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INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

MADRAS PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE.

REPORT



ON THE

OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

MADRAS PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE.

REPORT ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Referring to your Circular of the 16th September 1897, the Executive Committee has the pleasure to submit a report of its operations from the commencement up to 31st October last. This is accompanied by the various accounts and returns laid down by the Central Committee, as well as by other enclosures specified in the list appended hereto.

Briefly stated, the total receipts of this Committee, from local subscriptions and from grants made to it by the Central Committee, aggregated Rs. 15,18,182; while its expenditure under all heads up to 31st October was Rs. 9,93,507. The receipts and disbursements between November 1st and December 15th, during which period the bulk of the disbursements under Head IV was made, amounted to Rs. 4,856-4-6 and Rs. 3,75,119 respectively. The amount spent on working charges for both collection and expenditure has been Rs. 6,339, which amounts to only 41 per cent. of its funds, and 46 per cent. of its expenditure. The balance which will remain in its hands on 31st December is estimated at about Rs. 30,600. This has been reserved for dealing with the recrudescence of distress, which will occur in certain areas owing to the failure of the North-East monsoon of 1897. The balance, small as it is, will do something to enable the Committee to relieve the distress that is coming. Its existence is due to the severe restrictions which it was found necessary to impose on the expenditure for the relief of general distress (Heads I and III) during the first half of the period under review, owing to the smallness of the allotments at first made to Madras.

I.

EXTENT OF THE DISTRESSED AREA.

The districts which were most severely affected included Bellary, Kurnool, Anantapur and Cuddapah in the Deccan, and the two northern districts of Ganjam and Vizagapatam.

Districts.	Area in square miles		Population	
	Of the district.	Of the affected portion.	Of the district.	Of the affected portion.
Four Deccan districts	17,828	12,963	2,579,000	1,788,000
Two northern districts	3,456	2,992	1,472,445	1,224,445
Grand Total	21,278	15,955	4,051,445	3,012,445

The whole of the above famine area is intersected by railways. The area of distress considerably exceeds the extent above given.

As to the Deccan, all the districts lie within the famine zone of the Presidency. The areas which were officially recognised to be seriously affected occupy a broad band including the north-west part of Cuddapah, the portion of Kurnool immediately adjoining on the north, nearly the whole of Anantapur and Bellary, a tract of country adjoining the latter and stretching up in a north-easterly direction towards the town of Kurnool. In 1888 the Government observed that the districts of Bellary and Anantapur "are the poorest and most backward in the Presidency, the most sterile and the most subject to drought; the ryots pay

The following, extracted from the official Statistical Atlas, gives the famine histories of these districts:—

The whole district is liable to famine, and the outturn of all but a small proportion of the crop on the cultivated area is precarious.

Anantapur.—The whole district lies within the famine zone. The earliest famine on record is that of 1792-93; in 1803 there was scarcity amounting to famine; in 1823 famine was anticipated and relief works started; in 1832-33 both monsoons failed and the year was the worst on record up to that time; 1838 was almost a famine year; in 1843 the rainfall was small and unseasonable; in 1844 both monsoons failed, and in 1845 the seasons were again very bad; 1853-54 were famine years; in 1865 distress was anticipated and was followed by famine in 1866; from 1876 to 1878 the last great famine raged; in 1884 relief works had again to be started, and in 1891-92 the district narrowly escaped from severe distress. In many other years the seasons were described as unfavourable and in some, remissions of the revenue on dry lands were granted.

The area now being dealt with is 12,963 square miles, with a population of 1,788,000. Its condition may be judged of when it is stated that the population has never yet reached that existing before the great famine of 1877-78, which swept away more than a third of the population. Unfavourable seasons, distress, and absolute famine have combined to arrest its recovery.

The average rainfall is generally less than 25 inches. Around and near the town of Bellary it is less than 20 inches. The showers of the South-West monsoon, and of the retreating current, which goes by the name of the North-East monsoon begin in May, and ought to last until November. In the year which is gone, the average for the affected area in each of the districts was Bellary 12·6 inches, Anantapur 13·8 inches, Kurnool 14·3 inches and Cuddapah 13·9 inches. In reality, however, the season was much worse than these figures represent. For the South-West monsoon began fairly well, but suddenly ceased at the end of August, or just before the heaviest rains are required. To make matters still worse, the North-East monsoon was a failure. The breadth of land, which was brought under the plough owing to the hopeful way in which the rains began, was large, and the ryots suffered heavily through the loss of the seed and the expenditure incurred in fruitless cultivation. The deficiency in the rainfall in Kudligi, Bellary district was nearly similar to that of 1877-78, and that in Hospet taluk was not better, while in the five northern taluks of Anantapur the rainfall was less than in the two preceding famine years, 1884-85 and 1891-92. The showers, which were all that the Deccan received from the long deferred 1892 monsoon in December, stimulated further vast sowings. In the black or

It is not proposed to swell this paper with a mass of statistics referring to the rest of the Deccan. They would amount merely to the repetition of much the same tale in respect of each district analysed.

“Almost throughout the area under reference, cholom (*Sorghum vulgare*) is the principal food-grain grown. Of this, there are two principal varieties: an early one, grown on the lighter soils, and a late one grown on the black cotton soils. In the affected taluks of Cuddapah, this crop occupies over 40 per cent. of the total area cultivated, while the area under korra (*Setaria italica*) is also considerable. The chief industrial crop of the tract is cotton, but indigo is also very important, though grown on a smaller area. In the greater portion of the central section of the tract, late cholom is the chief food crop, and cotton and indigo the chief industrial crops. On the remaining area in this section, arika (*Paspalum scrobiculatum*) and korra are the staple food-crops, the former being raised on the light soils only. In the western section of the district, on the light soils, early cholom and cumbu (*Pennisetum typhoides*) are the staple food-grains, giving away towards the north and west, where the soils are heavier, to late cholom and korra. In the southern portion of this tract, castors is the chief industrial crop, but on the richer soils cotton and indigo take its place. In Bellary, cholom is the most important food crop, and next to it, korra; in the eastern taluks, the late variety of the former crop being that chiefly grown. Large areas are sown with horsegram, except in the eastern taluks. The chief industrial crops are cotton and castors, but in Hospet sugarcane is grown on a fairly large area. In the taluks of Gooty, Tadpatri and Anantapur, cholom and korra are the chief food crops; the early variety of cholom being grown on the lighter soils and near the villages, and elsewhere the late sort. In Dharmavaram, Kalyandrug and Penukonda, korra occupies the largest area. These three taluks and Anantapur are characterised by the large area occupied by horsegram; that crop being grown on about one-fourth of the total area cropped. Cumbu is also important in parts. The chief industrial crops of the tract are cotton and castors. Of the crops abovementioned, the earliest sown are cholom and cumbu on the lighter soils, which are put in with the first rains of the South-West monsoon; korra follows next, much of it being sown mixed with cotton, and lastly comes the late cholom and the horsegram. The late cholom is usually sown in September and October, the season varying in different parts of the affected area, but it is usually all put in before the beginning of November. The horsegram is often a mere catch-crop sown on the light soils with the last of the rainfall. Indigo is chiefly sown about July, and cotton in the succeeding months. Castors is an early crop.

“Statistics of the actual outturn of the early crops, or those harvested up to November only as at present available, and a statement (marked D) is appended to this report. It shows the areas under the chief (early) crops sown last year, the area brought to harvest up to November, the portion thereof on which the crops withered and the average outturn obtained on the remaining area. It will be seen that considerable areas of early cholam withered in the Pulivendla and Jammalamadugu taluks of Cuddapah, in the Pattikonda taluk of Kurnool, in Alur, Bellary and Hospet taluks of Bellary, and in the Tadpatri, Gooty and Anantapur taluks of Anantapur. Korra also failed to a large extent in Pulivendla, Pattikonda, the eastern taluks of Bellary, and the affected tracts of Anantapur. The average outturn on the remaining areas was generally 4 annas or under except in Cuddapah, where the outturn was better. In the central parts of Kurnool where arika is important, more than half the total area withered. In Kudligi, the ragi crop failed on nearly half the area, and on the remainder yielded an outturn of only about 3 annas. In Harpanahalli where also that crop is important, the outturn of the crop was somewhat better, amounting to 6 annas. The industrial crops had not been harvested on any large areas by November, but from the final Forecast Reports, it appears that the outturn of cotton was only 4 annas or under in Ramallakot, Pattikonda, Bellary, Rayadrug, Dharmavaram and Kalyandrug, and about 8 annas generally in the other taluks. From only three taluks—Koilkuntla, Nandyal and Jammalamadugu—was a fair outturn—12 annas—reported. Indigo is important only in Cuddapah and Kurnool, and its outturn is put at 4 annas in Pulivendla, Sirvel, Ramallakot and

Pattikonda and at 8 annas elsewhere. Exact information regarding the outturn of the late sown crops is not available, but, as already reported, their fate has become hopeless, and in very few places will the ryots secure more than a scanty crop of straw from the comparatively extensive sowings made after the November rainfall."

Enough has perhaps been stated above in proof of the position that in the Madras-Deccan we were face to face with a crop failure of the most serious kind. The miseries which it must inevitably have caused to the cultivating classes might not mean actual starvation to many of them, but it must necessarily do so in the case of those dependent on them, and on nearly all those who live by labour, well as to handicraftsmen, especially weavers. The numbers on Government relief substantiated this view.

But the disaster has been aggravated by the invariably adverse character of the seasons in the Deccan during the last 20 years. One or other of the monsoons has nearly always been deficient. The material progress of the four districts composing it has been most seriously affected since the great famine, and the mass of the ryots has become impoverished to a degree unknown in the rest of the Presidency, and, it is believed, also in most of the other Provinces of the Empire. Some idea of the economic condition of these districts may be formed by an analysis of the statistics of grain traffic by rail which are given below. They cover twelve years:—

Surplus of exports or imports for the Deccan block.							
Years.						Net exports. In maunds.	Net imports. In maunds.
1885-86	...	...	...	...	...	...	264,433
1886-87	...	...	...	...	...	...	464,555
1887-88	...	...	...	...	...	16,255	...
1888-89	...	...	...	...	...	253,078	...
1889-90	...	...	...	...	...	79,071	...
1890-91	...	...	...	...	...	451,111	...
1891-92	...	...	...	...	...	...	471,346
1892-93	...	...	...	...	...	...	609,274
1893-94	...	...	...	...	...	735,354	...
1894-95	...	...	...	...	...	193,585	...
1895-96	...	...	...	...	...	172,566	...
1896-97	...	...	...	...	...	...	514,679
Total	...	...	...	...	...	1,901,020	2,524,287
Net	...	...	...	...	...	423,267	...

It will be seen that in the two years which followed the drought of 1884, the districts had to import nearly 730,000 maunds or 27,000 tons of food-grains in excess of the exports. In the next few years there was a slight recovery, and the exports exceeded the imports, though not to any considerable extent, except in one year, 1890-91. The famine which followed in 1891-92 again led to a large increase of imports, amounting in the two years 1891-92 and 1892-93, to over a million maunds, or 40,000 tons. In 1893-94, the season was good and the Districts were able to export their surplus produce to a large extent. In the next two years also there was an excess of exports over imports, though to a smaller extent than in 1893-94. The position was again reversed in the past year (1896-97), during which the imports exceeded the exports by 514,000 maunds. As the distress deepened, the imports were certain to increase enormously before the next year's produce was brought to the market. But taking the figures as far as they go, the net result for the twelve years is an excess of the imports over the exports of about 423,000 maunds. As the area under food-grains during this period has been steadily increasing, the natural inference to be drawn from the figures is that the Districts have suffered from a series of unfavourable seasons and have been unable to raise enough food-grain for local consumption.

The crop outturn reports for the past six years prepared in the Agricultural Department show that the yield of the staple products of the districts seldom exceeded 8 to 10 annas, a bumper crop being taken at 20 annas, and an average crop at 16 annas. This is shown below:—

Statement showing outturn of Crops.

Districts.		Outturn of crops in annas.												
		Paddy.	Cholum.	Cumbu.	Ragi.	Varagu.	Korra.	Horse-grain.	Cotton.	Indigo.	Sugar-cane.	Castor or Lamp-oil.	Gingelly.	Ground-nut.
Cuddapah.	1892-93	11	7	11	11	...	...	...	10	12	13	11	11	15
	1893-94	12	10	9	10	...	...	...	10	12	13	10	8	11
	1894-95	11	11	10	11	...	11	8	11	10	14	9	9	10
	1895-96	10	9	9	10	...	10	9	11	9	11	9	9	10
	1896-97	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	8	10	...	8	...
Anantapur.	1892-93	11	7	7	9	...	...	...	13	14	10	9	6	12
	1893-94	11	10	10	9	...	...	...	7	12	10	10	8	10
	1894-95	10	9	8	9	...	9	9	7	8	10	8	7	10
	1895-96	10	9	8	10	12	7	8	9	9	7	8	8	8
	1896-97	7	3	2	5	...	2	...	2	4	9	2	4	...
Bellary.	1892-93	13	11	10	12	...	...	...	12	...	12	11	11	13
	1893-94	12	12	11	12	...	...	...	10	11	13	12	12	12
	1894-95	11	9	9	10	...	11	...	9	11	12	10	10	11
	1895-96	11	11	10	12	...	10	...	11	11	12	11	10	11
	1896-97	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	6	7	...	6	...
Kurnool.	1892-93	11	9	10	11	...	...	...	10	11	...	7	7	8
	1893-94	11	9	8	9	...	...	...	9	12	15	9	9	9
	1894-95	9	10	8	8	...	9	8	8	11	11	9	10	10
	1895-96	10	10	9	9	10	9	9	11	10	13	9	9	10
	1896-97	4	3	3	4	2	3	...	9	3	11	2	4	...

The whole of the affected area is virtually unprotected by irrigation. Minor irrigation works and wells exist in a certain area in Cuddapah, and water 33,000 acres in Kurnool, but are of much less importance in Anantapur and Bellary, in the latter of which the 11,500 acres under the Tungabhadra channels are, however, fully protected. In Anantapur there is likewise a fringe of irrigation along the banks of the Pennar and Chatravati rivers, as well as the scattered oases, watered by the scanty trickle derived from the curious earth springs, which are a peculiar feature of that part of the country. The Kurnool canal is led off by the Sunkesala anicut from the Tungabhadra river above Kurnool, and is capable of irrigating 147,000 acres in that district, and 37,000 more in Cuddapah. But the country which it mainly traverses is composed of stiff cotton soil, which is unsuited for irrigation, and in which it is more profitable to grow 'dry' crops. The normal extent supplied has been therefore only 26,000 acres, and the maxima in years of drought have been:—

	ACRES.
In 1876-77	77,105
In 1891-92	52,792
In 1896-97	73,416

The excess represented by these figures was almost entirely for occasional floodings for 'dry' crops. For the rest, the tract under notice is, for the most part, a dreary treeless plain of black cotton, mixed, or thin red, stony soil. This is broken here and there by ranges of low hills, or detached granitic out-crops, which in the hot weather often remind the traveller of the weird appearance of the shores of the Red Sea.

