colored. The people of South
Arcot have long had a reputa-
-tion for being professionals in fa-
-lsehood and deceit, but after making
allowance for all this there is no
doubt that in Trinomalai drinking
water is in many places scarce and
the crops generally a failure -
and I therefore beg to recom-
-mend that 10,000 Rupees be placed
at the disposal of the Joint
Duties Deputy Collector and 5,000
Rupees at that of the Head
Assistant Collector for commen-
-cing relief works such as dee-
-pening drinking water ponds
and wells, clearing out
irrigation

-ning afrin channels, destroying
prickly pear within village
limits and repairing making village roads,
on the clearest understan-
-ding that if the villagers them-
-selves do not labour the work be stopped.

2. As regards the rest of
the Dt. there is generally there is
no present cause for uneasi-
-ness apart from the very high
price of food grains. I believe
there is a fairly good supply of
grain in most parts of the
District but the owners will
not sell it readily. In the
east part of Tindivanam and
Villupuram and
A. Dt. Police

17 40/37

addaline I do not at present
think there is likely to be any
necessity for Jumpah remissions
nor in any of the Talups of
the Sub Division, though the
loss of revenue owing to the great-
extent of Kanyah waste and
Shavi in all the Talups, except
perhaps Chedambaram, will be
very great. Taking Tirkalore
as an example I subjoin a
comparative statement which
shows that in that Taluq
the remissions on account of
Kanyah waste will probably
be about 20,000 Rupees and

P.

of half the cultivated Ryotwar prices a cusp the remissions for Shevi will run the total up somewhere not far short of 125,000 Rupees out of a Ryotwar demand of 186,000 Rupees.

	Dry acres	Assessment Rs	Wet acres	Assessment Rs	Total acres	Rs
Holdings in Fasli 1285	111141	172071	34912	185942	146054	358013
Do ——— F. 1286	110235	172703	35016	186047	145252	358757
Cultivation in Fasli 1286	83942	136110	20873	115172	104815	251283
Waste	26293	36592	14142	70874	40436	107467
Waste in Fasli 1285	15957	23389	1402	6887	17357	30276

24. The prices in this District are now I believe as high as those in the neighbouring ones; and in consequence thereof, and because of the large imports of grain into Madras and its diffusion thereto, the exports to other Districts are I believe stopped or stopping.

22. At Pondicherry the state of the market is good. At the meeting of the Colonial Council on the 22d Ultimo the condition of the settlement was discussed and it was unanimously resolved that beyond the highness of prices there was then no cause for uneasiness or interference on the part of the Government. The imports of grain by land which in October were almost entirely from the Southward, that is from Cuddalore and Chedambram, during November was almost entirely from the direction of Tindivanum. One shipload of rice was landed here by a French firm and then sent to Pondicherry by land to avoid the export duty, leviable on rice exported by sea from British Indian ports to Pondicherry, the export by land being free under long existing arrangements — According to the Statement of Mr. Councillor Cornet it is cheaper to land rice at Pondicherry than at Cuddalore by about as — 2-10 per bag while the English export duty

duty being 6 annas per bag if rice there is a considerable saving by sending rice at Cuddalore and sending it by land to Pondicherry. It was also pointed out by the Procureur General at the Council that in searching some villages for stolen property all the granaries were found to be full (Vide supplement to the Moniteur Official of the 15th Instant)

23. In conclusion I beg to state that being satisfied that the greatest possible relief would be afforded to the people of the District by the temporary suspension of the collection of kists in those parts where the state of the crops was bad, and having consulted the Head Assistant and General Duties Deputy Collector and been assured by them that collections were being got in with difficulty owing to the great unwillingness of the people to pay them, I resolved, in anticipation of the Board's approval, to direct that after the collection of the November and December kists, Divisional Officers might exercise their discretion in suspending the rest until the Jammabundi was over, as otherwise it would

W/67

would be necessary to resort in every instance to coercive processes and to sell the cattle of the ryots and their other moveable or even their lands, in a season of unusual severity. I enclose a copy of my order to Divisional officers on the subject and trust my action will be approved by the Board. If it is not, collections can be attempted as usual if early orders are sent to me, as the January kist is not due till the 15th of that month but it will I feel sure, only end in failure and in general discontent. I hope the settlement will be over early this year and that the balance of the demand may be in process of realization all over the district before the end of March.

24. I may mention that the

public

public health throughout the Tinnevelai Labuy was exceptionally good, there being an entire absence of that fever which is usually so prevalent at this time of the year.

I have &c
/Signed/ J. H. Garstin
Collector.

/True Copy/
H. Morris.
Acting Secretary.

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20 South Circle (W/Div)
Collector's Office
No 590.
Cuddalore
22nd Dec 1876

From

J. G. Stoyhaee Esqre.
Acting Collector of
South Arcot

To

The Hon'ble Major Elyte
Acting Secretary to the
Board of Revenue. Madras.

Sir,

In continuation of my
Proceedings of 18th instant
No 584, I have the honor to
forward for the Board's information
= mation a copy of the Case stated
= ments from each of the Munsiffs
of the Acting Sheristadar of
Collector on the Estate of the
Kerkon in this Division.

