Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1339

DATED 10th March 97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording Board's Proc. submg. to Govt. a further report on the state of the season in N. Arcot up to the middle of February 1897.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

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Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 949

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
16 MAR 97

Abstract sent for C.R.
Mr. Engg. Chief Engineer.

5/3/97

Order nisi No. 1339 dt 10th March 1897

8/3/97 R.H. 9.3.97

Recorded.

From Board of Revenue
Revenue Settlement, Land
Records and Agriculture
Madras

No. 156

16/3/97.

Dated 25th February 1897

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Enclosures

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To the Board (Sells)
To the Lt. M. Dept
To the D.P.W.
To the Fin. Dept

Sd. 12-3-97

RS
5-3-97

SUBJECT.

Season

Submitting to Government, a further report on the state of the — in North Arcot up to the middle of February 1897.

c. 6/3/97.
R. 10/3/97.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
MS	402	19-12-96	
MS.	54	25-1-97	

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G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGRI.), 25TH FEB. 1897, No. 156.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

READ—the following letter from S. H. WYNNE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Chittoor, 16th February 1897, Ref. on Cur. No. 365-Ver.:—

With reference to B.P., dated 19th December 1896, No. 452, paragraph 2, I have the honour to submit a further report on the state of affairs up to the middle of this month. My last report read in B.P., No. 54, dated 25th January 1897, was for the period ending with the middle of last month.

2. I thought it advisable that the Divisional Officers should tour in the two affected tracts early in this month.

3. The Head-Quarter Deputy Collector writes in respect of Punganúr as follows:—

"With reference to your endorsement Dis. No. 435-Ver., dated 31st January 1897, I beg to report that I traversed through the tracts named below of the Punganúr division from the 2nd to the 7th instant—which tracts were considered in previous inspections as containing the parts most affected from insufficient or untimely rains."

* * * * * *

"Throughout these tracts I was gratified to observe that the ragi crop, which put forth fresh ears after the rains of November, had actually yielded a fair outturn, ranging from 2 to 8 annas according to the luxuriance of the growth in November and the extent of the subsequent showers. Not a single field that revived to any extent by the November rains appears to have gone for nothing. Even in Vadavamaladinne (in tract No. 3), with the exception probably of one or two fields that were allowed to be grazed by cattle indiscriminately, the ragi plants did yield a crop as could be ascertained from the harvested heaps on the fields and from the little ears at the stumps still on the ground, which when rubbed between the hands contained some grains, which was beyond my best expectations during the November inspection. In the first four tracts, the harvested ears with the stalks were available on the fields themselves for inspection, though even among them the larger ears which matured before the rest had been separately removed and unhusked. In the villages of tracts 5 and 6, the ears had generally been removed and only heaps of the stalks were available for inspection, and from the size of these and from the diminutive ears still attaching to the stumps on the ground and from enquiry, it could be made out that the yield in these tracts was not inferior to the rest. In Nellimanda, Turukapalli and Burujupalli of tract No. 5, where the revived growth seemed particularly poor in the beginning of December, there was some crop. Anumulu, kandulu and horse-gram have been, or are being, harvested for the past few weeks, and there are still some pods of them on the ground, which are green and will be gathered in a few days. The outturn is fair, though not as good as might be expected with some good showers in December and January. Gingelly and coriander in parts here and there are near harvesting and look fairly well. Castor plants are of small size and are not likely to yield more than a four anna crop on an average.

"Sugarcane is on the whole in fair condition, though here and there it is of very stunted growth and not likely to be of much use for any other purpose than replantations on fresh lands, for which purpose I have observed the ryots using the canes with the assurance that they would be useful.

"The paddy crops are trifling, except here and there in specially favoured places.

"Jonna, now about two months, and sanigalu (Bengal-gram), about a month old, are looking well in tank-beds and in the ayacuts of tanks in several places, but as scarcely any supplies of water are now available, it is doubtful how far jonna, which exists in considerable areas throughout the tracts inspected, and which requires some moistening now and then, will bear against the hot season.

