M.R.O. 1—89,000—16-10-99.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue. **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	592	Press ~~Mis.~~
157-161		
Dated	6th March	1899.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 6th March 1869.

Read the following :—

No. 157. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th February 1869, No. 1,254.

Read the following letter from T. A. N. CHASE, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 20th February 1869, No. 41:—

As directed in the official memorandum, received from the Under Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, No. 16, dated 11th instant, I have the honor to report on the state and prospects of the season in the district.

2. I have just returned from a tour through six out of the eight talooks of the district (Ramalkota, Nandikotkur, Nandial, Sirwell, Koilkuntla, and Cumbum,) and I am glad to state, after a personal inspection, I see no cause for alarm in its present condition.

3. The marginal statement furnishes the particulars of rain-fall during the year. The south-west monsoon was most copious and abundant in all the talooks situated to the west of the Nallamala hills. Nearly all the tanks received a full supply. In Markapur and Cumbum the rains were not heavy, or continuous enough, to fill the tanks in October, and the rice and some of the dry crops have not flourished, and in some cases have totally withered. In the other talooks, however, both the dry and wet crops have generally yielded a good outturn. The yield of the Jonna especially, which forms the staple article of food of the laboring classes, and of the various kinds of pulse, has been full and abundant.

	Average rain-fall. Inches.
Northern section	23·5
Southern do.	25·
Eastern do.	17·5
Western do.	27·5

4. Enclosure A. is a comparative statement of prices of grain during the last five years. The prices of the current year generally exhibit a decrease below those of the previous years. The price of rice shows a slight increase, but it has been falling during the past two or three weeks, and may fall still further, because of the good harvest reaped in the adjoining portion of the Nizam's dominions, whence it is being largely imported.

5. The Madras Irrigation and Canal Company are employing about 10,000 coolies on their works, which are being actively carried on. Other employment is generally slack during this and the next two or three months, owing to the cessation of agricultural operations; but laborers generally store grain to tide over this part of the year. Women find sufficient occupation in cleaning the newly picked cotton, and men in weeding the fields from which crops have been recently harvested. The works of the Local Fund and the Public Works Department afford occupation for many. So taking all this into consideration there is no need of apprehension.

6. The health of the people has been generally good. A kind of low fever prevailed throughout the district, but unattended with any serious consequences. Cattle also suffered from murrain in parts of Pattikonda and Cumbum Talooks. Lately cholera has existed between this and Nundial, and between this and Ghooty, and in the town of Kurnool; but I am thankful to say, it has disappeared again, and I do not hear of it in any village throughout the district.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—A.

Comparative Statement of prices of grain during the past five years.

Description of grain.		Price per garce.				
		Fusly 1278.	Fusly 1277.	Fusly 1276.	Fusly 1275.	Fusly 1274.
Paddy	1st Sort.. ..	222	218	298	255	267
	2nd Sort....	194	197	266	233	241
Cholum.		171	200	345	312	297
Cumboo		181	197	329	320	320
Raggy		173	180	314	298	281
Horse-gram...		213	218	427	356	356
Rice	1st Sort....	514	494	664	664	573
	2nd Sort....	448	435	593	511	513

KURNOOL,
20th February 1869.

(Signed) T. A. N. CHASE,
Collector.

THE general condition of the district presents no cause for apprehension, and there is sufficient work to employ the laboring poor.

2. The price of rice has advanced, as compared with last year, but that of the dry grains, which constitute the food of the poorer classes, has declined.

3. The state of the Cumbum and Markapur Talooks, which are in an impoverished state at best, should be carefully watched by the Collector.

No. 158. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th February 1869, No. 1,249.

Read the following letter from E. G. R. FANE, Esq., Collector of Madras, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated on circuit at Poodoovoil, 19th February 1869, No. 50:—

SINCE the despatch of my letter to the Board, dated the 15th January last, describing the state of the season and the somewhat gloomy prospects of this district, I have the honor to state that I have visited personally the whole of the Sydapet Talook and a good portion of the Ponnorilore Talook.