Just a word regarding the allegation that the high prices ruling in the Deccan are the results of export to other famine areas in India. The price of the staple food-grain in the Deccan has stood for a long while past at nearly 200 per cent. over normal rates. It has been shown above that it is not in the nature of things that the Ceded Districts could engage in any large export operations, for the balance of a series of years shows a large deficit of food-grains represented by imports. So long ago as the 24th February last, this Committee pointed out in its Fortnightly Report that exports had ceased with October, and that a widespread fear that they had entered a famine triennium was causing holders to hoard stocks. As a fact, the net imports for the six months ending 31st March was 635,153 maunds. No comment seems necessary on this.

So much for the Deccan districts. As for the north, omitting Gódvári, only a remote corner of which was recognised as affected, the districts to be dealt with are Ganjám and Vizagapatam. The affected area consisted roughly of a belt of country bordering the sea-coast, extending from the north of Ganjám to the south of Vizagapatam—in length about 240 miles, and in breadth varying from 35 miles in the north of Ganjám to about 10 miles in the south of Vizagapatam—it, from an area thus roughly sketched, must be deducted a tract about 60 miles in length, lying on each side of the district frontier line, which nearly equally divides it.

In Ganjám, the whole of the Government taluk of Berhampur and 10 proprietary estates are included. In Vizagapatam, the affected area consisted of a portion of the Vizianagram Zemindari, the taluks of Bimlipatam and Vizagapatam, part of the Anakapalle taluk, and the whole of the Government taluk of Sarvasiddhi.

The Ganjám portion has few tanks or wells, the greater part of the paddy being dependent on the rainfall. The new Rushikulya canal, which is capable of irrigating 80,000 acres within the affected area, has been completed only recently, and is, as yet, but little used. The affected area in Vizagapatam is irrigated by anicuts thrown across the Varahanadi, and by many tanks. The average rainfall in the long belt in question may be set down as 40·45 inches. The actual rainfall in 1896-97 was:—

Ganjám	...	...	...	...	...	30·8 inches.
Vizagapatam	...	...	...	...	...	20·7 "

The crop failure from which both districts were suffering arose from precisely the same cause as that in the Deccan. The South-West monsoon suddenly ceased in August, and there was practically no North-East monsoon, on which everything depends in these two districts.

The famine history of Vizagapatam shows a comparative immunity from such disasters. There was a famine in 1790 and another drought in 1824, since when it has escaped nearly scathless from the misfortunes which have devastated the country hard by.

Ganjám, on the other hand, has a more troubled record. In 1792, 1836 and 1839 there was distress, which was greatly aggravated by the disturbed state of the country. The northern half of the district shared in the Orissa famine of 1835-36, which was aggravated by the occurrence of two preceding years of scarcity. Nearly 4·5 lakhs were expended on relief. In 1871, 1872 and 1878 there were partial failures of crops accompanied, in the last year, by abnormally high prices caused by exports to the famine tracts of Southern India. Severe famine again occurred in 1888-89, which cost the Government 12·65 lakhs.

Prices stood in this portion of the Presidency at about thrice the normal rate with a tendency to rise. They exceeded the highest prices of recent years, and approximated those of the great famine.

The chief crops are paddy 58 per cent., ragi 11 and pulses 12. Out of a total breadth of 223,000 acres sown in the Government portion of the two districts 27,000 withered, while 196,000 yielded a very inferior harvest.

As in the Ceded Districts, so in the north, the bulk of the pattadars pay less than Rs. 10 per annum, while the number of those who pay less than Rs. 30 absorbs more than three-fourths of the whole. Peasant proprietors of some substance are rather more numerous in Vizagapatam, but this fact is counterbalanced by an increased number of sub-tenants and day labourers, who naturally feel the pinch of bad times acutely and at once. The large peasant proprietor of old days is, from the operation of a variety of causes, dying out all over Southern India.

Much of the affected area in Ganjám and Vizagapatam is composed of Zemindaries, in which the Government has hitherto possessed no means of securing accurate statistical information. This defect will be cured when the rules drafted under Act II of 1894 (Madras) have been brought into force. At present it is futile to pretend that the figures, even when available, are in any sense reliable. They are of hardly any practical use. All that can be safely asserted is that the



dari tracts have suffered equally with the Government taluks, and that as cultivators there are largely tenants-at-will, their condition is necessarily inferior to that of Government ryots.

This defect in statistical information is especially noticeable when an enquiry into the phase of rural economics, the flocks and herds, is entered upon. Most essentially, several heavy showers of rain brought up sufficient herbage in the northern districts, so the solution of the fodder problem was practically confined to the Deccan Districts.

In addition to the area of 15,955 square miles described above, to which the operations of Government were almost entirely confined, two tracts aggregating roughly 8,000 square miles ought to be added as partially affected. These consisted of the upland portions of the Gódvári district, taluks of Ellore, Yernagudem, Rajahmundry, and Peddapuram, and the taluks of Ráyachóti, Kadiri, Madanapalle, and Vayalpad in Cuddapah. The Gódvári taluks escaped disaster almost by a miracle, owing to a copious South-West monsoon, but the Committee was compelled to extend its operations into the Cuddapah district taluks in August.

Lastly, the three divisions in charge of the Agent to the Governor in the Gódvári district, Polavaram, Chodavaram, Yellavaram and Bhadrachalam (taluk) aggregating an affected area of 1,600 square miles, and involving a population of 127,000, were more or less distressed. The condition of the hill tribes in Bhadrachalam, in April, seemed to this Committee to be so critical as to require its intervention, which continued up to the close of the famine.

In August the high prices then prevailing owing to the drain on the food supply, caused by the demands of the famine-stricken tracts in Bombay and the north of India, produced great suffering among the poor of the district of Malabar. This Committee felt it necessary to make grants-in-aid of the benevolent work of relief which was organised by the local Committee there.

The country in which the Committee conducted operations, excluding Malabar, thus aggregated 25,555 square miles with a population of 4,245,900 souls.

II.

PRELIMINARY OPERATIONS.

To turn next to the steps which were taken for the collection of funds for charitable relief, and for the administration of such funds. A public meeting was held in the Banqueting Hall on the 4th February, at which His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock presided. Subscriptions amounting to Rs. 58,000 were announced on the spot and an influential Provincial Committee was appointed. It was announced at this meeting that there was available a sum of Rs. 11,445, the balance, with interest, of the last Mansion House Fund of 1877, and this sum was handed over to us by Archbishop Colgan, the only Trustee now in Madras. On the 8th February, a meeting of the Provincial Committee took place, of which His Excellency was Chairman. A very strong Executive Committee of 30 members, who have since become 37, was then appointed with the following office-bearers:—

The Honourable Mr. C. S. Crole, I.C.S., Chairman; the Honourable Mr. G. G. Arbuthnot, Treasurer; Mr. H. K. Beauchamp and the Honourable P. Rajaratna Mudaliyar, Dewan Bahadur, Honorary Secretaries.

This Executive Committee held its first meeting on the 13th February, at which it settled preliminary details. It likewise sent forth two important circular letters to the Collectors of districts. One of these referred to the non-affected tracts, and dealt with the organising of measures for raising money for the purposes of charitable relief. The other was addressed to the Collectors of distressed, or partially affected, districts, and, in addition to the question of collecting funds, this circular developed a scheme for the administration of the funds, and laid down the sphere of charitable relief on the lines of the speech delivered by His Excellency Lord Elgin in Calcutta.

On the 17th February, the Committee met again and besides settling further details, decided to approach the public by means of post cards, advertisements, and

printed subscription lists signed severally by the Chairman and Honoraries. On that date the funds were reported to amount to about Rs. 80,000.

On the 24th February, forms of abstract accounts to be maintained by Committees were passed. A telegram was likewise sent to Collectors of districts, urging them to send in estimates of their requirements for service without delay.

In response to the invitation issued to them, Collectors and District all over the Presidency, as also the Dewans of Travancore and Pudukottai, proceeded to organise District Committees at their head-quarters for the collection of subscriptions, and, in affected districts, for the administration of such funds as might be allotted by the Executive Committee for the relief of distress. Local Sub-Committees likewise came quickly into existence for the purpose of working the country parts. Non-official gentlemen of all nationalities who formed the large majority of all these bodies vied with officials in promoting the good cause. Enthusiastic meetings took place all over the Presidency. Many of them—and those not the least interesting—were held in quite out-of-the-way townlets. All were actuated by the same public spirit. The basis of the system of collection was the signed sheet alluded to above, on which every individual contribution was entered. The Government assisted by throwing open the columns of the District Gazettes for the reproduction of the entries in these lists, so that every one was enabled to trace his subscription. The result has been most satisfactory. Not a single case of fraud or misappropriation has been even alleged.

On the 18th March, the Committee in a letter addressed to the Central Committee at Calcutta estimated the contributions to the Fund within the Presidency at Rs. 2,67,100. As a matter of fact, Rs. 2,46,527-4-11 have been paid in, the difference between subscriptions and payments being only some Rs. 20,000. This fact speaks volumes in India. Besides all that, the people of Madras contributed Rs. 94,988-14-9 to the resources of the Central Committee at Calcutta. Although all districts have not displayed an equal liberality, the total sum raised, Rs. 3,41,516-3-8, was creditable. The contributions of each district are given in an appendix. Owing to a miscalculation of the gravity of the famine, then steadily overwhelming a portion of Madras, which this Committee from the very commencement combated with all its might, but for which the Central Committee was in no wise responsible, the funds allotted to Madras were, at first, entirely inadequate. As a result, however, of a most useful visit paid to us in June by the Honourable Mr. H. E. M. James, the Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee, the true position began to be more correctly realized. The allotments received in Madras have been as follows:—

	RS.
13th February	10,000
16th March	5,000
3rd April	1,00,000
11th May	1,03,750
23rd June	1,45,833
6th July	2,00,000
26th July	4,00,000
20th August	2,00,000
	1,00,000
Total	12,64,583

To this allotment of Rs. 12,64,583 from Calcutta, the local collections and certain miscellaneous receipts have to be added, viz.:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Local subscriptions (up to 15th December)	2,46,527	4	11
Balance of last Famine Fund	11,475	10	3
Subscriptions collected in Calcutta, and ear-marked for Madras	294	8	0
Miscellaneous collections	157	14	5
Total	2,58,455	5	7

The sum available for Charitable Relief in Madras was thus Rs. 15,23,038-5-7.

III.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUNDS.

In his speech at the inaugural meeting of the Famine Fund at Calcutta the Viceroy, Lord Elgin, laid down under four heads the objects to which the Charitable Fund might be legitimately devoted without interfering with, or overlapping, the operations undertaken by the State. The first of these provides for supplementing Government gratuitous relief to the aged, the infirm and to children. The third contemplates the relief of the numerous poor but respectable persons, who will undergo almost any privation rather than apply for Government relief, accompanied as it must be by formal inquiries and tests of the reality of the destitution which is to be relieved. When this Committee commenced work the conditions in Madras were peculiar, and seemed to call for immediate action in respect to the abovesaid two objects.

To explain: The Government of Madras had not been taken unawares by the famine. From the commencement of October 1896, reports were collected showing the condition of every district, the future of which there was any reason to suspect; sanction was accorded for strengthening the establishments of those districts in which the effects of scarcity began to show themselves; test works, followed by regular famine works, were opened; kitchens were provided on works for the feeding of dependents of the workers and others; village gratuitous relief was sanctioned for certain parts of Kurnool and Bellary; the appointment of Circle Inspectors was ordered in them; and lastly the submission of Fortnightly Famine Narratives by Collectors was commenced. Parts of Cuddapah, Anantapur, Kurnool, Bellary, Vizagapatam and Ganjam were declared famine-affected on the 23rd February, or some 10 days after the formation of this Committee. But no provision was sanctioned for the general establishment of gratuitous relief, or of the machinery requisite for its introduction and administration. The necessary steps were not considered by Government to be required until the 30th March, when an order of great liberality was promulgated. But it took more than a month—in some tracts as much as three—to place the country under Famine Inspectors and to introduce gratuitous relief. To this Committee accordingly fell the duty of giving the required relief until that was accomplished.

Under the instructions which were issued in February, therefore, meetings were called in the various districts to appoint District and Sub-Committees for the purpose of the organised registration of persons deserving of relief from the Charitable Fund, through the enlistment for that duty of large landholders, merchants, District Munsiffs, Tahsildars, Sub-Registrars, Members of Taluk and Local Fund Boards and of Municipalities, and Missionaries.

Mr. H. A. Stuart, the Collector of Bellary, was most properly precise in his definition of the sphere of charity during the present distress. A sum of Rs. 9,000 was remitted by the Executive Committee to the District Committee at Bellary, and Rs. 15,000 to that at Cuddapah for expenditure during March. In each of those districts, the necessary organisation for distribution seemed to be sufficiently complete to justify these grants. Unceasing efforts were made in view to bringing the remaining districts into line with Bellary and Cuddapah. But it was palpable that it would be worse than useless to make grants in the absence of evidence of the existence of efficient machinery for registration and distribution. Fortunately, private charity in the villages had not yet dried up, and this Committee availed itself of the breathing time thus afforded to it, in order, not only to insist on the introduction of a complete organisation as a condition precedent to any grant of funds, but to devise the main outlines of a uniform system of agency and accounts, which would be applicable to all districts, while it left scope for adapting details to suit local peculiarities.

The scheme alluded to was presented to the Committee on the 3rd March and, after the papers relating to it had been circulated in proof to each member, was finally amended and passed at a meeting on the 10th March. It proceeded on the recognition under the caste system, at the door of every at all well-to-do house in the country, of almsgiving to the aged and the needy, as a religious duty

during ordinary times. When times of trouble come, this deeply-rooted institution of private charity aids and supplements State operations of relief for a certain period. As distress becomes acute, private charity naturally contracts, and is absorbed into an organised system of charitable relief on a wider basis, in which all the better classes of the community participate.

This Committee accordingly resolved that all doles for daily subsistence in villages should be distributed by native hands, that is to say, by a Panchayat or Committee consisting of the headman and two principal ryots.

To entitle a person to receive a dole, he or she had to present a ticket corresponding with an entry in a register supplied to the Panchayat. Doles were to be paid at a specified time and place.