"*Water-supply.*—Most of the tanks are dried up. The Sankararoyalpet tank (in tract No. 1) has a fair supply for the season. The Kurubpalli tanks (in tract No. 3), two tanks in Ellamboilu and Chandramakulapalli (in tract No. 4), two kuntas of Rudrayyaganipalli (in tract No. 6) and Irikipenta tank (in tract No. 5) have some supplies of water still, but they are all mostly reserved for cattle and for jonna. A little stream adjoining Adusupalli, Pillaluvandlapalli and Gunta Cheruvupalli, which takes its source at the surplus weir of the Irikipenta tank, has living springs which water fresh paddy, jonna, sugarcane and other cultivations

along its course. The other streams in the tracts traversed are almost dried up. The field wells which exist wherever there is sugarcane cultivation, the tanks wherever they contain water either directly from rain or by pits dug therein for the purpose of irrigating sugarcane, jonna and other crops, and springs here and there constitute the only existing sources of water for cattle.

"There are wells throughout the zemindari containing fair supplies, except in villages built on high and rocky grounds where wells could not be successfully sunk. The supplies are for the present and for some time to come sufficient for drinking purposes, and in some villages, such as the Malappolliem of Ulappadu, Vanaganipalli, Chowdepalli, Kagati and Madigapalli of Somala, where additional facilities for drinking water were found possible and necessary, instructions have been given to the Deputy Tahsildar to have either new wells sunk on spots pointed out by me in consultation with the villagers or to have the existing sources improved. For the latter purpose in some localities, it is considered desirable to wait so that the existing water in those sources might get sufficiently low for useful improvement. Villagers and village munsifs throughout are being encouraged to sink new wells for public drinking purposes on promises of sufficient contribution from Local Funds in cases where they might find suitable springs. This has been considered the best way of meeting solicitations for new wells in doubtful localities and to prevent wastage of public funds where the very persons most interested would not venture some amount of preliminary self-exertion.

"The state of affairs in this respect throughout the zemindari is after all only what generally exists there in ordinary years in the months of April and May.

"The cattle are in very fair condition throughout, and there is sufficient pasture and fodder available; the latter from the recent and still-continuing harvests. Pasture is getting dry as usual in the hot season.

"The condition of the people is for the present good. They have had some outturn of crops which may last for some months, and the labouring classes are getting work in sugarcane harvesting and replanting on fresh fields, baling water, preparing bricks, building and re-thatching houses, gathering tamarind fruit and *kunuga* seeds, fetching firewood, attending to fields now under harvest, working at the threshing-floor and similar other works, which yield them wages decidedly more remunerative than the Famine Code rates.

"In Aradikunta and similar other villages where the people expressed themselves before as living on '*gotti gaddalu*' and 'aloe' roots, I find the poor having supplies, large and small, of ragi and some pulses, and the people are generally more busy and cheerful than I found them at my last two inspections, they themselves saying in answer to my queries as to their condition and circumstances, that for a month or two they would not think of coming for any State relief works on famine wages.

"In Sankararoyalpet shandy on the 2nd instant, the price of ragi was 24 measures per rupee; elsewhere the people were saying that they were getting the grain at 22 measures or so. Rice, second sort, has been selling at rates ranging between 10 and 11 measures the rupee, the measure being of 75 tolas.

"On the whole, though at present there is no necessity for grave apprehensions in respect of the state of affairs in the division, there is need for frequent inspections and careful watching as to the sources of water-supply and the means of livelihood available for the poorer and working classes. The village munsifs in many places and the more important landholders have in several places at present only too much work to get done by the labouring classes, who are after all not many for this sparsely populated zemindari."

* * * * *

"With reference to the Deputy Tahsildar's report as to the existence of poor people in some villages, in respect of whom the question of giving money doles might be considered, I have been making particular enquiries, asking the Deputy Tahsildar to name the villages which I might specially inspect for the purpose. Two or three villages were named, viz, Mutukur (in tract No. 1), Tirumalareddipalli (tract No. 2) and Nadumpalli (in tract No. 5). But in none of these could it be seen that there were people who were helpless or in the least willing to be fed any otherwise than by money doles."

