

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 530

Dated 3rd July 1897.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Examine-^{re} of Estimates, Handicraft Tools.

According report from the Secretary to Govt.
P. W. Depar^t and the Third Member of
Board of Revenue — in the South Arcat &
requesting the Chief Engineer to favour
with his opinion on certain works refer
to in the report, and stating that the Hand
Crafter should be supplied with
suggestions made
plentiful supply
Trunk Kayilurra

No. 38.
5th 1897

BACK PAPERS.

Q. No.	Department	Date	Q. No.	Department	Date

FORWARDED PAPERS.

Q. No.	Department	Date	Q. No.	Department	Date
Cus 9213/97		5838			
		12.11.87			
Cus 551/98		38			
		18.1.88			

on the river
to therein regu
of stone near
way station.

Revenue Department



From the Chief Engineer &
Secretary to Govt. P.W.D.
and
the third member,
Board of Revenue

To The Secretary to Govt.
Rev Dept.

Dated 22nd } June 1897
Respd 23rd }
No. H.

Subject

Reporting on the Famine
relief works estimates,
famine tools, &c., in the
S. Arcot District with
reference to G.O. No. 38
dated 25th May 1897.

msd
25/6/97

Letter H.

Can. 21
June 22nd 1897.
Despatched 23rd June 1897.

From

The Hon. Col. D. M. Campbell, R.E.
Chief Engineer and Secretary to
Government, P.W.D.,
and

H. M. Winterbotham Esquire,
Third Member, Board of Revenue.

To
The Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department,

Sir,

In continuation of our
letter G dated June 19th 1897,
we have the honor to submit
the following report on the
District of South Arcot.

1. We reached Cuddalore on
June 20th, and were met by
the

the Collector and the Executive Engineer. Owing to June 21st and 22nd being public holidays we were also able to meet all the Divisional Officers.

Mr. Castle Stuart Stuart, the permanent Collector, has been continuously in the District for nearly four years, and is well acquainted with all parts of it. The Sub Collector, Mr. Muhammad Raza Khan has ^{been} in charge of his Division for nearly three years and knows it thoroughly.

General Condition of the District. In 1896 the South-West Monsoon rains were very deficient, giving a District average, from April to September, of 12.92 inches against a 20 years' average of 16.29 inches.

As in Chingleput and Killore, the North-East Monsoon was very late, the rains in October giving only an average of 3.18 inches, against a 20 years' average of 8 inches.

Very heavy rains set in in the middle of November, and the District average of the North-East Monsoon shows 30.46 inches, against a 20 years' average of 22 inches. The heavy rains did no extensive damage, and the wet crops and late dry crops which they secured were decidedly good.

The early dry crops were short and poor, especially in Tindivanam Taluk, which is the poorest and most arid part of the District.

February 4

many of the current year
the was marked by an unusual
in fall of rain giving a District -
2. average of 2.38 inches. This
is again filled up many of the
9 tanks, produced pasture, and
benefited the second and garden
crops.

Since February to May 31st
the pre-monsoon rains have been
unusually heavy in three taluks,
and somewhat deficient in
others. In the current month
the fall has ^{been} favourable and
well distributed, - the District
average from April 1st to June
19th being 4.04 inches, against
3.34 inches the average of the
preceding three years.

3. Cultivation. Both the dry and
wet

wet cultivation up to ^{our} May 31st
were well over the average of the
last five years, and the current
months' sowings will probably
show a large excess over the average.

Sowing on a large scale,
however, should not be looked for
till the middle of July.

Prospects up to date certainly
warrant the expectation that
the coming early-crop season
may be more than ordinarily
favourable to agriculture.