The registration was made by the member of the Taluk Sub-Committee in charge of each small circle of villages and was required to be made as the result of one of the frequent personal inspections which such members were required to make.

Funds were to be supplied to the Panchayats, weekly or fortnightly as the case might be, on indents made by the Sub-Committee, who would submit abstract accounts at the same time to the District Executive Committee. The latter was thus placed in possession of a continuous and contemporaneous control, which enabled it, in turn, to discharge, from time to time, its obligations to the Executive Committee at Madras.

The Committee hoped in this way to link up the recipient of charity, in even the remotest village in the affected area, with the central authority. Improvements were indicated as the result of actual working out the scheme, but it was found that the singularly perfect village, Taluk and Local Fund and Municipal organisation existing in the Madras Presidency, could be applied to the work of efficient and economical charitable relief with well founded confidence of marked success.

This description ought not, perhaps, to close without some account of the reasons which led the Committee to decide in favour of money, as distinguished from grain doles, to the poor in villages. The main ground usually urged in favour of relief by means of grain, instead of money, is that, owing to the inherent corruption of the ordinary distributing agency, the pauper is likely to get some, at least, of the grain designed for him, whereas the money is nearly certain to be peculated. This contention might have been true 20 years ago, in view of the loose measures of distribution in vogue in the great famine, and of the lack of public spirit due to the incomplete provision for public education, and the fact that none but the official class was habituated to the practice of organisation. Public opinion also, as a moral force, was then in its infancy. This Committee would have felt intensely surprised if the organisation above described had been hampered, to any serious extent, by defects which might have been of serious import a quarter of a century ago. Moreover, the conversion of the funds of the Committee into grain, with all the unavoidable expenses, dangers, and risks attending on transport, warehousing, distribution, guarding, and accounting, and the re-conversion back again into money of the grain doled out, and in hand, from time to time, along with the inevitable writing off of the value of missing or damaged quantities, would entail much labour, and the employment of costly establishments. The Committee was unable to discover any reason, or to foresee the likelihood of the occurrence of any contingency, such as would justify it in departing from the simplicity which characterises the system which, after full discussion, it decided to adopt. It preferred to rely on the public spirit of the leading inhabitants of the various districts, who were freely offering their services, as an infinitely stronger protection of the Charitable Relief Funds from malversation than could possibly result from the clumsy and, it believes, ineffectual expedient of a grain dole.

One specious objection to payments made in money has lately been started in the assertion, which has found support in a Home Newspaper, that the money dole system is designed to enable the rapacious bazaarmen to fatten on the needs of the pauper recipient by raising prices. This objection proceeds from a forgetfulness of the fact that the money dole contemplated follows a sliding scale, just as the Government relief-works do. The Charitable Funds may suffer by a combination in the bazaar, but the pauper is safe. Moreover, it is always open to influential

ryots, or other capitalist inhabitants, to keep prices within bounds by opening sales on their own account, and the Committee had no apprehensions regarding successful combination to enhance prices unduly.

By the beginning of April grants, varying from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 2,000, were made for like purposes to the districts of Kurnool, Ganjam, Anantapur, Vizagapatam and Gódvári, and sanction was likewise given for supplementing the Government wages or rations in works and kitchens. In the former, the aid was mainly confined to small grants to women newly confined or to nursing mothers, and to the supply of clothing to those destitute of decent raiment. In kitchens, it generally took the shape of Mellin's food for sick or very emaciated children, and the supply of vegetables as an addition to the diet of the inmates. Small daily allowances were likewise paid to supplement the Government doles given to people of respectability, whose habits of life required such aid. Lastly, small advances were placed in the hands of officers in charge of relief-works and others, to help workers disabled by accident or sickness, destitute persons before admission to Government relief-works or dole lists, women with sick children, and similar urgent cases.

A nursing mother might be unable to work on account of the sickness of her infant; or a worker have met with a slight accident which prevented him from doing his task; or an old man have wandered away, in search of a relative from whom he hoped to get food, but whom he failed to find, or found, only to discover that his relative was nearly as famine-stricken as himself. In such cases, these imprests were great blessings, and the Charitable Fund could have been put to no better use. The Chairman was a witness to the relief of a wanderer in what one would almost think to be the last stage of emaciation, who had struggled aimlessly to the door of a kitchen, which, however, he refused to enter, on account of caste prejudice, and because he had seen better days. He was ordered a grant of money for a day or two, until his strength picked up a little, after which he was to be railed back to his village, and there provided for. There were numbers of such cases occurring every day, and they became more and more frequent as the famine deepened.

It is pleasing to record the fact that in a good many instances benevolent persons were found to be giving the children weekly or bi-weekly treats of vegetables, milk and such like welcome comforts.

The Honourable the Rajah of Bobbili, K.C.I.E.; Rajah G. N. Gajapati Row, C.I.E., of Vizagapatam; the Zemindar of Parlákimedi in Ganjam; Basivi Reddi of Gódvári district; and Kari Gangappa of Hospet were conspicuous for their generosity in the relief of distress, either in giving employment, or in feeding the poor, or in both kinds of good works. But there were also others, too numerous to mention, in all grades of life, who fed and clothed the hungry, very often in that quiet, unostentatious way which is of the essence of true charity.

This Committee has likewise to acknowledge the gift of five bales of clothing for Muhammadan women through the Central Committee at Calcutta. The clothing was part of the work of 100 working parties, of which Mrs. Jeannette S. Hauser of 48, Bedford Gardens, Kensington W., was the Honorary Secretary. If the ladies who made the articles only knew the misery of this community during these famine times, they would feel that their labours to alleviate it were amply repaid, without the blessings of the poor women, which will undoubtedly go out to the donors from many a wretched Muhammadan household.

Besides feeding and clothing the more destitute among the Chentsus, a jungle tribe inhabiting the hill tracts of the Kurnool district, as well as various hillmen in Vizagapatam and Ganjam, the Committee spent altogether Rs. 18,000 in the hill tracts of Gódvári. As to the latter, the operations commenced in April with a grant for the relief of the Kois, a tribe living in the Bhadrachalam taluk, a remote tract in the higher reaches of the Gódvári river. The villages are, however, situated for the most part far away from its banks. This tribe, always poor, inhabits many scattered villages of shallow and infertile land. The crops during the past year were an almost total failure. Some of the people had been supported on imported grain,

which had been purchased out of a sum of Rs. 4,000 raised in London by Major-General Haig, R.E., and other sympathisers. The fund was administered by the Rev. John Cain, a devoted clergyman attached to the Church Mission Society. The want of water in the more distant villages prevented his visiting them, but Mr. Ward of the Forest Department, to whom this Committee likewise resorted for advice and information, entirely supported Mr. Cain's conclusions as to the deplorable condition of these Kois. The reports of these two gentlemen are appended to this narrative. Without grain, and deprived, in parts, even of water, the hillmen were described as dragging out a miserable subsistence on roots, wild fruits, and the gums of acacias. They are fatalists, and little likely to bring their sad condition to the notice of the authorities, for they decline to go to relief-works. Immediately after receiving these disquieting accounts, this Committee remitted Rs. 2,000, as a first instalment, to the Collector of the district, and it likewise drew the attention of Government to the state of the Bhadrachalam taluk, in which the Koi villages are situated.

The strength of the current in the Gódavari river, which was at the time in high flood, prevented the Chairman from reaching that part of the country at the first attempt, during which the small steamer was driven back. But on his return from Ganjam towards the end of August, he stopped at Rajahmundry in order to make another attempt to go up the river into the Koya country.

The following account of his proceedings may not be uninteresting:—

"On this occasion, the current was less violent, and the steamer provided more powerful. For the first five and twenty miles, the river is from two miles to one mile in width, and the country on each side of it is open and the crops luxuriant. After that the wooded hills gradually approach the river, until they form its banks, and confine it, in the Gorge, into a mad torrent less than 300 yards broad. After Koyidu, a village in the Nizam's Dominions, at which the steamer tied up for the night, the hills recede somewhat, and a cultivated country was entered containing heavy crops of cumbu, ragi, gingelly, sama and cholam, along with maize in the backyards. This rich alluvial tract is inhabited by Telugus, Komatis, Malas and Madigas. Koya clearings (Podu) were dotted over the hill sides. The first sowing of hill cholam on these had withered, and these patches had been re-cultivated after the rains which came at the beginning of August. The hillmen had, however, a prospect of securing a good gingelly crop later on. The Bhadrachalam taluk, which occupies the left bank of the river, the right belonging to the Nizam's Dominions, contains a population of some 42,000. Of these, 23,000 are hillmen (Koyas, Komatis, and Naiks). It is divided between two European Relief officers, Messrs. Coleridge, I.C.S., and Woodhouse, a Probationary Deputy Collector. The former has much the largest and most important divisions (Marigudem and Rekupalli) under his charge. The latter has a narrow strip, which contains the towns of Bhadrachalam and Dumagudem, with but few hills, and touches the Central Provinces district of Cherla on the north-west. There were over 7,000 persons receiving gratuitous relief, which is paid in money by the above two officers personally at seven centres, where there are likewise depôts of Famine Fund or Government grain, at which cholam can be had by all hillmen at 16 seers for a rupee. The local rate was 10. The Collector has been transporting it on barges towed by a Public Works Department steamer, which is placed at his disposal. But the transport is very arduous, and the supply fitful and uncertain, owing to the strength of the current, which compelled the steamer on the trip previous to the inspection under notice, to tie up for three days. The numbers on relief had run up very rapidly and it was found not to be possible to continue the supply to certified outsiders at 13 seers. Native craft were to be seen crawling up painfully under the banks, laden with grain, cloths, and so on. They are used very often as floating shops, and deal with the villages studded along the banks. The voyage often takes three weeks. The Central Provinces have ceased to be a source of supply, owing to the famine there.

"The steamer on which the Collector and the Chairman travelled reached a point 99 miles from Rajahmundry. A night was spent at Bhadrachalam where the Tahsildar and Mr. Woodhouse were interviewed. Next morning the steamer

dropped down to Kunnayaram, the head-quarters of Mr. Coleridge and of Mr. Ward, the Forest officer, who has a unique knowledge of the language and customs of the Koyas. It was the relief distribution day at that centre, and there were some 500 recipients present, along with 200 fresh applicants. They were all in wretched case, dejected looking, and many of them covered with loathsome sores. A crowd of 1,000 hillmen had also come from distances of 30 to 40 miles, in order to ask for advances to keep them alive until their crops arrived at maturity. They are generally indebted in heavy amounts to the inhabitants of the river-side villages, but the Komatis have a superstition that this is an astrologically ill-fated year, and they had absolutely refused to make any advances until the crop, which they believed would never reach maturity, was reaped. The hillmen were, therefore, starving, for there were no wild roots, and they had been trying to live on unwholesome greens and leaves, and on bamboo shoots. It was hard to believe that the haggard crowd were, in ordinary times, an athletic, cheery, light-hearted race. The Chairman determined to prevent, if possible, a repetition of the looting, which lately took place in another division of the Agency. He accordingly promised the people that he would do his best to obtain for them a grant from the Famine Fund, which would be turned into grain by the Collector, and distributed to such of the 3,000 Koya families on the list as might need such assistance, a dole of grain, so as to tide them over the next two months. If this expedient were not resorted to, the Koyas would eat and drink up the whole sum in a week. The Executive Committee at Madras promptly remitted Rs. 10,000.

"Next day the steamer started on a fast rising flood, dashed past the whirlpools at each end of the Gorge, so justly dreaded by native craft, and leaving the driftwood behind, as if it were standing still, arrived at Rajahmundry, 67 miles off, in little more than five hours. Mr. Brodie, the Collector, whose management, in a very difficult position, has been throughout, alike business-like and sympathetic, then set to work to send up a fresh supply of 1,200 bags of grain, and eventually, through the courtesy of the East Coast Railway authorities, secured the services of one of its powerful paddle wheel ferry steamers. Mr. Phillips, I.C.S., who was in charge of the Agency, was instructed to take that opportunity of getting up the river, and thoroughly checking the lists of persons on gratuitous relief, among whom there was reason to believe there was an undue number of Malas and Madigas (Pariahs and Chucklers), who could get on without such relief. The ready assistance rendered by Mr. Boyce, the Traffic Superintendent of the Railway, must not be passed over without due acknowledgment."

In July, a new area of distress had been developing in the Malabar district on the West Coast of India. The rains here are always certain, and they have been, this year, even more copious than usual. The district, however, never produces food sufficient for its teeming population. It has to import the rest from other parts of the South of India. This year the demands of our own famine tracts, and of the vast territories in the north which were similarly afflicted, raised prices in Malabar to scarcity rates. Material wealth is, owing to a tenure with which Government can scarcely delay much longer to grapple, most unevenly distributed. While the few are rich, the masses are steeped in grinding poverty. This year they were starving. The well-to-do here and there first commenced, without any particular organization, to distribute rice or cooked food to the poor. Then, wealthy merchants and others combined and carried on the charity by subscription, the organization of the Mopla community, which comprises the poorest class, being described as most complete. Last of all, the District Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, recognizing the dimensions which the distress had begun to assume, started a general subscription and a scheme for administering the monies so raised. It applied to the Executive Committee at Madras for a return of the subscriptions remitted from the district towards the Indian Famine Fund. The total of these had been very small—only Rs. 12,000 or so. The Executive Committee therefore, in view of the excessively small benefit which could accrue from the expenditure of such a trifling amount, and of the danger of the collapse of the local subscriptions if it made a lump grant, which would be sure to lead to further demands, decided to offer the equivalent of the local subscriptions, up to the amount of the original Malabar subscription to its

funds. It likewise suggested to Government that it should make a similar grant. In the meantime, the Government replied referring this Committee to the provisions of the Famine Code.

The operations in Malabar continued until September. The District Report will be found in the appendix.

The quiet and uncomplaining manner in which the people all over the affected tracts bore up against the calamity which had overwhelmed them, was specially remarkable. In Vizagapatam, for instance, where famines are scarcely ever known, they carried this to the extent of reducing themselves in some parts to a state of emaciation, which was most distressing to witness, rather than resort to relief. They were compelled to give way, however, in June, and the works and kitchens in some parts of that district were filled with what can only be described as walking skeletons. This was not due to any want of proper provision for relief on the part of the Collector.

From Jammalamadugu the Committee however heard of wives deserted by their husbands, children by their parents, and old people by their children. Poor wandering waifs and strays were reported in nearly every village. Even the Car festival was very poorly attended. The usually inexorable demands of religion had in that taluk then given way before the struggle for food. From Pennakonda, likewise, came the sad tale of the poor trying to live on the fruits of the prickly-pear. Amidst all the misery thus indicated, however, there cropped up encouraging evidence of the sturdy independence of the people. Blind men insisted on being received on the works, and struggled to do their task at stone breaking. Doles of food and money were refused, and people, driven by hunger to accept tickets for gratuitous relief, were known to have travelled long distances in order to deliver them up again.

