M.R.O. 14—5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2826 Press ~~Mis.~~

529-531

Dated 28—11—1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following :—

No. 529. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd November 1867.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Madras, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 19th November 1867, No. 383.

1. I regret to be obliged to report that the general state of the crops in this district is such as to give cause for my considerable anxiety.

2. The season promised very well in its early stages, and a very large increase in the area cultivated was the result.

3. The total absence of any rain for the last three weeks, however, has destroyed all the hopes entertained of a good harvest.

4. The dry crops are reported as everywhere withering from the drought, and the wet crops, except under a very few tanks in which a small supply of water has been received, are also fading.

5. In many places the seed-paddy has not been transplanted, and is coming into ear in the seed-beds.

6. The talooks of Trivellore and Sydapet are probably in the worst state.

7. In Ponneri there was a slight fall of rain on the 6th and 7th instant, which brought a partial supply of water to some of the tanks.

8. In Conjeveram the rain has failed, but the crops under the river and spring-channels near the Palar are still alive.

9. In Chingleput and Madurantakum a few of the tanks have received a very slight supply, but the dry crops are almost destroyed.

10. An immediate fall of rain would save some of the crops from destruction, but it is feared nothing will prevent the harvest from being very scanty.

11. Under these circumstances, I trust a large allotment may be made for irrigation repairs. They are terribly needed throughout the district, and I fear there must be very considerable distress amongst the poorer classes, who will be benefited by the expenditure of the money.

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1. Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Collector should keep the Board thoroughly informed of the state of the crops, the condition of the people, and the prices of grain in his district by submitting weekly reports, until further notice, and the Collectors of North Arcot, South Arcot, and Nellore will be requested to report at an early date on the prospects of the harvest in their respective charges.

3. With advertence to the Collector's request in paragraph 11 of his letter, the Board observe that they have on more than one occasion pressed upon Government the urgent necessity for a liberal expenditure on irrigation works in the Madras District. They beg to reiterate the recommendation, as a means of affording timely relief to the laboring classes as well as permanently improving the district.

No. 530. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th November 1867.

Read the following letter from the Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 22nd November 1867, No. 322.

1. I have the honor to bring to the notice of the Board the highly unpromising aspects of the season at this moment.

2. I have just returned from a ten days' tour in the district, and speak from personal observation. I would not be an alarmist, but I should not be doing my duty if I longer abstained from communicating to the Board my own misgivings and apprehensions respecting the agricultural prospects of the district at this time.

3. The rain-fed tanks in the district are nearly all dry, and there is scarcely any paddy cultivation under them. The tanks dependent upon river and spring-channels contain but a very scanty portion of the water which they should hold at this time of the year, and very large tracts of the best land under them have not yet been once ploughed. The large Kaveripak tank is reported to be nearly dry, and is so low in fact that the fishery has been rented out. The wet cultivation under the tank is drooping, and there will be heavy losses in withered crop. The big Mamandur tank, in the Arcot talook, capable of holding eighteen months' supply, is reported now to contain only some four months' water.

4. The Palar river has not flooded once this season, although the Ponney river was in partial fresh several times towards the end of August and beginning of September. Since that there has been no flood-water down it.

5. The wet crops under wells and spring-channels are beginning to suffer as the springs fail. I never recollect seeing the springs in the wells here so low at this season as they now are. The standing dry crops, which were so promising a month or six weeks ago, are looking as bad as they can do. The Sama crop is lost beyond recovery, and varagu and horse-gram are drooping day by day.

6. Fortunately the Nat raggy and Samba crops matured well during the showers in the end of August and early part of September, and the yield in both was good.

No actual distress has yet manifested itself among the poorer classes, but there is much room for apprehension, should no rain fall within the next fortnight.

7. Anticipating a scarcity, the wholesale merchants are purchasing grain in large quantities for the purpose doubtless of commanding the market should a crisis arrive, as appears now so probable.

8. The prices of new and old paddy and raggy in the Chittoor bazaar for the last three weeks of the current month are given in the margin. There is nothing absolutely alarming in the rise so far, but if the rain hold off much longer, prices will no doubt go up day by day.