4. Prices. The following statement
shows the prices of the principal
food grains for the week ending
June 19th, as compared with the
normal, warning and scarcity
rates.

many of the
rates:-

Stations	Prices in imperial seers of 80 tolas per mubee of											
	Rice				Ragi				Cumin			
	For week ending June 19 1897	Normal	warning	Scarcity	For week ending June 19 1897	Normal	warning	Scarcity	For week ending June 19 1897	Normal	warning	Scarcity
Tindivanam	11.4				16.7				16.9			
Tiruvannamalai	10.9				15.9				16.9			
Tirukkoyilur	11.4				17.5				16.9			
Villupuram	12.3				17.5				16.9			
Panruti	12.3				19.1				20.1			
Cuddalore	10.5	14.0	11.2	8.2	17.9	28.0	21.0	14.0	17.3	26.0	19.5	13.0
Tiruppapattinam	11.4				17.5				16.9			
Porto Novo	11.8				17.5				16.9			
Chidambaram	11.4				17.5				17.7			
Vidduchalam	12.3				22.3				21.6			
Kallakurichi	14.0				22.3				21.6			
District Average	11.8				18.3				18.2			

The District average price of rice has not yet reached the warning rate. Rice is rather dearer than the warning rate in Cuddalore,

where

where its price is highest. ^{our best} quantities of rice are being exported from Cuddalore to Ceylon by sea, and this somehow keeps the retail price above the District average. We learn that there are still large stocks of rice in the town.

As regards the price of dry grains the parts furthest from the rail-ways are best off. In two taluks prices have not reached warning rates. In Tindivanam, the worst part of the District, prices are about half way.

between warning and scarcity rates. In the taluks of Tindivanam, Tiruvannamalai, Kallakurichi and Vidduchalam the area cultivated for the Varagu is greater than the

mass of both ragi and
Cumbu together. Varagu, the
cheapest of all the dry grains,
is thus very largely consumed,
and we have no information
as to its price. It is usually
alleged that there is no trade
in Varagu: that it is not
commonly offered for sale in
the bazars; but that the
small puttadars sell their
better grains, and keep their
stocks of Varagu for home use.

5. Exports and Imports. Since
February 13th 3.21 lakhs of
maunds of grain have been
exported by sea, and 2.86 lakhs
by rail. This is exclusive of
exports to Pondicherry. From
January to May the French Govt.

dalore,

18th

18th

has collected duty on 3.12 to
on over 54,000 maunds of rice,
shipped at Pondicherry. The extra-
ordinary export of rice by sea to
Ceylon is, we are informed, due
to the fact that the supply usually
drawn by Ceylon from the Godavari
Delta has this year been directed
northwards by famine prices in
that direction. There have been no
imports of grain by sea. The imports
by rail since the middle of February
amount to 52,000 maunds.

6. The current high prices in
this District are due entirely to
scarcity elsewhere coupled with
facilities for exportation by sea
and rail. All the local officers
are agreed that the District popu-
lation can subsist easily on its
own

own resources till the next harvest,
and that the District will prearrange
no cause for anxiety unless the
South-west and North-East mon-
soons should both fail. There
seems no ground whatever at
present to apprehend the occur-
rence of such a calamity.

7. Famine Programme. The Famine
Programme includes works the
approximate cost of which is
Rs. 38,53,447 sufficient to give em-
ployment to 24 per cent of the
population for three months.

The amount of the Sanctioned
estimates which were laid before
us is Rs. 9,84,442. These are ready
for immediate execution and
may be divided as follows:-

Irrigation Works, D.P.W.,	154,755
Local Fund Roads	113,141
Minor Irrigation Works	716,546
Total	984,442

this will give employment ^{on} to
131,312 persons or 6.3 per cent of
the population for three months.
By far the greater portion of the
sanctioned estimates are for
minor irrigation works. It was
impossible for us to examine
each estimate in detail, but
from a number of specimens
selected at random we
conclude that in many instances
the calculations of earth-work are
incorrect. The Collector has
arranged to have the estimates
revised and corrected.

The total number of minor
irrigation works estimated for
is 1,717; the average cost of each
is therefore only Rs. 417, which
would

would employ 55 coolies for three months and the amount of supervision necessary would be so great that it is doubtful if it would be advisable to attempt to carry out the works under the rules of the Famine Code.

