

Revenue

1889

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 165

Dated 19th March

[Despatch Abstract.]

Season in the Chingleput Dh.

Recording, with remarks, B's Prop.
an letter from the Collr. of Chingle
reporting on the state of the—

ment.

BACK PAPERS.

RETAILER PAPERS.

CO.	NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT

Revenue (1898) Department

CURRENT No. 1123.

From

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

No. 807 M.

Dated 5th February 1898

Received of

Registered of

Enclosures 4.

Spare copies

Order

Recorded

12/2/98

SUBJECT.

Recording, pending receipt of
further report promised,
letter from the Collector of
Chingleput, reporting on the
prospects of the season in the
Chingleput district

ment.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Statement showing rainfall from April 1897 to date as compared with the average of 25 years.

Stations	April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December		January		February to
	In the	25 years	In the	25 years	In the	25 years	In the	25 years	In the	25 years	In the	25 years	In the	25 years	In the	25 years	In the	25 years	In the	25 years	March, 25
	month	average	month	average	month	average	month	average	month	average	month	average	month	average	month	average	month	average	month	average	years average
	inches	inches	inches	inches	inches	inches	inches	inches	inches	inches	inches	inches	inches	inches	inches	inches	inches	inches	inches	inches	inches
Sattiyaveda		0.18	0.43	1.90	1.84	2.53	1.15	3.29	4.22	4.33	8.05	4.46	1.37	8.09	4.66	11.48	0.05	4.20	.	1.00	1.14
Timvallur	0.17	0.45	1.85	1.75	2.13	2.63	1.87	3.34	6.15	5.07	12.82	4.33	3.43	7.29	5.65	10.06	0.68	3.16	"	0.35	1.01
Pomari	0.08	0.32	0.42	2.14	0.95	1.86	2.91	3.48	8.21	5.10	13.78	4.36	3.08	10.12	4.89	13.91	0.88	4.11	"	0.99	1.04
Saidapet	0.30	0.43	0.98	1.96	1.48	2.49	2.45	3.88	7.78	4.90	16.02	5.24	1.95	10.91	6.70	14.42	2.25	4.75	"	0.63	0.81
Ponnamallee	0.05	0.13	0.28	0.61	0.11	2.49	0.96	3.90	6.24	5.15	10.21	3.61	2.08	9.84	7.86	13.45	1.61	5.63	"	0.55	0.25
Seipernumbur	0.21	0.23	"	1.05	0.76	2.90	2.90	3.18	8.13	5.40	7.91	5.17	3.62	7.99	5.03	10.85	1.34	4.70	"	0.31	0.30
Sanjeevaram	0.20	0.68	0.99	2.14	1.88	3.28	10.82	4.07	6.72	6.12	6.11	6.34	1.55	7.28	2.33	9.40	1.22	3.31	"	0.28	0.54
Attanamangal	"	0.49	"	1.16	3.67	3.64	5.50	3.30	5.45	5.73	11.02	4.57	0.76	7.30	4.20	10.03	2.00	4.31	"	0.37	0.42
Chingleput	0.50	0.27	"	1.89	1.53	3.36	6.28	4.17	10.23	5.73	5.01	5.38	1.29	9.04	4.78	11.24	2.54	3.80	"	0.48	0.56
Madurambakam	"	0.20	"	2.66	1.21	2.76	2.32	3.61	5.07	5.99	14.01	5.98	2.98	7.67	4.20	11.57	1.87	4.15	"	0.58	0.60
Total	1.51	3.38	4.95	17.26	15.56	27.94	37.16	36.22	68.20	53.52	104.94	49.44	22.11	85.53	50.30	116.41	14.44	42.12	"	5.54	6.77
Average	0.15	0.33	0.49	1.72	1.55	2.79	3.71	3.62	6.82	5.35	10.49	4.94	2.21	8.55	5.03	11.64	1.44	4.21	"	0.55	0.67
	April to June				2.19	4.84	July to September				21.02	13.91	October to December				8.68	24.40			

(Signed) D. D. Murdoch
acting collector

(Encopy)

Revenue Secretary

1892
 WATER DEPARTMENT
 1123

B. Statement showing the existing supply in the tanks in the several taluks of the district.

Talu. to	Total number of tanks	Supply lasting				Empty	Remarks.
		for 4 or more months	for 3 months or more but less than 4 months	for 2 months or more but less than 3 months	for 1 month or more but less than 2 months		
Ponnore #	283	"	"	"	1	16	In the tank supply statement submitted with the letter No. 3707 dated 18 th December 1897, the total number of irrigation works for Conjeveram, Chingolepet, and Kaduravallur was adopted from the figures furnished by the Talukdars. The number now shown against these and other tanks is adopted from the latest jamabandi statement.
Saidapet #	275	"	"	"	13	7	
Tiruwallur	452	"	"	"	5	22	
Conjeveram	484	"	3	5	16	134	
Chingolepet	447	1	2	14	11	14	
Kaduravallur	596	1	7	12	35	144	
	2539	2	12	31	81	337	2072

Note: The figures in columns 3 to 8 against Ponnore taluk do not include the supply in the Sholavaram tank which is reported to contain 15 feet of water, at the main sluice and 12, the Vallur tank at which there is 2 feet 9 in. of water.

Particulars of supply in the Chumbambakam tank which is reported to contain 4.30 ft. of water and 12 Red hills tank which has 20 ft. of water are not given in columns 3 to 8 against Saidapet taluk.

(Signed) D. D. Munro
 Acting Collector

Statement of area

General values of the district in

	Up to the end of September				Up to the end of December				Sp	
	First crop		2 nd Crop		First Crop		2 nd Crop			First
	Dry	Wet	Dry	Wet	Dry	Wet	Dry	Wet		
	aeres	aeres	aeres	aeres	aeres	aeres	aeres	aeres	aeres	
Pameri Average	23424	29255	36	275	29379	42280	799	2249	1014	
1897-98	23703	30325	46	468	31507	44253	677	3031		
Saidapet Average	16899	31314	67	451	24061	45559	366	4140	828	
1897-98	17221	31178	37	904	25879	48871	296	5363		
Tamilkottai Average	24404	41709	223	465	38261	57005	4355	6859	1255	
1897-98	22695	36928	138	530	37802	59821	3423	8624		
Loujivaram Average	26166	51885	143	468	42253	72618	5032	3899	906	
1897-98	25404	55699	47	676	44194	75810	3063	3371		
Chingelput Average	10966	24483	16	249	16946	46347	384	3244	517	
1897-98	11079	25676	22	267	18684	48709	304	2944		
Modurankkam Average	41389	36773	264	739	56691	61987	3367	7644	4470	
1897-98	48281	49016	245	1302	59417	66371	1990	6627		
District Total Average	142248	215449	749	2647	207591	325796	14303	28035	5990	
1897-98	148383	228822	535	4147	217483	345835	9743	29960		

January		February						March				Up to 4	
P	2 nd Crop		First Crop		2 nd Crop		P	First Crop		2 nd Crop		First Crop	
Wet	Dry	Wet	Dry	Wet	Dry	Wet		Dry	Wet	Dry	Wet	Dry	W
area	area	area	area	area	area	area	area	area	area	area	area	area	area
1396	1426	1533	547	447	1082	1347		343	229	355	874	31283	443
3153	132	2906	572	1271	234	29713		224	895	188	2378	25685	50871
1403	1466	1832	272	732	633	1012		1030	1120	2431	3909	40817	60
4386	321	9223	613	849	385	4162		583	693	270	3112	44354	78546
3121	185	2800	551	1101	189	2351		526	750	139	1638	18540	51319
7773	736	3956	887	1311	675	1714		275	362	263	1720	59324	7143
232	4216	22350	3442	5710	3898	13536		2981	4049	3646	13631	220003	35678

(Imagery)

Imagery Sent

Prices in Tons of 80 tolas.

BOARD OF

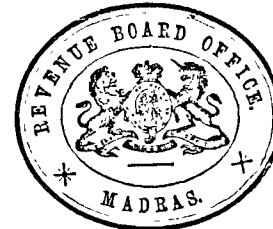
	Sattigavedu		Ponneri		Tiruvallur		Aidapet		Pannam	allu	Superumbudra	Conjivaram	Chingleput	Attur	Madhavakani					
	Rice	Ragi	Rice	Ragi	Rice	Ragi	Rice	Ragi	Rice	Ragi	Rice	Ragi	Rice	Ragi	Rice	Ragi				
3 rd July 1897	9.82	17.81	10.95	16.44	10.95	17.81	9.44	14.39	9.82	14.39	11.67	14.72	9.82	13.68	9.84	13.91	12.16	14.54	11.22	14.54
25 th September 1897	9.06	16.44	9.82	14.39	9.82	17.81	9.44	13.02	8.68	12.67	10.66	14.72	11.17	14.72	9.43	12.92	11.22	13.68	10.29	12.83
30 th October 1897	9.06	16.44	9.82	17.13	10.19	19.18	9.82	15.07	8.68	12.67	10.90	16.10	11.17	16.56	10.16	15.90	11.22	17.10	10.75	16.26
27 th November 1897	8.31	14.39	8.68	15.07	9.44	15.07	8.30	13.70	8.30	13.02	8.87	13.80	10.15	14.72	8.06	12.72	9.35	13.68	8.88	14.54
25 th December 1897	8.31	13.70	9.06	15.07	9.44	16.44	8.31	13.70	8.68	13.70	10.15	14.72	10.16	15.18	8.75	13.12	9.35	14.54	9.35	13.68
29 th January 1898	7.93	12.33	9.06	12.67	8.68	12.67	7.93	13.70	8.12	13.02	9.64	14.72	9.64	14.72	7.88	13.12	9.35	13.68	9.35	13.68

/ signed D. D. Gundlach
acting Collector

(Enclosed)

James Lambury

End of



Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

Dated 5th February 1898.

No. 807 M.

READ the following letter from the Collector of Chingleput, Reference No. $\frac{149}{\text{General}}$ dated 2nd February 1898:-

G.O. $\frac{42}{5-1-98}$

(1) 1/2/98

As desired in para 8 of the Board's Proceedings Miscellaneous No. 10144 dated 22nd December 1897, I have the honor to submit a further report on the conditions and prospects of the district.

2. The following statements are appended, bringing up to a more recent date the information furnished in the similar statements appended to my letter disposed of in the Board's Proceedings referred to above.

A. The rainfall at each Tahildar's and Deputy Tahildar's head-quarter station

B. The supply in the tanks at present.

C. The cultivation in each taluk in the current year as compared with the average for the past four years.

D. The prices of Rice (2nd sort) and Ragi at the different reporting stations in the district.

3. From statement A, it will be seen that the further rainfall in December was only 1.44 inches (on the average for the district), and there was no rain in January.

In the Tiruvallur and Ponnore taluks, the rain in December was particularly light, being only 0.05 of an inch at Sathyaaveda, 0.68 at Tiruvallur and 0.88 at Ponnore.

4. From statement B, it is seen that about four-fifths of the number of tanks in the district were empty before the end of January.

5. The following table extracted from statement C, shows the total cultivation in the district up to December as compared with the average of four years for the corresponding period:-

	Dry		Wet	
	1 st Crop	2 nd Crop	1 st Crop	2 nd Crop
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Total cultivation up to December	217483	9743	345835	29960
Average for the corresponding period	207591	14303	325796	28035

The cultivation of 1st Crop up to December in the current year is thus seen to be in excess of the average by acres 9892 under "dry" and acres 20039 under "wet." The 2nd Crop cultiva-

34. wet. is also in excess of the
 average by acres 1925 but under
 "dry" it is less than the average
 dry acres 4560.

16. The average cultivation from
 January to March (vide state
 account C) is -

to first crop ...	Dry ...	12,413
	Wet ...	30,991
Second crop	Dry -	11,060
	Wet :	49,517

In the total cultivation for the
 year, there will, it is now found,
 not be much deficiency in the first
 crop on dry lands, but a considerable
 decrease may be expected in the
 second crop on dry lands. The de-
 ficiency in the first crop cultivation
 upon wet lands will not exceed
 10,000 acres, and may be considerably
 less. The estimate already made of
 the

the deficiency in the second
 cultivation on wet lands, viz, 10
 acres 40,000 does not require
 alteration.

7. The probable remissions for
 withered crops on wet lands may be
 estimated at about

Rs 45,000	in Ponnéri
21,000	in Saidapet
36,000	in Tiruwallur
18,000	in Cojicovaram
30,000	in Chinglepet
30,000	in Madurantakam

These amounts aggregate Rs 180,000.

The remissions in respect of wet
 waste (other than manual waste)
 may amount to about Rs 40,000.

8. I have not considered it
 necessary to bring up to date the
 information given in the last
 report regarding the crops raised

8. wet and those on the
ground, as the cultivation
subsequent to November has not
been important and as the crops
are now being harvested. Particulars
up to the end of this month (February)
will be more useful, and will be
obtained for a future report and
it will then also be possible to
give more exact information
regarding the outcome of the crops.