I have &c
sgd C. Stoyhaee
Actg Collector.
A true Copy
W Elwin
Asst Secretary

Enclosure in Board's Proceedings to the Secretary to Government Revenue Department dated 30th December 1876.

Rev 48/77

Proc. 18th Jany 1877 No 525-

Copy of letter from the Collector of South Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated 18th December 1876 No 581.

Rec'd 15/1/77 - No 237

Cape Town 12/1
No 880. Cape Town
9 December 1876.

From
The Deputy Secretary
General Director
Secretariat

To
J. H. Garcia Esqre
Secretary of Colony

Sir,

Before replying to
your Despatch of the
1st December 1876, No 590
to your address the Attorney
General of the Ports of
Table Bay Mauritius
Natal Cape of Good Hope
= Have given the matter
the best consideration
= I am of opinion: that
no public-work the Land
neighbourhood: have had
any such plan under
Enclosure in Bds
Desp. to the Secy to
Government R. Bay of
30 December 1876

Rec 48
Regd Jany 17 L L 525

Copy of Letter
from Colonial Secretary
to the Secy
Board of Harbour
of 22nd December
1876 No 590.

18/1/77 - No 237

have no wetland or wells of their own to attempt any wet cultivation. Their Cholum crop which should mature in an average condition. They are about 150 in number and are sadly in want of food grain. They look half starved. There is one small well to supply drinking water. They all pray that repairs to the village tank may be commenced and their hard paid in grain or money: an outlay of about Rupees 200 would give them employment for 2 months.

From particulars

and inspection. I am satisfied that the ryots are in urgent need of help. The ryots, men and women, are now engaged in the repair work to Poojumbady tank but that is to be over, I hear, in 2 or 3 days more.

2. I have no doubt that the ryots are willing to work for hire but, if they do not, it will not be difficult to stop the work as suggested by the Board of Revenue in their Proceedings No 2605 dated 27th October 1876.

I beg orders may be given at once for commencing the relief work. I am sanguine

that this application may
meet with your support
as from your Semi official
above quoted; I am led
to believe that on personal
inspection of the Chenyenne
Division you have come
to an other opinion than
my own as to the condition
of the works.

Several of them ap-
ply for relief or compensation:
but I propose to discuss
the matter in a personal
Conference with you in 2 or
3 days more.

Yours
Respl Eric Bolish
Deputy Collector
U.S. Int. Rev.
Respl E. A. Garesche
Collector
U.S. Int. Rev.

Copy

A. S. Clinton
Superintendent

P

1/351

Enclosure in No 3

Consular Letter Sanitary

No 1 Government

Cairo dated 31st De-

cember 1876

Rec 5/77

Read 4 Jan 1877

Copy of Letter

from the Br Consular

General Dublin to the

Executors of Smith

Knox — dated 29th

December 1876 re: P.O.

appears to be imminent but in submitting the application for funds therefor should have submitted a list of works with the approximate estimated cost of each. In deciding upon the works to be taken in hand the Collector should in communication with the District Engineer give the preference to works which have already received the sanction of Government, but the execution of which has been delayed for want of funds it being understood that such works are of a nature to be carried out by unskilled labour and that they are conveniently accessible to the locality where employment is sought. The Board believe that in most districts there are many useful projects of this description and the opportunity now offered of carrying them out should be taken advantage of. It is expedient where possible to afford work at a moderate distance from the villages whence the supply of labour is derived, in view to the people being able to return to their own homes at night, the necessity for halting the labourers being thus avoided. The works described in para. 19 are in this respect very suitable and may freely be undertaken where the

number of labourers is limited. The assessment of monthly pay is however considered by Government as unavoidable as a relief work. The Collectors should lose no time in submitting a list of works with their estimated cost and will forward a weekly report of expenditure in the accompanying form with an illustrative sketch on a scale of 4 miles = one inch; a file of orders of general application regarding the conduct of ... will be furnished for the Collectors guidance.

The Collectors action in regard to the temporary suspension of collections has

the Board's approval. His attention is called to G.O. on the subject dt. 1857 P.D. dated 29th November 1876 in the file now sent. In regard to remissions the Board await definite proposals. They are glad to learn that the other parts of the District do not at present afford cause for anxiety. Mr. Horsfall will carefully watch the progress of events and keep the Board duly informed.

I have &c.

H. Clarke

Secretary.

To
The Commissioner
Government C. D
with 3 original enclosures
to be returned, and copies
of Collectors letters and
5 enclosures.

Revenue 1877 Despatches
No. 48
Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Dated 30 December 1876.
Rec'd 4 January 1877

14 Sch Orders and Other enclosures
5 Abstracts of Memorials &c
6 Other Memorials and Enclosures
24 Other Papers
6 Acknowledgments of Receipt &c

Ch 239

18 January 1877

Calcutta Despatch forwarding information with remarks, letters from Collector of Salt Chests reporting on the state of Madras and the necessity for effecting relief works.

5-1-77 - 48 Revenue