Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 168

DATED 15th March 1897.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording P.P. submg. copy of letter from the Dy. Coll.r reporting on the reason in Cumbum Div.n & effects of the Nov.r rains.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Revenue (1897) Department.

Dr. 15/3

CURRENT No. 2/152

From the Secretary to Govt Madras Revenue Department 10 MAR 97

From the Secretary to the Govt of Madras
To the Board of Revenue
Dated the 1st March 1897
No. 1680 Revenue

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

No. 175 Press

Order Press

Recorded 11/3/97

Dated 1st March 1897

Received 10-3-97

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Enclosures

Spare copies

The Board (Settlt) keeps 10/3/97
The Com Deptt
The Deputy Secy
The Finance Deptt
The A-G.

RS
10-3-97

60/6

SUBJECT.

Season in Cumbum Division

Submitting copy of letter from the Deputy Collector reporting on the - and effects of the November rains.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Ms.	329	3-12-96	
Ms	6700	19-11-96.	

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed, March th.

Proceedings, 1st March 1897, No. 175.

MARCH.

Season in Cumbum Division.—Submitting copy of letter from the Deputy Collector reporting on the — and effects of the November rains.

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

READ—the following letter from H. M. D. MAHOMED SUFDER HUSSAIN SAIB Bahadur, Deputy Collector, Cumbum Division, to the Collector of Kurnool, dated Markapur, 18th February 1897, Dis. No. A-Rev. :—

Referring to your R.C. No. 3005-Eng., dated the 26th December 1896, I have the honour to submit the report called for therein.

2. *Cumbum taluk.*—In the penultimate sentence of paragraph 3 of my report printed in B.P. (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), dated 3rd December 1896, No. 389, I stated: "From January to December the average area cultivated during the past five years is 133,204 acres; against this we have up to the end of October 111,684 acres only under cultivation. The difference of 21,520 represents the waste which will remain as a result of the failure of north-east monsoon."

Happily this monsoon was not altogether a failure as was apprehended. Though late, a moderately reasonable and seasonable supply of water came in the middle of November last. Fresh cultivation speedily followed this rainfall. From the latest masawari account to hand, it appears that no less than 27,144 acres were brought under the plough. This figure added to that representing the cultivation up to October gives us a total area of acres 138,828, which is less than the average cultivation of the taluk by 2,582 acres. But the decrease may not be altogether due to the late and scanty rainfall for the total cultivation of the past fasli was only 134,426 acres.

3. The crops standing on the fields at the critical time to which my first report relates were paddy, varigalu, ragi and arika, &c. I estimated they would yield not more than 4-anna outturn. The rains of November falsified this forecast. Under its reviving influence the dry crops yielded between 4 and 8 annas. Paddy overleaped the limit of my estimate. Leaving out of account a few favoured localities (Aurungabad, Rampaud, &c.), which yielded a bumper harvest, the yield throughout was between 12 to 16 annas.

4. The fresh crops that were sown after the rains of November are varigalu, gram, wheat and Bengal gram. These are all now flourishing.

5. As I have already reported a combination of the greedy merchants had tended to force the prices up of our food-grains and to keep the stock of these grains out of market. Immediately the rain referred to fell, the prices not only found their level, but the grains began to be exposed freely for sale.

The fall of prices was, of course, transient. The prices have been slowly rising since then. The prices which rule in the market now are given in the margin.

	Cumbum.	Markapur.
Rice	8·8	9·9
Ragi	16·5	19·8
Cholum	16·5	...
Cumbu	14·8	15·6

Geographically we lie in the centre of a semi-circle along the circumference of which runs the famine zone. So long as this is the case, our prices must remain to be affected by causes which are not local.

