

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 535

Dated 5th July 1897.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Hamme-relief Works, Estimates and Hamme
-tools, &c.

Recording, with remarks, the joint report
of the Chief Engineer and Secretary to Govt.
P.W. Departt., and the Third Member of
the Board of Revenue on — in the Trichi.
nopoly D.L.

ZACK DAPHINS.

Revenue
~~Judicial~~ (1897) Department.

RRENT No.

JOHN F. PATTERSON

Order.

the Chief Engineer &
Secretary to Fort P. H. D.
the Third Member
of Board of Res.

No. 2

24 June 1897

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SUBJECT. .

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... works estimates
... famine tools & in
... diorpoly -

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Letter J. June 24th 1897.
Trichinopoly.

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

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

To The Secretary To Government,
Revenue Department,

Sir,

In continuation of our letter
& dated June 22nd 1897 we have
the honor to submit the following
report on the District of Trichinopoly.

We reached Trichinopoly on
June 22nd and on the 23rd and 24th

we

we met the acting Collector, the Superintending and Executive Engineer, all the Divisional officers and three out of the five Tahsildars. Mr. Macleod, the only European Revenue Officer, has been in the District since February 1st 1897. The Musiri Deputy Collector has been some years in the District. The two Probationary Deputy Collectors in charge of the other Divisions are young officers without much experience.

General Condition of the District.

3 Rainfall. The rainfall for 20 years ending 1892 gives an average of 34.2 inches for the District. To this the April-May rains contribute 4.60 inches, the South-west Monsoon 11.82 inches and the

the North-East Monsoon 16.53 inches.

In 1896 the District average was 34.8 inches. The fall in April-May was 2.82 inches: 10.65 inches fell in the South-west Monsoon, but there was little rain till September when the fall was unusually heavy. 21.2 inches fell in the North-East Monsoon and there was not the deficiency in October which was so marked in South West and Chingleput.

The October average rainfall was 6.42 inches against a 20 years' average of 7.24 inches. The only remarkable feature in last year's rainfall was the deficiency of rain in July and August.

The area cultivated from June

June to November 1896 was well above the average. The early-crop harvest was scanty, but on the whole the outcome of grain for the year cannot, we think, have been much below the average.

In February 1897 there was the ~~same~~ ^{same} unusual fall of rain as occurred in South Arcot, - the District average being 3.86 inches. Pasture and water-supply have since been unusually good, and all the garden and late cultivation have benefited. The April-May showers (5.26 inches) have been over the average and well distributed: 2.32 inches have fallen in the first three weeks

H.W.

weeks of June against an ³average of 1.40 inches for the whole month. The Cauvery is in high flood, and general prospects thus appear normal and encouraging.

The Curmams in the District have been engaged on survey work (sub-division of fields) and Ja-mabandi, and have not been able to prepare their cultivation accounts properly. The cultivation accounts up to May 31st show an area much below the average, but this is certainly due to the incompleteness of the returns, and is opposed to fact.

Prices. The following statement shows the prices of the principal food-grains for the week ending June

June 19th, as compared with the normal, warning and scarcity rates:-

Stations	Prices in imperial seers of 80 Kolas per rupee														
	Rice					Ragi					Cholam				
	For week ending June 19	Normal	Warning	Scarcity		For week ending June 19	Normal	Warning	Scarcity		For week ending June 19	Normal	Warning	Scarcity	
Perambalur	10.9				21.0									22.9	
Udayarpalayam	11.3				"									17.8	
Kilapalur	10.5				"									22.7	
Turaiyur	12.0				21.7					30.8				18.0	
Monsiri	10.9				18.3					28.0				17.8	
Kulitalai	10.2	14.0	11.2	8.4	"	28.0	21.0	14.0	22.4	24.0	18.0	12.0	17.8	26.0	13.0
Lalgudy	10.2				"					"				"	
Trichinopoly					"					"				"	
Sluppur	10.2				19.7					29.4				17.1	
Manaparai	11.6				18.3					14.0				"	
Sluppur	11.6				21.0					"				"	
District Average	10.9				20.0					24.9				19.1	

Rice is dearest in Trichinopoly town, where it is two seers per rupee cheaper than the scarcity rate. In four stations out of ten it has

UP
has not reached the warning rate. The average for the district is very slightly dearer than the warning rate. Ragi and Cumbr have not reached the warning rate in some stations.