9. From statement D, it will
be seen that the price of rice (2nd
sort), is still above the scarcity
rate at Saidpet, Poonamalle,
Chingleput, Sathyaavedu, and
has risen slightly since my last
report. The price of ragi has not
yet reached the scarcity rate
where.

10. A supplemental report
submitted in two or three copies
in which the situation in each taluk
will be dealt with in greater detail
and the question of whether any
special relief to the ryots will be
required by way of further
remissions of revenue or postpone-
ment of collections will be
discussed; also the question of
whether any measures for the relief
of distress are likely to be required.

Resolution

Recorded, pending receipt of
further report promised in para
10 of the letter.

(True copy and extract)

Jammie Secretary

Copy to Secretary to Government, Revenue
Copy to the Collector of Chingleput

Read B.P. No. 807 5.2.98 Sett. Comm.

Read B.P. No. 76 14.2.98 Sett. (Copy)

Order thereon dated 19.3.98, No. 165

Recorded

2. With reference to the Board's ruling in para 4 of the second of the Proceedings read above regarding the "claim" of ryots to "remission" on dry land the Cool desires to point out that no such claim is recognised by rules. The general principle is that "no remission of assessment on unimproved land will be granted." Where, "in very exceptional years or under very exceptional circumstances," a concession in this respect may appropriately be considered, it should be made that it is not to be admitted unless in such very exceptional circumstances as are sure to attract the attention of the local officer.

[True Extract]

(Signed) C. P. Feroze

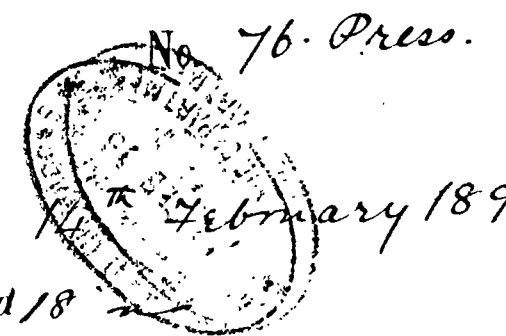
As. Secy to Govt.

Revenue (189⁸) Department.

CURRENT No. 1433.

From The Board of Revenue
Revenue Settlement
Land Record & Agriculture

Order



Dated February 1898.

Received / 8

Registered / 8

Enclosures /

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

State of Season.

Submitting to Government
with remarks, report from
the Collector of Chingleput
on the ——— in the
district.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Remarks made by the Commissioners of
Salt, Abkari & Customs Dept., Board of Revenue

For the present the bridle paths
and fences in the factories of the
Ennore — and Vayalur circles are
maintained only during the manu-
facturing season and are neglected
the rest of the year. If they were to be
fully improved by famine labour,
it would mean that the bunds should
be put up from the foundation,
as the soil of which the existing bunds
are made is swampy and liable to
be breached by even a little rain
and thus a proper fence is needed.

C. S. S. S.

Secured. The greater portion of the fencing is not properly maintained on this account and prickly pear does not thrive in many places. The approximate cost of putting up bridle paths in all the factories with fresh earth from outside will be as shown below. For the purpose of calculation, the bund is taken to have a top width of 6 feet with slopes 2:1 and height 3 feet. The average breadth in this case works out to $\frac{6+18}{2}$ and the area of any section is $\frac{6+18}{2} \times 3$ or 36 square feet.

At this rate the cost of putting up the bridle paths (only earth work) works out to

Kattur	Rs 1895 nearly
Vayalur	1940 "
Ennore factories	6809 "

at the rate of 1 anna per cubic yard. If the slopes are to be turfed, the additional cost would be:—

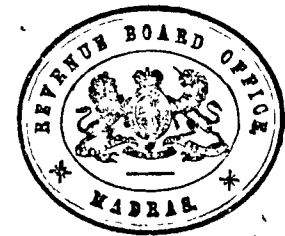
Kattur	Rs 1112
Vayalur	1132
Ennore factories	3972

at the rate of 6 pias per square yard. If the bunds are effectively put up of fresh earth there is a chance of prickly pear or any live fence thriving and these outer slopes may be planted with prickly pear and the inner side well turfed. If the earth in the existing bund is also to be utilized in improving them, the quantity of earth work that may be required can not be estimated without reference to the local officer.

Tiruvallur.

Officers, who know best how the
 bridle path and fence can be im-
 proved. It is to be noted that
 bunds when put up would have
 to be maintained at the cost of the
 Salt Department and the main-
 tenance charges would certainly
 be high. It was this that led to the
 upkeep of bridle paths only during
 the manufacturing season. The cost
 of maintaining them all the year
 round was considered prohibitive.
 And besides all this there is the tax-
 ing question of the continuance of
 some at least of the factories them-
 selves in view of the contraction of the
 salt-market in the Presidency.

Revenue Secretary



Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
 (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture)

Dated 14th February - 1898.

No. 76 Press.

READ Again Board's Proceedings, No. 807

dated 5th February 1898, regarding proceedings
 of further report promised, Chief Collectors' letter ²²⁻⁹⁸ ₂₄₋₁₁₋₉₈
 regarding the prospects of the season in the District

Read also the following letter from

the Collector of Chingleput, Dis no 270

of 1898 dated 4th February 1898:-

I have the honor to submit
 the Supplemental report promised
 in the concluding paragraph of

in Cus 1123/98

my letter dated the 2nd instant, Re

Tiruvallur.

on No. $\frac{149}{81}$ of 1898, regarding the —
condition of the district with reference
to the prospects of the season.

2. As remarked in my letter of
the 17th December 1897. No. 3707

"though the rainfall in April, May
and June was deficient, the average
was slightly exceeded in July and

August, and the rainfall was —
specially heavy in September (10.49
inches against an average of 4.94

for the district). In October, however,

there was little rain (only 2.21 inches
against

"against an average of 8.55), and

"in November also, it was deficient —

"(5.03 inches against an average of

"11.64)". It has also been remarked

in that letter that the standing

crops "on dry lands and on wet —

lands (unprotected by wells) under

"the large number of tanks which

"contained little or no supply of water,

"in the middle of November and under

"the high level sluices of other tanks

"(with a few exceptions) suffered considerably

from

from the deficient rainfall between
the middle of October and the 24th
November. Good rain (4.73 inches
on an average for the district) from
the 25th to the 30th November was in
time to prevent or postpone total
failure of crop (except in very
few cases); but the yield particular-
ly of the crops on dry lands,
has been greatly affected.

Such was the position in
the middle of December. The subsequent
rainfall in December was only 1.44
inches

inches on an average for the district.
In the Pomeri taluk and at Tiruvallur
it was less than an inch, and at
Satyavedu it was only 0.05 of an
inch. In January there was no rain
anywhere.

3. The Kambu crop (11,000 acres), -
grown chiefly in Tiruvallur and to a
less extent in Congeevaram and
Madurantakam, had already
been harvested; and also more than
two-thirds of the ragi crop (42,000 ac

Grown

Tiruvallur.

grown in all taluks but most largely
in Tiruvallur, Chengam and —
Madurantakam. Of the industrial
crops, the indigo (19,000 acres) grown
largely in Tiruvallur and to a —
Considerable extent in Pomeri —
— and the gingelly oil seeds —
(8000 acres), grown on fairly large
extents in Tiruvallur, Chengam
and Madurantakam were also
harvested earlier in the year. Of
the paddy, only a little over, 20,000
acres had been harvested up to
the end of November. The paddy
crops

Crops on 364,000 acres were still on the ground
as also nearly the whole of the Varagu
(49,000 acres) — a very important
crop in the Madurantakam taluk
and important also in Tiruvallur
and Chingleput. — and the
Cholam (7,000 acres) grown chiefly
in Tiruvallur and Madurantakam.

These, together with the "other food"
grains including pulses" (18,000 acres,
and the groundnut (4,100 acres), were
the crops liable to be affected by

Tiruvallur.

the failure of the North East monsoon
rains. The crops that have been—
seriously affected are the paddy crop
and the varagu. In the Madurante
—kain taluk, the slight rainfall
in December helped on the
latter crop. The outturn will be
poor, but the extent of failure or
very short crop will not exceed a
third of the cultivated extent. In
the Tiruvallur taluk the proportionate
area of this crop that will yield
little

little or no outturn is about the same
($\frac{1}{3}$ rd) but the outturn on the remaining
area is not expected to be much
more than 4 annas on an average.
The failure has been almost complete
in the Varadayapalaiyam firka
of the Sathyavedu division, as
might be expected from the fact that
with the exception of a slight shower
on the 31st December, there was no
rain at Sathyavedu in December.

Tiruvallur.

Most important, however, is the paddy crop. Of the very large area (364,000 acres) on which this crop was standing at the end of November last, about 62,000 acres are dry lands, distributed as under: —

	Acres.
Ponneri . . .	15,000
Saidapet . . .	5,000
Tiruvallur . . .	8,000
Chengam . . .	20,000
Chingleput . . .	5,000
Madurantakam . .	9,000

The failure of the crop on this area has been very extensive. On more than half of it the crop has either failed entirely or will yield a

a very poor outturn, and on the rest the outturn will be poor. In the Sathyavedu division and the more eastern part of the Ponneri taluk, the failure has been almost complete.

Coming to the paddy crop on wet lands, the extent of withered crops (including crops of which the outturn will be nominal, i.e., under One Anna) is estimated at about 60,000 acres, distributed as follows: —

Ponneri . . .	15,000
Saidapet . . .	7,000
Tiruvallur . . .	12,000
Chengam . . .	6,000
Chingleput . . .	10,000
Madurantakam . .	10,000

Tiruvallur.

The figure given for Saidapet may be found too low, and that for Tiruvallur somewhat too high.

The ratio of the estimated area of withered crop to the cultivated area of wet lands is nearly 1 to 6. It is highest in the Ponneri taluk where it is as much as 1 to 3. It is specially high in particular tracts, namely,

(1) the northern and eastern parts of the Ponneri taluk (the Seganiyam, Kattur, Vayalur and part of the — Kayar bagils),

(2) the Varadayyapalayam firka in the north of the Tiruvallur taluk, and also the tract (East of Vadamadurai)

that

that juts into the Ponneri and Saidapet taluks and a few villages in a western corner near Senrayanpalaiyam, and

(3) the Tirukkalukimram firka of the Chingleput taluk, and also a tract near Vandalur.

Adjoining the last tract is a specially bad part of the Saidapet taluk, west of Pallavaram; and another part of that taluk where the crops have suffered severely is the tract between the Madras-Ponnamallee ex. road and the Madras Railway line, extending also north of Avadi toward Kilkindiyar in the North west corner of the taluk.

(4)

Tiruvallur.

In the following Statement the estimated remissions for Shavi in the current year are compared with those granted in 1890-91 and 1892-93, in which years there was a somewhat similar failure of the North East - Monsoon rains: —

	1890-91. Rs.	1892-93. Rs.	1897-98 Rs.
Ponneri	69,355.	27,984.	45,000
Saidapet	49,848.	8,804.	21,000
Tiruvallur	53,979.	34,623.	36,000
Chingleput	6,672.	3,915.	19,000
Madurantakam	27,815.	22,303.	30,000
Madurantakam	17,971.	15,134.	30,000

In drawing conclusions from this —
 1. Comparison it must be remembered
 2. that the remissions in 1890-91 and
 3. 1892-93 included remissions for
 Short

Short crop (of 2 Annas and less).

(5) The parts most severely affected in the current year are (1) the Segamyan Sagil of the Avur firka, the Vayar firka and part of the Vayar Sagil of the Sholavaram firka in the Ponneri taluk and (2) the vardayya-paliyam firka in the north of the Tiruvallur taluk which extends south nearly to Uttukottai. In these two tracts the season must be nearly as bad as in 1890-91. That year, however, followed on an unfavourable season in the previous year, whereas the last four years have been fairly good ones.

Tiruvallur.

For this reason I have not considered it necessary to extend the Shavi anymaish to short crop; and this was the less necessary because the extent on which the crop will be more than nominal but not more than 2 Annas is not large. It is also most difficult to estimate with any accuracy a crop of between one and two Annas, and the Concession would have opened a door to fraud.

(6) It has now to be considered whether it is necessary to grant any other special Concession in the two tracts above mentioned, and if so whether it should take the form of partial

partial remissions in respect of lands on which paddy and varagu crops were raised or of partial postponement of collections of revenue. Not only has the failure of the paddy crop on wet lands been very extensive in these tracts, but where the crop has not altogether failed the outturn will in most cases be poor; and the yield of the paddy crop on dry lands and the varagu crop will be very short where it has not failed entirely. In the Varadappalayam fiska of the Tiruvallur taluk, the ryots are not quite so dependent on these crops as in the Pommeri taluk. Indigo and Ragi

gi are grown to a fairly large extent; there is also some cultivation of Cholam, Kambu - and gingelly oil seeds; and there are a good many wells. In the affected tract of the Pinneri taluk there is hardly anything grown but paddy, and there are few wells. The difficulty of meeting the Government demand will therefore be greater, probably, in the latter tract, but it may be expected to occur in individual villages of the former tract also.