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Irrigation Works, I.P.A., R. 875,799 | |
| 2. | Local Fund Roads | 5,46,075 |
| 3. | Minor Local Fund Roads | 2,07,725 |
| 4. | Miscellaneous | 6,89,448 |
| | | <hr/> 23,19,047 <hr/> |
- * This includes Rs. 4,16,022 for extension of Buckingham Canal.

Under 1 most of the works -
require further investigation
and as this cannot be done
with the present reduced establishment,

they should not be depended on
for relief purposes.

2 and 3 are sanctioned, there will be work to the amount of Rs. 9,84,442 + Rs. 7,53,800 or Rs. 17,38,242 available for immediate execution, and if the sum of Rs. 7,16,546 for minor irrigation works be omitted, the amount available will be Rs. 10,21,696 or sufficient for 6-3 per cent of the population for 3 months; and considering the present state of the District, we believe that this is ample provision till next November.

9. There are some works of considerable magnitude on which large bodies of coolies could be massed. These are

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1. Improving Chidambaram drainage | } 90,000 |
| 2. Extension of the Buckingham Canal from Thanbakkam to Kottakuppam | } 4,16,022 |

3. Raising the Coleroon left flood bank } 150,000

* Entered in the famine programme at Rs. 43,400 but further investigation gives Rs. 1,50,000 as the approximate cost.

4. Repairs to Vadamar channel } 63,137

5. Repairs to Veeranam Tank 37,700

6. Flood bank of the Gadilam river } 20,000

7. Flood bank of the Periyar 30,000

8,06,859

These would all be most excellent relief works. No. 1 work has already been sanctioned. The estimate for No. 2 work is said to be ready but we were unable to get any information regarding it, as it is under the Inspecting

Engineer

Engineer, 2nd Circle; however we ascertained that the line will pass through French territory and this might cause delay in the execution of the work.

For works nos. 3, 4 and 5, the estimates are being prepared by Col. Smart and we were unable to ascertain in what stage they now are.

Estimates for nos. 6 and 7 have not been prepared and without special establishment this cannot be done.

We suggest that the Chief Engineer for Irrigation be asked to give his opinion regarding all these works.

These seven works with five or six of the larger roads would give employment to a considerable number of persons and would not

not require much supervision.

10. In the, at present unlikely, event of a severe famine in South Arcot, there is, we think, another method by which useful employment might be found for a great number of relief-workers in one place.

No stone for roads is procurable in Tanjore, nor throughout the greater part of South Arcot. A plentiful supply exists in the vicinity of the Tirukkoyilur railway station.

Relief workers might be employed in breaking stone at Tirukkoyilur, and if the South Indian Railway Company could arrange to transport the broken stone at favourable rates, the stock might be gradually drawn upon by the District Boards.

of South coast and Tanjore for the metalling of their roads.

A great part of the outlay on relief might thus be recouped.

We understand that in respect of salubrity, water supply and suitability for the requirements of a large relief camp, TiruKKoyilur is favourably situated.

11. Tools. There are so few tools in store that we did not think it necessary to examine them:

they were lately counted by the Executive Engineer and consist of the following:-

Pick axes 152

Crowbars 6

Mamooties 394.

All the stone-breaking hammers and rammers have been transferred to

to the famine Districts. 10P

The number of tools in store is altogether inadequate and we recommend that the quantity to be kept should be the same as we stated to be necessary in the case of North coast.

12. Establishment. Out of a sanctioned strength of seven upper subordinates, three have been withdrawn for famine duty and one more is wanted.

We have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servants

J. H. Campbell Col., R.E.

Chief Engineer & Secretary
to Govt., P.W.D.

H. M. Unterhans

Third Member, Board of Rev.

C No. 5278/97

From Report regarding the famine relief programme, famine tools &c, in the South West Dist.
Dated 22-6-1897.

FOR ORDERS.

