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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	30	Press.
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Not to be folded or roughly handled.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

22nd December 1877, F.R. No. 3,212.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 506. From C. W. W. MARTIN, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of Madura, to H. J. STOKES, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, dated Dindigul, 8th December 1877, No. 957.

I HAVE the honor to make a special report on the state of this division at the present moment.

2. We have just had a fall of very nearly five inches of rain in 48 hours, which, coming on the top of more rain than was necessary before, must, I fear, do damage. The extent of damage it will be impossible to say for nearly a month hence, but I fear that the samai crop, which was unusually good, must suffer greatly. It is just ready for harvest, and its ear is so delicate and the whole of the grain so loose in the ear, that much of it will be shaken out. This will not, however, be much of a loss in the way of food; for, the ripe grain will be on the ground, and most of it not picked up by the owner of the crop will be searched for and recovered by the poor gleaners.

3. The eumbu crop has suffered a great deal by the constant rain; in some parts of the taluqs, its outturn will be very small indeed, and, on the whole, I am inclined to think that it will be under a four anna crop.

4. I have not yet had a return of the damage done by breaches in tanks, but it is said to be very large, and, taking the damage done to the Railway as a criterion, I have no doubt that it must be so. As however the ryots repaired almost all the breaches in their tanks up to the present this year, I argue from it that labor for the purpose is easily procurable; it is quite possible and probable that working on the roads this year has taught many a man and woman that they can earn money in a way they never thought of before, and I hope therefore that the wet crop outturn will not be affected by this cause.

5. Against damage done by rain, we have to set a certainty of wells full of water, with the consequent certainty of unusual crops throughout the year from the large well-area; the probability of a full crop on the full wet crop area; a fair outturn of cholam (about half), and a full crop of dhal, horse-gram, and Bangal gram. On the whole, I think these prospects are fair so far as the area of cultivation is concerned, but I regret to have to report that in parts of Pulni Taluq the area under cultivation up to my last visit in the end of November was very short. The rain-fall had been much heavier there than elsewhere, and the nature of the soil when much saturated does not appear favorable for crops, for the crops looked miserable, while in the richer alluvial soil near the hills they were very fine. The people who had emigrated had not returned, and the mortality among the cattle had been very great. Added to this, the labor of cultivation was far greater than usual, for the fields were covered with the most extraordinary growth of wild herbs of different sorts, the clearing of which was troublesome and tedious. The account given by the people of their failure to sow earlier was that the rain was too excessive, and they would only have lost their seed, which they were buying at the rate of 3½

Revenue Department, 22nd December 1877, No. 3,212.

measures per Rupee. Their argument was unanswerably supported by the condition of the neighbouring crops above alluded to, which were in general sown under advances for seed-grain. There was however no disposition to give in, and every advantage was being taken of the break in the weather to put down grain, Bengal gram and the short crop cholum. The Mansion House Fund Sub-Committee had decided also to put apart Rs. 15,000 for seed, the greater part to be spent in these poorer villages; and my instructions to the Tahsildar are to confine his attention almost exclusively to these villages with the object of inducing the ryots to return if they can be found, and encouraging those who are present to extend their cultivation.

6. I fear very much that this present rainfall will have done great damage to the lately-sown crops in that part of the division. It will be impossible however to speak with any certainty on the subject until we have had a decided break of hot sunny weather. I shall then in the beginning of January visit these villages of Pulai Taluq again, and report as accurately as possible how they stand. At present, I fear that there may be a loss of portion of the revenue from them, and I think it well to say so beforehand.

No. 5,106.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government. The recent heavy rains that have fallen throughout the district have done much damage to the standing crops, and there have been many breaches in tanks.

TIRUMANGALUM,
12th December 1877.

(Signed) H. J. STOKES,
Acting Collector.

No. 507. ORDER THEREON, 22nd December 1877, F.R. No. 3,212.

Miscellaneous.

The Government regret to learn that damage has been done to the standing crops by the late heavy rains. They decline, however, to accept Mr. Martin's prediction—which, by his own showing, is entirely premature—of the necessity for remitting part of the revenue, as accurate, and await his further report.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]
For Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Madura.
.. the Board of Revenue.
.. the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
.. the Financial Department.
.. the Revenue Department.

Exd. A. Raitt.

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REVENUE

THE COLLECTOR OF MADRAS.

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Dated December 25th

Per 25th

Encl 29-12-77).

Encl

G.O. 25th December 1877, P.R. No. 3214

DECEMBER.

No. 508-37.

Freey Bawa.—Regarding to learn that change has been done to the printing press in the Madras sub-division by the late —, desiring to see for the Acting Pub. Collector Mr. Martin's proposals of the necessity for remitting part of the revenue, to account and examine that under a further report on the subject.

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