So far as the yield of the paddy and varagu crops on dry lands is concerned, I would have no hesitation in recommending the remission of

of half the assessment on the dry lands cultivated with these crops in the two tracts in question; but I do not consider that any special concession in respect of dry lands need be granted in villages in which there has not also been a very serious failure of the paddy crop on the wet lands, and even in the severely affected tract, there are villages in which this has not been the case. In some the tanks are larger or have better means of supply; in some others the crops on the wet lands have been, for the most part, saved by baling from wells or pools. Any concession that may be granted will require to be by villages rather than

by

It is therefore difficult to recommend any special concession in regard to dry lands, as it would have to apply to tracts.

Moreover the paddy crop on dry lands is a speculative one, and it is not desirable to encourage it by granting any special concession in respect of it. In some cases, it is true, the dry lands on which it is grown are classed as mānavāri and are assessed at a somewhat higher rate than the ordinary dry rate; but such lands are scattered, and from enquiries that I have made in particular villages in which the extents are large, I have found that no general recommendation can be made in their behalf.

7. The conclusion arrived at is that it is necessary to assist the poorer ryots of the specially affected tracts to tide over this very unfavourable season without selling the grain required for food and seed or disposing of their cattle or encumbering their small plots of land, the assistance must be in the form of postponement of Collection.

To this form of Concession also, there are objections, and I shall not recommend it unless I find it to be essential.

It is a little too early yet to judge whether it will be necessary, but I anticipate that it will be in the case

smaller pattadars in particular
villages of the worst affected tracts.

(8) Special arrangements have
been made for the prompt aynash
and check inspection of shavi in all
taluks, and the jamabandi will be
commenced early in March. I intend
to settle the Ponneri taluk myself, in
the special circumstances of the year
and it will be possible to ascertain
definitely at the jamabandi whether
any concession in the matter of post-
ponement of Collections is necessary
and, if so, what the limitations should be.

9. The postponement of Collections
in respect of ascertained shavi (present)
and

"und-wet" waste (due to deficiency)
has already been ordered.

10. There remains the question of
whether any severe distress, requiring
relief by Government, may be apprehen-
-ed. It occurred in 1891 but, as already
remarked, the previous year was an
unfavourable one. It may occur in
the worst affected parts this year,
and they are being watched, but the
labouring classes, who would be affected
first, have not yet begun to stick
themselves and still find employment.
In this connection it is important to
remember that in the Ponneri taluk
there is not much cultivation of
the

earlier crops under the South West
monsoon. On the other hand, in that
taluk the labouring classes have recently
had, and in some parts are still having,
an unusual amount of labour in
connection with the repair of tanks
under the Tank Restoration Scheme
and the formation of the embankment
for the Madras-Bengaluru railway
line. For the more easterly villages,
too, there will be work in the salt pans;
and the labourers in some of the villages
in the North of that taluk find a good
deal of work in excavating shells. There
is, however, an interior belt which may
cause anxiety.

11. There is a small zemin tract,
northeast

northeast of Nagalapuram (Nagapuram and the Sathyavedu hills)
which is also being carefully watched.
Higher up the valley, on the Varadagga
palayam side, the situation is not so
serious, but the villages in the mouth of
the valley (towards Nagalapuram)
the failure of the crops has been —
extensive and almost complete. It
is, however, a small tract and labour
will probably be found — for a
little longer, at any rate — in the
villages higher up the valley and in
the Government villages near —
Nagalapuram where the crops are
good. The people are not stinting
themselves

machines at present, but the poorer
classes seem to have no stock of
grain and live on the Cooiy earned
from day to day. This is as usual
MS

12. I visited the Satyavedu division,
including the tract just mentioned,
last month, and also the Pommeri taluk;
and I intend to make a tour through
the Chingleput taluk this month.

Read also the following letter from
the Collector of Chingleput, Dis no 279
of '98 dated 8th February 1898:-

In continuation of my letter
of the 5th instant, No 270 and with reference
to paragraph 10 thereof, I have the honor
to state that I now learn that there is
to

Employment

to be no manufacture of Salt
in the factories of the Ennore and Vayalar
circles. This will aggravate the situation
in the east of the Pommeri taluk between
the Arni and the Cartelliger rivers, and there
is a tract in which it will be specially
difficult to meet any pressing demand
for labour that may arise. Road works
cannot be provided, the existing roads
being unmetalled and there being no
quarries anywhere near. The quarries
are by the side of the Northern Trunk
road or West of it. All the irrigation
works have been recently put in
repair (under the Tank Restoration
Scheme). The tract is not suitable
to

Tiruvallur.

for digging wells, the water in them being brackish and unsuitable for irrigation. In the South of the tract there is one work available, the Mingur Channel; but it is a comparatively small work, the amount of the estimate available for famine labour being only Rs 2,142. The only other work that could be taken up in case of necessity is what is known as the Vayalur project, but that is a work, which, under orders already passed, must be reserved for a period of very severe distress. Its utility is doubtful.

2. I think it right to bring this to notice, as the Commissioner of

of Salt Revenue was probably aware that it will not be possible to provide labour on ordinary works, nor even on useful relief works, for the large number of labourers — (the Tahsildar of Ponneri estimates the number at 2000) — who will be deprived of their usual work for the next few months by the stoppage of salt-manufacture.

Resolution.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall of the district

for dis-
seen untimely and deficient, as
shown in appendix A in the first of
the Collector's letters read above.
Four-fifths of the tanks had no supply
at the end of December, and the
majority of the remainder held but
small supplies.

3. Kambu (11,000 acres) and ragi
(42,000 acres) were harvested chiefly
in Tirumallur, Chingleput, and
Madrautakam taluqs, before
November 1897 and were not adversely
affected by the season. The collector
gives details of the condition of

1123/98

the later crops, of which paddy (36,000
acres) and varagu (49,000 acres)
are the most important. The
outturn will be very severely
affected by the bad season,
and the Collector anticipates that
at least Rs 181,000 must be
remitted for withered crops. The
Board approves of the action
of the collector in not extending
the assignment of wet lands to
short crop, under circumstances
explained.

ward is however, unable to accept
the arguments of the collector
for not recommending any remission
on dry lands in the affected parts
of the Tiruvallur and Ponneri
Talukas. There may be no necessity
for such remission, but the reasons
put forward for not recommending
it do not appear sound. The
reasons assigned are —

1) That no concession seems called
for in respect of dry land in
those villages which have had
a fair wet crop, (2) That many

of

of the villages which have
dry crops have had fair wet crops,
(3) That, in consequence, any
concession will have to be granted
by villages rather than by tracts
and (4) That, as concessions for loss
of dry crops have under the rules
to be made by tracts and not by
villages, it is difficult to make
any recommendation. The
only question to be considered
whether there has been a general
failure of dry crops: it

ward is how
immateral what has become of
the wet crops. It is to be remembered
that in villages where both wet
and dry cultivation are found,
it is generally only the poorer classes
who cultivate the dry lands; at any
rate, they cultivate but very
little of the better lands. Many
hattas, of course, do include both
wet and dry land, but this is
no reason for refusing the benefits
of the remission rules, to which
they otherwise have a claim.

The collector's opinion as to the
speculative

speculative nature of the rain-
paddy crops and the undesirability
of encouraging such cultivation,
should not influence the decision
of the question: for, according to
the principles under which the lands
were settled, Government is not
concerned with the nature of the
crops cultivated. The collector -
suggests a postponement of
collections, but this probably will
be insufficient in the Segamyan
taluk of the Aur firkha, the Nayal-
firkha and the Nayal taluk.

ward is known from the Varadaiyapalaiyam
Taluk and in the Varadaiyapalaiyam
firka of the Tiruvallur Taluk. There
remission of assessment on dry lands
in whole or in part may be necessary.
The collector will be requested to report
whether he wishes to recommend any
remission of assessment on dry land
bearing in mind that his decision
should not be influenced by the
state of the wet crops and that for
purpose of dry remission, the 'tract'
may be of any size, and ordinarily
the unit of area is a village-vide
are 2 of Board's Proceedings no 2646
dated 2nd November 1882, read
in

in Government order no 130 -

dated 22nd November 1882.

5. The collector's action in ordering
postponement of Collection in respect
of ascertained Shari and wet waste
is approved.

6. Since writing his main report,
the Collector has become aware
that the Salt department does
not propose to continue operation
this year in the Ennore and Bayalu
circles. This decision very materially
affects the question of the necessity
for employment being provided

Tiruvallur.

State It is understood, however,
that the Salt Department, can, in
the event of no other suitable work
being available, give a certain
amount of employment by
fencing factories* and repairing patrol paths.

*Vide Appendix attached
— Remarks of the Commr. S.P.D.

These works would, however, be taken in
hand only as famine relief works,
on the understanding that the cost
should be debited to 33 Famine
and not to the department. The
orders of Government are solicited
whether such an arrangement is
permissible.

The areas in which relief may
become

? each

become necessary are now we
and the collector is therefore requested
to report at once what works he
intends to take up in such tract, in
the event of relief becoming imperative.
So that the plan of campaign may
be fully considered. All relief works
in their initial stages will be
conducted on the intermediate system,
a description of which will be
found in Government Order
No. 430, dated 3rd June 1897—
herewith furnished. The rate of
wages proposed should be reported.
A few large central works should

referred to a number of small
scattered works.
8. The price of rice is in some
stations above the scarcity rate,
while the price of ragi is approaching
it.

(True Copy and Extract)

Revenue
Tammil Secretary.

To
Submitting to Government, Revenue Department, with an appendix
to the Collector of Chingleput,
with copy of Government order,
No 430 dated 3rd June 1897.

like Enod
18/1/98

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1898.

Board of Revenue
(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),
MADRAS.

Recd. } 1898. Enclosures
Regd. } Spare copies

Printed March th.

Proceedings, No. 76, 14th February 1898.

FEBRUARY.

State of season.—Submitting to Government, with remarks, report from the Collector of Chingleput on the — in the district.

Tiruvallur.

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

READ—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), Mis. No. 807, dated 5th February 1898:—

Read—the following letter from D. D. MURDOCH, Esq., Acting Collector of Chingleput, to the Famine Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Saidapet, 2nd February 1898, Ref. on No. 149-G1:—

As desired in paragraph 8 of the B.P., Mis. No. 10144, dated 22nd December 1897, I have the honour to submit a further report on the condition and prospects of the district.

2. The following statements are appended, bringing up to a more recent date the information furnished in the similar statements appended to my letter disposed of in the Board's Proceedings referred to above:—

A. The rainfall at each Tahsildar's and Deputy Tahsildar's head-quarter station.

B. The supply in the tanks at present.

C. The cultivation in each taluk in the current year as compared with the average for the past four years.

D. The prices of rice (second sort) and ragi at the different reporting stations in the district.

3. From statement A it will be seen that the further rainfall in December was only 1.44 inches (on an average for the district), and there was no rain in January. In the Tiruvallūr and Ponnéri taluks the rain in December was particularly light, being only 0.05 of an inch at Sattiyavedu, 0.68 at Tiruvallūr and 0.88 at Ponnéri.

4. From statement B, it will be seen that about four-fifths of the number of tanks in the district were empty before the end of January.

5. The following table, extracted from statement C, shows the total cultivation in the district up to December as compared with the average of four years for the corresponding period:—

	Dry.		Wet.	
	First crop.	Second crop.	First crop.	Second crop.
Total cultivation up to December	ACS. 217,483	ACS. 9,743	ACS. 345,835	ACS. 20,960
Average for the corresponding period	207,591	14,303	325,796	28,035

The cultivation of first crop up to December in the current year is thus seen to be in excess of the average by acres 9,892 under "dry" and acres 20,039 under "wet." The second-crop cultivation under "wet" is also in excess of the average by acres 1,925, but under "dry" it is less than the average by acres 4,560.

6. The average cultivation from January to March (*vide* statement C) is—

		ACS.
First crop ...	{ Dry	12,413
	{ Wet	30,991
Second crop ...	{ Dry	11,060
	{ Wet	49,517

In the total cultivation for the year there will, it is now found, not be much deficiency in the first crop on dry lands, but a considerable decrease may be expected in the second crop on dry lands. The deficiency in the first-crop cultivation on wet lands will not exceed 10,000 acres, and may be considerably less. The estimate already made of the deficiency in the second-crop cultivation on wet lands, viz., acres 40,000, does not require alteration.

7. The probable remissions for withered crops on wet lands may be estimated at about—

	RS.		RS.
Ponnéri	45,000	Conjeeveram	18,000
Saidapet	21,000	Chingleput	30,000
Tiruvallūr	36,000	Madurantakam	30,000

These amounts aggregate Rs. 1,80,000. The remissions in respect of wet waste (other than mamul waste) may amount to about Rs. 40,000.

8. I have not considered it necessary to bring up to date the information given in the last report regarding the crops raised in each taluk and those on the ground, as the cultivation subsequent to November has not been important and as the crops are now being harvested. Particulars up to the end of this month (February) will be more useful and will be obtained for a future report, and it will then also be possible to give more exact information regarding the outturn of the crops.