2. I rejoice to have now to say that the apprehensions I previously entertained of a famine being about to occur in this district have somewhat ceased, because it has been found that although the crop, except in a few places, is not anything like an average one, the general outturn has been better than last year, and the crop harvested upon the whole cultivated area may be safely estimated at about a quarter, thereby giving the ryots the means of holding on until the next cultivating season, as it will be sufficient to provide them with food in the meantime, and with seeds to begin the agricultural operations of the next year.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 6th March 1869.

3. I send a copy of Mr. Crole's report regarding the Sub-division Talooks; the Board will observe his description of the state of his talooks differs but little from that of his last report, and is not more encouraging, for doubtless the crops that he now talks of as being still green must perish, as in his division, as well as in the principal division, no rain whatever has fallen for the last two months, and the tanks everywhere, excepting the very largest ones, are universally dry.

4. As regards the special measures of relief that in my last report, I stated, I thought I should have to recommend, I am now of opinion that the liberal remissions that were lately sanctioned by the Board on my recommendation, and which are now being granted on Punjah waste and Punjah Shavi, and as well as short crops generally, will be sufficient, and no particular grants for relief works seem called for, at any rate for the next two or three months to come.

5. For I find after consultation with the various Rango Officers that not only of the funds of last year, both Special and Imperial, is there still a balance sufficient to provide employment for all the laboring classes up to the end of the present official year, but that also the Imperial allotments of next year being nearly double those of previous year together with the usual local funds will absorb all the labor available in the district after this year, and during the really most necessitous months.

6. In the 3rd Range (Mr. Goodchap's) which extends only over an area of 1,300 square miles, three lacs of Rupees and upwards are to be spent within the next fourteen months. This includes the gravelling of the great Northern Trunk Road No. VI., and the great Courtilliar bridge on the same line, but is exclusive of the large amount of money to be expended upon the Madras Water Works project, which also is entirely within the same range.

7. In the other chief range in this district (Mr. Ottman's) there will be a lac of Rupees at least of Imperial and Local Funds to be expended within the same period, which also is exclusive of the large sums now being spent upon the Chembrambakam tank and its various subsidiary and supply channels, all of which are also within the same range. All the laboring classes within ten miles of the coast also along the whole length of this district will find ample employment in the numerous Salt works that are being pushed forward rapidly everywhere; and taking all things into consideration, I trust therefore, as I said above, that there will be no necessity for any special call being made from this district.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From C. S. CROLE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to the Collector of the Madras District, dated on Circuit, Wallajahbad, 5th February 1869, No. 41.

IT is now more than a month since I addressed you on the state of the crops and season from the north-east part of the Sub-division, and I regret to have to report that no change for the better has taken place in the interval. There has been no rain, and the clouds which usually overcast the sky in January have passed away without the fall of rain, which is their usual result, and which came so opportunely last year. With their disappearance has fled the hope that the present might still be a low average season after all.

2. The extent of land this year is, as you are aware, comparatively small. The disasters of last year, and the fear of farther loss from a repetition of the failure of the north-east monsoon, have caused this decrease, which however cannot, under the circumstances, be considered a misfortune, since it has been the means of allowing sufficient water to bring crops in certain places to maturity, where otherwise, had a larger extent been under cultivation, all would have withered.

3. As far as I can gather, there are acres 16,000, Rupees 46,000, of wet land waste in this (Conjeveram) talook alone, and there will be, say, Rupees 40,000 Shavi.

4. With the exception of tanks dependent on sources of supply existing beyond this district, like the Kambakal river channels and large tanks, like those of Madurantakum and Tenneri, the

villages under which have this year, generally speaking, little to complain of, all other irrigation works have failed to meet in full, even the limited demands made on them. I am glad to report that the ryots have, this year, recognised, in most cases, the necessity of making as sparing a use of the water as was consistent with keeping the standing crops in life, and to this is due the fact that so much is still green which must eventually wither, unless rain fall immediately, and that a good proportion will actually be harvested, although the yield will probably not exceed half or at most three-quarters of that of an ordinary year.

