

(1) Number of pages 46

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

766B

Press
Mis.

Dated

21. 2. 1877

197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

765B
1

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st February 1877.*

Famine Relief.

No. 654-C. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th February 1877, No. 661 :—

Read the following papers :—

STATEMENT showing the Quantity and Value of Grains of different sorts imported by Sea into the Port of Madras during the Week ending 10th February 1877.

Description of Grains.	Quantity.	Value.	Remarks.
	TONS. CWT.	RS.	
Grain and Pulse—			
Gram... { Horse Gram	229 0	23,466	
Gram... { Bengal Gram	274 15	25,997	
Rice	11,564 11	12,76,464	
Paddy	482 1	34,563	
Wheat	33 17	3,558	
Pulse	316 13	30,317	
Raggy or Natchinee	160 17	14,593	
Cholum or Jonnaloo	88 10	7,296	
Cumboo	0 19	91	
Total ...	13,151 3	14,16,345	
Daily ...	1,878 14	...	

MADRAS,

(Signed) J. HUNTER-BLAIR,

Collector of Sea Customs.

To the Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

STATEMENT showing the Quantity and Value of Grains of different sorts exported from the Port of Madras during the Week ending 10th February 1877.

Description of Grains.	Quantity.	Value.	Remarks.
	TONS. CWT.	RS.	
Grain and Pulse—			
Gram... { Horse Gram ... ..	.....	...	
Gram... { Bengal Gram ... ..	.....	...	
Rice	146 9	16,000	Exported to Pondicherry.
Paddy ... ..	.....	...	
Wheat ... ..	.....	...	
Pulse ... ..	.....	...	
Raggy or Natchinee ... ..	.....	...	
Cholum or Jonnaloo ... ..	.....	...	
Cumboo ... ..	.....	...	
Total ...	146 9	16,000	

MADRAS,

(Signed) J. HUNTER-BLAIR,

Collector of Sea Customs.

12th February 1877.
To the Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,

Acting Secretary.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st February 1877.*

No. 654-D.

ORDER THEREON, 21st February 1877, No. 766-B.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. A. Raiff.

Shilling

Revenue Department

Proceeding of the Board of Revenue
No 561
Dated 16th February 1877

Read statement from the
Collector of Sea Customs, Madras,
dated 12th Feb^y 1877.

- (1) shewing the quantity & value of grains
of different sorts imported by sea into
the Port of Madras during the week
ending 10th February 1877 and
(2) shewing ~~do~~ exported
from the Port of Madras during ~~do~~

Submitted for the in-
formation of Government.
(True Extract)

Witness
Secretary

To
The Additional Secretary
to Government
Revenue Department
with copies of two shabhs

Edw

Copied

Govt. of Madras

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Madras.

Dated February, 21st.

Per.

Each.

G.O. 21st February 1877, No. 766 B.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 551-C-654 D.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 563 B.

Grain Imports and Exports, Port of Madras.
According Board's Proceedings submitting state-
ments shewing quantity and value of — during
week ending 10th February 1877.

766 B

Exported to
Canada

100/ J. Hunter Blair
Collector Seafastones

Madame.
(True copy).

Secretary

Handwritten signature

Nov 1877

7. No. 646

2/18th February 1844
 Recd 19 - - - - -

Qd 21 February 77 R-766^I

Information for
information of Court
copies of 2 affidavits showing
substantive reports of prison
of defendant and in the
affidavits showing for most
in May 1944 - 1945

1621 Homage, 18

278 14/2/81

Leeds

MS. 766.6

2/12 July

Statement shewing the quantity & value of grains
of different sorts imported by sea into the Port of
Madras during the week ending 10th February 1877.

Description of grains Quantity Value Remarks

	Stone	Cwt	Rs.
Grain and Pulse			
Grain	229	—	23,466
Bengal grain	274	— 15	25,997
Rice	11,564	— 11	12,76,464
Paddy	482	— 1	34,563
Wheat	33	— 17	3,528
Pulse	316	— 13	30,317
Paddy or Mutchineer	160	— 17	14,593
Cholam or Jomalas	88	— 10	7,296
Cumbers	4	— 19	91
Total	13,151	— 3	14,16,345
Daily	1878	— 14	

Sea Customs House
Madras, 12th February 1877

J. J. Hunter Blair
Collector Sea Customs

The Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Chennai
(True Copy)

H. H. H.

Secretary

C. H.

Statement shewing the quantity & value of grain of different sorts imported by sea into the Port of Madras during the week ending 10th February 1877.

Rs. 2
7646

Statement shewing the quantity & value of grain of different sorts imported by sea into the Port of Madras during the week ending 10th February 1877.

