M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-23.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1125 Press Mis.

538-539

Dated 27 th April 1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 538. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th April 1869:—

Read the following letter from the Collector of North Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated on Circuit at Penmari, 1st April 1869, No. 73.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of Proceedings of Board, dated 22nd March. Since my letter of the 15th January, therein commented on, was written, the special report * called for in the Acting Under Secretary's official memorandum, No. 16, dated 11th February last, has been submitted. I regret, however, to find that this letter was not, as directed, forwarded through the Board's Office, but was sent to the Chief Secretary to Government. The letter has probably by this time been forwarded for the Board's remarks; but in case this may not have been done, I now enclose copy of it.

* Dated 17th March, No. 14.

2. From this the Board will learn that the prices of all the food-grains, especially of the coarser kinds, are still moderate and within reach of the needier classes, and that although no actual distress has yet manifested itself in any part of the district, still, owing to the absolute failure of the north-east monsoon, there has been very heavy loss in farm produce, and a premature cessation of the ordinary agricultural industry of the district. Under such circumstances, it is obvious that my remark, that a large number of the agricultural classes were in January dependent on the public purse for the means of earning a subsistence, must be more than ever applicable to their state at this time, when cultivation is exclusively confined to small patches of land under wells and some of the river-channels.

3. If the Board will refer to paragraphs 15 and 16 of the enclosed report, they will find that very large and well-distributed fund is available in the Budgets which now come into force, and that the ordinary expenditure therein provided for will afford ample employment to all who may seek it.

4. The statement given below will show the amount and distribution of public money actually at disposal in the Budgets:—

Number.	Talooks.	Imperial Funds.		Local Funds for roads, etc.	Special funds for the completion of certain roads, as recommended by the Board in Proceedings, No. 1,438, dated 4th March 1869.	Total of columns 3 to 6.
		For Agricultural repair works.	For minor new works.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
1	Chittoor	5,750	1,070	10,065	6,760	23,645
2	Chendragherry	7,216	650	16,471	17,040	41,377
3	Palmanair	1,374	490	4,750	73,000	79,614
4	Gudiattum	8,271	410	10,200	7,700	26,581
5	Vellore	7,455	760	8,765	3,500	20,480
6	Polur	11,970	494	8,580	65,300	86,344
7	Wandewash	11,292	765	5,225	31,700	48,982
8	Arcot	13,800	583	6,464	.....	20,847
9	Wallajah	13,860	995	8,840	.....	23,695
	Total ...	80,988	6,217	79,360	2,05,000	3,71,565

[illegible] recommendations made by the Board in their Proceedings, 4th [illegible] No. 1, [illegible] accepted by Government, the amount available for the [illegible] of the [illegible] masses throughout the district will be very large, [illegible] and Wandiwash Talooks, where we have chiefly to provide against [illegible], there will be (if the Government sanction, as recommended, the com- [illegible] the roads now in progress there) Rupees 1,35,000 for outlay.

We have thus ample funds at disposal to meet every contingency, and all [illegible] to watch closely the markets and the distribution of labor on the [illegible] and the progress report submitted by the Range Officers.

The only precaution which I have now to make, with reference to the [illegible] the district, is that Rupees 10,000 be specially allotted for the [illegible] for the supply of drinking water for man and beast. I have already [illegible] to the instances of this kind in the Chittoor Talook, and [illegible] the [illegible] and the western highlands will be considerable [illegible]

[illegible] this letter to Government with a recommenda- [illegible] recorded, from Imperial Funds, for the sum of 10,000 [illegible] paragraph 7 of the Collector's letter, as necessary for the [illegible] for man and beast.

[illegible] Funds is, as the Government are aware, exhausted.

The Board have in their Proceedings of March 4 given their opinion fully [illegible] necessary sanction for continuance of relief works on roads.

Order thereon, 27th April 1869, No. 1,125.

[illegible]

THE letter from the Collector of North Arcot, dated 17th March, No. 14, of which the Board of Revenue submit [illegible] endorsed by Government in their Order, under date 19th [illegible] No. 1,087.

It appears from the letter that there was no scarcity of food in the North [illegible], that prices were unusually low; and that the regular Budget provi- [illegible] except a few items in the district, will not require expenditure of nearly [illegible] rupees from Public Works. The communication was accordingly [illegible] to the Government Order, under date 9th April 1869, in [illegible] had expressed their opinion that the circumstances of the [illegible] detailed by the Collector in previous reports, were not such [illegible] famine expenditure.

[illegible] nothing in the letter from the Collector, under date 1st April [illegible] connected with the Board's Proceedings above recorded, which tends [illegible] there has been any material alteration in the condition of the North Arcot [illegible] and the Right Honorable the Governor in Council is, therefore,

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th *April* 1869.

unable to accord his sanction to the proposal, that a sum of Rupees 10,000 should be specially granted for the purpose of improving the water-supply for man and beast.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bautleman.

