M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1212 Press Mis.

57-52

Dated 3rd May 1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 3rd May 1869.

No. 51. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd April 1869:—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of South Canara, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 15th April 1869, No. 412.

I HAVE the honor to submit the following report on the state of the season, past and prospective, together with some account of the out-turn of the crops, etc., as called for in the Official Memorandum of the Acting Secretary to Government, under date the 11th February 1869.

2. The fall of rain in 1868-69 was equal in quantity to the fall in 1866-67, and more than that of 1867-68, but it was confined to less than three months between May and August.

3. The first rice crop throve well till it was in ear, and though it has since suffered a little from want of water, it yielded a fairly good harvest. The crop that followed it had, in the absence of rain, to depend on artificial irrigation from water raised by manual labor. Its yield was consequently deficient. The third crop was as good as the second. The principal article of food used by all the classes generally is rice, the poorer supplementing it with ragi.

4. The accompanying Statement will show that the prices of the food grains, though lower than those which prevailed for the last five years, were considerably higher than when the present land assessment of Canara was fixed. No difficulty was therefore experienced by the Ryots in meeting the Government demand. But the district cannot be considered so prosperous as it was in 1866 or 1867, when very high prices prevailed, arising, not as in other districts, from a scarcity within, but from an increased demand from without. The great mass of the capitalists in the district are landholders, and their profits from land were then extraordinary.

5. As regards the labouring classes, I beg to observe that the poorer agricultural classes who are paid to a great extent in kind, have been little affected by the rise in the price of rice, while the higher classes obtain an enhanced rate of wages, in consequence of the daily increasing demand for their services, which is the natural result of the influx of capital into the district.

6. Small-pox, measles, dysentery, fever, and cholera prevailed to some extent, cattle were generally healthy throughout the year, though they suffered from hoof disease and fever in a few localities. But medical aid was promptly sent to men and beasts wherever it was wanted.

7. No distress is anticipated here, and distress in other districts is calculated to benefit not only the merchants, but mainly the cultivators who are able to obtain enhanced prices for their grains at their very doors where the merchants seek them, and many of the large landholders are themselves merchants and sell their own grain.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The season in Canara has not been so favorable as usual, but there is no reason to anticipate that any distress will be experienced, all that is to be expected is that the profits of the wealthy landed proprietors will not be so great as they have been.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 3rd May 1869.

Statement showing the ruling prices of food grains etc., in the District of South Canara during the last five years.

	1864-65.	1865-66.	1866-67.	1867-68.	1868-69.
	Per garce. RS.	Per garce. RS.	Per garce. RS.	Per garce. RS.	Per garce. RS.
Paddy 2nd Sort	195	179	210	149	147
Rice 1st Sort	453	395	479	333	325
Rice 2nd ,, ...	404	362	439	308	306
Ragi	283	269	349	271	233
Horse-gram...	304	341	441	297	311
Wheat	632	638	601	580	427
Uddu	383	413	471	393	350

MANGALORE,
15*th April* 1869.

(Signed) H. S. THOMAS,
Acting Collector.

No. 52.

ORDER THEREON, 3rd May 1869, No. 1,212.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Govt. of {1869} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated May, 3rd.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 3rd May 1869, *No.* 1,212.

MAY.

Nos. 51-52.

Season in South Canara District —Reports of the Collector, recorded.