The district average price of Cumbr is below the warning rate, and the price of ragi is only one seer per rupee above it.

Cholam prices are always apt to mislead in this district, owing to the fact that an inferior black variety is largely cultivated. This black cholam is at present selling at about half the price of white cholam, and at some stations it can still be got at about 30 seers per rupee.

Varagu is also ^{very} extensively grown in

in the dry talukos.

Exports and imports. From the middle of February last up to 1 June 19th 1.38 lakhs of maunds of grain have left the District by rail, and 34,000 maunds have been imported. No detailed information is available, but we are informed that the bulk of the exports consist of rice consigned to stations in the Madras, Tinnevely, Malabar and Coimbatore Districts and to Tuticorin en route to Ceylon.

Grain is cheapest in the places most remote from the railway, clearly indicating that the high prices are due to scarcity outside the District.

So far as we can judge from

50
from our observations and inquiries, and the opinions of the local officers, there is no present distress in any part of the District, and no likelihood of any class of the population coming on relief works, unless the current South-west monsoon and the next North-East monsoon both fail.

Prices in Pudukkottai are cheaper all round than in this District, and the last weekly report gives an encouraging account of the water supply, agricultural operations, conditions of cattle and public health.

Famine Programme. The Famine Programme includes works, the assumed cost of which is

1/2

is Rs. 54,02,633 which is sufficient to give employment to 52 per cent of the population of the District for 3 months.

The Programme is somewhat misleading as it includes two works, one the Ponnur Reservoir Project, Rs 30,00,000; and the other Kulitalai Kattuvai Project, Rs 45,000; neither of which is available for execution by famur labour.

It would take at least a year to complete the investigation necessary for the preparation of the estimate for the former; and the latter does not seem to exist except in name on paper.

This at once reduces the total of the Programme to Rs. 54,02,633

— 30,45,000, = Rs. 23,57,633.

Since

Since the programme was submitted several estimates have been sanctioned and others have been revised and the following shows the amounts of the estimates sanctioned, which were laid before us:—

Sanctioned—

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Irrigation S.P.W. | Rs. 4,14,51 |
| * This figure was not included in the programme & represents the balance of sanctioned estimates in progress— | |
| 2. Irrigation works, Revenue. | " 1,00,277 |
| 3. Local Fund Works— | " 1,00,510 |
| 4. Minor Local Fund Works— | " 84,247 |
| 5. Forest Works | 4,000 |
| 6. Miscellaneous | 4,34,946 |

76,54,61
~~76,54,61~~

Item 2 chiefly comprises estimates for the repair of tank bunds.

buds. On examining these we
 find that a great number of
 them contain no report on the
 existing condition of the work and
 no data on which the estimate
 is framed; while the dimensions
 given under height and breadth
 are out of proportion to each other,
 and are obviously wrong. Some
 of the estimates are for masonry
 works; and many of them are
 for very small amounts, rendering
 them unsuitable for execution
 under the rules of the Famine
 Code. All these estimates require
 to be revised by a competent
 officer, before the works can be
 pronounced ready for execution.
 If the amount for minor irrigation
 works be omitted from the programme,
 the total amount of the estimates