North Arcot 35
Collector's Office,
Chittoor, 17th March 1869

№ 14

From,

J. D. Robinson Esqr,
Collector of North Arcot.

To, The Honorable R. S. Ellis. C.B.
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St George

Sir,

As directed, in the Hy Under Secretary's Official Memo: №16 dated 11th February 1869, I have the honor to submit my report on the state of the season past and prospective, in this District

2. The season on the whole has been even more adverse than that which preceded it.

The North East Monsoon only shewed itself in a scanty and very late burst along the eastern side of the District - As it passed inland it dwindled away into light and most unequally distributed showers which neither supplied the tanks nor brought flood water down the river -

*December

The rainfall registered during October, November and December was only 9 inches •6 - In 1865, 20 inches fell during the North East

South Monsoon -

3. Fortunately the South west Monsoon, though it set in nearly, set in early, and brought with it a longer duration of showery weather than the District has had for years past.

The rain fall from April upto the end of September was 13 Inches 9 Cents (15 inches would be a fair average for this Monsoon).

4. Fever was thus an early inspection given to cultivation of all kinds, and although the eventual failure of the North East Monsoon has entailed very heavy loss in wet crops, the outturn of the earlier dry grains was above the average -

5. In the Palcmair Taluks and in fact all along the western highlands the Raggi and Cholam harvest was unusually abundant, and, as those grains form the great staple of food in those parts, the condition of the labouring classes there, is better than it has been for years -

The

6. The accounts as made up to end of February 1869 shew an increase, in the average under cultivation both in wet and dry land - These figures must not be accepted as a criterian of actual results, as until the settlements is made all land brought under the plough, whether sown or not, is treated in the accounts as "under cultivation" -

	Dry		Wet		Total	
	Extent in Acres	Assessment Rs	Extent in Acres	Assessment Rs	Extent in Acres	Assessment Rs
Upto February of Official year 1868/69	3,90,499	69,378	17,203	5,98,468	5,62,534	15,54,064
Do 1867-68	3,89,349	63,304	15,897	19,593	5,27,540	3,20,152	2,631
Increase	1150	6074	15,064	25,359	16,214	31,433
Decrease	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note In much wet land dry crop was raised but returned as wet in the accounts - This partially accounts for increase shewn in wet cultivation -

The settlements is now in progress and heavy remissions are being made on accounts of wet land left waste and 2d Crop not raised, owing to the want of water in the tanks and Channels - Remission is being given for withered crop as the accounts are received and verified and looking at the present chances of the crops now standing on the ground, I cannot but anticipate a very heavy loss of agricultural produce and revenue, between this

this time and the close of the agricultural season.

7. I have not as yet found it necessary to grant remission for waste in dry land, both in the higher and poorer parts of the Chittoor Taluk; with which I am now engaged, it will have to be granted and, in some of the taluks, in the 4th Division, claims of this nature will have to receive the fullest consideration and indulgence.

8. All the dry crop is now off the ground and there are no fresh agricultural operations of any kind going forward except under wells and tanks.

9. The rabi crop, as marked the yield in the earlier sowings of Cholam and Cholam, and Cumbu and of red grain, (Kandulu) was good, but the horse-gram Samé and Varagu crops suffered greatly from the failure of the North East Monsoon, and the yield in all varied from ¼ in the poorer soils, to ¾ of an average crop in the richer and moister lands.

10. The out-turn of wet cereals has of course varied with the circumstances under which they have been raised, but the yield except in the most favored situations has, generally speaking, been much below the mark both in quantity and quality.

11. Thus on the whole the harvest has again been a bad one and the stocks in hand of all local produce are lower than would be compatible with moderate prices, were the District dependent on its own resources.

12. And this brings me to the consideration of the present condition and future prospects of the laboring masses during the period which might intervene between the agricultural season which is closing and the resumption of operations in June when the early rains may be looked for.

13. Notwithstanding the premature cessation of ordinary agricultural employment, I cannot learn that any actual distress has yet arisen from this cause, among the able bodied poor.

14. My Tahsildars, one and all, report that there is employment for all who wish it for a month to come, but that it may afterwards become necessary to provide for their

their subsistence, in the form of relief works.

15. The new Budget allotments amounting under all heads to Rs 1,95,680 will be available in April and as the expenditure will be pretty fairly distributed over the length and breadth of the District, I do not myself anticipate the necessity of initiating any fresh projects for the employment of unskilled labor.

From 1896-97 to	
Imperial	
Agricultural Repairs	1,09,000
Do Minor New works	9,000
	1,18,000
Local	
New —	15,410
Repair —	71,270
Total	86,680
Grand Total	1,95,680

16. If the Government are pleased to accept the recommendations made in the Board's Proceedings dated 4th March 1897 Pp 17-38, the Grand available for expenditure will be raised to Rs 4,30,680 which will more than provide for every contingency.