The Hon. Secy to Govt. C. & R.
The Hon. Secy to Govt. H. & R.
Secy to the Government

General condition and rainfall.
In 1896, the S. W. rains were deficient, giving a district average of 12.92 inches against a twenty years' average of 16.29 inches. The early ^{dry} crops were therefore short and poor. The N. E. monsoon began late, but the showers were heavy, which, however, did no extensive damage. The wet crops and the late dry crops were accordingly decidedly good. In February again there were unusual falls which filled many of the tanks, produced pasture and benefited the second and garden crops. Up to May 31st, the pre-monsoon rains were unusually heavy in three taluks and in June, the fall has been favourable and well-distributed.

C28/8/97
12/7/97

to attempt
would be advisable to carry out
the works under the rules of
the Famine Code. The ~~amounts~~ ^{details}
of estimates stated to be ready for sanction
are as under:—

(i) Irrigation works, S. W. D. including Rs 4.16 Lakhs for extension of Buckingham Canal.	Rs. 8.76 Lakhs.
(ii) Local Fund roads... Rs 5.46 ..	
(iii) Minor local fund roads... Rs 2.08 ..	
(iv) Miscellaneous Rs 6.89	
Total	Rs 23.19. Lakhs.

Most of the works under item (i)
require further investigation and
cannot be depended on for relief
purposes. The estimates under (ii) & (iii)
were laid before Messrs C & W
and only require the sanction
of the Local Boards which the
Collector has proposed to obtain
at once. Item (iv) consists
of small & scattered works
and will not admit of being
carried out under the rules
of the Famine Code. They
may do for village relief. Items
(ii) & (iii) above and the other sanc-
tioned works, including minor
irrigation works, aggregate in
cost Rs 10.22 Lakhs, ~~amounts~~

Name of works.	Cost in Rs.
1. Improving chudambaram obrain agv ...	90,000
2. Extension of the Buck- ingham Canal from Thampakkam to Vottathupam.	4,16,022.
3. Raising the Coleroon left bank.	1,50,000
4. Repairs to Vadanas channel-	63,137
5. Repairs to Vevanam tank	37,700
6. Flood bank of the Periyar -	20,000
7. Flood bank of the Periyar -	30,000

This may be done

By
S. M.

sufficiently employ 6.3 p.c.
of the population for 3 months
and considering the present
condition of the district,
Messrs C & W. are of opinion
that this is ample provision
till near November.

5. Large works on which
coolies could be massed.

There are a number of them,
all of which would be most
excellent relief works:—

Remarks.

already sanctioned.

Stated to be ready. The line
has to pass through French territory
which might cause delay in the
execution of the work.

The estimates are being pre-
pared by Col. Smart. In
what stage not known.

Estimates have not been prepared and
this cannot be done without special
establishment. Messrs C & W suggest.

Messrs Campbell & Winterbotham
suggest that the C. I. for Irrigation
be asked to give his opinion re-
garding all these works. They
state that these works with five
six of the larger ^{roads} ~~works~~ would do

2. Cultivation. of both dry & wet crops are well over the average and the prospects up to date warrant the expectation that the coming early crop season may be more than ordinarily favourable to agriculture.

3. Prices. Rice is generally selling below the warning rate ^{the prices at Madras & Calcutta are above} and ~~the prices are~~ ^{the price of the latter} midway between the warning and the scarcity rates. In three stations, ~~it is~~ ^{the price of the latter} cheaper than the ^{warning} ~~former~~ rate. The current high prices in the district are wholly due to scarcity elsewhere and coupled with facilities for exportation by sea and rail. There has been ^{an} extraordinary export of rice to Ceylon, ~~and this~~ is due to the fact that the supply usually drawn from Godavari has this year been diverted northwards by famine prices in that direction. All the local officers are agreed that the district population can subsist easily on its own resources till the next harvest and that the district will present

FOR ORDERS.

at 1000 ft. on the
first night when the
light in the house
fell in. It was in
the house.

12/24/2-

no cause for anxiety unless
the S. W. & the N. E. monsoons
should both fail.