3. The previous season was unfavorable, and distress exhibited itself in February last in the Kistnagiri Taluq, situated on the north-western part of the district, bordering on the Mysore frontier. The crops had, owing to deficient rainfall, failed to a considerable extent, the outturn varying from one-eighth to one-half of the average. In the current year the south-west monsoon was on the whole deficient, especially in the sub-division comprising the taluqs of Darampuri, Oossoor, and Kistnagiri, and the dry crops would have totally failed in the first two taluqs but for a few showers which fell in September, and which enabled the ryots to get their grain sown and partially restored their raggy and oil-seed crop. In Darampuri the raggy crop was almost a complete failure. The cumboo crop also generally failed, and hardly any paddy was sown. In Salem and Namkul the early rains were above the average. In October the condition of the other taluqs also became critical, and when the north-east monsoon proved also a failure in November, the distress became widespread, the

only taluq which has not severely suffered being Ahtur. The average rainfall of the district is 31.2 inches, of which 20.5 inches falls during the south-west monsoon or between the months April and September, and 9.9 inches in the north-east monsoon, or between October and December. Generally, little or no rain falls in January, February, and March. In the current year, the fall of rain between April and September averaged only 15.8 inches, and in October to December barely 2 inches.

(a.) The Collector has omitted to report the particulars of cultivation for each taluq. These have been called for and will be furnished to Government when received. The average cultivation for the whole district, including the taluq of Ahtur, which is not distressed, is 1,114,540 acres, of which 1,036,518 acres or 93 per cent. is dry. The distribution as between the two monsoons is as follows:—

Period.	Dry.	Wet.	Total.
April to September, south-west monsoon ...	742,028	52,565	794,593
October to December, north-east monsoon ...	262,657	21,776	284,433
January to March ...	31,833	3,681	35,514
Total ...	1,036,518	78,022	1,114,540

The cultivation during the current year from April to September or under the south-west monsoon has been 753,997 acres, 705,431 dry and 48,566 wet; and in the months of October and November 242,340 acres 228,396 dry and 13,944 wet. The accounts for December have not come to hand, but the cultivation in that month must have been next to none, the north-east monsoon having completely failed before that month.

The estimates made by the local officers of the crop saved in the several taluqs varies from 1½ to 4 Annas for irrigated and 1 to 4 Annas for unirrigated, but in some cases they appear to be too low. Thus, in Salem and Namkul Taluqs, the rainfall of the south-west monsoon was above the average of the last three years, being 26.8 and 13.4 inches against 23.4 and 12.7 inches respectively; and 69.8 per cent. of the dry cultivation in the Salem and 72.5 per cent. of the wet cultivation in the Namkul Taluq is undertaken during the earlier months; an estimate of yield of 4 Annas for unirrigated crop in the former and of 2 Annas in the latter is therefore apparently low. The distinction drawn by the Board between early and late cultivation corresponds roughly with that required to be drawn between khasif and rabi. There will be no late crop except a scanty one under wells.

(b.) The amount of remissions in the distressed taluqs is estimated by the local officers at Rupees 8,50,000. It appears to the Board that the estimate is too high, notably in the case of Salem Taluq where the south-west monsoon having been copious there is apparently no reason why dry remissions to the extent of Rupees 1,70,000 should be considered necessary. Remissions will form the subject of careful scrutiny hereafter, but meanwhile, in the absence of precise data, the Board have not attempted to modify the estimates of the local officers during this season. If no rain falls soon, the cattle will have to subsist entirely on the leaves of trees. Measures have been taken to deepen wells and ponds in jungles and hills where the cattle graze. The future mortality may amount to 40 or 50 per cent.

(c.) The mortality among cattle and agricultural stock past and prospective

Taluqs.	PAST MORTALITY.		PROSPECTIVE MORTALITY.	
	Cattle.	Other Agricultural stock.	Cattle.	Other Agricultural stock.
Oosoor ...	15 to 20 per cent.	6 to 10 per cent.	35 per cent.	25 per cent.
Darampuri ...	10 per cent.	5 per cent.	30 do.	15 do.
Kistnagiri ...	5 do.	2 do.	30 do.	20 do.
Tripatore ...	Nil.	Nil.	50 do.	50 do.
Utengarai ...	25 per cent.	25 per cent.	50 do.	50 do.
Salem ...	6½ do.	6½ do.	47 do.	47 do.
Namkul ...	12½ do.	12½ do.	44 do.	44 do.
Trichengode ...	25 do.	25 do.	50 do.	50 do.

owing to the drought as reported for the several taluqs is shown in the margin. There is however every where considerable difficulty in procuring fodder; large numbers of cattle are driven to river banks or to the hills where they graze on the slopes, but even then owing to want of water, the animals are suffering. Cattle are being

sold by the ryots at very low prices. The district suffered very severely in cattle in the cyclone of 1874 and again in 1875 owing to the prevalence of rinderpest, and there will no doubt be a further heavy loss.

(d.) The principal sources of supply of water in the district are the Cauvery, the Pennair, jungle streams, tanks, and wells. The Cauvery skirts the western part of the district and there will be water always available there. Water can be obtained in the bed of the Pennair also by digging. The tanks and jungle streams are all dry. Some of the wells have failed, and in others the water is so low that a scanty supply is with difficulty obtained. It cannot be said that there is absolute failure of water anywhere, but in some villages the people have to go a distance of two miles to procure it. The difficulty must increase daily, and the only remedial measure that can be adopted is to deepen existing wells or to dig new ones in favorable localities, and this is being done.