17. Thus the only class of work for which it may hereafter become necessary to make special provision is the improvements of the supply of drinking water for man and beast. In some parts of the District this want is already making itself felt, but as there have been some showers within the last week the necessity of undertaking some such works is no longer so immediate.

&c.

18. The retail prices of the food grains most generally in use are as follows.

	Fasli 1276	Fasli 1277	Fasli 1278
	No of Madras Measures per Rupee.		
Paddy 1st Sort	17 7/8	16 5/8	18 11/16
Do 2nd Do	19	17	19 13/16
Raggi	10 1/4	12 3/16	16 5/16
Cholam	10	10 1/16	15
Kambu	11 1/8	12 5/8	17 3/16

From this Government will learn with pleasure that present prices contrast favorably with those of the 2 preceding years which were, it is true, high. As the market quotations now stand, the price of second sort rice is moderate whilst Raggi and Cholam are much cheaper than they have been for 5 years past. The fall in the price of these two important grains is probably due to the outturn of the harvest in the Mysore country, where I am informed the Raggi crop especially has been unusually fine.

19. Prices have hitherto been very stationary and although they will probably rise

rises gradually Railway imports will, as was the case, last year under more un-favorable conditions, influence the local markets and keep prices within reach of the needier classes-

20. The local markets continue to be well supplied, and there is nothing in present appearances which would lead me to anti-cipate any disturbance of the natural equilibrium-

21. The public health has been almost exceptionally good-no out-breaks of Cholera are reported and the Sivaratri Festival passed off without a single case of epidemic disease-

22. Notwithstanding the scarcity of pasture and water the condition of the farm stock is on the whole satisfactory - There has been some out-breaks of Murrain of the more ordinary kind in the Southern Talooks, but in other parts the cattle are reported to be healthy-

23. In conclusion I may observe that although there is thus no immediate cause of alarm the position of the Districts is nevertheless at this moment one of con-siderable anxiety. Had it not been that existing arrangements provide for a large and well distributed expenditure, it would have been necessary to set in motion some special works for the employment of the agricultural masses who begin to find a difficulty in earning a subsistence in their ordinary avocations-

24. Meanwhile the Government may rest assured that I shall watch prices and the state of the Labor market closely and will not fail to bring to their immediate notice any circumstances which may indicate the necessity of their more direct intervention on behalf of the Districts

I have &c
(signed) J. D. Robinson
Collector-

(True Copy)
(signed) J. D. Robinson
Collector

(True Copy)

A Thompson
Ag Secretary

S. J. Kindersley

Remo for return.

In No 1141.

The Collector of N. B.

Has not furnished the

Board with a copy

Board with a copy

of his return referred

to in para 10, and is nobody

is para 10, and is nobody

to blame for the omission

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Extract.

Extract.

In a letter from the

In a letter from the

Collector of North Area,

Collector of North Area,

to the Secretary to the

to the Secretary to the

Board of Revenue No.

Board of Revenue No.

dated 1st April 1869 d/ 7

dated 1st April 1869 d/ 7

R No 1141/69

Fort St George April 1869

remain for the first
to determine what
is the legal proof which
for which he is given

[illegible]

The Colonial Secretary is very
respectfully requested to move for
an address to His Excellency
the Governor praying that he will
take such steps as he may think
proper to cause the Public Offices
to be kept open for the transaction
of business on Saturday the 1st day
of August next, and that he will
direct that the Public Offices may
be closed on the following Monday
the 3rd day of August next.

I agree with Mr Phillips.
I cannot act on both your
recommendations.

I agree

Revenue Department.

No. 1125

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 27th April 1869

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Requesting sanction to Grant from Imperial Funds for improving water supply for drinking purposes in North Arcot

Proceedings of 9th April 1869 No.

The letter from the Collector of North Arcot dated 17th March No. 14 of which the Board of Revenue submit a copy has already been disposed of by Government in their order under date 19th April 1869 No. 1063

It appeared from this letter that there was no scarcity of food in the North Arcot District that prices were unusually low

Considered that the regular budget provisions for the present official year in the Arcot District allowed of an expenditure of nearly two lacs of rupees upon public works. The communication was accordingly recorded with reference to the sentiments of the Court under date 4th April 1869 in which the Government had expressed their opinion that the circumstances of the North Arcot District as detailed by the Collector in previous reports were not such as to justify any special famine expenditure.

There is nothing in the letter from the Collector under date 1st April 1869 noted in the margin, printed with the Board's Proceedings, above recorded, which tends to show that there has been any material alteration in the condition of the North Arcot District, and the Right Honorable the Governor in Council is therefore unable to accord his sanction to the proposal that a sum of Rupees 10,000 should be specially granted for the purpose of improving the water supply for man and beast.

(A)

16 Copies to the Bd of Revenue Dept. 28

Public Dept