4. Prices have been remarkably steady and the price of ragi has never even for a day varied from that reported at the end of paragraph 1 of my last report, viz., 18·48 seers of 80 tolas.

5. With regard to the Pakala firka of Chandragiri, the Head Assistant Collector writes as follows:—

"I have the honour to state that, with reference to your foot-note Dis. No. 435-Ver., dated 31st January 1897, I this week visited the villages of the Pakala firka, a list of which is enclosed.

"All the tanks of the firka, with one exception, are dry, and in the villages visited, almost the entire ayacut of the tanks was uncultivated. Sugarcane, paddy, jonna and ragi under wells and channels look fair at present. The water in the wells is nearly everywhere very low, and in some cases the use of the *kapila* is already impossible. This want of water for irrigation purposes is worst in the villages in the neighbourhood of Panapakam. I saw a number of fields on which crops had been raised and subsequently abandoned owing to insufficient water-supply in the wells.

"The condition of cattle employed in baling and other agricultural operations is good, and the others are generally in fair condition. There was hardly any complaint of want of pasture, as in most cases there are forest reserves available for grazing. The ryots complained, however, of the grazing fees for cattle having been raised from 2 to 3 annas, which they say is a great hardship in a season like the present. The Gollas everywhere made the usual complaint about the exclusion of goats from 'reserved forests.'

"In all the villages visited the people (adults and children) were mustered. The children all looked healthy and there were no signs of actual want except among a few old people in Nadumpalli who had no relations to help them.

"In some of the villages near Panapakam and in Valeivedu and Mogarala in the Damalcheruvu valley the Wodders and Malas asked for work, and some said they would come for famine wages. Inquiries, however, showed that most of them were at present getting some employment and being paid wages greatly in excess of those they would receive under famine rates. The chief present forms of employment of labouring classes are deepening wells, gathering firewood for jaggery-boiling, jaggery-boiling and harvesting ground-nut. The loudest complaints of want of work were made in Valeivedu, but here as elsewhere there were no signs of want of food, and I doubt very much if the applicants would as yet work at famine rates.

"Scarcity of water for drinking purposes is felt especially in the villages between Panapakam and Pakala. The following are the works taken in hand by the Taluk Board:—

(1) Deepening well at Panapakam.
(2) New well at Adigalavandlapalli.
(3) New well at Gadanki.
(4) Well at Mogarala.
(5) Deepening well at Gorpaud Malapalli.

Of these (1) is complete and the villagers say there will now be plenty of drinking water for their village. The whole amount sanctioned has been spent on No. 4, but the revetment is incomplete, and this will have to be finished at an additional cost of Rs. 50. I have called on the Tahsildar to submit proposals at once for deepening other wells in the Pakala firka so as to ensure that drinking water will be available at a reasonable distance from all the places where scarcity is felt."

6. Prices at Chandragiri (nearest recording station) have also been steady, viz., 18·81 seers for ragi throughout the month.

RESOLUTION—dated 25th February 1897, No. 156.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. There does not appear to be any present cause to anticipate distress in Punganúr nor in the Pakala firka of Chandragiri taluk, but the situation requires the continued watchfulness of the District officers. The Deputy Collector's estimate of the crop outturn in Punganúr is possibly somewhat sanguine, but, as long as ragi remains at or near its present price, there is no likelihood of relief measures being necessary.

3. The attention of the Land Revenue Department will be drawn to the reported complaints as to the recent raising of grazing fees near Pakala.

(True Copy and Extract.)

R. V. Sankaran
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of North Arcot.
" Land Revenue Department.
Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. P. Seetharam.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed March 2nd.

Proceedings, 25*th Feb.* 1897, *No.* 156.

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Season.—Submitting to Government, a further report on the state of the — in North Arcot up to the middle of February 1897.