	Number of measures per Rupee.		
	Paddy.		
	Old.	New.	Raggy.
7th November 1867 ...	15	17	13
14th do. ,, ...	14	15½	12
21st do. ,, ...	13	14	10

9. I have now issued a Circular to the Tahsildars in the district, directing them to submit a statement shewing the cultivation up to the end of the month as compared with the corresponding period last year, and to report the prices of all the principal grains at the chief markets in each week of the current month. As soon as these returns are received, I shall submit a further report regarding the prospects of the season.

10. Pasturage, I am happy to say, is still tolerably abundant, but the effect of the failure of moisture on this also has latterly been very marked.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th November 1867.

1. Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Collector will lose no time in submitting the detailed report promised in paragraph 9 of his letter, and unless a decided change for the better takes place in the prospects of the season, he should keep the Board thoroughly informed of the state of his district and the condition of the people by the submission of *weekly* reports on the subject.

3. The Board have not yet received the Cultivation Report for October, but they are glad to observe that the cultivation of the district in September was nearly 50,000 acres in excess of the cultivation up to the same month last year.

No. 531. ORDER THEREON, 28th November 1867, No. 2,826.

Miscellaneous.

1. Ordered that the above papers be communicated to the Department Public Works, in view to the issue of such orders as may ensure the full employment of the available allotments on works which will afford the means of earning a livelihood to the poorer classes.

2. The Board will submit, for the information of Government, the further reports they may receive from the districts regarding which apprehension is felt, and will consider the expediency of re-establishing the weekly telegraph reports until all cause for anxiety is removed.

3. The Board's attention may also, with advantage, be directed to ensuring the more accurate preparation of the regular monthly season reports. It is observed that the general report for the month of October, which was received a few days ago, gives little or no indication of any impending disaster.

4. From the present appearance of the weather, the Government trust that the monsoon has now fairly set in, and that all cause for apprehension of further failure will speedily be removed; but it will be well for the Collectors to be fully prepared to set going works suited for relief purposes, in the event of necessity arising for affording such aid, and they will at once direct their attention to the selection of such works beforehand, and report them to Government. They may rely on the requisite funds being placed at their disposal on application made and due cause being shewn.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department.
,, the Board of Revenue.