The only instance in which natural affection conspicuously gave way, as far as is known—and the fact speaks volumes for the character of the people—was in a village in the Ganjam district, where the Chairman came upon one of the sorriest sights of all his famine experiences. This was a group of children belonging to the Reddiga caste, the members of which are exceptionally lazy and priestridden, and feel it no degradation to live on charity, if only they are permitted to dictate the form which it is to take. The children were all thin, but twenty-five of them appeared to be in the last stages of emaciation. They were the children of people in the neighbourhood, who could work if they chose, and who had therefore been struck off gratuitous relief. The children, however, continued to be in receipt of grain doles, but their parents appropriated them to their own use. They intentionally kept the children in this miserable plight, in order that relief might be continued to them, and they instructed the poor things to refuse cooked food in any form, or under any possible arrangement. The Collector had exhausted his ingenuity in trying to circumvent the children's objections to every plan for feeding them which was proposed, but in vain. There they stood obdurate, the saddest sight in all Madras. The incident is cited, just because it is in such remarkable contrast to the behaviour of the distressed people everywhere else.

The total number of persons who were relieved by this Committee under heads I and III all over the famine area is calculated as 258,477. The cost was Rs. 1,50,872. The manner in which non-official gentlemen, especially in the towns, generally threw themselves into the work was beyond praise.

The famine affected the most backward tracts, and, although there were notable exceptions here and there, it was hardly to be expected that efficient Committee men could be obtained from among the ryots in such tracts. The work in places at all distant from towns had therefore to be done mainly by officials, whose ingenuity and watchfulness were often severely taxed in order to prevent, or rather to minimize, the rapacity of the village officers, who form the *élite* in the country parts.

It would be almost impertinent, as it would be entirely superfluous, to say anything about the invaluable services rendered by the seven Collectors who were engaged in famine administration. They were ably supported by their subordinates of all grades in assisting the operations of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund in all its departments.

IV.

CATTLE AND FODDER SUPPLY.

The elaborate arrangements for the onerous duty, temporarily thrown on this Committee under heads I and III had just been completed, when its attention was directed to the condition of the ploughing cattle of the Deccan. Like the population of the tract, the cattle enjoyed an extraordinary immunity from any disease all through the hot weather, but pasture had long ago disappeared, and stocks of fodder were very low. The price of cholum straw, which is the usual food, had gone up 400 per cent. over normal rates in many parts. Feelings of humanity apart, it seemed to be in the interests of the Fund, and of the cultivators alike, to make an effort to keep the ploughing cattle alive, instead of providing for large purchases of fresh stock after the famine was over, at, of course, very high prices. The cattle required for the heavy clays of this rich 'black cotton' soil are very dear to buy at any time. The usual price is Rs. 60 to Rs. 150 and over for a pair. This Committee was told that an attempt had been made in this direction before, and that it had ignominiously failed. But it determined to make another attempt. In the result, a gratifying measure of success was achieved.

The history of the measures adopted for saving cattle is detailed below, very much in the same form in which it was originally given to the Central Committee in the Fortnightly Reports from this branch of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

In the beginning of April, the Committee opened correspondence with Collectors for the purpose of devising measures. The condition of the cattle, which had been slowly enfeebled by a long continuance of half the ordinary quantity of food, or less, was matter for grave anxiety. This Committee stepped in to assist the ryot in this matter not a day too soon.

Already, somewhat heavy loss had taken place, owing to forced sales of animals which the owners were unable to feed, as well as by actual starvation. But fortunately disease had so far not taken hold of them. In the northern districts rain had fallen, and the normal amount of pasture was again available. On the other hand, in the Ceded Districts there was no pasturage at all on the plains or the lower hills. The price of fodder, even where it was to be bought at all, was 400 per cent. over normal rates. The Chairman was informed on all hands that in a very short time widespread mortality would be unavoidable, unless copious rains fell. Various projects for the preservation of cattle had been under the consideration of this Committee for some time before. Dr. King, the Sanitary Commissioner, suggested the importation of pressed straw from Burma, or from the more favoured districts of the Madras Presidency, and its sale, at selected railway stations, to the ryots at from Rs. 1-4-0 per 100 lb. The plan of laying down fodder was tried by Government in 1891-92, and it failed; so its success was considered, by most of those consulted, as more than doubtful. The two Collectors of Kurnool and Anantapur, however, obtained permission to make experiments on a limited scale. The former has one railway, and the latter district two. Both are connected with the rice tracts of the Kistna delta. Purchases on the spot would, of course, have only aggravated the evil. The Collector of Bellary was however authorised, in emergency, to purchase straw in those villages in which it might be available, in order to save the ploughing bullocks of the poorer ryots, whose powers of borrowing at moderate rates had been exhausted.

Then, the Famine Commissioner proposed the formation of cattle camps, in which, presumably, all cattle brought to them would be fed gratuitously on imported fodder. He supplied no details. This would have been an operation of a magnitude far transcending the means of this Committee, both as to money and agency, for the number liable to be thrown on our hands could hardly be set down as far short of 2 million head. The Committee, however, intimated to the Famine Commissioner that it was prepared to at once advance him the necessary funds, if he found himself in a position to devise a practicable scheme.

The solution which promised the best hopes of success was that put forward by this Committee several weeks before, and which, owing to the ready

co-operation of the Forest Commissioner, the Honourable Mr. Sturrock, was ordered to be immediately put to the test. It consisted in throwing open to free grazing all the forests in the Ceded Districts. The range of hills, called the Nallamalas, in the Kurnool district is one of these. The estimated extent of the forests referred to is 3,810,700 acres. Much of this area is owing to its altitude exempt from the burnt up condition of the plains or the very low hills. The proposal was that the Revenue authorities should at once set to work and induce the ryots to club their cattle into herds under appointed drovers, who should take the cattle into the reserves under the supervision of Revenue Inspectors, and keep them there till better times came. This plan was in accord with old native custom, and is believed to be by far the best. Under a sky of brass, a wind like scorching fire was sweeping over the Deccan, and the fate of its cattle—all but the large stall-fed bullocks of the richer ryots—depended on the promptitude with which the herds were rescued.

The Committee likewise instituted a system of assisting such poor ryots and cattle owners as were on enquiry found to be unable to raise money on the security of their lands, for the purpose of purchasing fodder for their cattle. The maximum was fixed at Rs. 2-8-0 per week. This concession, besides being confined to persons owning not more than two pairs of bullocks, was subject to constant inspection and supervision of cases relieved.

Permission was likewise given to the Collector of Bellary to devote a portion of the money at the disposal of his Committee to grants for the purchase of fodder above alluded to. The Collector of Kurnool also received an allotment of Rs. 1,000 for the purchase of fodder for sale to needy ryots at favourable rates.

The Ceded Districts had in May entered on the critical period alluded to repeatedly during the previous four months, namely, when pasturage had totally disappeared and fodder had in many places been exhausted. Measures for averting widespread loss of cattle from starvation were inevitable. These were all matured by this Committee, and quickly put into operation. The first requisite for the successful treatment of this phase of distress is that loans for the purchase of fodder should be freely given by Government under the Agricultural Loans Act XII of 1884 (India). This was complied with to a certain extent, and it was hoped that nothing would be allowed to give any check to a free distribution of such loans.

The cattle of the Ceded Districts number about 3,000,000. About 900,000 of these are, many of them, large and expensive animals, imported mainly from Mysore and Nellore. These are invariably stall-fed. It was mainly for their support that fodder loans would be taken.

The second requisite was the opening of every forest reserve for free grazing. These reserves cover an area which may roughly be calculated as capable of carrying a million head of cattle. The Nallamalas alone will carry close on half a million. All the ordinary herds could be driven to these reserves in the manner already described. The reserves were at last all opened towards the end of May. The indigenous herds are more than 2 million head. They are mostly bred on the mixed soils and the poor red soils. The better of them are used for ploughing, but they are largely kept on account of their droppings, and of the profit derived from the sale of the bull calves which are taken away by dealers from the south, who periodically visit the Ceded Districts.

As a supplement to the above two palliatives, this Committee took advantage of the railway facilities, which fortunately exist, to throw in supplies of paddy straw, and to store it at selected railway stations. The sources of supply at first were the Chingleput district in the south, and Guntur in the Kistna district. The Famine Commissioner undertook the sale of fodder at these depôts, at favourable rates, to ryots who were certified by village headmen to have run out of fodder and to be worthy of the concession. The transactions, which were entered by the depôt-keepers in a special register, were regularly checked by the Tahsildars of taluks on their rounds. The price was at first fixed at Rs. 12-8-0 a ton, which is somewhat above the ordinary rate, but the rush which followed the opening of the first depôt at Tadpatri necessitated an increase to the price. Experience showed the Committee the comparative smallness of the stock of straw which was available at the sources of supply, when compared with the magnitude of the demand which

the opening of such sales might create, unless due restrictions were imposed both as to purchasers and prices. The total quantity available in the tracts which were tapped was estimated at 2,500 tons, and it was at first doubtful whether, in view of the cost of trainage, it would be practicable to go further afield. The difference between the total cost and the price charged was the cost to the Famine Fund of the operations.

It may, perhaps, be of use to others, if, in addition to relating what it has been found possible to do, a record be left in this place of what, as found in practical working, ought not to be attempted. The idea of establishing cattle camps for the gratuitous feeding of the bullocks of necessitous owners was abandoned as utterly impracticable. It was found that, on a moderate computation, supposing for the sake of argument that the fodder could be imported at all, an expenditure of a lakh or two a day might have to be faced. The real cattle camp is the forest reserve. There is no possible substitute. Such was the conclusion arrived at.

In the next place, the idea of saving transit charges by pressing straw into bales had to be abandoned. It was found that none of the presses in Madras City could do this satisfactorily, while in Guntur, although bales of 250 lb. were turned out, the cost was utterly prohibitive. The plan has no doubt many attractions. It saves cost of haulage, it facilitates accounting, and it prevents theft. But it is, unfortunately, just as much out of the question on the score of cost as the idea of importing fodder from Burma, which was likewise abandoned.

The manufacture of straw into uniform tight twists of 100 lb., each formed by rope making machines, likewise failed, for it was found that they pack as badly into a railway waggon as a loosely pressed bale, besides being expensive to turn out.

Experience proved that the most economical manner of sending straw by rail is to put it on the waggons in the small loose twists in which it is usually sold in the villages, to tread it in thoroughly, and then to tie it down. The Madras Railway Company's rule as to the height of the load brought the weight carried by a 12-ton waggon to an average of $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons, which at the special rate allowed to the Famine Fund worked out to 1 anna per ton per mile. The Guntur straw was carried by the Southern Mahratta Railway at a rate of 1 anna per waggon per mile. This worked out to about $2\frac{2}{3}$ pies per ton per mile, but, even if the railway had been able to continue such an abnormally low rate, the pressing charges, the distance, and the break of gauge would have far more than counterbalanced the advantage. The railway referred to is a narrow gauge line, and the waggons are therefore only of 8 tons nominal capacity. It was calculated, however, that, with fodder packed in the manner above described, the rate would approximate 6 pies per ton per mile. The cordial manner in which both the railways referred to have assisted this Committee has been very marked.

At the commencement of the operations the supply was entrusted to a Madras contractor, who drew his straw from the neighbouring Chingleput district, in which the previous season had been favourable. Mr. M. Venkatasami Nayudu, Dubash of Messrs. Binny & Co., deserves mention for undertaking the first contract, in spite of general prognostications of failure and loss. When his contract, which was for 500 tons, had expired, the supply was given to other contractors who drew their supplies from the North Arcot district in addition, and thereby diminished the cost of haulage. Both the Madras Railway and the South Indian and Mahratta Railways systems were then used, and a certain quantity was purchased in the Nellore district, and despatched from Gudur over the South Indian Railway to the southern taluks of Cuddapah. Lastly, straw was purchased in the Kistna delta and despatched from Guntur, likewise by the Revenue authorities, to the extent of 274 tons. This was very nicely pressed in bales of 250 lb. each, but as the nearest and the extreme distances to which it had to be carried by rail (Dhone and Nandyal excluded) were 259 and 357 miles, respectively, the quantity indented for from this source was kept as low as possible. The least and the greatest distances on the Madras Railway were 196 and 325 miles. The average cost per ton delivered at the 19 depôts, which were all situated at railway stations, was a trifle over Rs. 16 per ton. The price fixed at first for sales to ryots at these depôts was Rs. 12-8-0 per ton. It was subsequently increased to

Rs. 15, and finally to Rs. 17-8-0, the minimum and maximum quantities sold to any individual at one time being 100 and 500 lb., respectively. The total fodder carried was 3,000 tons; the gross cost including some Rs. 10,000 and odd remaining to be adjusted amounted to about Rs. 1,12,000; and the recoveries from ryots amounted to Rs. 32,546-5-0. The net cost to the Fund was therefore Rs. 79,454 or if the value of fodder given away gratis (Rs. 3,853) is excluded, to Rs. 75,600. The names of the depôts, and the quantities sold at each, will be found in an appendix.

The Committee considers that the expenditure was amply justified by the satisfactory results attained. It is impossible, of course, to give more than a mere guess at the number of cattle saved from death or irremediable deterioration. But it may be judged from the figures supplied from one of the four districts, Bellary, in which systematic efforts were made to maintain this information. In that one district alone the number of cattle thus rescued is put down as 13,000, which, at the extremely low price of Rs. 40 per head, represents a sum of Rs. 5,20,000 saved through the Famine Fund's fodder supply, to the ryots of that one district. This calculation takes no note of the indirect benefit to the rest of the cattle by enabling the ryots to utilize the available stocks in the district for their proper maintenance.

The success of such an operation is largely affected by promptitude and liberality in the grant of State loans for the purchase of fodder. The Committee regrets to say that the administration of this important branch of famine work was defective. It was quite obvious that the Government officers, in Kurnool and Cuddapah especially, did not understand the extent of their legal powers in this all important matter. This, without doubt, prevented the operations of the Fund from reaching the dimensions which they would otherwise have assumed. In August, no doubt, the Government was induced, at the instance of the Collector of Bellary, Mr. H. A. Stuart, I.C.S., to confer a great boon on the ryots by permitting Collectors to make 'takkari' advances, for the subsistence of man and beast, on personal security merely, free of the cumbrous and dilatory procedure requisite for ordinary State loans for such purposes. This was a great step in advance, which might well have been taken long before; but it came too late, for the season had, by that time, taken a more favourable turn. Pasture had sprung up, fresh fodder had become available owing to old stocks, hitherto bottled up, coming into the market, and the early harvest was becoming general. The operations of the Committee were, therefore, brought to a close early in September.