4. Famine programme.

The famine programme includes works to the extent of Rs 38.53 lakhs, which is sufficient to give employment to 24 p. c. of the population for 3 months. Out of this, estimates which have been sanctioned and which are ready for immediate execution amount to Rs 9.84 lakhs; but from an examination of a number of these estimates selected at random, Messrs C & W. conclude that the calculation of earth-work ~~is~~ in many instances incorrect. The collector has arranged to have the estimates revised and corrected. By far the greater portion of the sanctioned estimates (Rs 7.16 lakhs) are for minor irrigation works. These works number 1,717 and are scattered throughout the district, and ~~is~~ considering the vast amount of supervision necessary, it is doubtful if it

to attempt
would be advisable to carry out
the works under the rules of
the Famine Code. The ^{details} ~~amount~~
of estimates stated to be ready for sanction
are as under:—

(i) Irrigation works, S. W. D. including Rs 4.16 Lakhs for extension of Buckingham Canal.	Rs. 8.76 Lakhs.
(ii) Local fund roads... Rs 5.46 ..	
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Total	Rs 23.19. Lakhs.

Most of the works under item (i)
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were laid before Messrs C & W
and only require the sanction
of the local Boards which the
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of the Famine Code. They
may do for village relief. Items
(ii) & (iii) above and the other sanc-
tioned works, including minor
irrigation works, aggregate in
cost Rs 10.22 lakhs, ~~or more~~

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7. Flood bank of the Permer	30,000

This was done
by
H. A. H.

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of the population for 3 months,
and considering the present
condition of the district,
Messrs C & W. are of opinion
that this is ample provision
till near November.

5. Large works on which
coolies could be massed.
There are a number of them,
all of which would be most
excellent relief works:—

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The estimates are being pre-
pared by Col. Smart. In
what stage not known.
Estimates have not been prepared and
this cannot be done without special
establishment. Messrs C & W suggest.
Messrs Campbell & Winterbotham
suggested that the C. E. for Irrigation
be asked to give his opinion re-
garding all these works. They
state that these works with five
six of the large ^{roads} ~~works~~ would do

give employment to a considerable number of persons & would not require much supervision. As an additional mode of employing large bodies of coolies in the event of a severe famine in S. Arcot, they suggest that in view of the fact that no stones for roads is procurable in Tanjore & throughout the greater portion of S. Arcot, relief workers may be employed in breaking stone at Tirunelveli, in the vicinity of which a plentiful supply exists, and that if the S. I. Ry. Co. could arrange to transport the broken stone at favorable rates, the stone might be gradually drawn upon by the D. Boards of the two districts for the metalling of their roads. Tirunelveli is reported to be favorably situated in respect of salubrity, water supply and suitability for the requirements of a large relief camp.

6. Tools. The ~~existing~~ existing stone is utterly inadequate and the scale recommended is the same as that for N. Arcot and is, as

this is a good idea

BS 29
2.5.11

It seems to be inadequate every where. This must be remedied when before WTC report generally at the end of their inspection.
Yes, if they are going 29
23/5/11

to send in a general final report, which can easily be ascertained, as I believe Ch. C. has returned to City. If not, this must be at the last of their reports & in passing over on it occasion should, I think, be taken to thank these two officers for their services. Incessant touring for nearly a month in subordination as they have been having in the plains is no joke - and the results of the tour have to my mind been most informing & useful. The officers of all the districts likely to be affected in case the S.W. monsoon should after all fail have been put on their guard & we know very fairly well how we are situated with respect to them. Personally, I consider this a great advantage & that the results of the tour have been well worth the trouble these two officers have taken.

BS
29/6/97

It is not sufficient a general report will be sent, and indeed, I do not think it is wanted. The reports by Districts have failed. I agree with the N. Arcot Hon. members, and I think their proposals should be as far as carried out.