sanctioned

sanctioned and available for
 immediate execution is Rs. ⁶⁶⁵¹⁸⁴~~75154~~
 or sufficient for ⁸⁸⁶⁹¹~~90000~~ persons
 or 6.4 per cent of the population
 for 3 months. Under Local Fund
 works there are many works ready
 but not sanctioned. These were
 laid before us and amount to
 Rs. 4,43,850. These should at
 once be brought under sanction,
 and the amount available for
 execution will then be Rs. ⁶⁶⁵¹⁸⁴~~75154~~
 + Rs. 4,43,850 or Rs. ¹¹⁰⁹⁰³⁴~~1190004~~ or sufficient
 for 10.7 per cent of the population
 for 3 months. This, we consider,
 is ample provision till November
 next. In addition to this there are
 proposed works the total approximate
 estimate for which amounts to
 Rs. 4,21,047; these, we think, need

* Includes
 Rs. 30,40,000
 for the Pioneer
 & Kullitalai
 Projects.

H.D.

not be considered at present, though, should the South-West monsoon prove unfavourable, as many of the estimates as possible should be prepared and brought under sanction.

There are no works of any magnitude on which large bodies of coolies could be massed, and, should it be found necessary to provide work for a great number of persons for any considerable period, all we can recommend is that they be employed in preparing road metal at quarries in central positions. Stone is available near the railway station at Tiruvarambur, and, if

8P
relief workers were employed in preparing stocks of metal there, we believe that the Tanjore District Board would gladly take large quantities of it for the roads in the western parts of that District at rates which would recompense at least half the relief cost.

Tools. The tools in store were personally counted by the Executive Engineer on the 16th instant and examined by us on the 24th. The numbers are as per margin and

Pick axes	1814	3.52 per cent of the pick axes and 1.0 per cent of the
Pile horks	153	
Mammooties	1370	
Crowbars	262	

Mammooties are unserviceable.

The supply of tools is altogether inadequate and we recommend that

that the same reserve be kept as
was stated to be necessary in the
case of Chingleput.

The Public Works establish-
ment has been reduced to half
its sanctioned strength owing to
the transfer of men to famine duty.

We have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servants

J. S. P. S. Col. R. S.

Chief Engineer and
Secretary to Government, P. W. D.

H. M. Vintcent

Third Member, Board
of Revenue

D 1,000-8-4-97.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

C No. 5308/97.

Report re: the famine relief programme,
From famine works, in the Trichinopoly dist.

Dated 24-6-1897.

FOR ORDERS.

General Condition and
rainfall. The district average
rainfall in 1896 was 34.8 inches
against a 20 years' average of 34.2
inches. There was a deficiency of
rainfall in July & August, but
about the close of September the
falls were heavy. In February,
April, May & June ~~months~~ of the
current year, the rainfall has
been much above the average,
and all the garden and late
cultivation have been benefited
thereby. Pasture and water
supply are unusually good.
In 1896, the early crop harvest
was scanty, but the outturn
was, on the whole, not much
below normal. The Cauvery
is now in high flood and
the general prospects of the district
appear normal and encouraging.

The Hon. Sir Charles C. R.
The Hon. Sir Henry R. C. R.
H. R. the Governor

G. O. (P. W. D.) No. 5356/5th July 1897.

Recorded.

2. The Collector's attention
will be drawn to the remarks
in para 10 ^{above} of the
estimates for minor irrigation
works and he will be requested
to take immediate steps to
have them revised. The
estimates for 4. 3 months
should ~~also~~ be brought
under sanction at once.

3. The attention of the
Famine Comm. will be drawn
to the remarks in para 11.

(List from orders) 15/7/97

The Famine Comm. 15/7/97
The P. W. D.
The Collector of Trichy 15/7/97

Rs
3-7-97

29/5/97

FOR ORDERS.

2. Prices. The district average price of rice is slightly above the warning rate. In four stations, it is somewhat cheaper than that rate. Ragi & Cumbu are slightly above the warning rate and cholan is slightly below it. The class of cholan sold is, however, the black cholan, an inferior variety. Varagu is also very extensively grown in the dry taluk. ~~For far more information~~ ~~on the subject~~. Grain is cheapest in parts most removed from Railway, a fact clearly indicating that the high prices are due to scarcity outside the district. So far as at present can be judged, there is no present distress in any part of the district; and no likelihood of any, unless the S.W. & the N.E. monsoons should both fail. The condition of the Pudukkottai State is better than even of Trichinopoly.