5. In regard to dry crops, although there is much waste, (a fact which the late orders of the Board and Government recognize and enable us to deal with,) I cannot say that those which were sown early are much below the average. This is due to the showers of rain which fell at intervals early in the season. The Varagu crop must however be expected, and is a partial failure. The later sown crops of all sorts of dry grains are also inferior to those put down earlier.

6. There is no actual distress at present, and with the exception of a few thefts of grain from the fields, no increase of crime.

7. Having now attempted to give you an idea of the state of the country in the Sub-division, I have the honor to propose that funds be placed at the disposal of the Range Officers, before the completion of the harvest, for the following works, which I submit to be all works of great utility, and whose completion or execution is urgently required:—

The road from Tandalum to Kuveun.
The road from Wallajahbad to Trunk Road *via* Tenneri (requires thorough repair and gravelling).
Do. to Trunk Road No. VIII. *via* Irumbaliyur.
Do. from 42nd milestone on Trunk Road No. VIII. to Utiramerur.
Do. from Karanguli to Nelvayi (joining the above).
Do. from Saravambacum or thereabouts on Chotupakum road to Madurantakum (vide my letter of yesterday's date.
} Local Funds.

From Kelambakum to Chingleput, *via* Teruporur (Salt Road).....Imperial.

These will be sufficient in the meantime, and will serve to gauge the actual wants of the division in respect to labor.

A sum might also be advantageously placed at the disposal of the Revenue authorities for deepening and cleaning out drinking ponds, and the formation of new ones in proper localities. The season will be very favorable for making the execution of work of this description a lasting benefit to the country, and owing to the much greater scarcity of water in this than the last year, the measure is of proportionably more pressing necessity.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) E. G. R. FANE,
Collector.

Mr. Fane's report is so far satisfactory that it shows no ground for apprehending a dearth of food; but the loss again this year of quarter or even half the usual crop is most serious.

2. Mr. Fane states that there are sufficient funds in hand this year to afford employment to all who seek it, and the Budget assignments of next year are also liberal. The Acting Sub-Collector specifies several works of an undoubtedly useful character, for which, as well as for sinking and improving wells, he seeks funds. The Board presume that the Collector has complied with the requisition, as he does not specially allude to it. He should report specifically on this point. The latest return which the Board have received of expenditure on account of relief works is up to the 31st July last. A later statement has been called for, and should be submitted without delay. Meanwhile, local roads can be prosecuted from the Road Funds to their actual extent, care being of course taken not to involve the Fund in debt.

3. The Collector will keep the Board and Government acquainted with the state of the district.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 6th March 1869.

No. 159. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th February 1869, No. 1,250.

Read the following letter from G. L. MORRIS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mannargudi, 20th February 1869, No. 34:—

With reference to an Official Memorandum* received from the Acting Under Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, I have the honor to lay before the Board, for submission to Government, the following report on the state of the season, the outturn of the crops, and the prices of grain, etc.

* Dated 11th instant, No. 16.

2. The past agricultural season in this district has been, on the whole, favorable. The supply of freshes in the Cauvery and its branches was regular and steady, and though owing to a partial failure of the local monsoon the outturn of the wet crops in parts of the dolta has been somewhat below the average, the yield in the aggregate has been more than sufficient both to meet the wants of the population of the district and all ordinary demands of the export trade. The only part of the district which has sufferod to any extent from want of rain is the upland portion of the Tanjore Talook. The southern and south-eastern talooks of Pattukottai and Tritrapundi, which have latterly had a succession of bad seasons, have this year had an abundant share of local rains, and the outturn of dry crops in these talooks has been consequently plentiful.

3. The price during the last month of second sort paddy, which is consumed largely by the masses, was about the same as during the corresponding period of last year, but, as will be seen from the table entered in the margin, was much below the rates which prevailed in the preceding two years which were exceptionally unfavorable. The dry grains such as Raggy, Cumboo, and Cholum, which, in a minor degree, constitute the food of the poorer classes, have been cheaper this year. The price of Paddy, however, which is already very high just now, shows an upward tendency; but I am happy to be able to add that no apprehension need be entertained of any distress arising from scarcity of food in this district.