6. *Markapur taluk.*—As a result of the rain of November last no less than 24,963 acres were cultivated with fresh crops. The crops that now stand on the ground are paddy, ragi, castor, cotton, horsegram, varigalu, &c. Their condition is good. In my previous report it was stated arika is a complete failure. Next comes korra. As for variga there is still a prospective hope of yield should monsoon turn out favourable. Cotton, kandi, castor and other pulses maintain their greenness; they are very much stunted. Ragi grown in dry fields should certainly stand on all (*sic*) with

those of arika and korra. Early jonna might be estimated at something between 12 and 4 annas. Late jonna is again a failure. Sajja excepting under wells will mostly yield nothing in most places. The beneficial effect of the rain can be gathered from the fact that the once-given up arika received a fresh lease of life and yielded from 4—8 annas, ragi followed suit; castor overleaped all expectations and in some places yielded 16 annas.

7. The most incalculable benefit derived from the late rains in this taluk is that it removed all anxiety for drinking water which was diminishing rapidly and was threatening to become a source of great public calamity.

Pasture at once became available and the condition of cattle began to improve.

8. As I am writing this report, the sky is overcast with clouds and there are indications of rain having fallen on the Dornal side. The official reports have reached me that Cumbum was blessed with good showers and that the Tegaleru is in freshes.

9. In conclusion I beg I may not be understood as holding the position that our season has been one of unqualified prosperity. All I wish to convey is that the adversity that was staring us in the face has been kept out of door by the blessed rains of November.

10. I regret the delay that has occurred in the submission of this report. It was necessary that I should have the figures of cultivation up to the latest date possible and they were made available only a few days ago. I thought it also necessary that I should travel over the whole areas I had travelled before and take a camp (*sic*) survey of the country before I submit the report.

ENCLOSURE.

STATEMENT of the areas sown in the affected taluks of the Kurnool district in 1896–97 up to January, compared with the averages up to that date and the averages for the whole year.

	First crop.						Second crop.					
	Dry.			Wet.			Dry.			Wet.		
	Up to January		Annual average.	Up to January		Annual average	Up to January		Annual average.	Up to January		Annual average.
	1897.	Average.		1897.	Average.		1897.	Average.		1897.	Average.	
	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.
Markapur ..	122,877	125,356	128,142	2,816	5,213	5,444	10,469	6,939	9,253	177	288	688
Cumbum ..	119,675	114,848	118,596	10,930	11,537	13,286	6,447	6,359	7,309	1,473	2,060	3,469
Total ..	242,552	240,704	246,738	13,746	16,750	18,730	16,916	13,298	16,562	1,650	2,348	4,157

Endorsement by the Acting Collector of Kurnool, dated 23rd February 1897, Dis. No. 492-Eng.

Copy submitted to the Board for information with reference to B.P., dated 3rd December 1896, No. 389, and dated 19th December 1896, Mis. No. 6784.

RESOLUTION—dated 1st March 1897, No. 175.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The latest cultivation returns for January show that the area of dry land brought to account as sown is up to the average, but that of the wet land nearly one-fourth has been left waste. As to second sowings, those on dry land, have been up to the average for a full year, but on wet, are not much more than two-thirds of what is customary.

3. The situation in these taluks is, for the present, not such as to cause anxiety, but in the face of the extremely high prices prevailing, and the very moderate crops secured, needs careful watching. Fortunately, these taluks are well off for wells and offer many inducements for the extension of well irrigation, and the Board considers that the Divisional Officer should devote his most careful attention to the encouragement of well-sinking by the aid of the State loans. The repairs of minor irrigation works should also be taken in hand so far as funds permit.

(True Copy and Extract.)

R. V. Srinivasachari
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of Kurnool.

Exd. P. Seetharam.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. }1897. *Enclosures*
Regd. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 168, 15th March 1897.

MARCH.

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting copy of letter from the Deputy Collector reporting on the season in Cumbum Division and effects of the November rains.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

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	1897.	Average.		1897.	Average.		1897.	Average.		1897.	Average.	
	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.
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(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
,, Collector of Kurnool.

Order—No. 168, Revenue, dated 15th March 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).
,, the Local and Municipal Department.
,, the Public Works Department.
,, the Financial Department.
,, the Accountant-General.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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