(e.) Prices.—Raggy is the staple grain of the district. The prices of raggy in the several taluq stations on 1st October last, as contrasted with the average of the last three years, are as follows:—

	1st Oct. 1876. Seers of 80 Tolals for a Rupee.	Average of 3 previous years on 1st Oct. Seers of 80 Tolals for a Rupee.
Oosoor ...	15	45.38
Darampuri ...	14.75	36.50
Kistnagiri ...	17	45
Tripatore ...	20	46.25
Utengarai ...	18	44
Salem ...	20.12	33
Namkul ...	25.50	48
Trichengode ...	19.75	33
Average ...	18.70	41.4

The prices continued to rise in the succeeding weeks steadily till about the third week of October; when the north-east monsoon showed also signs of failing, the rise w

4 Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th January 1877.

more rapid. There was a slight decline in the first week of November, but when it became evident about the end of that month that the north-east monsoon had completely failed prices rose again rapidly, the quotations on 24th December having been as follows :—

	24th Dec. 1876.	Average of 3 years, 24th Dec.
Oosoor...	8.62	40.
Darumpuri ...	7.62	37.75
Kistnagiri ...	8.25	42.75
Tripatore ...	8.75	44.
Utengarai ...	8.	40.
Salem ...	8.5	29.
Namkul ...	11.	44.
Trichengode ...	9.5	31.5
	8.78	38.6

The quotation for 2nd sort rice on 1st October and 24th October were as given below :—

	1st October 1876.	Average of 3 previous years on the same date.	24th December 1876.	Average of 3 previous years on the same date.
Oosoor ...	8.25	12.12	6.19	13.25
Darumpuri ...	9.	14.88	7.	15.25
Kistnagiri ...	11.05	22.	7.	21.06
Tripatore ...	11.	17.38	6.38	19.
Utengarai ...	10.	16.	7.	15.
Salem ...	12.	16.90	7.25	16.70
Namkul ...	14.	20.	8.	21.
Trichengode ...	12.50	17.25	7.25	17.50
	10.96	17.07	7.	17.34

(f.) No accurate information is obtainable regarding stores of grain in the district, and the estimates of the Tahsildar appear to be mere guess work. The local stores reported in some cases will not suffice even for a fortnight's consumption, but the Railway passes through, or close to, almost all the taluqs, and communications in the district are very good; supplies can come in; Oosoor is within easy reach of Mullur on the Bangalore branch and of Bangalore itself; Darumpuri is stated to get supplies of raggy and cholum from Coimbatore; Kistnagiri gets raggy and cumboo from Trincomalee in South Arcot and rice from Madras. A great deal of grain from South Arcot goes to Mysore through Tripatore. Utengarai is supplied by Madras, and Salem and Namakul from South Arcot, Trichinopoly, and Tanjore. Trichengode gets its supplies from Calicut, Palghaut, and Trichinopoly. These districts however have not abundance, and high prices must continue, but at high prices grain will probably be procurable, and private enterprise will suffice. The village markets may not be well supplied, and the Collector proposes that the local merchants should be subsidized. The high prices and difficulty in procuring work are the principal causes of the distress.

(g.) According to the census of 1871, the population of the eight distressed taluqs arranged with reference to caste is as follows :—

	Brahmins ...	26,36
	Kshatrayas ...	3,913
Hindus.	Chetties ...	26,414
	Sudras and others ...	1,695,115
Mahomedans ...		49,662
Europeans ...		255
Eurasians ...		377
Others...		267
Total...		1,802,989

The male adult population classified according to professions is as follows :—

Learned professions ...	11,202
Domestic ...	29,275
Commercial ...	22,531
Agricultural... ..	304,900
Industrial ...	66,604
Cooly-labor ...	108,011
Property ...	1,767
Non-productive and others . .	6,314
Total...	550,604

The greater part of the population is poor. Many of the Muttahdars are not in good circumstances, and the few that are wealthy are not likely to aid their tenants.

(h.) There has not been emigration to any large extent, as the surrounding districts are also more or less distressed. A few persons have gone away in search of employment and a few have emigrated to Ceylon. Further emigration is not probable as relief works have been opened in the taluqs.

A sum of Rupees 96,000 has been sanctioned up to date for this district on account of relief works, and the appropriations for specific works amounts to Rupees 1,66,580. The works selected are such as are likely to prove of permanent benefit. They consist chiefly of the construction and repair of village roads and restoration and repair of irrigation works. The irrigation works as being directly reproductive have preference. Advantage has also been taken of the present necessity to improve village sanitation by the removal of prickly-pear, and the repair and clearance of tanks and wells. The works already sanctioned by the Board will suffice, it is stated, for the present. If the rains do not set in about March or April next, it will, of course, be necessary to extend the scale of operations. Lists of further works to be undertaken in case of continued drought have been furnished by the local officers, and these are submitted in original to Government. The amount expended on relief works up to 13th January 1877, the latest date for which returns have been received, is Rupees 61,851.

(j) Orders have been issued to the village officers to feed the helpless and the destitute, funds being placed at their disposal in small sums for that purpose. The system has only just been inaugurated and seems wasteful. The Collector has been directed to change it and to confine gratuitous relief to certain well selected centres to

which those in need of relief can resort. Destitute travellers are fed when found in need, and forwarded to the nearest Magistrate who feeds them and sends them on to the next Magistrate. The amount expended in the district up to 13th January on gratuitous relief is Rupees 3,666.

(A true Extract.)