3. Famine Programme

The programme includes works to the extent of Rs 54.02 Lakhs, capable of employing 52 p.c. of the population for 3 months. But of this, the Ponnani reservoir ^{Rs 30 lakhs} ~~(Rs 30 lakhs)~~ is the investigation of ~~which~~ ^{which} cannot be

This is quite satisfactory

A.H.

Completed ~~work~~ within at least a year and the Kudi-talan-Kattuvani project which exists only on paper, are not available for execution by famine labour, and the works in the programme therefore practically amount only to Rs 23.58 Lakhs. The sanctioned works amount to Rs 7.65 Lakhs; but Rs 1 lakh of these ~~are~~ comprise R.W. irrigation works chiefly consisting of estimates for the repair of tank bunds for small amounts and consequently not suited for execution under the rules of the Famine Code. The estimates moreover are in many cases ~~incorrect~~ ^{incorrect} and incomplete and require to be revised by a competent officer before the works can be pronounced ready for execution. The balance (Rs 6.65 Lakhs) will suffice to give employment to 6.4 p.c. of the population for 3 months. There are also Local Fund works to the extent of Rs 4.44 Lakhs ready, but not sanctioned and these added to the sanctioned works will, it is stated,

apt amply suffice till Nov. next.

4. There are no works on which large bodies of coolies could be massed, and it is recommended that should it be found necessary to provide work for a great number of persons for a considerable period, the labourers be employed in preparing road metal at quarries in central positions. The St. Boards of ~~the districts~~ ^{Tanjore} may utilize the same for their roads.

5. Tools. The tools in store are altogether inadequate and a small percentage ~~some~~ of them unserviceable. The scale recommended is the same as in the case of Chingleput viz, Rs. 52,500.

6. Establishment. The P.W. establishment has been reduced to half its sanctioned strength owing to the transfer of men to famine duty elsewhere.

rs
28/6/97

12/6/97

Dr. No.

24/1/97

Evidently the famine ~~work~~ here is very ~~descriptive~~ ^{deceptive}

Much work could be provided in this was especially ~~at~~ ^{for} ~~Tanjore~~ ^{the} ~~work~~ ^{work}

Description of tools.	Existing number.	Proposed number.
Stone hammers.	..	22,000
Mammets	1370	4500
Pick axes	1814	2500
Hammer.	..	500
Crowbars	262	4500
Sledge hammers	..	250
Hand axes	..	250
Bill hooks	153	250
Instruments for clearing prickly pear	..	250
		35,000

The state of the stock of tools everywhere is ~~unsatisfactory~~ ^{unsatisfactory}

24/6/97 30/6/97

See my remarks on the N. A. report which passed in yesterday

Government (1897) of Madras. REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 535, 5th July 1897.

JULY.

Famine-relief Works, Estimates and Famine-tools, &c.

Recording, with remarks, the joint report of the Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, and the Third Member of the Board of Revenue on — in the Trichinopoly district.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following letter from the Honourable Colonel D. M. 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 Trichinopoly, 24th June 1897, letter I:—

In continuation of our letter H, dated 22nd June 1897, we have the honour to submit the following report on the district of Trichinopoly.

2. We reached Trichinopoly on 22nd June, and on the 23rd and 24th we met the Acting Collector, the Superintending and Executive Engineers, all the Divisional officers, and three out of the five Tahsildars. Mr. Macleod, the only European Revenue Officer, has been in the district since 1st February 1897. The Musiri Deputy Collector has been some years in the district. The two Probationary Deputy Collectors in charge of the other divisions are young officers without much experience.