The number of cattle saved by being allowed to graze without payment of fees in the Government forest reserves is returned as 683,500, of which 403,500 had paid fees up to June 30th.

On the whole, the total number of cattle which came under the care of the Fund may be safely put down as at least 760,000, and their value, at the lowest computation, as Rs. 1,11,00,000. This latter figure, then, may be taken as the measure of the probable loss which was prevented by the various measures taken by the Famine Fund Committee.

V.

OTHER OPERATIONS UNDER HEAD IV.

The major portion of the Funds under the control of this Committee was, from the early days of its existence, set apart for the purpose of setting up in life again those who fell into destitution during the famine, or had lost their all in the struggle. The Committee all along carefully nursed its funds so as to be able to attain this object. As far back as the 12th of March, the Collectors of famine districts were addressed in view to the registration of deserving recipients. These instructions were supplemented, from time to time, with the special object of securing the cultivation of holdings immediately on the appearance of the monsoon, and of saving ryots and others from the necessity of getting further under the grip of the sowcar. Lists were likewise ordered to be maintained of ryots, weavers, and

other artisans who might be found on the relief works or on weaver relief, as this fact was considered to constitute a very fair practical criterion of exceptional necessitousness.

The funds to be placed at our disposal could not be expected to do more than relieve the most destitute, and the most pressing cases. The great object was to give help, which would be efficient for securing the purpose in view, to as many of these as might be possible. It was desired, above all things, to avoid frittering away the money at our disposal on wholesale and ineffectual grants of small sums to all and sundry. During the visit to Madras of the Honourable Mr. H. E. M. James, it was decided to abandon, as impracticable with the money likely to be available, the idea of attempting to give grants to ordinary coolies, or journeymen artisans on relief works, so as to give them something to live on until they commenced to earn wages again, plus a small sum for the purchase of clothes and household utensils. The objects to which money under head IV was to be devoted were accordingly laid down as—

- (1) Grants to buy cattle.
- (2) Grants to buy seed.
- (3) Grants to set up weavers and other artisans.
- (4) Grants to enable ryots to make a fresh start in life.

Accordingly, on the 11th of June, it was resolved to begin by making allotments for the purchase of seed grain and cattle, so as to facilitate the cultivation of the light red soils of the four Deccan Districts at the rate of Rs. 50,000 to each. Rs. 1,03,000 was granted for similar purposes in Vizagapatam and Rs. 42,500 for Ganjam. In addition to this, Rs. 6,000 was granted for seed grain, &c., to the Ryots of Bhadrachallam in the Gódvári Agency, and Rs. 10,000 to the hillmen of Palkonda in the Vizagapatam Agency.

Later on, the following allotments were made to assist the ryots in the heavy black cotton soils of the Deccan, whose cultivation is not undertaken before the end of August or in September. The following were the grants made for that purpose:—

	18th June.	6th July.
	Rs.	Rs.
Bellary	20,000	1,50,000
Kurnool	10,000	1,00,000
Anantapur	10,000	1,25,000
Cuddapah	10,000	1,35,000
Total	50,000	5,10,000

The system on which these monies were ordered to be utilised was embodied in the following two circulars, dated, respectively, 12th June and 13th July:—

A.

Memorandum to District Committees in the Deccan Districts.

In consequence of reports received from some of the affected districts that in the red-soil villages the early sowings will commence at once, and that any relief which the Executive Committee might be disposed to give to the poorer ryots, to enable them to buy plough bullocks and seed grain, should be promptly given, we have been directed to place at your disposal a sum of Rs. 50,000 to meet immediate and urgent requirements. A remittance transfer receipt will accordingly be sent to you by the Honorary Treasurer.

2. We request that you will draw up a list of villages in which the early sowings are likely to begin at once, and make prompt arrangements for carrying out a careful village-to-village inspection, and for granting relief to such of the poorer pattadars as may be found to be in urgent need of such advances. To avoid delay, the villages should be divided between the official and non-official members, and each member furnished with sufficient funds for disbursement on the spot.

3. The relief should be confined *ordinarily* to ryots paying an assessment of Rs. 10 and less (on the aggregate number of their pattahs, if they hold more than one) who have lost their cattle

and seed grain, and whose resources have been completely exhausted. In exceptional cases, the relief may be extended to pattadars paying more than Rs. 10 but not more than Rs. 50, who may have similarly suffered. It may not be necessary in every case to grant money for both cattle and seed grain. In many cases, grants for seed grain alone, or bullocks alone, might be sufficient. For seed grain, half a rupee per acre should be ample. For bullocks in red-soil villages, not more than Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 should be given for a pair, and no ryot should be given more than Rs. 50 at the outside, except with the sanction of the District Committee. As the funds at the disposal of the Executive Committee are very limited, and as large grants will be required to meet the demands from other villages, it is necessary to restrict the relief to the most destitute.

4. A list of persons to whom money grants may be given as indicated above should be maintained in Form A-I. forwarded with circular, dated 12th March 1897, by each member (official or non-official) intrusted with the administration of relief, and the list in original should, after each village is completed, be forwarded to the District Committee, with a certificate appended stating that the money has been paid in his presence (and, if any other has been associated with him, in the presence of) to the persons mentioned in the list. This will be accepted as a valid voucher for the sums so paid.

5. Every person to whom a money grant is given should be warned that he is bound to spend it on the object for which it is granted, and that it will be recovered if he is shown to have misappropriated it. With a view to prevent such misappropriation, it would be desirable, wherever possible, to cause a re-enquiry to be made in a few villages of each circle, by the same member or, failing him, some other trustworthy person, to find out how far the money has been properly expended.

6. In the remaining villages of the affected tracts, enquiry should also be set on foot without delay, and arrangements made for registering the names of those to whom grants for bullocks or seed grain or both will have to be given. It is not possible to say what allotment will be received from the Central Committee at Calcutta, but the list should contain full information, so that in the event of the allotment being curtailed, it would be easy that to eliminate some of the names and restrict the relief only to the worst cases. Reference is requested, in this connection, to paragraph 5 of the circular letter of the Executive Committee, dated 11th March last.

B.

To

THE COLLECTOR OF

Srs,

At their meeting on the 6th instant, the Executive Committee made further allotments under head IV, the objects of which, we may remind you, have been thus specified:—

"In restoring to their original position, when acute distress is subsiding, those who have lost their all in the struggle, and in giving them a fresh start in life."

The allotment to your district was Rs.

The remittance of this sum will be made as soon as we hear from you that the season admits of its being utilised by the ryots and that you are ready to disburse it. A further allotment to be communicated by telegram will be made as soon as the Central Committee has announced the result of its final distribution of funds on the 19th or 20th instant.

2. It will be clearly seen on consideration of the objects mentioned above that the distribution of money under this head must necessarily rest, in practice, on information and assistance derived from the Revenue Department in the district. Our District Committees, we believe, quite recognise this fact. The Executive Committee are, therefore, of opinion that the grants under this head should be put, in the first place, at the disposal of the Collectors, as has been done in other parts of India, and that the latter should be requested to make arrangements suitable to the circumstances and peculiarities of their districts for distributing the moneys. At the same time, the Executive Committee consider that the co-operation of the members of the District Committees and Sub-Committees should also be availed of as far as they are willing and able to give it.

3. It seems to the Executive Committee that the best method of securing a speedy and impartial distribution of the moneys would be as follows:—The Collector should at once call a meeting of the District Committee, and in conjunction with them allot proportionate sums to each taluk. The actual distribution should then be undertaken by the Divisional and Taluk Revenue officers and the members of the Committees conjointly. The disbursements should take place at one or more convenient centres in each taluk or division, on fixed days, by a mixed Board consisting of a Divisional or Taluk Revenue officer and members of the local Committees. The

chosen recipients of each village should be summoned to attend, and with them the Karnam and the Reddi, on a date to be intimated to them, and the sum decided upon should be handed over to each recipient in person, and his receipt taken in the list prepared for each village.

It seems to the Executive Committee that as few distributing centres as possible should be chosen, because the carrying about of considerable sums of money will present difficulties, and that the centres should preferably be places where, or near where, there are Government treasuries.

4. The relief should be confined *ordinarily* to ryots paying an assessment of Rs. 10 and less (on the aggregate number of their pattas, if they hold more than one) who have lost their cattle and seed grain, or whose resources have, from other causes, been completely exhausted. In exceptional cases, the relief may be extended to pattadars paying more than Rs. 10 but not more than Rs. 50, who may have similarly suffered. It may not be necessary in every case to grant money for both cattle and seed grain. In many cases, grants for seed grain alone, or bullocks alone, might be sufficient. For seed grain, half a rupee per acre should be ample. For bullocks in red-soil villages, not more than Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 should be given for a pair and in black-soil villages Rs. 40 to 60, and no ryot should be given more than Rs. 50 at the outside, except with the sanction of the District Committee. As the funds at the disposal of the Executive Committee are very limited, and as large grants will be required to meet the demands, it is necessary to restrict the relief to the most destitute.

5. Every person to whom a money grant is given should be warned that he is bound to spend it on the object for which it is granted, and that it will be recovered if he is shown to have misappropriated it. With a view to prevent such misappropriation, it would be desirable, wherever possible, to cause a re-enquiry to be made in a few villages of each circle, by the member or, failing him, some other trustworthy person, to find out how far the money has been properly expended.

6. The Executive Committee request that you will kindly take as early steps as possible to carry out the distribution of the sum allotted on the lines suggested in this letter, copies of which have been forwarded to the District Committee for information.

These circulars were supplemented by various subsidiary instructions, both written and oral, on the part of the Chairman, who spent a month in personally supervising the arrangements. For instance, it was laid down that without complete lists it was impossible that the wants of a taluk could be ascertained, and no equitable allotment of the district grant could be made among its various taluks. The preliminary operation in question was also essential for the prevention of fraud on any large or general scale. In order to further avert any mistake, partiality, or fraud, the following additional precautions were to be taken. The actual payments were to be made at two or three central places in each taluk, where the recipients, and the taluk and village officers, were assembled, the latter to identify recipients, in the same way in which the annual settlement, to which the people are accustomed, is conducted. The payments were to be made either by the Collector himself, or by an officer not lower in rank than a Divisional officer specially selected by him. Lastly, payments were, wherever possible, to be made only in the presence of at least two members of a District or Taluk Famine Fund Committee.

Lastly, on the 8th October final allotments under head IV were made to the following districts:—

							RS.	A.	P.
Bellary	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,00,000	0	0
Cuddapah	...	...	...	...	...	...	80,000	0	0
Kurnool	...	...	...	...	...	...	50,000	0	0
Anantapur	...	...	...	...	...	...	50,000	0	0
Ganjām	...	...	...	...	...	...	750	0	0
Vizagapatam	...	...	...	...	...	...	163	8	0
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,80,913	8	0

These grants were intended for the purpose of starting afresh in life impecunious cultivators, craftsmen, and others who had been on Government relief, either of the ordinary kind or that specially designed for weavers. The system of registration and the method of distribution followed precisely similar lines to those described above. Elaborate information, as to the holdings and other property

held by these people, and as to their losses and their debts, had been under systematic preparation for several months, in pursuance of a circular which was issued in the beginning of May.

The Committee has reason to believe, owing to the gratitude that has been expressed in various ways—by memorial, by resolutions at public meetings, and otherwise,—that the money spent by it under this head (IV) has been well spent, and that it has been efficacious in relieving much bitter distress. The total number of persons assisted with money for seed and bullocks, and with lump grants to alleviate their embarrassments was 161,952, and the total sum so distributed Rs. 11,27,997.

In evidence of the care and self-denying labour which everywhere characterised the administration of the whole of this important portion of the Charitable Funds entrusted to this Committee, it may perhaps be permitted to make a quotation from a report received from Mr. A. C. Tate, the Collector of Cuddapah. This officer, in spite of the almost overwhelming duties attending the management of a huge district heavily stricken with famine, distributed no less than Rs. 1,75,000 with his own hands.

"After settling preliminaries I proceeded to make disbursements. My object was to make the payment in an open place, and as publicly as possible, in order that every one might see and know what was going on. Opposite to my tent there was a raised platform which served the purpose very well, as from it we had a full view of the whole crowd of the proposed recipients and spectators. On this platform was arranged a table with seats all round. I sat in the middle. The Deputy Collectors M. R. Ry. Runga Rao and Narayanasami Pillai, and the Tahsildar M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur S. Pampapati Sastri took the seats on my right. On my left was seated V. Krishnama Charlu, my Hazur Sheristadar.* The shroff was seated in front of me with the bags of rupees, while another clerk was by his side to assist him in writing his chitta (account), and a third hand was employed in taking the receipts of the parties. In order to prevent the people from crowding near the paying spot, a spacious enclosure was raised off with bamboos in front of the platform. As each village was called up, all the people of that village were ranked inside that enclosure, whether their names were on the list or not. The village officers (Kurnam and Reddi) were also present in most cases at the time of payment. The vast crowd of people of other villages were also witnessing the scene from behind the bamboo fence. The raised portion of the platform enabled me to watch all round and see what was going on, so that no peons or servants had any opportunity of misconducting themselves on the occasion, or interfering with the recipients of the charity. There was another advantage in this method of distributing the money publicly. As each name was called out in a loud voice, the person that emerged from the group within the bamboo fence as the possessor of that name, became the cynosure of all eyes, including those of many of his neighbours and acquaintances, and if he was not the right individual, the attempted deception was at once discovered. If he came with no challenge from his companions as he stood before the platform, he was put to some test by being required to give the extent and assessment of his patta, and his father's house name, details on which points were already entered on the list. This is the way in which parties were identified, and not by the help of village officers. I observed that some of the people of the villages who received payments in the beginning, did not go away straight to their villages, but lingered near the Katcherry. I suspected that this was possibly due to some improper arrangement with the village officers, and made the Reddis and Karnams due to my presence for more than two hours after the last man of their village was paid, so that some of the money might reach their villages before the Reddis and Karnams would get on the way. I am sorry to say that it is my opinion that, in some few cases, the recipients of this charity have handed over portions of their doles to the village officers, and I feel sure that no compulsion can be used to make the recipients act in this way. What I have personally seen to is that the full amount of every dole has been publicly placed in the hands of the recipients, and I have taken all possible steps to ensure that there was no obstruction in the way, either of coming to receive the dole, or in taking it away home after receipt."