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

PRICES.—AVERAGE OF THREE YEARS ENDING 1875.

	1st October.	8th October.	15th October.	22nd October.	29th October.	5th November.	12th November.	19th November.	26th November.	3rd December.	10th December.	17th December.	24th December.
Concor	12 12 45 38	11 88 44 50	11 88 44 50	11 75 43 50	11 62 43 00	12 35 42 07	12 88 41 75	12 88 41 75	12 88 41 62	12 25 40 75	12 75 40 00	13 25 40 00	13 35 40 00
Parampari	14 83 36 50	15 25 37 50	15 25 37 50	15 75 38 00	15 75 38 00	16 50 39 50	17 50 39 25	17 50 39 25	17 50 39 25	16 25 38 75	14 75 37 00	15 25 37 75	15 25 37 75
Kiatagiri	25 50 35 00	23 00 32 00	21 88 30 80	22 00 30 00	22 00 30 00	21 38 29 50	21 38 29 50	21 38 29 50	21 25 29 35	21 06 29 25	21 25 29 35	20 75 28 75	21 06 29 00
Tripatore	35 00 45 00	35 00 45 00	34 75 44 25	34 75 44 25	34 75 44 25	34 75 44 25	34 75 44 25	34 75 44 25	34 75 44 25	34 75 44 25	34 75 44 25	34 75 44 25	34 75 44 25
Uttengiri	17 38 35 00	17 38 35 00	17 38 35 00	17 38 35 00	17 38 35 00	17 38 35 00	17 38 35 00	17 38 35 00	17 38 35 00	17 38 35 00	17 38 35 00	17 38 35 00	17 38 35 00
Salem	31 25 30 75	31 25 30 75	31 25 30 75	31 25 30 75	31 25 30 75	31 25 30 75	31 25 30 75	31 25 30 75	31 25 30 75	31 25 30 75	31 25 30 75	31 25 30 75	31 25 30 75
Namkal	48 48 49 49	48 48 49 49	48 48 49 49	48 48 49 49	48 48 49 49	48 48 49 49	48 48 49 49	48 48 49 49	48 48 49 49	48 48 49 49	48 48 49 49	48 48 49 49	48 48 49 49
Tricheungode	37 50 30 50	37 50 30 50	37 50 30 50	37 50 30 50	37 50 30 50	37 50 30 50	37 50 30 50	37 50 30 50	37 50 30 50	37 50 30 50	37 50 30 50	37 50 30 50	37 50 30 50

THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WHOM THE GOVERNMENT HAS ON ITS HANDS FOR RELIEF.																								
On 13th January 1877.										The Number roughly estimated, which it is likely to have on its hands.														
Amount sanctioned for Relief Works up to 13th January 1877.			Probable Cost of Works or Amount sanctioned for their execution.			Amount expended thereon to 13th January 1877.			Charitable Relief given to Travellers and to the aged Infirm, &c., who are unable to work up to 13th January 1877.			By Works.		By Charitable Measures.		Total.		On 1st March.		On 1st May.		On 1st July.		Remarks.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.										
RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	On Works.	Gratuitous Relief.	On Works.	Gratuitous Relief.	On Works.	Gratuitous Relief.										
Oosoor	...	25,430	12,945	313	2,765	310	3,075	9,000	1,500	*15,000	*3,000	*25,000	*5,000	* If no rain falls on these dates.										
Devampuri	...	33,835	11,380	200	3,129	260	3,389	40,000	6,000	50,000	8,000	58,000	10,000	Do.										
Kiatagiri	...	20,355	9,464	241	1,764	90	1,854	10,000	1,000	*15,000	*2,000	*20,000	*5,000	† If there is no rain.										
Tripatore	...	...	130	444	310	202	512	12,000	4,000	7,000	4,000	No estimate.	Do.	† The divisional officer says he is unable to furnish an estimate.										
Uttangiri	...	8,530	2,548	704	.....	677	677	35,000	5,000	11,000	5,000	50,000	6,000	Do.										
Salem	...	31,650	10,936	546	1,169	502	1,671	30,000	6,000	40,000	6,000	50,000	6,000	This is if there is not a good fall of rain: if there should be rain, the number would be less.										
Namkul	...	10,620	5,230	439	.....	80	80	15,000	5,000	25,000	10,000	35,000	15,000	Do.										
Tricheungode	...	30,600	8,658	779	530	659	1,189	20,000	7,000	30,000	12,000	40,000	17,000	Do.										
Total	96,000	1,66,580	61,351	3,666	9,698	2,780	12,478	171,000	35,500	193,000	50,000	220,000	56,000	Do.										

Statement showing Area, Population, Revenue Cultivation, &c., of the Distressed Taluqs of the Salem District.