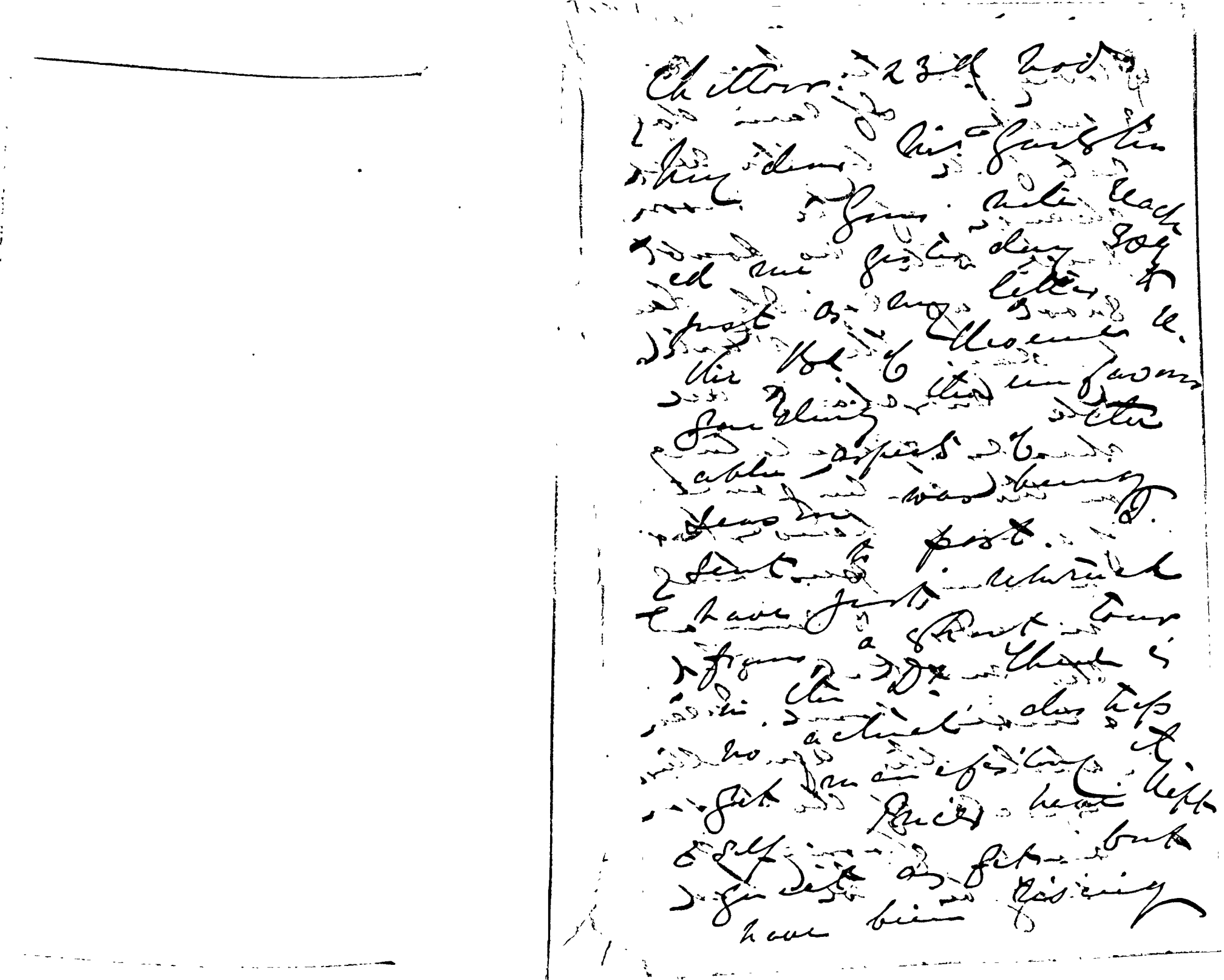
Exd S. T. Augustin.

My dear Ellis

The Govt desired me to send you the enclosed letter from J. D. Robins on with a request that you would bring it at Council tomorrow

Yrs truly
D. H. Gamble

25/11/69



Revenue Depart.

No. 2826.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.
under date the 28th Nov. 1867.

Read the follg.
-ing Pro: of the Bd of Rev.

Submitting for information of Govt. letter from Colr. of Madras on the state of the crops in the Dt. requesting Colr. to submit weekly reports on the subject and Colrs. of North Arcot, South Arcot and Nellore to report progress of harvest in their respective charges and recommending a liberal expenditure on irrigation works in the Dt. of Madras.

(Here enter 22nd Nov. 1867.)

Submitting letter from Colr. of North Arcot reporting on the present state of the season in that Dt. and calling for from the Colrs. weekly reports on the subject.

(Here enter 25th do. do.)

Ordered that the above papers be communicated to the Secy.

Department Public Works in view to the issue of such orders as may ensure the full employment of the available establishments on works which will afford the means of earning a livelihood to the poorer classes -

The Board will submit for the information of Govt the further reports they may receive from the Districts regarding which apprehension is felt - and will consider the expediency of re establishing the weekly telegraph reports until all cause for anxiety is removed -

The Board's attention may also with advantage be directed to ensuring the more accurate preparation of the regular monthly

season reports - It is observed that the general report for the month of October which was received a few days ago - gives little or no indication of any impending disaster -

From the present appearance of the weather the Govt trust that the monsoon has now fairly set in - and that all cause for apprehension of ~~further~~ failure will speedily be removed but it will be well for the Collectors to be fully prepared to set going works suited for relief purposes in the event of necessity arising for affording such aid - and they may safely rely on the requisite funds being placed at their disposal on

and they will at once direct their attention to the selection of such works where local and urgent relief may be required

on application, and
due cause being shown -

Copies to the Dr. Depts Dec 1st 38
14 " " B. L. Rec'd

Reported to England,
D/ 11th January No. 1 of 1868
Mis:

Revenue 1867 Despte
Pro of Govt for Mores

No 2826

Pro of the Madras Govt
D/ 28 November 1867

No. 529 @ 531.