The natural timidity of the people and the unreliability of the village and other inferior servants of Government, presented difficulties everywhere, which were, however, discounted by the careful arrangements made by Collectors and the loyal manner in which these were carried out by their Divisional officers and Tahsildars. Several wholesome prosecutions, instituted in Bellary and elsewhere, kept the evil fairly in check, and this Committee agrees with the various District Committees, which have noticed the point, in considering that the all-important portion of the Fund's operations alluded to was admirably administered.

* The names of two non-official members of the Taluk Committee are subsequently given as also present.

VI.

ORPHANS.

Owing to the comparative absence of disease amongst the poor during the late famine, and the sufficiency of the wages and rations laid down by Government, no large number of orphans is reported from any district. Correspondence is proceeding for the purpose of discovering what number of these children are likely to be adopted or taken charge of by private individuals or others. A provision of Rs. 20,000 has been set apart for the maintenance and bringing up of any which may be left on our hands.

VII.

CONCLUSION.

The gravity of the crisis through which the Madras Presidency has passed may be realized in some sort if it be remembered that the numbers of persons on State Relief, which was only 55,103 when this Committee was formed in February, rose to 880,686 on the 24th July. That was the turning point, and numbers steadily went down to 2,977 on 31st October.

As already stated in this report, the North-East monsoon has been, more or less, a failure in the Deccan, and in some of the neighbouring districts. In the northern part of Nellore it has been found already necessary to open test works. But the northern districts are quite safe, while in the Deccan the forecast of the harvest is generally fair to middling. Very high prices, however, continue.

The Chairman of this Committee was out in the affected districts several times between April and September, for the purpose of inspecting and superintending Famine Fund operations and of consulting with the various Committees. All seven districts were inspected at least twice, and some of them four times. The Executive Committee held 39 meetings, at which every detail of administration was carefully considered and promptly disposed of.

As to the various District and Taluk Committees, the Executive Committee is indebted to their members for valuable assistance, and desires to record its sense of their self-denying labours. On the whole, perhaps, it may not be considered invidious to single out the District Committee of Cuddapah for special mention, because on it fell for many weeks the task of organising gratuitous relief, which was eventually taken over by the Collector after considerable delay. This was due partly to the difficulty experienced in getting together the necessary subordinate inspection establishment in an unhealthy district, where it is at all times hard to induce officials to serve. No mention of good work in Cuddapah would be complete without the inclusion of the name of the Honourable C. Jambulingam Mudaliyar, B.A., M.L. The able Honorary Secretary Mr. T. Munisawmi Ayyar, must also not be allowed to escape remembrance.

The Committee desires, likewise, to record its high sense of the services rendered to the Famine Fund by Mr. H. A. Stuart, I.C.S., the Collector of Bellary, in many ways too numerous to mention here. The effect of the example set by his cordial co-operation, and his indefatigable labours, cannot be over-estimated. Mr. G. W. Gillman, I.C.S., too, the Secretary of the Bellary District Committee, did all that man could do in order to make the operations a success.

The Committee has likewise to specially thank Messrs. H. D. Taylor, I.C.S., W. O. Horne, I.C.S., V. A. Brodie, I.C.S., E. A. Elwin, I.C.S., R. H. Shipley, I.C.S., and A. C. Tate, I.C.S., for the cordial manner in which, as Collectors, they seconded the efforts of this Committee. Specially good work was done by Mr. E. C. Rawson, I.C.S., who, as Chairman of the Vizagapatam Committee, rendered valuable service; and thanks are due also to Dewan Bahadur R. Darimarao Nayadu for his tours of inspection in the same district. Mr. M. Subba Rao, the Tahsildar of Guntur, did capital work in the matter of fodder supply from the Kistna Delta; and

Mr. S. Sundararaja Aiyangar, B.A., the Audit Deputy Collector, must not be forgotten for the energy and tact displayed by him in the troublesome duties which fell to his share in connection with the District Famine Fund accounts.

The figures used in this report are the latest available, and not those up to 31st October only. If the latter only had been used, this account of the doings of the Charitable Fund in Madras would have been fragmentary and incomplete. For, owing to local and seasonal peculiarities, a considerable part of the most important and interesting work carried out under the auspices of this Committee was completed during the few weeks immediately following the 31st October, which was the dividing line selected by the Central Committee owing apparently to its suitability to provinces differently situated to Madras. In order, however, to prevent confusion in the accounts, expenditure before 1st November is entered in black ink, and that incurred subsequently to 31st October in red, in the figured statements which are submitted herewith. These statements have not been printed, as they are very elaborate and detailed and the cost of putting them into type would be very large.

C. S. CROLE,
Chairman.

HENRY BEAUCHAMP,
P. RAJARATHNA MOODELLIAR,
Honorary Secretaries.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND,
MADRAS BRANCH,
Madras, 21st December 1897.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX No. 1.

THE INAUGURAL PUBLIC MEETING AT MADRAS.

A Public Meeting summoned by the Sheriff to organise the Madras Branch of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund was held on the 4th February 1897 at the Banqueting Hall at 5 P.M. and was very largely attended, the hall being crowded from the dais to the entrance. Among those present were the Hon'ble Mr. H. W. Bliss, C.I.E.; the Hon'ble Mr. J. Grose, C.I.E.; the Hon'ble Sir Arthur Collins, Kt., Q.C.; the Hon'ble Mr. C. S. Crole; the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Subramanya Iyer, C.I.E.; the Hon'ble Mr. V. Bhaashyam Iyengar, C.I.E.; the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Boddam; the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Benson; the Most Reverend Archbishop Colgan; the Ven'ble Archdeacon Elwes; the Hon'ble Mr. P. Rajarathna Moodelliar; Rajah Sir Savalai Ramasawmi Moodelliar, Kt., C.I.E.; the Hon'ble Mr. J. Sturrock; the Hon'ble Mr. P. Rungiah Naidu; the Rev. A. A. Williams; Mr. B. B. Michell; Dewan Bahadur P. Sreenivasa Rao; Mr. H. K. Beauchamp; Mr. H. G. Wedderburn; Mr. E. Barclay; Mr. H. C. West; Colonel Olcott; Mr. Murray Hammick; Mr. F. Bagshawe; Mr. R. F. Grant; Mr. John Adam; the Hon'ble Mr. G. G. Arbuthnot; the Hon'ble Mr. G. L. Chambers; Mr. C. Michie Smith; Mr. B. G. Orr; Mr. G. G. Eduljee; Mr. M. Veeraraghava Chariar; Mr. Waljee Laljee; Bai Bahadur V. Kistnana Chariar; Mr. L. Kistnados Balamkundoss; Rev. James Cooling; Mr. W. T. Newitt; the Hon'ble Mr. V. Mahomed Sheriff Khan Bahadur; Mr. P. T. Theagaroya Chettiar; Mr. H. Scott; Mr. J. A. Jones; Rev. W. F. Archibald; Mr. J. L. Spoor; Mr. S. Gurusawmy Chetty; Mr. W. Morgan; Colonel G. M. J. Moore, C.I.E.; Captain B. Portal; Captain Lowndes; Dr. J. Nield Cook; Mr. C. Sowden; Mr. J. H. M. Ryan; Mr. A. J. Yorke; Mr. G. Subramanya Iyer; Rao Bahadur C. Kalyanasundaram Chettiar; Mr. Glyn Barlow; Mr. H. Ormerod; Mr. W. Oakes; Mr. C. Seton; and many others.

His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Mr. H. A. Sim, Private Secretary, and Lord Herbert Scott, A.D.C., arrived shortly after 5 P.M. and was met at the Government House entrance to the Hall by the Sheriff and conducted to his place on the dais.

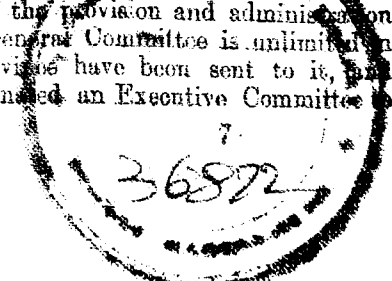
The Sheriff read the notice convening the meeting, announced the meeting duly convened, and called upon the gathering to elect a Chairman.

The Hon'ble the Chief Justice said,—I have to propose the first Resolution that His Excellency the Governor do take the chair. I accordingly propose it.

Rajah Sir Savalai Ramasawmy Moodelliar seconded the Resolution, which was carried with acclamation.

His Excellency the Governor in opening the meeting said:—

MY LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, MY LORD ARCHBISHOP AND GENTLEMEN.—I am proud to obey the summons to take the chair and to preside at this meeting of all that is best and most distinguished in our great city of Madras, a meeting called for the purpose of showing our sympathy with our distressed fellow-subjects in their dire calamity, and for the purpose of devising means for coming to their aid, and for giving them relief. It may be of use, I think, that I should state the objects to which it is thought that private subscriptions may legitimately be devoted, and I should describe as briefly as I can the organisation which has been suggested for the collection and administration of private subscriptions. The objects to which it is thought our subscriptions would be most properly devoted, are as follows:—Firstly, in supplementing the subsistence ration, which alone is provided from public funds, by the addition of small comforts, whether of food or of clothing, for the aged or infirm, for the patients in hospitals, for children, and the like. As guardian of the public purse, and in view of the magnitude of the calamity, Government is obliged to limit its assistance to what is absolutely necessary for the preservation of life. Secondly, in providing for the maintenance of orphans. Every famine leaves behind it a number of waifs who have lost or become separated from those who should be responsible for them, and for whose maintenance it is necessary to provide till they are of an age to support themselves. Thirdly, in restoring to their original position, when acute distress is subsiding, those who have lost their all in the struggle, and in giving them a fresh start in life. The peasant cultivator may often thus be saved from losing his holding through sheer inability to cultivate it, and from sinking to the position of a day labourer. Now as to the organisation which has been suggested for the collection and administration of private subscriptions. You are aware that (1) a Central Committee, termed the Indian Committee for the provision and administration of charitable relief, has been established in Calcutta. That General Committee is unlimited in numbers, and nominations of representatives from each Province have been sent to it, and have been appointed; but the General Committee have nominated an Executive Committee



You have doubtless observed that criticisms have been passed upon the authorities because they did not, at an earlier date, invoke the flow of private generosity. In my judgment those criticisms were unreasonable and unjust. I believe that earlier action was in no way necessary, and that a precipitate and premature call on private charity might have been mischievous. The very nature of the objects to which it is thought that private charity should be devoted is such as not to call for action during the first stage of the distress; and it was obviously prudent to avoid the individual bestowal of the charity until the gravity of the situation was fully established. An exaggerated or false alarm would have permanently injured public confidence, with results which might, in the case of future calamity of a like kind, have proved disastrous. Without in any way wishing to minimise the degree of the terrible calamity which has fallen upon the country, I do not think it is otherwise than wholesome to seek as much encouragement and consolation as may be derived from comparing our present situation with our situation at the time of the great famine of 1876-78. The present famine covers a larger area, and affects a larger population than the Madras famine of 1876-78, but up to the present its intensity is happily less in degree. In the former famine the numbers employed on relief works reached the maximum of 2,779,000. The highest number reached in the present famine is 1,296,000, or less than one-half. The maximum number receiving gratuitous relief was in 1876-78, 1,345,000, at present the number is 465,000, or less than one-third. The organisation and appliances for dealing with the crisis are now incomparably better than they were in 1876-78. The actual loss of life will probably be insignificant in comparison. I think also we may reflect with satisfaction on the perennial stream of private charity, which, by immemorial custom and tradition, flows through the great desert of poverty and want in this country. I believe I am right in saying that private charity in India, with a population of about 300 millions, takes the place of the pauper relief given in the United Kingdom, amounting for a total population of under 40 millions, and for a pauper population of about one million to the enormous sum of 12 millions sterling per annum. But, having indulged for a moment in the reflections I have called up, let us face without flinching the fact that we have a difficulty before us which is beyond the power of the State and beyond the ordinary sources of charity to combat completely. Let us in Madras remember the terrible visitation of 20 years ago and the generosity and sympathy then shown us by our brethren of the North, and let us now eagerly seize this opportunity of helping to comfort and succour them in their adversity. Let us not forget also that, though famine in an acute form or in an extensive degree has not yet invaded our own Presidency, we have scarcity and distress over a considerable area which we can and should help to alleviate, and do not let us be too sanguine that the situation may not become worse in our own affected districts. I hope to be able within a short time to visit the Bellary district, with the object of seeing for myself the working of our Famine Code and the actual aspect of affairs in that our most distressed tract. And now, gentlemen, I leave the matter in your hands, feeling sure that the kind hearts and the good sense of the people of Madras will know how to give effect to the purposes which have drawn us together to-day. (Cheers.)

GENTLEMEN.—We have met here this evening to organise our forces to join in the campaign against India's deadliest foe, against a famine more widespread, more threatening, perhaps to become more terrible, than any that has visited this country for generations. I am proud, we are all proud, to be citizens of Madras, and I am sure that at this great crisis Madras will be true to her traditions of generosity, and all the more so, because with many of us the memory is still fresh of that awful time, just 20 years ago, when we ourselves in this Presidency passed through the burning fiery furnace, and when at the hour of our utmost need we received help, generous and ungrudging, from our fellow-countrymen in all parts of the Empire. Gentlemen, it is characteristic of the British race to be outwardly cold, phlegmatic, and unemotional, but when the

The Hon'ble Mr. V. BHASHYAM IYENGAR seconded the Resolution in the following terms:—
It gives me great pleasure to second the proposition so eloquently and so ably moved by Mr. Arbuthnot. In doing so I sincerely hope that in the matter of private donations to the Indian Famine Relief Fund, the people of Madras will not be behind those of any other part of the world throughout which an appeal is now being made for the relief of the distressed throughout India, and is being so liberally and sympathetically responded to. I think it is unnecessary to detain you with any further remarks on a matter of this sort which must commend itself to the whole of the audience and the Presidency.

YOUR EXCELLENCY AND GENTLEMEN,—Before saying a few words in support of the Resolution which has been proposed and seconded, I shall be glad to read a telegram received to-day from the Bishop of Madras, who is now on tour in Benar. It runs as follows:—"Bishops at Calcutta agreed to request Clergy beside subscription lists to invite collection in Churches for famine relief first Sunday March. Tell the Governor I sympathise with public meeting." Those of us who remember the famine of 1876—1878 do not need to have more than that memory to stir us up to do

The Rajah of Venkatagiri wrote sympathising with the meeting and announcing subscription of Rs. 1,000.