Fasliee.	Price of second sort Paddy per Madras Garce-as.
1273	137
1274	173
1275	179
12.6	170
1277	160
1278	167

4. The agricultural season of the year having already closed, any rain or want of rain hereafter cannot modify the prospects of this year so far as production of food is concerned.

5. I beg in conclusion to state that from applications which have been received for Waste and Shavi remissions, the total amount likely to be remitted at this year's Jummahbundy on this account will not, at the outside, exceed Rupees 70,000, which is less than any year since Fusly 1273, as will be seen by a reference to the Memorandum in the margin.

Fusliee.	Amount. Rs.
1273	46,843
1274	84,109
1275	2,63,646
1276	76,698
1277	1,21,538

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The report is satisfactory.

No. 160. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th February 1869, No. 1,280.

Read the following letter from C. N. POCHIN, Esq., Collector of Salem, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 17th February 1869, No. 35:—

In accordance with an Official Memorandum, under date the 11th instant, No. 16, from the Acting Under Secretary to Government, I have the honor to report upon the past and prospective state of season in the Salem District.

2. Punjah Cultivation.—The Punjah season generally begins about March and April. During the past year this cultivation was not fully begun till about May, as the rains were late;

but it was afterwards carried on successfully, and a fair average has been the outturn. The Acting Sub-Collector states that in his Division the crops are much heavier than usual.

3. In regard to the present season there has not been any rain since the beginning of December, and but little fell in November. Want of rain is now much felt, as in some parts of the district pasture and water is becoming somewhat scarce, and the standing crops, if any, are drooping.

4. NUNJAH CULTIVATION.—The season for Nunjah, which generally begins in July and August, was very favorable at the commencement. Almost all the tanks received a full supply of water; but the failure of rain, latterly commencing with November, has no doubt affected the crops. As the Jummahbundy has just begun, and the accounts of Shavy, etc., are still under preparation in the talooks, I cannot as yet say to a certainty what the amount may be. In some of the talooks, such as Athur, and almost all the Sub-division Talooks, and Tripatore, I do not expect that the loss will be considerable. On the other hand, I think the outturn of wet crops will be found to be fair if not good, considering.

5. PRICES.—The ruling prices of grain show very slight variations compared with previous months; but the Board will see from the marginal abstract (the return for January) that prices have materially fallen compared with the past two years. I do not apprehend any scarcity in the district, at least for some months yet.

	Fasly 1276.	Fasly 1277.	Fasly 1278.
Paddy, 1st sort	227	220	185
Do. 2nd	264	201	167
Cholum	334	271	209
Cumbue	226	210	172
Ragey	329	267	191
Rice, 1st sort	612	484	412
Do. 2nd	548	451	368
Varagoo	170	166	127
Horsegram	301	300	228

6. The sanitary condition of the district as compared with past years, is remarkably good for this time of year. The only complaint is Fever in a few villages in the Sub-division, and I am glad to state that not a case of Cholera has been reported this year throughout the whole district.

7. CONDITION OF THE POOR CLASSES.—The laboring classes have sufficient employment on the Local Fund Roads and on public works. I have no apprehension at present of any distress among them.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The report shows the condition of the district to be as good as could be expected under all circumstances.

3. The Collector will report the result of further inquiries.

No. 161. ORDER THEREON, 6th March 1869, No. 592.

Miscellaneous.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council is glad to receive these favorable reports of the condition of the districts of Kurnool, Salem and Tanjore. The Government are also glad to learn that the Madras District is in a less depressed state than the Collector was at first disposed to believe. The funds desired by the Acting Sub-Collector should be granted from the Local Fund of the district, assistance being given to the villagers in sinking wells only where it is absolutely necessary.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Accountant General.
„ the Public Works Department

Exd. G. A. Turton.

Govt. of {1869} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

&c. &c, &c

Dated March, 6th.

Recd. Read.

G. O., 6th March 1869, No. 592.

MARCH.

Nos. 157-161.

Season in Madras, Kurnool, Salem, and Tanjore Districts.—Favorable reports of the Collectors, recorded. Assistance to be given to villagers in Madras District for sinking wells only where absolutely necessary.