3. *General condition of the District—Rainfall.*—The rainfall for 20 years ending 1892 gives an average of 34.2 inches for the district. To this the April-May rains contribute 4.60 inches, the south-west monsoon 11.82 inches and the north-east monsoon 16.53 inches.

In 1896 the district average was 34.8 inches. The fall in April-May was 2.82 inches: 10.65 inches fell in the south-west monsoon, but there was little rain till September when the fall was unusually heavy; 21.2 inches fell in the north-east monsoon and there was not the deficiency in October which was so marked in South Arcot and Chingleput. The October average rainfall was 6.42 inches against a twenty years' average of 7.24 inches. The only remarkable feature in last year's rainfall was the deficiency of rain in July and August.

The area cultivated from June to November 1896 was well above the average. The early-crop harvest was scanty, but on the whole the outturn of grain for the year cannot, we think, have been much below the average.

In February 1897 there was the same unusual fall of rain as occurred in South Arcot, the district average being 3.86 inches. Pasture and water-supply have since been unusually good, and all the garden and late cultivation have benefited. The April-May showers (5.26 inches) have been over the average and well distributed: 2.32 inches have fallen in the first three weeks of June against an average of 1.40 inches for the whole month; the Cauvery is in high flood, and general prospects thus appear normal and encouraging.

4. The curnams in the district have been engaged on survey work (sub-division of fields) and jamabandi, and have not been able to prepare their cultivation accounts properly. The cultivation accounts up to 31st May show an area much below the average, but this is certainly due to the incompleteness of the returns, and is opposed to fact.

5. *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.			Cholum.			Cumbu.		
	For week ending 19th June.	Normal.	Warning.	For week ending 19th June.	Normal.	Warning.	For week ending 19th June.	Normal.	Warning.	For week ending 19th June.	Normal.	Warning.
Perambalur ..	10.9			21.0						22.9		
Udaiyarpalayam ..	11.3			..						17.8		
Kilapaloor ..	10.5			21.7			30.8			22.7		
Turaiyūr ..	12.0			18.3			28.0			18.0		
Musiri ..	10.9			..			22.4			17.8		
Kulittalai ..	10.2	14.0	11.2	..	28.0	21.0	..	24.0	18.0	17.1	26.0	19.5
Lalgudi ..	10.2			19.7			29.4			..		
Trichinopoly ..	11.6			18.3			14.0			..		
Manapparai ..	11.6			21.0			..			19.1		
Iluppur ..	10.9			20.0			24.9			..		
District average ..	10.9			..			..			..		

Rice is dearest in Trichinopoly town, where it is two seers per rupee cheaper than the scarcity rate. In four stations out of ten it has not reached the warning rate. The average for the district is very slightly dearer than the warning rate. Ragi and cumbu have not reached the warning rate in some stations. The district average price of cumbu is below the warning rate, and the price of ragi is only one seer per rupee above it. Cholum prices are always apt to mislead in this district, owing to the fact that an inferior *black* variety is largely cultivated. This black cholum is at present selling at about half the price of white cholum, and at some stations it can still be got at about 30 seers per rupee. Varagu is also very extensively grown in the dry taluks.

6. *Exports and Imports.*—From the middle of February last up to 19th June 1.38 lakhs of maunds of grain have left the district by rail, and 34,000 maunds have been imported. No detailed information is available, but we are informed that the bulk of the exports consists of rice consigned to stations in the Madura, Tinnevely, Malabar and Coimbatore districts and to Tuticorin *en route* to Ceylon.

Grain is cheapest in the places most remote from the railway, clearly indicating that the high prices are due to scarcity outside the district.

7. So far as we can judge from our observations and enquiries, and the opinions of the local officers, there is no present distress in any part of the district, and no likelihood of any class of the population coming on relief works, unless the current south-west monsoon and the next north-east monsoon both fail.

8. Prices in Pudukkottai are cheaper all round than in this district, and the last weekly report gives an encouraging account of the water-supply, agricultural operations, condition of cattle and public health.