His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock, G.C.M.G.; the Maharajah of Travancore, G.C.S.I.; the Maharajah of Vizianagram, C.I.E.; the Maharajah of Jaipur; the Rajah of Cochin; the Rajah of Pudukota; the Prince of Arcot; the Nawab of Banganapalli, C.S.I.; the Rajah of Venkatagiri, K.C.I.E.; the Rajah of Bobbili, K.C.I.E.; the Rajah of Kalahastri; the Rajah of Ramnad; the Rajah of Sundur, C.I.E.; Elijah Rajah of Travancore; Rajah G. N. Gajpati Rao, C.I.E.; the Zemindar of Punganur; the Hon'ble Mr. P. Ananda Charlu; Messrs. W. P. Austin; G. G. Arbuthnot; J. Adam, M.A.; Rev. W. F. Archibald; Messrs. M. Abboyi Naidu; N. Appala-
Arbuthnot; N. Appusundrum Pillay; N. Adipuranam Pillay; P. Aiyaswamy Moodelliar, M.A., B.L.;
raja; N. Appusundrum Pillay; N. Adipuranam Pillay; P. Aiyaswamy Moodelliar, M.A., B.L.;
raj; the Hon'ble Messrs. Justice Benson; Justice Boddam; H. W. Bliss, C.I.E.; V. Bhaskiyam
the Hon'ble Messrs. Justice Benson; Justice Boddam; H. W. Bliss, C.I.E.; V. Bhaskiyam
Iyengar, C.I.E.; Messrs. E. T. Bagshawe; H. K. Beauchamp; Glynn Barlow; Kenworthy
Brown; Surgeon-Lieut-Colonel A. M. Branfoot; Surgeon-Lieut-Colonel W. R. Browne;
Surgeon-Major W. B. Bannerman; Surgeon-Major W. B. Browning; Messrs. Reddy Branson;
R. V. Basava Pillay; Haji Mahomed Haaji Badsha Sahib; B. Bahai Naidu; R. Balakistna
Chetty; M. Budhi Babu Naidu; Haji Mahomed Azeez Badsha Sahib; H. B. Sir Mansfield
Clarko; the Hon'ble Sir Arthur Collins, Kt., &c.; the Hon'ble Colonel D. McN. Campbell;
His Grace Archbishop J. Colgan, n.d.; Brigadier-General J. T. Cummins, D.S.O.; the Hon'ble
Mr. C. S. Crole; the Hon'ble Mr. G. L. Chambers; Messrs. H. O'C. Cardozo, C.I.E.; B. H.
Chester, M.A.; P. Chentall Row, C.I.E.; Rai Bahadur C. V. Chudishi Chetty; Francis Cripps;
B. N. Chandik; the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Davies; the Hon'ble D. Duncan, D.Sc.; the Right
Rev. Desilva, n.d.; the Ven'ble Archdeacon Elwes; Messrs. V. P. D'Rozario; V. C. Desika
Charari; Rajah Esawara Doss; Rai Bahadur M. Ethiraja Pillay; E. H. Elliott; Cowasjee
Ednljee; C. Ethirappa Chetty; the Right Rev. Bishop Gell, n.d.; the Hon'ble Mr. J. Grose,
C.I.E.; Messrs. R. F. Grant; Salla Guruswamy Chetty; F. O. Harrison; Hussain Ali Khan
Bahadur; C. Iyabasawmy Pillay; the Hon'ble Mr. C. Jambulingam Moodelliar; Mr. O. R. Jones;
the Hon'ble Mr. K. Kalyanasoondram Iyer; Surgeon-Lieut.-Colonel W. G. King, M.B.; Messrs.
Rai Bahadur V. Krishnama Chary; P. V. Krishnasawmy Chetty; B. Kristiani Naidu; Dewan
Bahadur C. Kalyanasoondram Chetty; Kushal Doss Chutterbutha Doss; L. Kista Doss Balu-
mukundoss; Kurushed Husin Sahib; N. Kristnasawmy Naidu; K. Kristnasawmy Chetty;
W. J. H. LeFanu; B. Lavery; the Hon'ble the Rev. Dr. W. Millor, C.I.E.; the Hon'ble V. Mahomed
Sheriff Khan Bahadur; Surgeon-Lieut.-Colonel I. Maitland; the Right Rev. Bishop T. Mayor,
n.d.; Messrs. J. M. Maskell; J. Matheson; William Morgan; Colonel G. M. J. Moore, C.I.E.;
Rajah Moothookistunn Yachendra Bahadur; Messrs. R. B. Mitchell; Mahomed Mahmood Khan
Bahadur; Mahomed Ali Namaji; V. Maslamony Pillay; Marildoss Ramdoss; C. Mukunda

Naidu; P. Murugasa Moodelliar; C. Muthukumarasawmy Moodelliar; B. Madava Chetty; Mirza Mehdy Hasham Ispahani; Sri Rajah of Mandasa; E. Norton; T. Numbermal Chetty; S. Narayanasawmy Chetty; K. Narayana Rao; R. G. Orr; W. H. Oakes; W. P. Oakshott; H. Ormerod; Colonel H. S. Oleott; the Hon'ble Mr. J. F. Price, c.s.i.; The Kumara Rajah of Pittapore; Dr. S. Palani Andi; Messrs. C. R. Pattabirama Iyer; G. Paramaswaram Pillay; A. C. Parthasarathy Naidu; M. O. Parthasarathy Iyengar; the Hon'ble Mr. J. D. Rees, c.i.e.; Rajah Sir S. Ramasawmy Moodelliar, Kt. c.i.e.; the Hon'ble Mr. P. Rajarathna Moodelliar; Messrs. F. Rowlandson; C. Ramachandra Rao Sahib; the Hon'ble Mr. P. Rungiah Naidu; Major F. Romilly; Messrs. Rai Bahadur P. Ramasawmy Chettiar; V. Rajarathnam Chetty; R. Runga Row; M. R. Ramakristna Iyer; T. Ramachandra Iyer; P. Rajagopala Chariar; Rai Bahadur V. Ragava Chariar; B. Rungiah Chetty; T. Runga Chariar; T. Ruthnasawmy Nadar; M. Ramakristnaiah Pantulu; T. Runganatha Tawker; D. Rungamannar Chetty; C. S. Rajarathna Moodelliar; P. Rajarathna Moodelliar; the Hon'ble Mr. Justice H. H. Shephard; the Hon'ble Mr. N. Subba Rao; the Hon'ble Mr. J. Sturrock; the Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Subramanya Iyer, c.i.e.; the Hon'ble Mr. G. Stokes; the Hon'ble Mr. C. Sankara Nayar; Surgeon-Major-General C. Sibthorpe; Colonel H. B. Shelley; Messrs. H. Scott; H. A. Sim; C. Michie Smith; A. Seshiah Sastriar, c.s.i.; C. V. Sundaram Sastriar; N. Subramanyam; C. Sowden; C. Seton; Syed Mahomed Sahib Bahadur, J. H. Stone; S. Suthianathan, M.A.; L. D. Swaminumoo Pillai; S. Sankara Subbier, c.i.e.; Dewan Bahadur P. Sreenivasa Rao; V. Sultan Moideen Sahib Bahadur; A. Sankarinh; P. Subramanya Iyer; K. P. Sankara Menon; S. Subroya Achary; P. Somasundrum Chettiar; G. Subramanya Iyer; Rai Bahadur R. V. Sreenivasa Iyer; P. M. Sivagnanam Moodelliar; V. Subbaraman Chetty; Syed Hasham Bilgrami; P. Seetharama Chetty; M. A. Singara Chari; Rai Bahadur A. Thanakoti Moodelliar; P. Theagaraya Chetty, B.A.; C. Thirumalai Naidu; C. S. Theagaraya Moodelliar; P. Theagaraya Chetty; the Hon'ble Mr. C. Vijayaragava Chariar; Rajah Venugopala Kistna Yachendra Bahadur; Dewan Bahadur T. Venkasawmy Rao; Messrs. W. S. Venkataramanujam Naidu; M. Veeraraghava Chariar; V. Varadappa Naidu; P. Veloo Chetty; R. Vedanta Chariu; M. Venugopauloo Pillay; M. Varadarajulu Chetty; M. Venkatarani Chetty; S. Venkatakristnamah Chetty; T. Vythianatha Iyer; Bathani Venkatarathna Chetty; Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel G. L. Walker; Messrs. H. C. West; H. G. Wedderburn; Waljee Laljee Sait; C. Wrenn; A. J. Yorke; C. Yethirajulo Naidu; and all District Magistrates and District Judges.

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice SUBRAMANYA IYER seconded the proposition, and in doing so said it was unnecessary to say very much beyond the fact that it greatly depended on the labours of the Committee how Madras would acquit itself on this extremely important occasion. He would only ask such of his countrymen as were on the Committee to remember that a great responsibility lay on them, whether when this work was over they could say they had acquitted themselves well or not. He would only ask them to try and do their best to make the Committee a success.

The Hon'ble Mr. CROLE in supporting the Resolution said:—

Your Excellency, My Lord and Gentlemen,—I propose, with the permission of this meeting, to confine myself to submitting for consideration a very few observations, which may be considered out of place in supporting the Resolution which has just been proposed for its adoption. A new generation has sprung up since the fierce trial through which this Presidency passed in 1877-78. To most, even the oldest of many amongst you, the great famine may be hardly more than a memory of contemporaneous fact. Those, however, who were in the thick of the combat have burned into their minds recollections of it which can never be effaced. It was a veritable scourge of God, aggravated by the shortcomings of man. There was little to guide the actors in that struggle, but they resolutely fought it out. Some of them fell, many were disabled; but in spite of numerous failures and mistakes, they added a notable page to the history of the connection of the British with India. The Famine Code has changed all that. The duty of Government to save starvation and to ensure that the labouring classes cannot be allowed, owing to want of food, to fall below reasonable physical efficiency, is well recognised. The means for the due performance of that duty are mapped out with great completeness of detail. It may be asserted that in the South of India a repetition of 1877 is now absolutely impossible. The present local scarcity in Madras is happily merely a misfortune, and not a disaster. But there is a phase of the struggle against famine which lies outside and beyond the settled sphere of Government operations. The organisations of the charitable funds must go far beyond relief of distress in order to be efficient, and in order to avoid waste and demoralisation, must proceed on lines which will in no way clash or compete with the operations of the State. The sphere of charity is the rescue of those sufferers from famine who cannot be reached by Government. Government can, as a rule, take care of the wage-earning class and the lowly poor only, to use those terms in their broadest signification. Charitable relief, on the other hand, besides dealing with pressing isolated cases among those classes, has its proper place in endeavouring to seek out and relieve distress among those who would not resort to Government Works or Poor-houses. It should especially, by timely aid, prevent individuals from stooping down in degradable positions with the ranks of down-labourers. It ought to do its best to hold out a helping hand to the hardworking cultivator, so that he may tide over the bad times. Last of all, charitable relief ought to be ready with aid to ryots and others who have suffered, so that they may be enabled to resume their avocations immediately after the welcome rain of the S. W. monsoon appears with June. I have taken the liberty of defining the position, because

it appears to be hardly well enough understood. For instance, Mr. J. M. Maclean, who ought to know better, wrote to the *London Times* on the 4th January, as if charitable relief was required to enable officials to redeem the responsibilities of Government and "to cope with the calamity which is desolating the country." In 1877-78, I freely admit, as one of those responsible, that the £740,000 contributed by the British public was not satisfactorily administered. I am supported in this view by the present Secretary of State, who, writing to Mr. W. Digby on the 6th January last, pointed out that the times had changed, and that the records of the operations of the Mansion House Fund of those days would be of little use at the present juncture. The great defect then was the preponderance of others than Indian gentlemen in the work of the Committees. That may have been unavoidable, but it is so no longer. The country had made great strides during the past 20 years. The public conscience is now becoming awakened to the conception of public duty. If this view is correct, it will be exhibited in a great flow of subscriptions for the raising of your own people in the Ceded Districts, and still more conspicuously, for help to your brethren in the Central and the North-West Provinces. I am now addressing the Indian gentlemen present. But the great advantage of Indian gentlemen everywhere taking their proper place in this work will be that, by their personal efforts alone, will it be possible to ensure that the subscriptions and funds get into the hands of the proper parties, whom they alone have the power of searching out. They alone can, in fact, prevent waste and obviate demoralisation, and thus make these charity funds a real boon. I have no fear of the result, if it be only generally recognised that not only subscriptions, but devoted work and zeal are required. From this point of view, the present movement appears to me capable of being converted into a powerful educative force, and in the days to come when all this is ended all concerned will recognise that, in a two-fold sense, it is "more blessed to give than to receive."

The Hon'ble Mr. RUNGIAH NAIDU also supported the Resolution in the following speech:—

GENTLEMEN,—Your Excellency—It is a great satisfaction to me to be able to take part in this movement for the relief of human distress. The promoters of the movement have wisely inaugurated it under the distinguished auspices of His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock; and in supporting the proposition which places before you the names of the gentlemen who will form the Committee to carry out the humane work we have in view, I venture to express the confident hope that, with such names as have been proposed, we shall not be lacking in the influence of wealth, rank or position. It is a great calamity that has overtaken the country just now; and we have every hope that the Government, with the help of charity which has been extended from different parts of the civilised world, will be able to successfully tide over the present crisis. Poverty is always with us; it is chronic in this country; but it is only at intervals that it attains such an acute stage; and then all the resources of the Government have been most willingly and readily utilised by our rulers in their anxiety to save the lives of Her Majesty's poor subjects. Gentlemen, it is a duty and obligation with all of us, officials and non-officials, to actively co-operate with our benign Government in its efforts for the relief of distressed humanity; and I am sure the names that were read out to you would commend themselves to your hearty acceptance as being those of gentlemen who can ably do the work we have set before us.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR put the motion to the meeting when it was carried unanimously.

His Excellency then said that before closing the meeting he had much pleasure in announcing the following further subscriptions:—Messrs. P. Murugasam & Co., Rs. 500, L. Kistnados Balamukundoss and his son, Rs. 2,000.

His Excellency suggested that donors and subscribers in making their contributions should say whether they wished them devoted to the interest of all parts of India, or specially to the Funds of this Presidency. The Provincial Committee having now been duly appointed, he thought all would agree that the sooner they set to work the better. He would therefore propose that the Provincial Committee should hold a meeting in the Banqueting Hall on Monday next at 5 p.m. for the purpose of appointing an Executive Committee and transacting such other business as might come before them.

The business of the meeting having closed the Hon'ble Mr. V. MAHOMED SHERIFF KHAN proposed a vote of thanks to His Excellency the Governor for presiding. It was seconded by Mr. L. KISTNADOSS BALAMUKUNDROSS and carried.

The Sheriff then dissolved the Meeting.

APPENDIX No. 2.

FIRST MEETING OF THE PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE.