9. From statement D, it will be seen that the price of rice (second sort) is still above the scarcity rate at Saidapet, Poonamallee, Chingleput, Sattiyavedu, and has risen slightly since my last report. The price of ragi has not yet reached the scarcity rate anywhere.

10. A supplemental report will be submitted in two or three days, in which the situation in each taluk will be dealt with in greater detail, and the question of whether any special relief to the ryots will be required by way of further remissions of revenue or postponement of collections will be discussed; also the question of whether any measures for the relief of distress are likely to be required.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

D.—Prices in seers of 80 tolas.

	Sattiyavedu.		Ponnéri.		Tiruvallūr.		Saidapet.		Poonamallee.	
	Rice.	Ragi.	Rice.	Ragi.	Rice.	Ragi.	Rice.	Ragi.	Rice.	Ragi.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3rd July 1897 ..	9.82	17.81	10.95	16.44	10.95	17.81	9.44	14.39	9.82	14.39
25th September 1897 ..	9.06	16.44	9.82	14.39	9.82	17.81	9.44	13.02	8.68	12.67
30th October ..	9.06	16.44	9.82	17.13	10.19	19.18	9.82	15.07	8.68	12.67
27th November ..	8.31	14.39	8.68	15.07	9.44	15.07	8.30	13.70	8.30	13.02
25th December ..	8.31	13.70	9.06	15.07	9.44	16.44	8.31	13.70	8.68	13.70
29th January 1898 ..	7.93	12.33	9.06	12.67	8.68	12.67	7.93	13.70	8.12	13.02

	Sriperumbádūr.		Conjeeveram.		Chingleput.		Uthiramerur.		Madurántakam.	
	Rice.	Ragi.	Rice.	Ragi.	Rice.	Ragi.	Rice.	Ragi.	Rice.	Ragi.
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
3rd July 1897 ..	11.67	14.72	9.82	13.68	9.84	13.91	12.16	14.54	11.22	14.54
25th September 1897 ..	10.66	14.72	11.17	14.72	9.43	12.72	11.22	13.68	10.29	12.83
30th October ..	10.90	16.10	11.17	16.56	10.06	15.90	11.22	17.10	10.75	16.25
27th November ..	8.87	13.80	10.15	14.72	8.06	12.72	9.35	13.68	8.88	14.54
25th December ..	10.15	14.72	10.66	15.18	8.75	13.12	9.35	14.54	9.35	13.68
29th January 1898 ..	9.64	14.72	9.64	14.72	7.88	13.12	9.35	13.68	9.35	13.68

	Rice. Ragi.	
Warning rate	11.20	18.00
Scarcity rate	8.40	12.00

Resolution—Mis. No. 807, dated 5th February 1898.

Recorded pending receipt of further report promised in paragraph 10 of the letter.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) L. E. BUCKLEY,
Famine Secretary.Copy to Government, Revenue, Department,
with copies of four statements.
,, Collector of Chingleput.

READ—also the following letter from D. D. MURDOCH, Esq., Acting Collector of Chingleput, to the Famine Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Saidapet, 4th February 1898, Dis. No. 270 :—

I have the honour to submit the supplemental report promised in the concluding paragraph of my letter, dated the 2nd instant, Ref. on No. 149-Gl., regarding the condition of the district with reference to the prospects of the season.

2. As remarked in my letter of the 17th December 1897, Dis. No. 3707, "though the rainfall in April, May and June was deficient, the average was slightly exceeded in July and August, and the rainfall was specially heavy in September (10.49 inches against an average of 4.94 for the district). In October, however, there was little rain (only 2.21 inches against an average of 8.55), and in November also it was deficient (5.03 inches against an average of 11.64)." It has also been remarked in that letter that the standing crops "on dry lands and on wet lands (unprotected by wells) under the large number of tanks which contained little or no supply of water in the middle of November and under the high level sluices of other tanks (with a few exceptions) suffered considerably from the deficient rainfall between the middle of October and the 24th November. Good rain (4.73 inches on an average for the district) from the 25th to the 30th November was in time to prevent or postpone total failure of crop (except in very few cases); but the yield, particularly of the crops on dry lands, has been greatly affected."

Such was the position in the middle of December. The subsequent rainfall in December was only 1.44 inches on an average for the district. In the Ponnéri taluk and at Tiruvallūr it was less than an inch, and at Sattiyavedu it was only 0.05 of an inch. In January there was no rain anywhere.

3. The cumbu crop (11,000 acres), grown chiefly in Tiruvallūr and to a less extent in Conjeeveram and Madurántakam, had already been harvested; and also more than two-thirds of the ragi crop (42,000 acres), grown in all taluks but most largely in Tiruvallūr, Conjeeveram and Madurántakam. Of the industrial crops, the indigo (19,000 acres), grown largely in Tiruvallūr and to a considerable extent in Ponnéri, and the gingelly-oil seeds (8,000 acres), grown on fairly large extents in Tiruvallūr, Conjeeveram and Madurántakam, were also harvested earlier in the year. Of the paddy, only a little over 20,000 acres had been harvested up to the end of November. The paddy crops on 364,000 acres were still on the ground, as also nearly the whole of the varagu (49,000 acres)—a very important crop in the Madurántakam taluk and important also in Tiruvallūr and Chingleput—and the cholam (7,000 acres), grown chiefly in Tiruvallūr and Madurántakam. These, together with the "other food-grains including pulses" (18,000 acres) and the ground-nut (4,100 acres), were the crops liable to be affected by the failure of the North-East monsoon rains. The crops that have been seriously affected are the paddy crop and the varagu. In the Madurántakam taluk, the slight rainfall in December helped on the latter crop. The crops that have been seriously affected are the paddy crop and the varagu. The outturn will be poor, but the extent of failure or very short crop will not exceed a third of the cultivated extent. In the Tiruvallūr taluk the proportionate area of this crop that will yield little or no outturn is about the same (one-third), but the outturn on the remaining area is not expected to be much more than four annas on an average. The failure has been almost complete in the Varadayyalayam firka of the Sattiyavedu division, as might be expected from the fact that, with the exception of a slight shower on the 31st December, there was no rain at Sattiyavedu in December and January.

Most important, however, is the paddy crop. Of the very large area (364,000 acres) on which this crop was standing at the end of November last, about 62,000 acres are dry land, distributed as under :—

	ACS.
Ponnéri	15,000
Saidapet	5,000
Tiruvallūr	8,000
Conjeeveram	20,000
Chingleput	5,000
Madurántakam	9,000

The failure of the crop on this area has been very extensive. On more than half of it the crop has either failed entirely or will yield a very poor outturn, and on the rest the outturn will be poor. In the Sattiyavedu division and the more eastern part of the Ponnéri taluk, the failure has been almost complete.

Coming to the paddy crop on wet lands, the extent of withered crop (including crops of which the outturn will be nominal, *i.e.*, under one anna) is estimated at about 60,000 acres, distributed as follows:—

	ACS.
Ponnéri ...	...
Saidapet ...	...
Tiruvallūr ...	15,000
Conjeeveram ...	7,000
Chingleput ...	12,000
Madurantakam ...	6,000
	10,000
	10,000

The figure given for Saidapet may be found too low, and that for Tiruvallūr somewhat too high.

The ratio of the estimated area of withered crop to the cultivated area of wet lands is nearly 1 to 6. It is highest in the Ponnéri taluk where it is as much as 1 to 3. It is specially high in particular tracts, namely:—

- (1) the northern and eastern parts of the Ponnéri taluk (the Seganiyam, Kattur, Vayalur and part of the Nayar tagils);
- (2) the Varadayypalayam firka in the north of the Tiruvallūr taluk, and also the tract (east of Vadamadurai) that juts into the Ponnéri and Saidapet taluks, and a few villages in a western corner near Senrayanpalayam and
- (3) the Tirukkalukundram firka of the Chingleput taluk, and also a tract near Vandalūr.

Adjoining the last tract is a specially bad part of the Saidapet taluk, west of Pallavaram; and another part of that taluk where the crops have suffered severely is the tract between the Madras-Poonamallee road and the Madras Railway line, extending also north of Avadi towards Kilkundiya in the north-west corner of the taluk.

4. In the following statement the estimated remissions for shavi in the current year are compared with those granted in 1890-91 and 1892-93, in which years there was a somewhat similar failure of the North-East monsoon rains:—

	1890-91.	1892-93.	1897-98.
Ponnéri ..	RS. 69,355	RS. 27,984	RS. 45,000
Saidapet ..	49,848	8,804	21,000
Tiruvallūr ..	53,979	34,623	36,000
Conjeeveram ..	6,672	3,915	19,000
Chingleput ..	27,815	22,303	30,000
Madurantakam ..	17,971	15,134	30,000

In drawing conclusions from this comparison it must be remembered that the remissions in 1890-91 and 1892-93 included remissions for short crop (of two annas and less).

5. The parts most severely affected in the current year are (1) the Seganiyam tagil of the Avur firka, the Vayalur firka and part of the Nayar tagil of the Sholaveram firka in the Ponnéri taluk, and (2) the Varadayypalayam firka in the north of the Tiruvallūr taluk, which extends south nearly to Uttukottai. In these two tracts the season must be nearly as bad as in 1890-91. That year, however, followed on an unfavourable season in the previous year, whereas the last four years have been fairly good ones. For this reason I have not considered it necessary to extend the shavi azmoish to short crop, and this was the less necessary because the extent on which the crop will be more than nominal but not more than two annas is not large. It is also most difficult to estimate with any accuracy a crop of between one and two annas, and the concession would have opened a door to fraud.

6. It has now to be considered whether it is necessary to grant any other special concession in the two tracts above mentioned, and, if so, whether it should take the form of partial remissions in respect of the dry lands on which paddy and varagu crops were raised or of partial postponement of collections of revenue. Not only has the failure of the paddy crop on wet lands been very extensive in these tracts, but

where the crop has not altogether failed the outturn will, in most cases, be poor; and the yield of the paddy crop on dry lands and the varagu crop will be very short where it has not failed entirely. In the Varadayypalayam firka of the Tiruvallūr taluk the ryots are not quite so dependent on these crops as in the Ponnéri taluk. Indigo and ragi are grown to a fairly large extent; there is also some cultivation of cholam, cumbu and gingelly oil-seeds; and there are a good many wells. In the affected tract of the Ponnéri taluk there is hardly anything grown but paddy, and there are few wells. The difficulty of meeting the Government demand will, therefore, be greater, probably, in the latter tract; but it may be expected to occur in individual villages of the former tract also.

So far as the yield of the paddy and varagu crops on dry lands is concerned, I would have no hesitation in recommending the remission of half the assessment on the dry lands cultivated with these crops in the two tracts in question; but I do not consider that any special concession in respect of dry lands need be granted in villages in which there has not also been a very serious failure of the paddy crop on the wet lands, and even in the severely affected tracts there are villages in which this has not been the case. In some the tanks are larger or have better means of supply; in some others the crops on the wet lands have been, for the most part, saved by baling from wells or pools. Any concession that may be granted will require to be by villages rather than by tracts. It is, therefore, difficult to recommend any special concession in regard to dry lands, as it would have to apply to tracts.

Moreover, the paddy crop on dry lands is a speculative one, and it is not desirable to encourage it by granting any special concession in respect of it. In some cases, it is true, the dry lands on which it is grown are classed as mānavāri and are assessed at a somewhat higher rate than the ordinary dry rate; but such lands are scattered, and from enquiries that I have made in particular villages in which the extents are large I have found that no general recommendation can be made in their behalf.

7. The conclusion arrived at is that, if it is necessary to assist the poorer ryots of the specially affected tracts to tide over this very unfavourable season without selling the grain required for food and seed or disposing of their cattle or encumbering their small plots of land, the assistance must be in the form of postponement of collections. To this form of concession also there are objections, and I shall not recommend it unless I find it to be essential. It is a little too early yet to judge whether it will be necessary, but I anticipate that it will be in the case of the smaller pattadars in particular villages of the worst affected tracts.

8. Special arrangements have been made for the prompt azmoish and check inspection of shavi in all taluks, and the jamabandi will be commenced early in March. I intend to settle the Ponnéri taluk myself, in the special circumstances of the year, and it will be possible to ascertain definitely at the jamabandi whether any concession in the matter of postponement of collections is necessary and, if so, what the limitations should be.

9. The postponement of collections in respect of ascertained shavi (present) and "wet" waste (due to deficiency of water) has already been ordered.

10. There remains the question of whether any severe distress, requiring relief by Government, may be apprehended. It occurred in 1891; but, as already remarked, the previous year was an unfavourable one. It may occur in the worst affected parts this year, and they are being watched; but the labouring classes, who would be affected first, have not yet begun to stint themselves and still find employment. In this connection it is important to remember that in the Ponnéri taluk there is not much cultivation of the earlier crops under the South-West monsoon. On the other hand, in that taluk the labouring classes have recently had, and in some parts are still having, an unusual amount of labour in connection with the repair of tanks under the Tank Restoration Scheme and the formation of the embankment for the Madras-Bezawada Railway line. For the more easterly villages, too, there will be work in the salt pans; and the labourers in some of the villages in the north of that taluk find a good deal of work in excavating shells. There is, however, an interior belt which may cause anxiety.