Name of the Taluq.	Area.	Population.	Total Land Revenue Demand (Current and Arrears) Fasil 1285.		Rough Proportion of early and Late Cultivation.		AVERAGE OF ACTUAL CULTIVATION DURING LAST FIVE YEARS.					
			Permanently-settled and Shrotriem Jodi.	Miscellaneous.	Total.	Period.	April to September, South-west Monsoon.		October to December, North-east Monsoon.		Total.	Total.
							Wet.	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.		
Oosoor ...	1,169	190,626	86,942	1,78,508	2,15,450	Early cultivation.	72.3	47.9				
Darampuri ...	998	193,037	41,783	1,95,645	2,37,428	do.	27.7	52.1				
Kistnagiri ...	658	170,233	50,906	1,57,855	2,08,761	do.	50.9	49.1				
Tripatore ...	805	190,800	53,203	1,30,173	1,75,376	do.	49.1	50.9				
Utengiri ...	808	153,801	24,271	1,16,668	1,40,939	do.	46.3	53.7				
Salem ...	998	393,805	71,362	4,63,312	5,34,674	do.	53.7	46.3				
Namkul ...	743	201,009	1,63,867	2,32,709	3,85,576	do.	60.3	39.7				
Tricheungode ...	632	249,678	1,03,973	3,11,385	4,15,358	do.	39.7	60.3				
Total ...	6,806	1,802,989	5,47,307	17,66,355	23,13,562	do.	52	48				

Not reported by the Collector.

Statement showing Area, Population, Revenue Cultivation, &c., of the Distressed Taluqs of the Salem District - (Continued).

Name of the Taluq.	ACTUAL CULTIVATION OF CURRENT YEAR.				Average Rainfall during the last three years.		Rainfall of Current year.		An Estimate of the Amount (if any) of the Crop saved, calculated in Annas, on the assumption of an average yield being represented by 12 Annas; also whether there is any prospect of further sowings.		Remissions.	
	Wet.	Dry.	Total.	Total.	April to September, South-west Monsoon.	October to December, North-east Monsoon.	April to September, South-west Monsoon.	October to December, North-east Monsoon.	Irrigated.	Unirrigated.	Wet.	Dry.
Oosoor ...	77.8	56	...	...	19.8	8.9	22.3	16.7	1	16.8	28,000	54,000
Darampuri ...	22.2	47	...	...	18.1	9.0	28.0	10.5	1.9	12.5	35,000	85,000
Kistnagiri ...	27.3	19.7	...	...	20.3	9.6	31.2	13.6	2.0	15.8	20,500	56,600
Tripatore ...	22.5	22.2	...	...	31.9	8.1	40.8	20.5	2.1	22.7	20,000	30,000
Utengiri ...	68	53.9	...	...	38.9	10.8	4.3	35.0	15.8	18.3	17,000	58,000
Salem ...	32	16.1	...	...	23.4	11.1	1.0	35.4	26.8	1.7	50,000	1,70,000
Namkul ...	68.6	58.5	...	...	12.7	6.5	1.2	20.4	13.4	8.0	25,000	75,000
Tricheungode ...	31.4	41.5	...	...	13.3	7.5	0.8	21.6	8.7	2.5	50,000	80,000
Total ...	68.2	71.3	...	...	20.5	9.9	0.8	30.2	15.8	2.0	2,40,500	6,08,600

*The figures give the rainfall up to November accurately. There was only 4 inch for the whole district. The taluq particulars have not been reported.

12 *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th January 1877.*

No 953. ORDER THEREON, 30th January 1877, No. 438.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government await the Board's
similar reviews of the distressed districts.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. L. F. Zephir.

7663
15

1168
1/27

Remo:

I have arranged
for the Honble to
circulate for his
personal and use
of the members of
Govt. 4 copies of
the first 18th review of
family operations in
the Dist. of Salem &
for the District Table.
Similar reviews for the
other Districts are
in course of preparation
which he circulates
as soon as recd &
prints.

25/1/77 J.H.

1 copy taken
Per 25/1

7 annexed
Laps sent to the Council

Govt. of 1877
REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated January 30th.

Recd.

Encl.

O.O. 20th January 1877, No. 408.

JANUARY,
NO. 952-953.

Distressed Petition in Salem District.—Recording
Board's report regarding condition of— and
awaiting similar returns of other districts.

766B
18

No. 204.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 18th January 1877.

Read again G.O., dated 14th November 1876, No. 1,647, recorded 23rd December 1876, No. 3,160, and G.O., dated 9th December 1876, No. 1,986.

With reference to the Government Orders above quoted, the Board submit to Government the reports received regarding the condition of the distressed taluqs in the Salem District, together with three statements giving statistics of (1) area, population, revenue, outturn of crops and remissions, (2) the course of prices, and (3) the extent of relief operations. The reports for many of the districts have not yet come in, or are incomplete; and notwithstanding the repeated reminders which have been addressed to the District Officers, the Board apprehend that another fortnight must elapse before all are received. The Board have therefore proposed to submit to Government the report for each district as is received instead of waiting for the whole.

2. SALEM.—This district contains an area of 7,604 square miles and a population of nearly two millions. It is divided into nine taluqs, in eight of which, comprising an area of 6,800 square miles with a population of 1,800,000, there is more or less of distress at present. The total land revenue of the district is 25½ lakhs, of which 5½ lakhs are derived from permanently-settled estates and Shrotriem villages, and the remainder from Ryotwar lands, &c.