9. *Famine Programme.*—The famine programme includes works, the assumed cost of which is Rs. 54,02,633 which is sufficient to give employment to 52 per cent. of the population of the district for three months.

The programme is somewhat misleading as it includes two works, one the Ponnéri Reservoir project, Rs. 30,00,000; and the other Kulittalai Kattuvai project, Rupees 45,000; neither of which is available for execution by famine labour. It would take at least a year to complete the investigation necessary for the preparation of the estimate for the former, and the latter does not seem to exist except in name on paper. This at once reduces the total of the programme to Rs. 54,02,633 — 30,45,000 = Rs. 23,57,633.

10. Since the programme was submitted several estimates have been sanctioned and others have been revised, and the following shows the amounts of the estimates sanctioned and which were laid before us:—

Sanctioned.

	RS.
(1) Irrigation Public Works Department	41,451 *
(2) Irrigation works, Revenue	1,00,277
(3) Local Fund works	1,00,510
(4) Minor Local Fund works	84,247
(5) Forest works	4,000
(6) Miscellaneous	4,34,946
Total ...	7,65,461

Item (2) chiefly comprises estimates for the repair of tank bunds. On examining these we find that a great number of them contain no report on the existing condition of the work and no data on which the estimate is framed; while the dimensions given under height and breadth are out of proportion to each other and are obviously wrong. Some of the estimates are for masonry works; and many of them are for very small amounts, rendering them unsuitable for execution under the rules of the Famine Code. All these estimates require to be revised by a competent officer before the works can be pronounced ready for execution. If the amount for minor irrigation works be omitted from the programme, the total amount of the estimates sanctioned and available for immediate execution is Rs. 6,65,184 or sufficient for 88,691 persons, or 6·4 per cent. of the population, for three months. Under Local Fund works there are many works ready, but not sanctioned. These were laid before us and amount to Rs. 4,43,850. These should at once be brought under sanction, and the amount available for execution will then be Rs. 6,65,184 + Rs. 4,43,850 or Rs. 11,09,034 or sufficient for 10·7 per cent. of the population for three months. This, we consider, is ample provision till November next. In addition to this there are

† Includes Rs. 30,40,000 for the Ponnéri and Kulittalai projects. proposed works, the total approximate estimate for which amounts to Rupees 42,10,471; † these, we think, need not be considered at present, though, should the south-west monsoon prove unfavourable, as many of the estimates as possible should be prepared and brought under sanction.

11. There are no works of any magnitude on which large bodies of coolies could be massed, and, should it be found necessary to provide work for a great number of persons for any considerable period, all we can recommend is that they be employed in preparing road metal at quarries in central positions. Stone is available near the railway station at Tiruvarambur, and, if relief workers were employed in preparing stocks of metal there, we believe that the Tanjore District Board would gladly take large quantities of it for the roads in the western parts of that district at rates which would recoup at least half the relief cost.

12. Tools.—The tools in store were personally counted by the Executive Engineer on the 16th instant and examined by us on the 24th. The numbers are as per margin, and 3·52 per cent. of the pick-axes and 1·0 per cent. of the mamooties are unserviceable. The supply of tools is altogether inadequate, and we recommend that the same reserve be kept as we stated to be necessary in the case of Chingleput.

13. The Public Works establishment has been reduced to half its sanctioned strength owing to the transfer of men to famine duty.

* This figure was not included in the programme and represents the balance of sanctioned estimates in progress.

ORDER—No. 535, Revenue, dated 5th July 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The Collector's attention will be drawn to the remarks in paragraph 10 about the estimates for minor irrigation works and he will be requested to take immediate steps to have them revised. The estimates for Local Fund works should be brought under sanction at once.

3. The attention of the Famine Commissioner will be drawn to the remarks in paragraph 11.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.
Public Works Department.
" Collector of Trichinopoly.

Exd. C. M. Thambuswamy.