11. There is a small Zemin tract, north-east of Nágálápúram (between the Nágálápúram and the Sattiyavedu hills), which is also being carefully watched. Higher up the valley, on the Varadayypalayam side, the situation is not so serious, but in the villages at the mouth of the valley (towards Nágálápúram), the failure of the crops has been extensive and almost complete. It is, however, a small tract and labour will probably be found—for a little longer at any rate—in the villages higher up the valley and in the Government villages near Nágálápúram where the crops are good. The people are not stinting themselves at present, but the poorer classes seem to have no stock of grain and live on the cooly earned from day to day.

12. I visited the Sattiyavedu division, including the tract just mentioned, last month and also the Ponnéri taluk, and I intend to make a tour through the Chingleput taluk this month.

READ—also the following letter from D. D. MURDOCH, Esq., Acting Collector of Chingleput, to the Famine Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Saidapet, 8th February 1898, Dis. No. 279:—

In continuation of my letter, of the 5th instant, No. 270, and with reference to paragraph 10 thereof, I have the honour to state that I now learn that there is to be no manufacture of salt this year in the factories of the Ennore and Vayalur circles. This will aggravate the situation in the east of the Ponnéri taluk between the Arni and the Cortelliyar rivers, and that is a tract in which it will be specially difficult to meet any pressing demand for labour that may arise. Road works cannot be provided, the existing roads being unmetalled and there being no quarries anywhere near. The quarries are by the side of the northern trunk road or west of it. All the irrigation works have been recently put in repair (under the Tank Restoration Scheme). The track is not suitable for digging wells, the water in them being brackish and unsuitable for irrigation. In the south of the tract there is one work available, the Minjur channel; but it is a comparatively small work, the amount of the estimate available for famine labour being only Rs. 2,142. The only other work that could be taken up in case of necessity is what is known as the Vayalur project, but that is a work which, under orders already passed, must be reserved for a period of very severe distress. Its utility is doubtful.

2. I think it right to bring this to notice, as the Commissioner of Salt Revenue was probably unaware that it will not be possible to provide labour on ordinary works, nor even on useful relief works, for the large number of labourers (the Tahsildar of Ponnéri estimates the number at 2,000) who will be deprived of their usual work for the next few months by the stoppage of salt manufacture.

RESOLUTION—No. 76, dated 14th February 1898.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall of the district has been untimely and deficient as shown in appendix A in the first of the Collector's letters read above. Four-fifths of the tanks had no supply at the end of December, and the majority of the remainder held but small supplies.

3. Cumbu (11,000 acres) and ragi (42,000 acres) were harvested chiefly in Tiruvallúr, Chingleput and Madurantakam taluks before November 1897 and were not adversely affected by the season. The Collector gives details of the condition of the later crops, of which paddy (364,000 acres) and varagu (49,000 acres) are the most important. The outturn will be very severely affected by the bad season, and the Collector anticipates that at least Rs. 1,81,000 must be remitted for withered crop. The Board approves of the action of the Collector in not extending the azmoish of wet lands to short crop, under the circumstances explained.

4. The Board is, however, unable to accept the arguments of the Collector for not recommending any remission on dry lands in the affected parts of the Tiruvallúr and Ponnéri taluks. There may be no necessity for such remission, but the reasons put forward for not recommending it do not appear sound. The reasons assigned are (1) that no concession seems called for in respect of dry lands in those villages which have had a fair wet crop; (2) that many of the villages which have lost their dry crops have had fair wet crops; (3) that, in consequence, any concession will have to be granted by villages rather than by tracts; and (4) that, as concessions for loss of dry crops have under the rules to be made by tracts and not by villages, it is difficult to make any recommendation. The only question to be considered is whether there has been a general failure of dry crops: it is immaterial what has become of the wet crops. It is to be remembered that, in villages where both wet and dry cultivation are found, it is generally only the poorer classes who cultivate the dry lands; at any rate, they cultivate but very little of the better lands. Many pattas, of course, do include both wet and dry lands, but this is no reason for refusing the benefits of the remission rules, to which the ryots otherwise have a claim. The Collector's opinion as to the speculative nature of the rainfed paddy crops and the undesirability of encouraging such cultivation, should not influence the decision of the question: for, according to the principles under which the lands were settled, Government is not concerned with the nature of the crops cultivated. The Collector suggests a postponement of collections, but this probably will be insufficient in the Seganiyam tagil of the Avur firka, the Vayalur firka and the Nayar tagil of the Sholavaram firka of the Ponnéri taluk and in the Varadayypalayam firka of the Tiruvallúr taluk where remission of assessment on dry lands in whole or in part may be necessary. The Collector will be requested to report whether he wishes to recommend any remission of assessment on dry lands, bearing in mind that his decision should not be influenced by the state of the wet crops and that for purposes of dry remission, the "tract" may be of any size, and ordinarily the unit of area is a village—*vide* paragraph 2 of B.P., No. 2616, dated 2nd November 1882, read in G.O., No. 1302, Revenue, dated 22nd November 1882.

5. The Collector's action in ordering postponement of collection in respect of ascertained shavi and wet waste is approved.

6. Since writing his main report the Collector has become aware that the Salt Department does not propose to continue operations this year in the Ennore and Vayalur circles. This decision very materially affects the question of the necessity for employment being provided by the State. It is understood, however, that the Salt Department can, in the event of no other suitable work being available, give a certain amount of employment by fencing factories and repairing patrol paths. These works would, however, be taken in hand only as famine relief works, on the understanding that the cost should be debited to 33. Famine and not to the department. The orders of Government are solicited whether such an arrangement is permissible.

7. The areas in which relief may become necessary are now well known and the Collector is therefore requested to report at once what works he intends to take up in such tracts in the event of relief becoming imperative, so that the plan of campaign may be fully considered. All relief works in their initial stages will be conducted on the intermediate system, a description of which will be found in G.O., No. 430, dated 3rd June 1897, herewith furnished. The rate of wages proposed should be reported. A few large central works should be preferred to a number of small scattered works.

8. The price of rice is in some stations above the scarcity rate while the price of ragi is approaching it.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Famine Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Chingleput with copy of G.O., No. 430,
dated 3rd June 1897.

Exd. A. F. Eccleston.

-Abstract of Season Report for the week ending 5th February 1893.

CHINGLEPUT.

Water-supply insufficient for irrigation. Ploughing, sowing, weeding and transplanting in parts. Standing wet crops have failed or will fail; dry crops generally fair, but paddy on dry lands withered. Paddy, varagu, ground-nut, maize, ragi and sweet-potato harvested; outturn bad to average. Pasture sufficient, fodder available. Condition of cattle generally good. Deaths from cholera 22. Season generally unfavourable especially in Ponneri, Tiruvallur, Saidapet and Chingleput. Demand for employment being locally met.

RAINFALL AND PRICES OF THE STAPLE FOOD-GRAINS.

Districts.	RAINFALL IN INCHES.			PRICES IN SEERS (OF 80 TOLAS) PER RUPEE											
	In the week.	Up to the end of the week from 1st April		Rice.			Ragi.			Cholam.			Cumbu.		
		1897-98.	Average of 25 years.	Average for February.*	Last week.	This week.	Average for February.*	Last week.	This week.	Average for February.*	Last week.	This week.	Average for February.*	Last week.	This week.
Chingleput.	..	31.9	43.7	15.3	8.8	8.9	25.6	13.4	13.5	..	..	..	..	..	..

-Abstract of Season Report for the week ending 12th February 1893.

CHINGLEPUT.

Water-supply insufficient for irrigation. Ploughing, sowing, weeding and transplanting in parts. Standing wet crops good or fair under wells river channels and large tanks but have failed or will fail on large areas elsewhere; dry crops generally fair, except rain-fed paddy. Paddy, varagu, ground-nut, cholam, ragi and sweet-potato harvested; outturn bad to average. Pasture sufficient; fodder available, but getting scarce in parts. Condition of cattle generally good. Season generally unfavourable especially in Ponneri, Tiruvallur and Saidapet.

RAINFALL AND PRICES OF THE STAPLE FOOD-GRAINS.

Districts.	RAINFALL IN INCHES.			PRICES IN SEERS (OF 80 TOLAS) PER RUPEE											
	In the week.	Up to the end of the week from 1st April		Rice.			Ragi.			Cholam.			Cumbu.		
		1897-98.	Average of 25 years.	Average for February.*	Last week.	This week.	Average for February.*	Last week.	This week.	Average for February.*	Last week.	This week.	Average for February.*	Last week.	This week.
Chingleput.	..	31.9	43.8	15.3	8.9	8.8	25.6	13.5	13.5	..	..	..	..	..	..

Extract from the Collector's Season Rep
for the week ending 12. 2. 88

Chingleput DC

Standing crops.

Ragi, Varagu, Cholam, Groundnut, Chingalli on dry lands; Samba and Kar on wet lands. Paddy crops in good or fair condition under wells and river channels and some tanks, but have failed or will fail on large extents (estimated at about 60,000 in all). Paddy on dry lands will yield only a very short outturn where it has not failed entirely. Other crops on dry lands are in fair condition except Varagu, the outturn of which will be very poor in Tiruvallur and poor elsewhere.

Harvest.

Samba, Varagu, Groundnut and Cholam - Madurantakam and Conjeeveram, outturn fair to average in the former and middling in the latter. Samba and Varagu - Chingleput and Tiruvallur - outturn poor to average in the former and poor to middling in the latter for Samba and bad for the Varagu. Sirumani and Pisini in Tiru. outturn poor to middling and Cholam also with the same outturn. Samba in Sengur - outturn middling - Varagu, and Ragi in Ponneri - outturn fair.

Pasture and fodder.

Pasture sufficient, fodder is scarce. It is reported to be getting scarce in Chingleput and Tiruvallur.

2003

2003

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2

General remarks.

Season - very unfavourable in the
and northern parts of the Ponneri Taluk, the
part of the Tiruvallur Taluk, and parts of
Saidapet and the Tiruvallur Taluks; and unfav-
-able, on the whole, elsewhere. The slight rainfa-
in the Ponneri Taluk and part of the Tiruvallur
Taluk has helped the sowing of indigo and the
transplanting of ragi.

...the collection
amount of premium
of shari at Rs. 18,000
and that on account of wet
(other than ...)

may be started when need.

Read. Cms. 1423 & 1433/10

Note

The Board of Revenue sub,
the detailed report from the Col.
of Chinsliput on the condition
and prospects of the district. The
rainfall during the closing months
of the year has been very much
below the average and the parts of
the district, most affected are
the northern and eastern part
the Ponnur taluk, the northern
part of the Tiruvallur taluk, and
parts of the Chinsliput and the
Saidapet taluk. The Collector, however,
does not consider that anything
beyond the postponement of
collections will be found
necessary to enable the ryots
to tide over the present un-
favourable season. The collector
estimates the amount of remission
on account of share at Rs. 1,80,000
and that on account of wet

(other than agricultural)

~~complaints~~ which there has
 also been a very serious fail-
 ure of paddy crop on wet lands.
 reference to this, the Board of
 revenue points out that collector
 at such considerations should
 guide him in recommending
 remissions on dry lands and
 that the only question to be considered
 whether there has been a general
 failure of dry crops. This is correct
 in principle ^{under the B.P.O. (23)} but as dry remissions
 are granted in exceptional years or
 under exceptional circumstances, the
 collector may be trusted to recom-
 mend the remission in tracts where
 it becomes necessary.

2. Coolies are reported
 to find employment and have
 not begun to start themselves.

3. ~~Board~~ Next as

regards the provision of suitable work
 pending in the event of its becoming
 necessary to open measures of relief

para 4

The Board seem rather to misunder-
 stand the collector. The collector's
 reason for not recommending
 dry remissions is the
 correct principle that tracts
 are not affected, but only ^{regd. 1)} plots in villages. The general
 principle is that dry remissions
 are not allowable, & that only
 in very exceptional years ^{under the} or very exceptional crops
 and seeing that the wet crops
 have been ^{where dry have failed} generally poor, the collector
 considers that the "very exceptional" crops
 have not arisen. This is how I
 read his ~~letter~~ reference to wet crops
 with the City of Madras in the name of
 the Chingleput cooly is exceptionally
 advantaged in the matter of procuring
 employ- ^{P.F. 25/4/8}

vide para 8 of the joint report
 under P.O. 529
 3.7.97

Yes
 NW

Very little
 NW

3

may be started when necessary.
 It is understood that the S.D.
 Company intends to double its
^{particular} line to Chingleput. The P.W.
 (Ry) may be asked what is
 what stage the proposal at
 present is and whether the
 same can be pushed through
 so as to make the necessary
 earth work available for
 famine ^{the} relief. The Salt Dep.
 can, it is reported, provide some
work in the way of fencing fact
 and the repair of patrol paths,
 but in view of the contraction
 of the salt market in the present
 and the cessation of manufacture
 of salt in the more and
 Vengal factories, this work
 can hardly be classed as
 useful and should not be
 undertaken except in cases
 of extreme necessity ~~and~~ when
 no other work could be provided.