3. The previous season was unfavorable, and distress exhibited itself in February last in the Kistnagiri Taluq, situated on the north-western part of the district, bordering on the Mysore frontier. The crops had, owing to deficient rainfall, failed to a considerable extent, the outturn varying from one-eighth to one-half of the average. In the current year the south-west monsoon was on the whole deficient, especially in the sub-division comprising the taluqs of Darampuri, Oossoor, and Kistnagiri, and the dry crops would have totally failed in the first two taluqs but for a few showers which fell in September, and which enabled the ryots to get their grain sown and partially restored their raggy and oil-seed crop. In Darampuri the raggy crop was almost a complete failure. The cumboo crop also generally failed, and hardly any paddy was sown. In Salem and Namkul the early rains were above the average. In October the condition of the other taluqs also became critical, and when the north-east monsoon proved also a failure in November, the distress became widespread, the

Sent to H. H. The Secretary to the Board 26.1.77. P. 27.
C 25.1.77. P 25.1.77

only taluq which has not severely suffered being Ahtur. The average rainfall of the district is 31.2 inches, of which 20.5 inches falls during the south-west monsoon or between the months April and September, and 9.9 inches in the north-east monsoon, or between October and December. Generally, little or no rain falls in January, February, and March. In the current year, the fall of rain between April and September averaged only 15.8 inches, and in October to December barely 2 inches.

(a.) The Collector has omitted to report the particulars of cultivation for each taluq. These have been called for and will be furnished to Government when received. The average cultivation for the whole district, including the taluq of Ahtur, which is not distressed, is 1,114,540 acres, of which 1,036,518 acres or 93 per cent. is dry. The distribution as between the two monsoons is as follows:—

Period.	Dry.	Wet.	Total.
April to September, south-west monsoon ...	742,028	52,565	794,593
October to December, north-east monsoon ...	262,657	21,776	284,433
January to March	31,833	3,681	35,514
Total ...	1,036,518	78,022	1,114,540

The cultivation during the current year from April to September or under the south-west monsoon has been 753,997 acres, 705,431 dry and 48,566 wet; and in the months of October and November 242,340 acres 228,396 dry and 13,944 wet. The accounts for December have not come to hand, but the cultivation in that month must have been next to none, the north-east monsoon having completely failed before that month.

The estimates made by the local officers of the crop saved in the several taluqs varies from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 Annas for irrigated and 1 to 4 Annas for unirrigated, but in some cases they appear to be too low. Thus, in Salem and Namkul Taluqs, the rainfall of the south-west monsoon was above the average of the last three years, being 26.8 and 13.4 inches against 23.4 and 12.7 inches respectively; and 69.8 per cent. of the dry cultivation in the Salem and 72.5 per cent. of the wet cultivation in the Namkul Taluq is undertaken during the earlier months; an estimate of yield of 4 Annas for unirrigated crop in the former and of 2 Annas in the latter is therefore apparently low. The distinction drawn by the Board between early and late cultivation corresponds roughly with that required to be drawn between khasif and rabi. There will be no late crop except a scanty one under wells.

(b.) The amount of remissions in the distressed taluqs is estimated by the local officers at Rupees 8,50,000. It appears to the Board that the estimate is too high, notably in the case of Salem Taluq where the south-west monsoon having been copious there is apparently no reason why dry remissions to the extent of Rupees 1,70,000 should be considered necessary. Remissions will form the subject of careful scrutiny hereafter, but meanwhile, in the absence of precise data, the Board have not attempted to modify the estimates of the local officers during this season. If no rain falls soon, the cattle will have to subsist entirely on the leaves of trees. Measures have been taken to deepen wells and ponds in jungles and hills where the cattle graze. The future mortality may amount to 40 or 50 per cent.

(c.) The mortality among cattle and agricultural stock past and prospective

Taluqs.	PAST MORTALITY.		PROSPECTIVE MORTALITY.	
	Cattle.	Other Agricultural stock.	Cattle.	Other Agricultural stock.
Oosoor	15 to 20 per cent.	6 to 10 per cent.	35 per cent.	25 per cent.
Darampuri	10 per cent.	5 per cent.	30 do.	15 do.
Kistnagiri	5 do.	2 do.	30 do.	20 do.
Tripatore	Nil.	Nil.	50 do.	50 do.
Utengarai	25 per cent.	25 per cent.	50 do.	50 do.
Salem	6½ do.	6½ do.	47 do.	47 do.
Namkul	12½ do.	12½ do.	44 do.	44 do.
Trichengode	25 do.	25 do.	50 do.	50 do.

owing to the drought as reported for the several taluqs is shown in the margin. There is however every where considerable difficulty in procuring fodder; large numbers of cattle are driven to river banks or to the hills where they graze on the slopes, but even then owing to want of water, the animals are suffering. Cattle are being

sold by the ryots at very low prices. The district suffered very severely in cattle in the cyclone of 1874 and again in 1875 owing to the prevalence of rinderpest, and there will no doubt be a further heavy loss.

(d.) The principal sources of supply of water in the district are the Cauvery, the Pennair, jungle streams, tanks, and wells. The Cauvery skirts the western part of the district and there will be water always available there. Water can be obtained in the bed of the Pennair also by digging. The tanks and jungle streams are all dry. Some of the wells have failed, and in others the water is so low that a scanty supply is with difficulty obtained. It cannot be said that there is absolute failure of water anywhere, but in some villages the people have to go a distance of two miles to procure it. The difficulty must increase daily, and the only remedial measure that can be adopted is to deepen existing wells or to dig new ones in favorable localities, and this is being done.