A.H. 22.1.7.97

under:—

Stone-Hammers -	44,000
Mamooties	9,000
Pick axes	5,000
Runners	1,000
Crowbars	9,000
Sledge Hammers	500
Hand axes	500
Bill hooks	500
Instruments for clearing prickly pear	4,500
	<u>70,000</u>

7. Establishment. Out of a sanctioned strength of seven Upper Subordinates, three have been withdrawn for famine duty and one more is wanted.

RS
28-6-97

1/10/6/11

C. No 5278

G.O. (Pres) No 5300/3rd July 1897
Recorded

2. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation will be requested to favour Govt with his opinion on the seven works referred to in para 9. The Finance Commr will make the remarks and suggestions in para 10

11/7/97

List from orders.

The Finance Commr

The P.W.D. (W) (S)

checked 16/7/97

70/5

Print. Int to J.

Send order at once with copy of para 9.

recd 5/7/97

Rs 2-7-97

Government {1897} of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

Enclosures

} 1897.

Regd.

Spare copies

G.O., No. 530, 3rd July 1897.

JULY.

Famine-relief Estimates, Famine Tools, &c.

Recording report from the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, and the Third Member of the Board of Revenue — in the South Arcot district; requesting the Chief Engineer to favour Government with his opinion on certain works referred to in the report; and stating that the Famine Commissioner should note the remarks and suggestions made therein regarding the plentiful supply of stone near the Tirukkóvilur railway station.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following letter from the Hon'ble Colonel D. McNEIL CAMPBELL, R.E., Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, and H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Third Member, Board of Revenue, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Camp, Cuddalore, 22nd June 1897, Letter H:—

In continuation of our letter G, dated 19th June 1897, we have the honour to submit the following report on the district of South Arcot.

We reached Cuddalore on June 20th, and were met by the Collector and the Executive Engineer. Owing to June 21st and 22nd being public holidays, we were also able to meet all the Divisional officers.

Mr. Castlestuart Stuart, the permanent Collector, has been continuously in the district for nearly four years, and is well acquainted with all parts of it. The Sub-Collector, Mr. Muhammad Raza Khan, has been in charge of his division for nearly three years and knows it thoroughly.

2. *General condition of the district.*—In 1896 the south-west monsoon rains were very deficient, giving a district average, from April to September, of 12.92 inches against 20 years' average of 16.29 inches.

As in Chingleput and Nellore, the north-east monsoon was very late, the rains in October giving only an average of 3.18 inches against a 20 years' average of 8 inches.

Very heavy rains set in in the middle of November, and the district average of the north-east monsoon shows 30.46 inches against a 20 years' average of 22 inches. The heavy rains did no extensive damage, and the wet crops and late dry crops which they secured were decidedly good.

The early dry crops were short and poor, especially in Tindivanam taluk, which is the poorest and most arid part of the district. February of the current year was marked by an unusual fall of rain, giving a district average of 2.38 inches. This again filled up many of the tanks, produced pasture, and benefited the second and garden crops.

Since February to May 31st the pre-monsoon rains have been unusually heavy in three taluks, and somewhat deficient in others. In the current month the fall has been favourable and well distributed,—the district average from April 1st to June 19th being 4.04 inches, against 3.34 inches, the average of the preceding three years.

3. *Cultivation.*—Both the dry and wet cultivation up to May 31st were well over the average of the last five years, and the current month's sowings will probably show a large excess over the average.

Sowing on a large scale, however, should not be looked for till the middle of July. Prospects up to date certainly warrant the expectation that the coming early-crop season may be more than ordinarily favourable to agriculture.