C.P.
 24/2/98.

W.H.
 24/2/98.

N.H.

ended with the remarks
made in the S. Arch report.
at dry remissions need
be anticipated & that
to on/ in exceptional
are as that are sure to
attract the notice of
the local officers that
dry remissions need be
granted.

18/3/98

See draft below
for approval

9/3/98

will now come to the Board; and even
and he to examine, I would suggest
it would be better to make his independent
mistakes in any case, as it is better to
make a few mistakes than to be
championed.

I would suggest that the idea proposed by
the Board might be better.

19.3.98

4

I must think tonight so far from
say that dry remissions are not to be
given without the sanction of S. Arch - I must
be careful say where an exceptional R.D.
may be allowed -

4/3/98

I agree that dry re-
missions are not to be granted
in any district without
the previous approval
of S. Arch. When that ap-
proval has been given
the details are to be left
to the R.D.

7/3/98

I should be grateful to Hon. Members if they
would consider the above proposal. We are
doing what we can to do. To begin with to
reduce the overwhelming volume of work
which devolves upon the Hon. Members. By the
proposed new method, the R.D. will be de-
prived of its present burden, which will be
transferred to the new method. I am sure for
S. Arch. I understand that the Hon. Members
the proposal is the fact that one of the
members of the R.D. may give too much
remission - but this is a matter for the Hon. Members

8/4/98

4

To Hon. Mr. Fox
Sir H. Allen

Re circulated with reference
to the note of H. S. the pres.

18/3/98

The cases in which the grant
of dry remission are needed are
very exceptional - I doubt if they
average one per annum. When such
a case does occur, the R.D. invariably
reports its action and the S. Arch as invariably
examines the case and passes re-
marks on it if it thinks that re-
marks are called for. There is no re-
quirement therefore, that the R.D. should
seek the sanction of S. Arch before authorizing
the grant of dry remissions would add
appreciably, if at all, to the work of
members of S. Arch - It is one possible
remedy for the mistakes made by
the R.D. in this matter as they arise.
The existing system might be continued,
but it is not possible - The R.D. orders
for the grant of dry remission now reach
the district long before the S. Arch even, when
the present system comes to know of
them; and it is not possible to overrule
such orders without the certainty of
much greater discontent than would
result from a refusal to sanction pro-
posals of which the people was would
have benefited & whom would never have
heard.

I don't know how it originally came
about that the R.D. had power to grant
dry remissions - I imagine it is a sur-
vival of that in the old days, before the
districts were "settled", when used to grant
dry remissions, at their dis-
cretion, and that the R.D. present
was intended to restrict, rather
than to authorize, such grants. Under present
arrangements, with all the districts in which re-
missions are granted "settled", the power
is vested in the R.D. of requirements - It is also
an obvious power to entrust as at present
as it is in charge of the Dept. whose absolute author-
ity is qualified by the fact that the Secretary
is and exercises the power of circulating
orders of importance to word members of S. Arch.
In the case of the R.D., the settlement
order is absolutely uncontrolled - He
is not even a S. Arch Secretary whose influ-
ence might operate to restrain him from
granting and but can give away lakhs
lakhs of S. Arch money in S. Arch check-
books. It is therefore that I think
the sanction of S. Arch should be required to
grant such remissions. If however,
the Hon. Members think

1. 20 11/6/98

extremely important question
it be made a "full Board"
not left in the hands of
a member of the B., over whose
advice there is no control whatever
should then have such a guarantee
the careful consideration of the question
warrant in diverting ourselves
all powers with regard to it. Apparently
have no such guarantee.

Should say that, pending the
decision of this with the Board of P.
not later time. The general question
unbedisputed of separately
in P. should not be delayed.

Circ: 18/3/98

6
I think it will be better to
make it a full Board
question. This will compress
two considerations that
dry remissions is any way
granted under very exceptional
circumstances; but I think the
question whether dry remission
should be granted or not should be
settled by the full Bd, the
details could be left with the
member.

21/3/98
Office
Issue the draft P.
without para 3 at once
then circ. the file again
8/4
19/3/98

Draft
8/4
24/3/98

See Two drafts submitted
below
Hlle
26/3/98
Issue the draft to D.O. and
about the doubling of the line
but railway line must also be

H.E. the Governor to see before
case
H.M. 8/4 1073/8

9/3/98
Regarding the "claim" of the
ryots to dry "remission" on
dry lands the pt. desires to
point out that the ryots
have no such claim is recognized
by the rules. The general principle
is that "no remission of assessment
on unwatered land will be
granted." Where "in very
exceptional years or under
very exceptional circumstances"
a concession in this
respect may appropriately be con-
sidered, it sh^d be understood that
it is not to be admitted unless
in such very exceptional cases
as are sure to attract the
attention of the local officers

Read
(1) B. P. 807 (no 1123)
(2) B. P. 76 (no 1433)

Order (P. no) N. 165 of 19th March 18
Recorded

2. With reference to the Board's rem^o
in para 4 of the second of the process
read above ~~the Board desires to~~
~~point out that dry remission~~
~~dry remission is not allowed~~
~~and that they are to be given only~~
~~in exceptional cases or~~
~~under exceptional circumstances~~
~~as are sure to attract the attention~~
~~of the local officers.~~
B. In order to ensure
that public revenues are not
diminished, the Government
has given up the "commis-
sion" to direct that "dry" remissions
should not be granted in any district
without its previous approval. When
that approval has been given, the
details will be left to the Board
of Revenue.

Held over 3 (from orders)
para 3
issue the draft 11/4
the respect of 9/3/98
8/4 1073/8
9/3/98

Government {1898} of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

Enclosures

1898.

Regd.

Spare copies

G.O., No. 165, 19th March 1898.

MARCH.

Season in the Chingleput district.

Recording, with remarks, Board's Proceedings on letter from the Collector of Chingleput reporting on the state of the —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 76, dated 14th February 1898:—

Read—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), Mis. No. 807, dated 5th February 1898:—

Read—the following letter from D. D. MURDOCH, Esq., Acting Collector of Chingleput, to the Famine Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Saidapet, 2nd February 1898, Ref. on No. 149-G1:—

As desired in paragraph 8 of the B.P., Mis. No. 10144, dated 22nd December 1897, I have the honour to submit a further report on the condition and prospects of the district.

2. The following statements are appended, bringing up to a more recent date the information furnished in the similar statements appended to my letter disposed of in the Board's Proceedings referred to above:—

A. The rainfall at each Tahsildar's and Deputy Tahsildar's head-quarter station.

B. The supply in the tanks at present.

C. The cultivation in each taluk in the current year as compared with the average for the past four years.

D. The prices of rice (second sort) and ragi at the different reporting stations in the district.

3. From statement A it will be seen that the further rainfall in December was only 1.44 inches (on an average for the district), and there was no rain in January. In the Tiruvallūr and Ponnéri taluks the rain in December was particularly light, being only 0.05 of an inch at Sattiyavedu, 0.68 at Tiruvallūr and 0.88 at Ponnéri.

4. From statement B, it will be seen that about four-fifths of the number of tanks in the district were empty before the end of January.

5. The following table, extracted from statement C, shows the total cultivation in the district up to December as compared with the average of four years for the corresponding period:—

	Dry.		Wet.	
	First crop.	Second crop.	First crop.	Second crop.
Total cultivation up to December	ACS. 217,483	ACS. 9,743	ACS. 345,835	ACS. 29,960
Average for the corresponding period	207,591	14,303	325,796	28,035

The cultivation of first crop up to December in the current year is thus seen to be in excess of the average by acres 9,892 under "dry" and acres 20,039 under "wet." The second-crop cultivation under "wet" is also in excess of the average by acres 1,925, but under "dry" it is less than the average by acres 4,560.

6. The average cultivation from January to March (*vide* statement C) is—

		ACS.
First crop ...	Dry ...	12,413
	Wet ...	30,991
Second crop ...	Dry ...	11,060
	Wet ...	49,517

In the total cultivation for the year there will, it is now found, not be much deficiency in the first crop on dry lands, but a considerable decrease may be expected in the second crop on dry lands. The deficiency in the first-crop cultivation on wet lands will not exceed 10,000 acres, and may be considerably less. The estimate already made of the deficiency in the second-crop cultivation on wet lands, viz., acres 40,000, does not require alteration.

7. The probable remissions for withered crops on wet lands may be estimated at about—

	RS.		RS.
Ponnéri ...	45,000	Conjeeveram ...	18,000
Saidapet ...	21,000	Chingleput ...	30,000
Tiruvallūr ...	36,000	Madurantakam ...	30,000

These amounts aggregate Rs. 1,80,000. The remissions in respect of wet waste (other than mamul waste) may amount to about Rs. 40,000.

8. I have not considered it necessary to bring up to date the information given in the last report regarding the crops raised in each taluk and those on the ground, as the cultivation subsequent to November has not been important and as the crops are now being harvested. Particulars up to the end of this month (February) will be more useful and will be obtained for a future report, and it will then also be possible to give more exact information regarding the outturn of the crops.

9. From statement D, it will be seen that the price of rice (second sort) is still above the scarcity rate at Saidapet, Poonamallee, Chingleput, Sattiyavedu, and has risen slightly since my last report. The price of ragi has not yet reached the scarcity rate anywhere.

10. A supplemental report will be submitted in two or three days, in which the situation in each taluk will be dealt with in greater detail, and the question of whether any special relief to the ryots will be required by way of further remissions of revenue or postponement of collections will be discussed; also the question of whether any measures for the relief of distress are likely to be required.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

A.—Statement showing rainfall from April 1897 to date as compared with the average for 25 years.

Station.	April.		May.		June.		July.		August.		September.		October.		November.		December.		January.	
	In the month.		In the month.		In the month.		In the month.		In the month.		In the month.		In the month.		In the month.		In the month.		In the month.	
	INS.	Twenty-five years' average.	INS.	Twenty-five years' average.	INS.	Twenty-five years' average.	INS.	Twenty-five years' average.	INS.	Twenty-five years' average.	INS.	Twenty-five years' average.	INS.	Twenty-five years' average.	INS.	Twenty-five years' average.	INS.	Twenty-five years' average.	INS.	Twenty-five years' average.
Sathiyavadu ..	0.17	0.18	0.43	1.90	1.84	2.53	1.15	3.29	4.22	4.33	8.05	4.46	1.37	8.09	4.66	11.48	0.05	4.20	1.00	1.14
Tiruvallūr ..	0.45	0.45	1.85	1.75	2.13	2.63	1.87	3.34	6.15	5.07	12.82	4.33	3.43	7.29	5.65	10.06	0.88	3.16	0.35	1.01
Ponnéri ..	0.30	0.30	0.42	1.75	0.95	1.86	2.91	3.48	8.21	5.10	13.73	4.36	3.08	10.12	4.89	13.91	0.88	4.11	0.99	1.04
Siddapet ..	0.05	0.13	0.98	1.96	1.48	2.49	0.96	3.88	7.78	4.90	16.02	5.24	1.95	10.91	6.70	14.42	4.75	5.63	0.63	0.81
Ponmalles ..	0.21	0.13	0.28	0.61	0.11	2.49	0.96	3.88	7.78	4.90	16.02	5.24	1.95	10.91	6.70	14.42	4.75	5.63	0.63	0.81
Perumalloor ..	0.20	0.13	0.28	0.61	0.11	2.49	0.96	3.88	7.78	4.90	16.02	5.24	1.95	10.91	6.70	14.42	4.75	5.63	0.63	0.81
Conjeevaram ..	0.20	0.13	0.28	0.61	0.11	2.49	0.96	3.88	7.78	4.90	16.02	5.24	1.95	10.91	6.70	14.42	4.75	5.63	0.63	0.81
Uthiramerur ..	0.20	0.13	0.28	0.61	0.11	2.49	0.96	3.88	7.78	4.90	16.02	5.24	1.95	10.91	6.70	14.42	4.75	5.63	0.63	0.81
Chingleput ..	0.50	0.27	1.89	1.89	1.53	3.86	6.28	4.17	10.23	6.73	5.01	5.38	1.29	9.04	4.78	11.24	2.54	3.80	0.31	0.30
Madurantakam ..	0.20	0.20	2.66	1.21	1.91	2.76	2.32	3.61	5.07	5.99	14.01	5.98	2.98	7.87	4.20	11.57	1.87	4.15	0.68	0.66
Total ..	1.51	3.38	4.95	17.26	15.56	27.94	37.16	36.22	68.20	53.52	104.94	49.44	22.11	85.53	50.80	116.41	14.44	42.12	5.54	6.77
Average ..	0.15	0.33	0.49	1.72	1.55	2.79	3.71	3.62	6.82	5.35	10.49	4.94	2.21	8.55	5.03	11.64	1.44	4.21	.55	0.67
	April to June		..	..	2.19	4.84	July to September	..	..	21.02	13.91	October to December	..	..	8.68	24.40	..	..	..	..

