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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	4349	Press-
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Dated	6.8.1877	197

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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

DEPARTMENT

CO. No.	2979
No.	118
Dated	1911

Revenue Department

No 3453

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 24th July 1911.

Read the following

No 253

From

A Wedderburn Esqr.

Collector of Coimbatore

To

The Secretary to the

Board of Revenue
Madras

Sir

Having completed a tour
of the Udampettah Taluk
I have the honor to make
a special report on its
agricultural & financial
aspect, in reference to the
report lately made by Mr. [unclear]
2. This Taluk has suffered
for nearly 2 years from
failure of rain-fed crops
I described its appearance
in

in November of last year,
when any dry crops that
were to be reaped should
have been on the ground.

Mr. Mackenzie reported
the punjah lands as ploughed
in hope, but unsown, or
if sown, the result was a
failure.

I inspected the Taluq
in the end of March last.
+ now in the commencement

of July. In spite of any
recorded rain-fall in the
interim the punjah lands
are as yet mostly un-
cultivated.

I have seen the Country
in a radius of 8 miles from
its Centre in all 4 directions,
or for more than half its

x One heavy
Shower $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches
in April
in 1 inch in Jan.

geographical area - +
but for the trees and
an occasional piece of
green near a well, the
whole expanse is lightly
covered with drifted sand,
and might be taken for
a desert.

5. It will not surprise
the Board to learn that
nearly one-seventh part,
or 15 percent of the population
is supported by Government
relief + that the acme
of distress has not nearly
been reached. - The South
west wind rages over
the Country + sand drifts
choke the previous attempts
at dry land Cultivation.
The wells are running dry,
+ there is little hope of a

change for the better, till the South west monsoon is over.

6. I expect little agricultural improvement for two months to come. - The land revenue of the Taluq is a little less than 2 lacs of Rupees being last year 195639, - the Collections have been mostly from the Munjah of the Ambrabathy Channels Rs 44000 out of a Munjah demand of 52000 Rs of which Rs 7000 have been (as I learned from the Tahsildar) remitted by Mr MacKenzie from lands under wells Rs 10,000 have been collected, while about Rs 141000, revenue of land being 89 percent of the acreage of the arable land, is uncollected. The Head Assistant Collector's

Press it
in

report on the remissions has not yet reached me. of the balance, the people ask for time to meet the demand - they can pay nothing at present and a crop cannot be reaped before next year. The Subject will be duly considered and reported on. There is much good land in the Taluq, - large stretches of cotton soil & the population is not thick, being 215 to the square mile - but as the acreage depending on rainfall alone is 89 percent of the cultivated area, & this is covered with sand the agricultural prospects are of the most serious

Character - of grazing
there is none. the cattle
appear starved, and
fodder stocks are getting
exhausted. I noticed some
haddy & straw being conveyed
to Udumulpettah Town
from the East of the Taluq
where the Ambravathy Channels
water 5000 Acres of land.
The fortunate owners of land
under these Channels no
doubt reap the benefit
of the present famine prices.
but this, but a small (3)
Centage of the area of the Taluq.
Of all parts of the District
which I have been visiting,
the Taluq of Udumulpettah
& the Eastern portion of the
Pollachy Taluq are the worst.

7. If this tract of Country does
not get rain between April
& June it has little chance
of it till September, when the
western monsoon rains cease
& the wind, caused by the western
rain-fall & cooler air, no
longer rushes over the heated
plains to the East - & rain-fall
is possible. The Pulladum
Taluq suffers much from the
same cause, but I confine
my remarks at present to
the Udumulpetta Taluq in
relation to its Condition for
the past Fush.

8. It may be satisfactory to
know that under the energetic
management of Mr J. H. Cook,
the distress is well met. -
23 relief centres 6 of which
I have inspected, preserve

the lives of upwards of 12000 destitute & children, while — 5800 of the able-bodied poor, in good condition, are most effectually employed on works.

9. I inspected 1500 of the labourers & found a few (5 p.c) of the men, thin, but the women, & children, in good condition — also 6 out of 23 relief centres where all the misery of the Taluk is collected. I saw 4807 persons in 6 out of the 23 relief houses.

10. I lately forwarded to the Board for sanction a large increased estimate for putting the roads of this Taluk in a thoroughly good condition as recommended & estimated for

by the D.P.W. as a further means of employment. And the Board in sanctioning this observed that such a large outlay would necessitate the future maintenance allowance for 1877-78 being credited to Imperial Revenue the rate given was an average of 1320 per mile & the work to be under D.P.W. Supervision.