4. *Prices.*—The following statement shows the prices of the principal food-grains for the week ending June 19th, as compared with the normal, warning and scarcity rates:—

Stations.	Prices in Imperial seers of 80 tolas per rupee of											
	Rice.				Ragi.				Cumba.			
	For week ending June 19th, 1897.	Normal.	Warning.	Scarcity.	For week ending June 19th, 1897.	Normal.	Warning.	Scarcity.	For week ending June 19th, 1897.	Normal.	Warning.	Scarcity.
Tindivanam ..	11.4				16.7				16.9			
Tiruvannamalai ..	10.9				15.9				16.9			
Tirukkóyilúr ..	11.4				17.5				16.9			
Villupuram ..	12.3				17.5				16.9			
Panruti ..	12.3				19.1				20.1			
Cuddalore ..	10.5	14.0	11.2	8.4	17.9	28.0	21.0	14.0	17.3	26.0	19.5	13.0
Tiruppápalayúr ..	11.4				17.5				16.9			
Porto Novo ..	11.8				17.5				16.9			
Chidambaram ..	11.4				22.3				17.7			
Vridhachalam ..	12.3				22.3				21.6			
Kallakurichi ..	14.0				22.3				21.6			
District average ..	11.8	..	..	..	18.3	..	..	..	18.2	..	..	..

The district average price of rice has not yet reached even the warning rate. Rice is rather dearer than the warning rate in Cuddalore, where its price is highest. Great quantities of rice are being exported from Cuddalore to Ceylon by sea, and this somehow keeps the retail price above the district average. We learn that there are still large stocks of rice in the town.

As regards the price of dry grains the parts farthest from the railways are best off. In two taluks prices have not reached warning rates. In Tindivanam, the worst part of the district, prices are about half way between warning and scarcity rates. In the taluks of Tindivanam, Tiruvannamalai, Kallakurichi and Vridhachalam the area cultivated with varagu is greater than the areas of both ragi and cumbu together. Varagu, the cheapest of all the dry grains, is thus very largely consumed, and we have no information as to its price. It is usually alleged that there is no trade in varagu; that it is not commonly offered for sale in the bazaars; but that the small pattadars sell their better grains and keep their stocks of varagu for home use.

5. *Exports and Imports.*—Since February 13th 3.21 lakhs of maunds of grain have been exported by sea and 2.86 lakhs by rail. This is exclusive of exports to Pondicherry. From January to May the French Government has collected duty on our behalf on over 54,000 maunds of rice shipped at Pondicherry. The extraordinary export of rice by sea to Ceylon is, we are informed, due to the fact that the supply usually drawn by Ceylon from the Gódvári delta has this year been diverted northwards by famine prices in that direction. There have been no imports of grain by sea. The imports by rail since the middle of February amount to 52,000 maunds.

6. The current high prices in this district are due entirely to scarcity elsewhere coupled with facilities for exportation by sea and rail. All the local officers are agreed that the district population can subsist easily on its own resources till the next harvest, and that the district will present no cause for anxiety unless the south-west and north-east monsoons should both fail. There seems no ground whatever at present to apprehend the occurrence of such a calamity.

7. *Famine Programme.*—The famine programme includes works, the approximate cost of which is Rs. 38,53,447, sufficient to give employment to 24 per cent. of the population for three months.

The amount of the sanctioned estimates which were laid before us is Rs. 9,84,442. These are ready for immediate execution and may be divided as follows:—

	RS.
Irrigation works, Public Works Department ..	1,54,755
Local Fund roads ..	1,13,141
Minor Irrigation works ..	7,16,546
Total ..	9,84,442

This will give employment to 131,312 persons, or 6.3 per cent. of the population, for three months. By far the greater portion of the sanctioned estimates are for minor irrigation works. It was impossible for us to examine each estimate in detail, but from a number of specimens selected at random, we conclude that in many instances the calculations of earth-work are incorrect. The Collector has arranged to have the estimates revised and corrected.

The total number of minor irrigation works estimated for is 1,717; the average cost of each is therefore only Rs. 417, which would employ 55 coolies for three months and the amount of supervision necessary would be so great that it is doubtful if it would be advisable to attempt to carry out the works under the rules of the Famine Code.

8. The amount of the estimates said to be ready for sanction is as follows:—

	RS.
(1) Irrigation works, Public Works Department	8,75,799 *
(2) Local Fund roads	5,46,075
(3) Minor Local Fund roads	2,07,725
(4) Miscellaneous	6,89,448
Total	23,19,047

Under (1) most of the works require further investigation and, as this cannot be done with the present reduced establishment, they should not be depended on for relief purposes.