No. 165, REVENUE, 19TH MARCH 1898.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

B.—Statement showing the existing supply in the taluks in the several taluks of the district.

Taluka.	Total number of tanks.	Supply lasting					Remarks.
		For four months or more.	For three months or more but less than four months.	For two months or more but less than three months.	For one month or more but less than two months.	Under one month.	
Ponnéri ..	285	..	..	..	1	16	In the tank supply statement submitted with this office letter No. 3707, dated 18th December 1897, the total number of irrigation works for Conjeevaram, Chingleput and Madurantakam taluks was adopted from the figures furnished by the Tahsildars. The number now shown against these and other taluks is adopted from the last jamabandi statement.
Siddapet + ..	275	..	..	..	13	7	
Tiruvallūr ..	452	..	..	..	6	22	
Conjeevaram ..	484	..	3	6	16	134	
Chingleput ..	447	1	2	14	11	14	
Madurantakam ..	596	1	7	12	35	144	
Total ..	2,539	2	12	31	81	337	2,072

* The figures in columns 3 to 8 against Ponnéri taluk do not include the supply in (1) Sholavaram tank which is reported to contain 15 feet of water at the main sluice and (2) the Vallur anicut at which there is 2 feet 9 inches of water.

† Particulars of supply in (1) the Chembambakam tank which is reported to contain 4.30 feet of water and (2) the Red Hills tank which has 20 feet of water are not given in columns 3 to 8 against Siddapet taluk.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

C.—Statement of cultivation in the several taluks of the district in the year 1897-98 as compared with the average of the five years ending 1896-97.

	Up to the end of September.						Up to the end of December.						January.						February.									
	First crop.			Second crop.			First crop.			Second crop.			First crop.			Second crop.			First crop.									
	Dry.		Wet.	Dry.		Wet.	Dry.		Wet.	Dry.		Wet.	Dry.		Wet.	Dry.		Wet.	Dry.		Wet.							
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1																												
Ponnéri ..	ACS. 22,424	ACS. 29,255	ACS. 36	ACS. 275	ACS. 29,379	ACS. 42,280	ACS. 799	ACS. 2,249	ACS. 1,014	ACS. 1,396	ACS. 1,426	ACS. 1,533	ACS. 547	ACS. 447														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
Saidapet ..	ACS. 23,703	ACS. 30,325	ACS. 46	ACS. 468	ACS. 31,507	ACS. 44,253	ACS. 677	ACS. 3,031	ACS. 828	ACS. 3,153	ACS. 132	ACS. 2,906	ACS. 572	ACS. 1,271														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
Tiruvallūr ..	ACS. 16,899	ACS. 31,314	ACS. 67	ACS. 451	ACS. 24,061	ACS. 45,559	ACS. 866	ACS. 4,140	ACS. 828	ACS. 3,153	ACS. 132	ACS. 2,906	ACS. 572	ACS. 1,271														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
Conjeevaram ..	ACS. 17,221	ACS. 31,178	ACS. 37	ACS. 904	ACS. 26,879	ACS. 48,871	ACS. 296	ACS. 5,363	ACS. 1,255	ACS. 1,403	ACS. 1,466	ACS. 1,832	ACS. 272	ACS. 732														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
Chingleput ..	ACS. 24,404	ACS. 41,709	ACS. 223	ACS. 465	ACS. 38,261	ACS. 67,005	ACS. 4,355	ACS. 6,869	ACS. 906	ACS. 4,386	ACS. 321	ACS. 9,323	ACS. 613	ACS. 849														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
Madurantakam ..	ACS. 22,695	ACS. 36,928	ACS. 138	ACS. 530	ACS. 37,802	ACS. 59,821	ACS. 3,423	ACS. 8,624	ACS. 906	ACS. 4,386	ACS. 321	ACS. 9,323	ACS. 613	ACS. 849														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
District Total ..	ACS. 142,248	ACS. 215,419	ACS. 749	ACS. 2,647	ACS. 207,591	ACS. 325,796	ACS. 14,303	ACS. 28,035	ACS. 5,990	ACS. 21,232	ACS. 4,216	ACS. 22,350	ACS. 3,442	ACS. 5,710														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
February—cont.																												
March.																												
Up to the end of March.																												
January to March.																												
February ..	ACS. 1,082	ACS. 1,347	ACS. 343	ACS. 229	ACS. 1,347	ACS. 1,347	ACS. 343	ACS. 229	ACS. 1,347	ACS. 1,347	ACS. 343	ACS. 229	ACS. 1,347	ACS. 1,347														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
Saidapet ..	ACS. 234	ACS. 2,913	ACS. 1,012	ACS. 895	ACS. 2,431	ACS. 3,909	ACS. 874	ACS. 44,353	ACS. 8,662	ACS. 6,003	ACS. 1,904	ACS. 5,319	ACS. 554	ACS. 8,214														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
Tiruvallūr ..	ACS. 633	ACS. 1,012	ACS. 1,030	ACS. 1,120	ACS. 2,431	ACS. 3,909	ACS. 874	ACS. 44,353	ACS. 8,662	ACS. 6,003	ACS. 1,904	ACS. 5,319	ACS. 554	ACS. 8,214														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
Conjeevaram ..	ACS. 385	ACS. 4,182	ACS. 583	ACS. 693	ACS. 270	ACS. 3,112	ACS. 78,546	ACS. 6,008	ACS. 6,008	ACS. 20,515	ACS. 2,102	ACS. 5,928	ACS. 976	ACS. 16,617														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
Chingleput ..	ACS. 189	ACS. 2,351	ACS. 526	ACS. 750	ACS. 139	ACS. 1,638	ACS. 18,540	ACS. 51,319	ACS. 848	ACS. 10,034	ACS. 1,594	ACS. 4,972	ACS. 463	ACS. 6,789														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
Madurantakam ..	ACS. 675	ACS. 1,714	ACS. 275	ACS. 362	ACS. 263	ACS. 1,720	ACS. 59,324	ACS. 71,432	ACS. 5,941	ACS. 15,034	ACS. 2,682	ACS. 9,446	ACS. 1,674	ACS. 7,390														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
District Total ..	ACS. 3,198	ACS. 13,536	ACS. 2,981	ACS. 4,049	ACS. 3,616	ACS. 13,631	ACS. 220,003	ACS. 356,789	ACS. 25,362	ACS. 77,561	ACS. 12,413	ACS. 30,991	ACS. 11,060	ACS. 49,517														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..														

No. 165, REVENUE, 19TH MARCH 1898.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

D.—Prices in seers of 80 tolas.

	Sattiyavedu.		Ponnéri.		Tiruvallūr.		Saidapet.		Poonamallee.	
	Rice.	Ragi.	Rice.	Ragi.	Rice.	Ragi.	Rice.	Ragi.	Rice.	Ragi.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3rd July 1897 ..	9.82	17.81	10.95	16.44	10.95	17.81	9.44	14.39	9.82	14.39
25th September 1897 ..	9.06	16.44	9.82	14.39	9.82	17.81	9.44	13.02	8.68	12.67
30th October ..	9.06	16.44	9.82	17.13	10.19	19.18	9.82	15.07	8.68	12.67
27th November ..	8.31	14.39	8.68	15.07	9.44	15.07	8.30	13.70	8.30	13.02
25th December ..	8.31	13.70	9.06	15.07	9.44	16.44	8.31	13.70	8.68	13.70
29th January 1898 ..	7.93	12.33	9.06	12.67	8.68	12.67	7.93	13.70	8.12	13.02

	Srīperumbādūr.		Conjeeveram.		Chingleput.		Uthiramerur.		Madurāntakam.	
	Rice.	Ragi.	Rice.	Ragi.	Rice.	Ragi.	Rice.	Ragi.	Rice.	Ragi.
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
3rd July 1897 ..	11.67	14.72	9.82	13.68	9.84	13.91	12.16	14.54	11.22	14.54
25th September 1897 ..	10.66	14.72	11.17	14.72	9.43	12.72	11.22	13.68	10.29	12.83
30th October ..	10.90	16.10	11.17	16.66	10.06	15.90	11.22	17.10	10.75	16.25
27th November ..	8.87	13.80	10.15	14.72	8.06	12.72	9.35	13.68	8.88	14.54
25th December ..	10.15	14.72	10.66	15.18	8.75	13.12	9.35	14.54	9.35	13.68
29th January 1898 ..	9.64	14.72	9.64	14.72	7.88	13.12	9.35	13.68	9.35	13.68

	Rice. Ragi.	
Warning rate	11.20	18.00
Scarcity rate	8.40	12.00

Resolution—Mis. No. 807, dated 5th February 1898.

Recorded pending receipt of further report promised in paragraph 10 of the letter.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) L. E. BUCKLEY,
Famine Secretary.

Copy to Government, Revenue, Department,
with copies of four statements.
,, Collector of Chingleput.

Read—also the following letter from D. D. MURDOCH, Esq., Acting Collector of Chingleput, to the Famine Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Saidapet, 4th February 1898, Dis. No. 270 :—

I have the honour to submit the supplemental report promised in the concluding paragraph of my letter, dated the 2nd instant, Ref. on No. 149-Gl., regarding the condition of the district with reference to the prospects of the season.

2. As remarked in my letter of the 17th December 1897, Dis. No. 3707, "though the rainfall in April, May and June was deficient, the average was slightly exceeded in July and August, and the rainfall was specially heavy in September (10.49 inches against an average of 4.94 for the district). In October, however, there was little rain (only 2.21 inches against an average of 8.55), and in November also it was deficient (5.03 inches against an average of 11.64)." It has also been remarked in that letter that the standing crops "on dry lands and on wet lands (unprotected by wells) under the large number of tanks which contained little or no supply of water in the middle of November and under the high level sluices of other tanks (with a few exceptions) suffered considerably from the deficient rainfall between the middle of October and the 24th November. Good rain (4.73 inches on an average for the district) from the 25th to the 30th November was in time to prevent or postpone total failure of crop (except in very few cases); but the yield, particularly of the crops on dry lands, has been greatly affected."

Such was the position in the middle of December. The subsequent rainfall in December was only 1.44 inches on an average for the district. In the Ponnéri taluk and at Tiruvallūr it was less than an inch, and at Sattiyavedu it was only 0.05 of an inch. In January there was no rain anywhere.

3. The cumbu crop (11,000 acres), grown chiefly in Tiruvallūr and to a less extent in Conjeeveram and Madurāntakam, had already been harvested; and also more than two-thirds of the ragi crop (42,000 acres), grown in all taluks but most largely in Tiruvallūr, Conjeeveram and Madurāntakam. Of the industrial crops, the indigo (19,000 acres), grown largely in Tiruvallūr and to a considerable extent in Ponnéri, and the gingelly-oil seeds (8,000 acres), grown on fairly large extents in Tiruvallūr, Conjeeveram and Madurāntakam, were also harvested earlier in the year. Of the paddy, only a little over 20,000 acres had been harvested up to the end of November. The paddy crops on 364,000 acres were still on the ground, as also nearly the whole of the varagu (49,000 acres)—a very important crop in the Madurāntakam taluk and important also in Tiruvallūr and Chingleput—and the cholam (7,000 acres), grown chiefly in Tiruvallūr and Madurāntakam. These, together with the "other food-grains including pulses" (18,000 acres) and the ground-nut (4,100 acres), were the crops liable to be affected by the failure of the North-East monsoon rains. The crops that have been seriously affected are the paddy crop and the varagu. In the Madurāntakam taluk, the slight rainfall in December helped on the latter crop. The outturn will be poor, but the extent of failure or very short crop will not exceed a third of the cultivated extent. In the Tiruvallūr taluk the proportionate area of this crop that will yield little or no outturn is about the same (one-third), but the outturn on the remaining area is not expected to be much more than four annas on an average. The failure has been almost complete in the Varadappalayam firka of the Sattiyavedu division, as might be expected from the fact that, with the exception of a slight shower on the 31st December, there was no rain at Sattiyavedu in December and January.

Most important, however, is the paddy crop. Of the very large area (364,000 acres) on which this crop was standing at the end of November last, about 62,000 acres are dry land, distributed as under :—

	ACS.
Ponnéri	15,000
Saidapet	5,000
Tiruvallūr	8,000
Conjeeveram	20,000
Chingleput	5,000
Madurāntakam	9,000

The failure of the crop on this area has been very extensive. On more than half of it the crop has either failed entirely or will yield a very poor outturn, and on the rest the outturn will be poor. In the Sattiyavedu division and the more eastern part of the Ponnéri taluk, the failure has been almost complete.