11. I have since seen reason to doubt the expediency of this arrangement.

12. Mr Cook has prepared & stored a great quantity of valuable road material which, used with economy, might keep the roads in repair for 2 or 3 years — but if used in repairs — but the whole material is being now used up & the roads raised beyond

need. The road is first raised
with earth - there are bunches
of good broken stone, which
ought to be the surface of
the road next laid on but not
rolled - then 6 or more inches
of gravel are put over that -
& this in D.P.W. parlance is
called a "made" road. In
appearance it resembles a
Railway embankment, the
slope of which is further
aggravated by trenches
dug, & pits excavated
at the sides of the slope -
Mr Sullivan my predecessor
lately drew my attention to
this former - & still fashion
of road making & suggested
in a private communication
that "filling up the side
drains of these roads would

p.p. 101, 102

Ed. - 1852

be a good famine work
Raising roads is a traditional
practice, noticed by the
late General Sim, when he was
in the D.P.W. & by Colonel
Foord in his notes on building
& road-making. - "Nothing is
so objectionable in road making
as unnecessarily raising a bank
above the level of the country"
"But a bank, though it be
only a few inches high, if
made on ground that is not
subject to have water standing
on it, is only injurious."

13. When I see what appears
to me to be a waste of material
roads raised - covered with un-
rolled metal, & thereon a
superstructure of gravel
which even if tamped, traffic
will wear into deep rut
I must now my preference

for "unmade" roads & my
desire to stop this expenditure
when roads are not raised
& are simply repaired, they
answer the purpose of the
traffic, in having a hard
surface, - even if heavy rain
had fallen it could not
consolidate a 6 inch layer
of gravel, laid over the metal
& when traffic attempts to
go over such roads, it
must come to a stand still.

14. I am therefore in favour
of stopping this road "making"
& confining it to repairs, &
in place of the increased
outlay, to advocate storage
of more metal, & the raising
of tank bunds for their better
security. - objection has
been taken to this, as not being
a famine work - the earth
work

work is - & as the waddars are
now as distressed as the other
classes - rough stone re-
ments can be added. I
dwell on these particulars
because it is of the last
importance to devise labour
for the afflicted. Taking
some tanks are under enlarge-
ment, but the stone work
has been left out, as unfit
for unskilled labour - a rough
stone revetment can be built
by any ryot or cooly and thus
the bund being raised - and
secured, all that is needed
for the enlargement of a
tank's capacity is the addition
of higher slide shutters to the
Calingulas or escapes, which
can be done by the Professional
Department.

15. In the northern parts,

of the Taluq where there are no tanks, ponds can be made with earth embankments near villages. An excellent work of this kind is going on at Gomungalum on the Pollachi frontier of the Udumulpetta Taluq - & I suggested to Mr Cook a further development of these temporary reservoirs which will afford excellent basins for plantations hereafter. -

16. I have gone into these details because I cannot describe the critical state of a Taluq without at the same time suggesting the appropriate remedy. -

17. I have of course communicated my views to the District Engineer who will doubtless personally inspect the works, but as

there is neither rain nor water for tamping, & as I had no idea that material was to be all used up, or that roads were to be rendered in places temporarily almost impassable to traffic. I have submitted my impressions regarding the future relief measures for this Taluq.

I have to
Crimbator
Collector's Office } (Sd) A Wedderburn
14th July 1877 } Collector

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The state of the Udumulpetta Taluq is such as to cause great anxiety but Mr Cook appears to be prepared for the emergency.

3. With regard to Mr Wedderburn's remarks on Road-making at Paras 12 & seq. the Board - quite concurs in what he

writes. They have from the first
endeavoured to impress on
Collectors the necessity for
storing material for the repair
of existing roads rather than
spending money in the construc-
tion of new lines; they have
urged agricultural improve-
ments & repairs & the construction
of drinking water Reservoirs
as proper forms of Famine
Relief & have only sanctioned
new Roads & other works of
doubtful utility on the assurance
that no other work was to
be found & because they
have felt that the emergency
has generally been too great
to allow of reference & controversy.
They trust that Mr. Wadderburn
will carry out his present
proposals not only in Oode
Mulpettah

but in all taluqs where Relief
works are in progress.

4. The estimates referred to
in para 10 are those of which
some were sanctioned and
others submitted to Government
in Board's Proceedings dated
5th July 1877 no 3146. Mr. Wadderburn
condemns the system but
does not state how he proposes
to deal with the roads in
question & in subsequent letters
dated 18th & 19th July which will
be separately disposed of, he
has forwarded revised &
supplemental estimates for
item 7 which will raise the
cost to Rs 27640. He should
state definitely what he
proposes in regard to the roads
for which estimates have
been submitted and whether
they

They have been commenced or
not.

(True copy extract)

W. L. Allen
Ag. Secretary

To

The Asst. Secretary to Govt. R.R.

W. L. Allen

720 5847

Proceedings of the

Boyd's Avenue

dated 24th Aug 1877

Heard 20th morning

Vol 406 Aug 1877 N 4349.

See more than for the way

See more things for the improve-
ment of good report
of the College of Cambridge
or the Agricultural
& Commercial Society
the Goddard & Co. & Co.
to be a King certain name
on Board & a King in
the College
1834

C 27-1-2) R 30-1-2)

6 Aug 1877