(e.) Prices.—Raggy is the staple grain of the district. The prices of raggy in the several taluq stations on 1st October last, as contrasted with the average of the last three years, are as follows:—

	1st Oct. 1876. Seers of 80 Tolabs for a Rupee.	Average of 3 previous years on 1st Oct. Seers of 80 Tolabs for a Rupee.
Oosoor	15	45.38
Darampuri	14.75	36.50
Kistnagiri	17	45
Tripatore	20	46.25
Utengarai	18	44
Salem	20.12	33
Namkul	25.50	48
Trichengode	19.75	33
Average	18.76	41.4

The prices continued to rise in the succeeding weeks steadily till about the third week of October; when the north-east monsoon showed also signs of failing, the rise was

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PRICES OF FOOD GRAINS IN SHEELS OF 80 TONS PER RUPEE, 1876.

PRICES.—AVERAGE OF THREE YEARS ENDING 1875.

	1st October.	8th October.	15th October.	22nd October.	29th October.	5th November.	12th November.	19th November.	26th November.	3rd December.	10th December.	17th December.	24th December.
Ossoor	12 12 45 38	11 88 44 50	11 88 44 50	11 75 43 50	11 62 43 00	12 25 42 57	12 88 41 75	12 88 41 75	12 88 41 62	13 25 40 75	13 75 40 00	13 25 40 00	13 25 40 00
Daravpur	14 88 38 50	15 25 37 50	15 25 37 50	15 75 38 00	15 75 38 00	16 50 39 50	17 00 39 25	17 00 39 25	17 25 40 00	16 25 38 75	14 75 37 00	15 25 37 00	15 25 37 00
Kistnagiri	14 88 38 50	15 25 37 50	15 25 37 50	15 75 38 00	15 75 38 00	16 50 39 50	17 00 39 25	17 00 39 25	17 25 40 00	16 25 38 75	14 75 37 00	15 25 37 00	15 25 37 00
Triptore	14 88 38 50	15 25 37 50	15 25 37 50	15 75 38 00	15 75 38 00	16 50 39 50	17 00 39 25	17 00 39 25	17 25 40 00	16 25 38 75	14 75 37 00	15 25 37 00	15 25 37 00
Uthengiri	14 88 38 50	15 25 37 50	15 25 37 50	15 75 38 00	15 75 38 00	16 50 39 50	17 00 39 25	17 00 39 25	17 25 40 00	16 25 38 75	14 75 37 00	15 25 37 00	15 25 37 00
Salem	14 88 38 50	15 25 37 50	15 25 37 50	15 75 38 00	15 75 38 00	16 50 39 50	17 00 39 25	17 00 39 25	17 25 40 00	16 25 38 75	14 75 37 00	15 25 37 00	15 25 37 00
Namkul	14 88 38 50	15 25 37 50	15 25 37 50	15 75 38 00	15 75 38 00	16 50 39 50	17 00 39 25	17 00 39 25	17 25 40 00	16 25 38 75	14 75 37 00	15 25 37 00	15 25 37 00
Trichengode	14 88 38 50	15 25 37 50	15 25 37 50	15 75 38 00	15 75 38 00	16 50 39 50	17 00 39 25	17 00 39 25	17 25 40 00	16 25 38 75	14 75 37 00	15 25 37 00	15 25 37 00

THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WHOM THE GOVERNMENT HAS ON ITS HANDS FOR RELIEF.														
On 13th January 1877.														Remarks.
By Works.		By Charitable Measures.	Total.	On 1st March.		On 1st May.		On 1st July.						
				On Works.	Gratuitous Relief.	On Works.	Gratuitous Relief.	On Works.	Gratuitous Relief.					
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15					
Ossoor	313	2,756	310	2,076	9,000	1,500	*15,000	*3,000	*25,000	*5,000	* If no rain falls on these dates.			Do.
Daravpur	200	3,129	200	3,359	40,000	6,000	50,000	8,000	50,000	10,000	† If there is no rain.			Do.
Kistnagiri	241	1,764	90	1,854	10,000	1,000	+15,000	+2,000	+20,000	+3,000	‡ The divisional officer says he is unable to furnish an estimate.			Do.
Triptore	444	810	202	512	12,000	4,000	7,000	4,000	No estimate	No estimate	This is if there is not a good fall of rain; if there should be less, the number would be less.			Do.
Uthangiri	704	...	677	677	35,000	5,000	11,000	5,000	Do.	Do.				Do.
Salem	546	1,799	502	1,701	30,000	6,000	40,000	6,000	50,000	10,000				Do.
Namkul	439	...	80	80	15,000	5,000	25,000	10,000	35,000	15,000				Do.
Trichengode	779	520	659	1,189	20,000	7,000	30,000	12,000	40,000	17,000				Do.
Total	3,066	9,698	2,780	12,478	171,000	35,500	193,000	60,000	220,000	56,000				Do.

Statement showing Area, Population, Revenue Cultivation, &c., of the Distressed Taluqs of the Salem District.