Coming to the paddy crop on wet lands, the extent of withered crop (including crops of which the outturn will be nominal, i.e., under one anna) is estimated at about 60,000 acres, distributed as follows:—

	ACS.
Ponnéri	15,000
Saidapet	7,000
Tiruvallūr	12,000
Conjeeveram	6,000
Chingleput	10,000
Madurantakam	10,000

The figure given for Saidapet may be found too low, and that for Tiruvallūr somewhat too high.

The ratio of the estimated area of withered crop to the cultivated area of wet lands is nearly 1 to 6. It is highest in the Ponnéri taluk where it is as much as 1 to 3. It is specially high in particular tracts, namely:—

(1) the northern and eastern parts of the Ponnéri taluk (the Seganiyam, Kattur, Vayalur and part of the Nayar tagils);

(2) the Varadaiyapalayam firka in the north of the Tiruvallūr taluk, and also the tract (east of Vadamadurai) that juts into the Ponnéri and Saidapet taluks, and a few villages in a western corner near Senrayanpalayam and

(3) the Tirukkalukundram firka of the Chingleput taluk, and also a tract near Vandalūr.

Adjoining the last tract is a specially bad part of the Saidapet taluk, west of Pallavaram; and another part of that taluk where the crops have suffered severely is the tract between the Madras-Poonamallee road and the Madras Railway line, extending also north of Avadi towards Kilkundiya in the north-west corner of the taluk.

4. In the following statement the estimated remissions for shavi in the current year are compared with those granted in 1890-91 and 1892-93, in which years there was a somewhat similar failure of the North-East monsoon rains:—

	1890-91.	1892-93.	1897-98.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Ponnéri	69,355	27,984	45,000
Saidapet	49,848	8,804	21,000
Tiruvallūr	53,979	34,623	36,000
Conjeeveram	6,672	3,915	19,000
Chingleput	27,815	22,303	30,000
Madurantakam	17,971	15,134	30,000

In drawing conclusions from this comparison it must be remembered that the remissions in 1890-91 and 1892-93 included remissions for short crop (of two annas and less).

5. The parts most severely affected in the current year are (1) the Seganiyam tagil of the Avur firka, the Vayalur firka and part of the Nayar tagil of the Sholaveram firka in the Ponnéri taluk, and (2) the Varadaiyapalayam firka in the north of the Tiruvallūr taluk, which extends south nearly to Uttukottai. In these two tracts the season must be nearly as bad as in 1890-91. That year, however, followed on an unfavourable season in the previous year, whereas the last four years have been fairly good ones. For this reason I have not considered it necessary to extend the shavi azmoish to short crop, and this was the less necessary because the extent on which the crop will be more than nominal but not more than two annas is not large. It is also most difficult to estimate with any accuracy a crop of between one and two annas, and the concession would have opened a door to fraud.

6. It has now to be considered whether it is necessary to grant any other special concession in the two tracts above mentioned, and, if so, whether it should take the form of partial remissions in respect of the dry lands on which paddy and varagu crops were raised or of partial postponement of collections of revenue. Not only has the failure of the paddy crop on wet lands been very extensive in these tracts, but

where the crop has not altogether failed the outturn will, in most cases, be poor; and the yield of the paddy crop on dry lands and the varagu crop will be very short where it has not failed entirely. In the Varadaiyapalayam firka of the Tiruvallūr taluk the ryots are not quite so dependent on these crops as in the Ponnéri taluk. Indigo and ragi are grown to a fairly large extent; there is also some cultivation of cholam, cumbu and gingelly oil-seeds; and there are a good many wells. In the affected tract of the Ponnéri taluk there is hardly anything grown but paddy, and there are few wells. The difficulty of meeting the Government demand will, therefore, be greater, probably, in the latter tract; but it may be expected to occur in individual villages of the former tract also.

So far as the yield of the paddy and varagu crops on dry lands is concerned, I would have no hesitation in recommending the remission of half the assessment on the dry lands cultivated with these crops in the two tracts in question; but I do not consider that any special concession in respect of dry lands need be granted in villages in which there has not also been a very serious failure of the paddy crop on the wet lands, and even in the severely affected tracts there are villages in which this has not been the case. In some the tanks are larger or have better means of supply; in some others the crops on the wet lands have been, for the most part, saved by baling from wells or pools. Any concession that may be granted will require to be by villages rather than by tracts. It is, therefore, difficult to recommend any special concession in regard to dry lands, as it would have to apply to tracts.

Moreover, the paddy crop on dry lands is a speculative one, and it is not desirable to encourage it by granting any special concession in respect of it. In some cases, it is true, the dry lands on which it is grown are classed as mánavári and are assessed at a somewhat higher rate than the ordinary dry rate; but such lands are scattered, and from enquiries that I have made in particular villages in which the extents are large I have found that no general recommendation can be made in their behalf.

7. The conclusion arrived at is that, if it is necessary to assist the poorer ryots of the specially affected tracts to tide over this very unfavourable season without selling the grain required for food and seed or disposing of their cattle or encumbering their small plots of land, the assistance must be in the form of postponement of collections. To this form of concession also there are objections, and I shall not recommend it unless I find it to be essential. It is a little too early yet to judge whether it will be necessary, but I anticipate that it will be in the case of the smaller pattadars in particular villages of the worst affected tracts.

8. Special arrangements have been made for the prompt azmoish and check inspection of shavi in all taluks, and the jamabandi will be commenced early in March. I intend to settle the Ponnéri taluk myself, in the special circumstances of the year, and it will be possible to ascertain definitely at the jamabandi whether any concession in the matter of postponement of collections is necessary and, if so, what the limitations should be.

9. The postponement of collections in respect of ascertained shavi (present) and "wet" waste (due to deficiency of water) has already been ordered.

10. There remains the question of whether any severe distress, requiring relief by Government, may be apprehended. It occurred in 1891; but, as already remarked, the previous year was an unfavourable one. It may occur in the worst affected parts this year, and they are being watched; but the labouring classes, who would be affected first, have not yet begun to stint themselves and still find employment. In this connection it is important to remember that in the Ponnéri taluk there is not much cultivation of the earlier crops under the South-West monsoon. On the other hand, in that taluk the labouring classes have recently had, and in some parts are still having, an unusual amount of labour in connection with the repair of tanks under the Tank Restoration Scheme and the formation of the embankment for the Madras-Bezwa Railway line. For the more easterly villages, too, there will be work in the salt pans; and the labourers in some of the villages in the north of that taluk find a good deal of work in excavating shells. There is, however, an interior belt which may cause anxiety.

11. There is a small Zemin tract, north-east of Nágálapuram (between the Nágálapuram and the Sattiyavedu hills), which is also being carefully watched. Higher up the valley, on the Varadayypalayam side, the situation is not so serious, but in the villages at the mouth of the valley (towards Nágálapuram), the failure of the crops has been extensive and almost complete. It is, however, a small tract and labour will probably be found—for a little longer at any rate—in the villages higher up the valley and in the Government villages near Nágálapuram where the crops are good. The people are not stinting themselves at present, but the poorer classes seem to have no stock of grain and live on the cooly earned from day to day.

12. I visited the Sattiyavedu division, including the tract just mentioned, last month and also the Ponnéri taluk, and I intend to make a tour through the Chingleput taluk this month.

Read—also the following letter from D. D. MURDOCH, Esq., Acting Collector of Chingleput, to the Famine Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Saidapet, 8th February 1898, Dis. No. 279 :—

In continuation of my letter, of the 5th instant, No. 270, and with reference to paragraph 10 thereof, I have the honour to state that I now learn that there is to be no manufacture of salt this year in the factories of the Ennore and Vayalur circles. This will aggravate the situation in the east of the Ponnéri taluk between the Arni and the Cortelliyar rivers, and that is a tract in which it will be specially difficult to meet any pressing demand for labour that may arise. Road works cannot be provided, the existing roads being unmetalled and there being no quarries anywhere near. The quarries are by the side of the northern trunk road or west of it. All the irrigation works have been recently put in repair (under the Tank Restoration Scheme). The track is not suitable for digging wells, the water in them being brackish and unsuitable for irrigation. In the south of the tract there is one work available, the Minjur channel; but it is a comparatively small work, the amount of the estimate available for famine labour being only Rs. 2,142. The only other work that could be taken up in case of necessity is what is known as the Vayalur project, but that is a work which, under orders already passed, must be reserved for a period of very severe distress. Its utility is doubtful.

2. I think it right to bring this to notice, as the Commissioner of Salt Revenue was probably unaware that it will not be possible to provide labour on ordinary works, nor even on useful relief works, for the large number of labourers (the Tahsildar of Ponnéri estimates the number at 2,000) who will be deprived of their usual work for the next few months by the stoppage of salt manufacture.

Resolution—No. 76, dated 14th February 1898.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall of the district has been untimely and deficient as shown in appendix A in the first of the Collector's letters read above. Four-fifths of the tanks had no supply at the end of December, and the majority of the remainder held but small supplies.

3. Cumbu (11,000 acres) and ragi (42,000 acres) were harvested chiefly in Tiruvallúr, Chingleput and Madurantakam taluks before November 1897 and were not adversely affected by the season. The Collector gives details of the condition of the later crops, of which paddy (364,000 acres) and varagu (49,000 acres) are the most important. The outturn will be very severely affected by the bad season, and the Collector anticipates that at least Rs. 1,81,000 must be remitted for withered crop. The Board approves of the action of the Collector in not extending the azmoish of wet lands to short crop, under the circumstances explained.

4. The Board is, however, unable to accept the arguments of the Collector for not recommending any remission on dry lands in the affected parts of the Tiruvallúr and Ponnéri taluks. There may be no necessity for such remission, but the reasons put forward for not recommending it do not appear sound. The reasons assigned are (1) that no concession seems called for in respect of dry lands in those villages which have had a fair wet crop; (2) that many of the villages which have lost their dry crops have had fair wet crops; (3) that, in consequence, any concession will have to be granted by villages rather than by tracts; and (4) that, as concessions for loss of dry crops have under the rules to be made by tracts and not by villages, it is difficult to make any recommendation. The only question to be considered is whether there has been a general failure of dry crops: it is immaterial what has become of the wet crops. It is to be remembered that, in villages where both wet and dry cultivation are found, it is generally only the poorer classes who cultivate the dry lands; at any rate, they cultivate but very little of the better lands. Many pattas, of course, do include both wet and dry lands, but this is no reason for refusing the benefits of the remission rules, to which the ryots otherwise have a claim. The Collector's opinion as to the speculative nature of the rainfed paddy crops and the undesirability of encouraging such cultivation, should not influence the decision of the question: for, according to the principles under which the lands were settled, Government is not concerned with the nature of the crops cultivated. The Collector suggests a postponement of collections, but this probably will be insufficient in the Seganiyam tagil of the Avur firka, the Vayalur firka and the Nayar tagil of the Sholavaram firka of the Ponnéri taluk and in the Varadayypalaiyam firka of the Tiruvallúr taluk where remission of assessment on dry lands in whole or in part may be necessary. The Collector will be requested to report whether he wishes to recommend any remission of assessment on dry lands, bearing in mind that his decision should not be influenced by the state of the wet crops and that for purposes of dry remission, the "tract" may be of any size, and ordinarily the unit of area is a village—*vide* paragraph 2 of B.P., No. 2646, dated 2nd November 1882, read in G.O., No. 1302, Revenue, dated 22nd November 1882.

5. The Collector's action in ordering postponement of collection in respect of ascertained shavi and wet waste is approved.

6. Since writing his main report the Collector has become aware that the Salt Department does not propose to continue operations this year in the Ennore and Vayalur circles. This decision very materially affects the question of the necessity for employment being provided by the State. It is understood, however, that the Salt Department can, in the event of no other suitable work being available, give a certain amount of employment by fencing factories and repairing patrol paths. These works would, however, be taken in hand only as famine relief works, on the understanding that the cost should be debited to 33. Famine and not to the department. The orders of Government are solicited whether such an arrangement is permissible.

7. The areas in which relief may become necessary are now well known and the Collector is therefore requested to report at once what works he intends to take up in such tracts in the event of relief becoming imperative, so that the plan of campaign may be fully considered. All relief works in their initial stages will be conducted on the intermediate system, a description of which will be found in G.O., No. 430, dated 3rd June 1897, herewith furnished. The rate of wages proposed should be reported. A few large central works should be preferred to a number of small scattered works.

8. The price of rice is in some stations above the scarcity rate while the price of ragi is approaching it.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) L. E. BUCKLEY,
Famine Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

„ Collector of Chingleput with copy of G.O., No. 430,
dated 3rd June 1897.

ORDER—No. 165, Revenue, dated 19th March 1898.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. With reference to the Board's remarks in paragraph 4 of the second of dry lands, the Government desires to point out that no such claim is recognized by the rules. The general principle is that "no remission of assessment on unirrigated land will be granted." Where "in very exceptional years or under very exceptional circumstances" a concession in this respect may appropriately be considered, it should be understood that it is not to be admitted unless in such very exceptional circumstances as are sure to attract the attention of the local officers.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture).
Copy to the Board of Revenue, Land Revenue.

Exd. W. D'Moss.

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