The estimates under (2) and (3) were laid before us and only require the sanction of the Local Boards, and this the Collector proposes to obtain at once. The estimates under (4) were not available for inspection, as they were in the taluk offices. They are, for a number of small works, which would no doubt be useful for village relief, but they are open to the same objection as that raised in the case of minor irrigation works, viz., that they are too small and scattered to admit of their being carried out under the rules of the Famine Code. As soon as the estimates under (2) and (3) are sanctioned, there will be work to the amount of Rs. 9,84,442 + Rs. 7,53,800, or Rs. 17,38,242, available for immediate execution, and if the sum of Rs. 7,16,546 for minor irrigation works be omitted, the amount available will be Rs. 10,21,696 or sufficient for 6.3 per cent. of the population for three months; and considering the present state of the district, we believe that this is ample provision till next November.

9. There are some works of considerable magnitude on which large bodies of coolies could be massed. These are—

	RS.
(1) Improving Chidambaram drainage	90,000
(2) Extension of the Buckingham canal from Thambakam to Kottakuppam	4,16,022
(3) Raising the Coleroon left flood bank	1,50,000 †
(4) Repairs to Vadanar channel	63,137
(5) Repairs to Veeranam tank	37,700
(6) Flood bank of the Gadilam river	20,000
(7) Flood bank of the Penner	30,000
Total	8,06,859

These would all be most excellent relief works. No. (1) work has already been sanctioned. The estimate for No. (2) work is said to be ready, but we were unable to get any information regarding it, as it is under the Superintending Engineer, II Circle; however, we ascertained that the line will pass through French territory and this might cause delay in the execution of the work.

For works Nos. (3), (4) and (5), the estimates are being prepared by Colonel Smart and we were unable to ascertain in what stage they now are.

* This includes Rs. 4,16,022 for extension of Buckingham canal.

† Entered in the famine programme at Rs. 43,400, but further investigation gives Rs. 1,50,000 as the approximate cost.

Estimates for Nos. (6) and (7) have not been prepared, and without special establishment this cannot be done.

We suggest that the Chief Engineer for Irrigation be asked to give his opinion regarding all these works.

These seven works with five or six of the larger roads would give employment to a considerable number of persons and would not require much supervision.

10. In the—at present unlikely—event of a severe famine in South Arcot, there is, we think, another method by which useful employment might be found for a great number of relief workers in one place.

No stone for roads is procurable in Tanjore, nor throughout the greater part of South Arcot. A plentiful supply exists in the vicinity of the Tirukkóyilúr railway station.

Relief workers might be employed in breaking stone at Tirukkóyilúr, and if the South Indian Railway Company could arrange to transport the broken stone at favourable rates, the stock might be gradually drawn upon by the District Boards of South Arcot and Tanjore for the metalling of their roads. A great part of the outlay on relief might thus be recouped.

We understand that in respect of salubrity, water-supply and suitability for the requirements of a large relief camp, Tirukkóyilúr is favourably situated.

11. Tools.—There are so few tools in store that we did not think it necessary to examine them: they were lately counted by the Executive Engineer and consists of the following:—

Pick axes	152
Crowbars	6
Mamooties	394

All the stone-breaking hammers and rammers have been transferred to the famine district.

The number of tools in store is altogether inadequate, and we recommend that the quantity to be kept should be the same as we stated to be necessary in the case of North Arcot.

12. Establishment.—Out of a sanctioned strength of seven upper subordinates, three have been withdrawn for famine duty and one more is warned.

ORDER—No. 530, Revenue, dated 3rd July 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation will be requested to favour Government with his opinion on the seven works referred to in paragraph 9. The Famine Commissioner will note the remarks and suggestions in paragraph 10.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Famine Commissioner.
" Public Works Department (W.).
" " " (I.).

Exd C. M. Thambuswamy.

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