District.	Name of the Taluq.	Area.	Population.	Total Land Revenue Demand (Current and Arrears) Facit 1285.			Rough Proportion of early and Late Cultivation.			AVERAGE OF ACTUAL CULTIVATION DURING LAST FIVE YEARS																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
				Permanently-settled and Shro-trem Jodt.	Hyotwari and Miscellaneous.	Total.	Period.	Wet.	Dry.	Total.	Wet.	Dry.	Total.	Wet.	Dry.	Total.	Wet.	Dry.	Total.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
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(g.) According to the census of 1871, the population of the eight distressed taluqs arranged with reference to caste is as follows:—

Hindus.	Brahmins ...	26,986
	Kshatrayas ...	3,313
	Chetties ...	26,414
	Sudras and others ...	1,695,115
Mahomedans ...		49,662
Europeans ...		255
Eurasians ...		377
Others... ..		267
Total...		1,802,989

The male adult population classified according to professions is as follows:—

Learned professions ...	11,202
Domestic ...	29,275
Commercial ...	22,531
Agricultural... ..	304,900
Industrial ...	66,604
Cooly-labor ...	108,011
Property ...	1,767
Non-productive and others .	6,314
Total...	550,604

The greater part of the population is poor. Many of the Muttahdars are not in good circumstances, and the few that are wealthy are not likely to aid their tenants.

There has not been emigration to any large extent, as the surrounding districts are also more or less distressed. A few persons have gone away in search of employment and a few have emigrated to Ceylon. Further emigration is not probable as relief works have been opened in the taluqs.

A sum of Rupees 96,000 has been sanctioned up to date for this district on account of relief works, and the appropriations for specific works amounts to Rupees 1,66,580. The works selected are such as are likely to prove of permanent benefit. They consist chiefly of the construction and repair of village roads and restoration and repair of irrigation works. The irrigation works as being directly reproductive have preference. Advantage has also been taken of the present necessity to improve village sanitation by the removal of prickly-pear, and the repair and clearance of tanks and wells. The works already sanctioned by the Board will suffice, it is stated, for the present. If the rains do not set in about March or April next, it will, of course, be necessary to extend the scale of operations. Lists of further works to be undertaken in case of continued drought have been furnished by the local officers, and these are submitted in original to Government. The amount expended on relief works up to 13th January 1877, the latest date for which returns have been received, is Rupees 61,851.

(j) Orders have been issued to the village officers to feed the helpless and the destitute, funds being placed at their disposal in small sums for that purpose. The system has only just been inaugurated and seems wasteful. The Collector has been directed to change it and to confine gratuitous relief to certain well selected centres to

which those in need of relief can resort. Destitute travellers are fed when found in need, and forwarded to the nearest Magistrate who feeds them and sends them on to the next Magistrate. The amount expended in the district up to 13th January on gratuitous relief is Rupees 3,666.

(k.) The number of persons on relief works on 6th January 1877 was 42,311, and of those receiving gratuitous relief 7,622. The following table shows the number of men, women, and children on relief works and those fed gratuitously on 16th, 23rd, and 30th December and 6th January.

Dates.	PERSONS ON RELIEF WORKS.				RECIPIENTS OF GRATUITOUS RELIEF.			
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
16th December...	4,171	5,974	1,347	11,492	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
23rd do. ...	9,506	11,241	3,103	23,850	...	...	...	416
30th do. ...	20,476	29,739	6,561	52,776	995	1,513	980	3,488
6th January ...	16,252	21,402	4,657	42,311	2,373	3,163	2,086	7,622

Numbers flocked to the relief works soon after they were started, but on 6th January there was a decline, but the numbers receiving gratuitous relief have continued rapidly to increase. The wages at present given are 2 Annas for a man, $1\frac{1}{2}$ for a woman, and 1 Anna for a child, but piecework at the rate of 6 and 8 cubic yards of earthwork for the Rupee has been introduced also, and the fact is said to have been the cause of the decrease in numbers of coolies. The rates are certainly not high. The numbers expected to be on relief works on 1st March and 1st May are estimated by the local officers at 171,000 and 193,000, and the recipients of charitable relief at 35,500 and 50,000. The Board do think the estimates too high, but it is difficult to estimate at present, as much will depend upon whether the south-west monsoon sets in early or the contrary. If the weather proves favorable, and cultivation operations are commenced in April, labor will be diverted from relief works, and the numbers will rapidly diminish; if, on the other hand, the rains are delayed the distress must become intensified, and the numbers depending upon the bounty of Government must largely increase. It is, of course, still more difficult to frame any estimate of the numbers on 1st July than on 1st March.

(A true Extract.)

W. P. S.

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with two original letters and seventeen enclosures
to be returned and copies of three Statements.
Copy to the Collector of Salem.

Exd. J. W. Lewis.

No 646

1877.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 18TH JAN. 1877, No. 204.

(Signature)

Encl.

Received

JANUARY.
No. 204.

Distressed Taluqs in Salem District.—Submitting to Government reports received regarding condition of—, together with necessary statements on subject.

45

No 438

The for. await. the ^{revised} 18th reviews of the ^{other} Districts.

20/1/77

45

30 Jan/77

- 26 To the Board of Revenue 10 Feb
- 5 The Financial Dept
- 24 The Secy to Govt

100
6