The first meeting of the Provincial Committee of the Fund was held on 8th February 1897 at the Banqueting Hall, with His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock in the chair. The meeting was largely attended by members of the Committee.

HIS EXCELLENCY observed that the purpose for which they had met that evening was to elect their Executive Committee, a Committee to whom they should entrust the real business of collecting and administering the Charitable Fund. The Executive Committee would, he supposed, in their turn select Local Committees who would carry out the work in districts which might be assigned to them. A paper had been put into his hands which contained the names of a certain number of gentlemen whom, he understood, the present meeting would be willing to accept as their representatives on the Executive Committee. The following were the names:—

Chairman.—The Hon'ble Mr. Crole.

Vice-Chairmen.—The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Subramanya Iyer, Rajah Sir Savalai Ramaswami Moodelliar, the Hon'ble Mr. P. Rungiah Naidu, and the Hon'ble Mr. Mahomed Shariff Khan Bahadur.

Treasurer.—The Hon'ble Mr. G. Arbuthnot.

Honorary Secretaries.—Mr. H. K. Beauchamp and the Hon'ble Dewan Bahadur P. Rajaratnam Moodelliar.

Members of the Committee.—The Hon'ble Mr. C. Sankaran Nair, the Hon'ble Mr. C. Jambulingum Moodelliar, the Hon'ble Mr. V. Bhashyam Iyengar, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. S. Benson, Mr. M. Viraraghavachariar, Mr. Mirza Mahdi Ispahani, Mr. Kristnados Balamkundoss, Mr. R. G. Orr, Mr. Glyn Barlow, Mr. W. J. H. LeFanu, Surgeon-Lt.-Col. W. G. King, His Grace Archbishop Colgan, the Ven'ble Archdeacon Elwes, Mr. John Adam, the Hon'ble Mr. J. Sturrock, Col. G. M. J. Moore, Mr. H. Scott, Mr. H. C. West, Mr. Cowasjee Eduljee, Rev. Mr. Archibald, Mr. R. V. Srinivasa Iyer and Rev. E. Sell.

HIS EXCELLENCY wished to know if the meeting approved of the Executive Committee as proposed.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RUNGIAH NAIDU suggested that the Executive Committee should have power to add to their number.

HIS EXCELLENCY thought that there could be no objection to the suggestion being carried out.

Mr. G. SUBRAMANYA IYER observed that there were not enough Indian members on the Committee. He wished to know whether the number of members for the Executive Committee was fixed.

HIS EXCELLENCY replied that the number was not fixed, but he thought that for the Committee should not be too numerous.

Colonel OLCOTT said that every one of them as a member of the Committee was automatically bound by the action of their Executive Officers, that if they were to delegate to them the entire authority of the Committee, they should see that the Committee chosen was composed of men who were willing to do the work and in whose conscientious discharge of the work they had confidence. He fancied that he was expressing the views of those present in saying that the Committee should represent the whole community of the Madras Presidency, so that hereafter there might be no complaint made. He had been very much struck by the remark made the other day by the Hon'ble Mr. Crole that the Famine Fund of 1877 had been more or less mal-administered, because there had been a preponderance of European members on the Committee. His opinion was that in forming that Committee there should be such a balance between the official and the non-official, between the European and the Native element, as would make it a model Committee who would do their work in the most thorough manner, and who at the end of that unfortunate campaign would come out of the thing with the confidence of the whole community.

It was proposed by Mr. G. SUBRAMANYA IYER, seconded by Mr. B. Bauliah Naidu and carried, "that six more Indian gentlemen be added to the Committee."

HIS EXCELLENCY called upon Mr. Subramanya Iyer to suggest the names.

Colonel MOORE proposed, and the Hon'ble Mr. P. Rungiah Naidu seconded, "that the names be submitted to the Executive Committee."

The proposition was agreed to.

HIS EXCELLENCY:—Now gentlemen, I leave the work of this important undertaking in the hands of the Committee which we, the Provincial Committee, have just chosen, and I do so with the greatest pleasure and confidence.

At the instance of Mr. RUNGIAH NAIDU, the following names were added to the Provincial Committee to represent the several Mofussil districts:—

Madras.—The Right Rev. Bishop Morley, Mr. David Leighton, Colonel Olcott, Mr. M. Duraiswamy Pathur of Messrs. Arulanandam and Sons, and M. Venkatasawmy Naidu.

Anantapur.—Mr. P. Kesava Pillay and Rev. Stevensen.

Arcof (North).—Mr. Mahomed Habibulla Sahib and Rev. W. J. Chamberlain.

Bellary.—Mr. Mathew Abraham, Mr. P. C. Ananthachari, Mr. Mari Siddappa, and Mr. M. Ramanjulu Naidu.

Cuddapah.—Rev. D. Leighton and Mr. T. M. Menisawmy Iyer.

Ganjam.—Rev. J. C. Archibald, Mr. B. B. C. Chatterjee, Mr. D. V. Ramayya Pantulu, Mr. W. L. Venkataramayya, Mr. T. V. Siva Rao, Rajah of Parlakimedi, and Rajah of Kallikottah.

Giddari.—Rev. F. J. Macready, Mr. G. Venkataratnam, Mr. K. Perraz, Mr. Nallam Padababham, and Mr. C. Sitaramayya.

Kistna.—Mr. Venkatasubba Rao, Mr. P. Venkatappa, Rao Bahadur S. Lingayya, Mr. P. Venkatakrishnayya Naidu, Mr. J. W. Maiden, and Rev. Wolfe.

Kurnool.—Rev. William Staunton and Mr. T. Chidambara Rao.

Vizagapatam.—Mr. V. Suriyanarayana Sastri, Mr. K. Ramanuja Chariar and Mr. V. Ananta Rao.

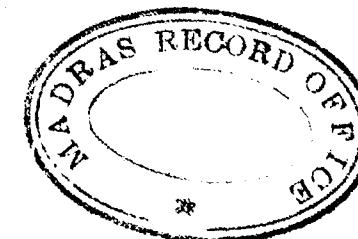
Mr. G. ARBUTHNOT:—I wish to make a statement with the permission of His Grace Archbishop Colgan. At the end of the last famine, a sum of Rs. 8,000 was left in the hands of my firm as Treasurers of the Famine Fund; and an arrangement was made some time later that this should be put at interest. The Archbishop is the only Trustee living in this country, and the total amount of this fund is something over Rs. 11,000, and he has authorised me to state that we may place this fund at the disposal of this Provincial Committee.

HIS EXCELLENCY:—I am sure, gentlemen, we have heard the announcement made by Mr. Arbuthnot with great satisfaction. It adds a very substantial sum to the funds at our disposal.

With a vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Rajah Sir Savalai Ramaswami Moodelliar, the meeting was brought to a close.

The following names were subsequently added to the Executive Committee:—

- (1) Mr. K. Narayana Rao.
- (2) Mr. P. Theagaraya Chettiar.
- (3) Mr. G. Parameswara Pillai.
- (4) Mr. Rajee Mahomed Patcha Saib.
- (5) Mr. N. Subramanyam.
- (6) The Honourable the Raja of Bobbili.
- (7) Reverend W. A. Westcott.
- (8) The Honourable Mr. P. Anandachari.



APPENDIX No. 3.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE COLLECTIONS BY THE VARIOUS DISTRICT COMMITTEES UP TO 31st OCTOBER 1897.

Districts.	General Fund.	Provincial Fund.	Total.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Ganjam	1,856 0 0	6,301 2 4	7,157 2 4
Vizagapatam	3,124 6 6	4,299 3 0	7,423 8 6
Giddari	2,098 0 4	10,043 7 8	12,141 14 0
Bellary	750 0 0	4,404 0 0	5,154 0 0
Cuddapah	2,880 18 7	2,880 18 7	5,760 37 4
Anantapur	100 0 0	4,836 4 0	4,936 4 0
Kurnool	200 0 0	2,703 4 11	2,903 4 11
Madras	12,476 5 1	12,476 5 1	24,952 10 2
Kistna	8,802 8 0	6,602 8 0	15,404 16 0
Nellore	4,263 0 0	4,278 14 2	8,541 14 2
Chingleput	292 0 0	5,959 1 0	6,251 1 0
North Arcot	1,459 7 6	1,459 7 6	2,918 15 2
South Arcot	7,091 6 6	9,059 6 5	16,150 12 1
Tanjore	1,306 1 11	1,306 1 11	2,612 2 22
Trichinopoly	33,486 11 5	33,486 11 5	66,972 23 0
Madura	24,251 6 2	24,251 6 2	48,502 12 4
Tinnevely	1,833 9 2	6,857 7 3	8,690 6 5
Salem	5,705 4 5	5,705 4 5	11,410 9 0
Coimbatore	477 0 0	1,771 0 0	2,248 0 0
Nilgiris	715 12 0	7,811 7 1	8,526 9 1
South Canara	10,048 1 1	10,048 1 1	20,096 2 2
Tecanore State	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Pudukottai State	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Total	81,746 16 4	1,75,880 11 11	2,57,626 6 8

APPENDIX No. 4.

STATEMENT OF FODDER DEPÔTS.

District.	Name of depôt.	Date of opening.	Date of closing.	Quantity of fodder supplied.	Receipts.	Cost of fodder.	Railway charge, &c.	Total.	Net cost to fund.
				TONS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Anantapur.	Tadipatri	1897.	1897.	380	4,379				
	Guntakal	17th May	26th Oct.	323	4,041				
	Dharmavaram	16th June	7th Dec.	61	1,020				
	Anantapur	19th June	5th Oct.	110	1,742				
	Gooty	25th June	26th Oct.	71	118				
	Chakralapalli	17th Aug.	30th Oct.	87	600				
Kurnool.	Dhone	16th Aug.	12th Oct.	5	63				
	Nandyal	25th May	25th June	1	19				
Bellary.	Aspari	19th June	25th Aug.	704	6,587				
	Nancherla	26th May	5th Oct.	48	784				
	Kuditani	27th May	25th June	93	1,401				
	Kosgi	6th June	20th July	205	3,022				
Cuddapah.	Yerragutha	24th June	3th Oct.	12	147				
	Mudlamur	26th May	9th June	533	6,619				
	Kondavaram	7th June	21st Oct.	226	1,061				
	Vayalpad	8th Aug.	29th Oct.	32	803				
	Kallur	21st Aug.	22nd Oct.	57	295				
	Chitona Tippa	24th Aug.	17th Oct.	12	213				
	Kamudragam	1st Sept.	8th Oct.	14	142				
	Kurubola Kota	1st Sept.	8th Oct.						
Total				2,983	* 32,546	62,005	40,395	1,12,000	79,454

* Excludes Rs. 3,353, the cost of fodder, issued gratis on tickets issued by the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committees.

APPENDIX No. 5.

ABSTRACT OF PERSONS RELIEVED AND SUMS SPENT.

District.	Head I.		Head II.		Head III.		Head IV.		Miscellaneous.
	Persons.	Amount.	Persons.	Amount.	Persons.	Amount.	Persons.	Amount.	
Ganjām	No.	Rs.	No.	Rs.	No.	Rs.	No.	Rs.	Rs.
Vizagapatam	2,115	1,315	805	341	29,104	14,388	12,553	44,081	448
Godavari	879	531	...	...	80,536	29,760	52,761	1,11,418	211
Bellary	1,875	9,774	...	...	58,592	5,147	1,352	2,782	...
Cuddapah	9,085	11,567	...	...	3,727	7,000	32,394	3,30,000	263
Anantapur	...	977	...	...	29,739	27,338	14,971	2,70,425	1,338
Kurnool	1,580	1,074	2	15	5,292	5,509	21,857	1,83,569	104
Malabar	4,244	9,769	...	...	1,977	4,522	26,164	1,95,792	542
	...	...	...	...	34,094	20,068	...	...	337
Total	24,104	36,236	807	356	231,369	1,14,036	161,952	11,27,397	3,243

APPENDIX No. 6.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ALLOTMENTS TO THE SEVERAL DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

District.	Heads I and III.	Head IV.	For other purposes.	Total.	Remarks.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	
Ganjām	20,000	43,250	...	63,250	
Vizagapatam	30,000	* 1,13,163.5	...	1,43,163.5	* Rs. 10,000 of this for the Palakonda Agency tract.
Gódvári	2,000	16,000	...	18,000	
Bellary	48,500	3,20,000	† 2,000	3,70,500	† For fodder.
Cuddapah	30,000	2,75,000	‡ 1,500	3,06,500	‡ For drinking-water wells subsequently ordered to be merged in the allotment under head IV.
Anantapur	8,000	2,35,000	...	2,43,000	
Kurnool	\$ 16,700	2,05,000	1,000	2,22,700	\$ Rs. 700 sent to the Collector for relief of Khandans in Kurnool town, and Rs. 1,000 for relief in the Banganapalle State.
Malabar	8,500	...	...	8,500	For fodder.
Total	1,63,700	12,07,413.5	4,500	13,75,613.5	
Add allotment under head III				20,000	
Grand total				13,95,613.5	

APPENDIX No. 7.

GANJĀM DISTRICT.

The following are extracts from a report of Mr. H. D. Taylor, Collector of Ganjām :—

In March a general district meeting was convened by me at Berhampur in connection with the Famine Fund, and a local District Committee was elected for the collection of subscriptions and the administration of funds granted by the Executive Committee, Madras, for purposes of relief in this district. Sub-Committees were also formed at Parlákimedi, Chicacole, Russelkonda and Berhampur.

As I found that my current duties prevented me from attending the meetings of the District Committee, and as my own head-quarters were Chatrapur, while the Honorary Secretary lived in Berhampur, thereby causing considerable delay in the disposal of business, I was compelled to resign the office of President of the District Committee. I am not therefore in a position to give any reliable information as to the administration of the relief funds except under Head IV, for which the distribution was personally entrusted to myself. Full details regarding other heads will be given in the report of the local Committee.

I may, however, note that in this district a considerably larger amount might judiciously have been expended on the relief of the middle classes, many of whom were so reduced as to have to seek Government relief. The district is however very unfavourably circumstanced in the matter of gentlemen who have time and leisure for the administration of relief in rural tracts. Nearly all the members of the various committees were either Government servants or professional

gentlemen whose current duties necessitated their presence at their head-quarters. I also found that taluk officers who were members of the various Sub-Committees had frequently large numbers of deserving persons on their lists, but were unable to do anything towards their relief for want of sufficient funds. The best work in rural tracts was undoubtedly done by the Tekkali branch of the Chicacole Sub-Committee, under the Rev. J. C. Archibald and Messrs. Perinbam and Venkateswara Charyulu from whom I also received great assistance in the distribution under Head IV. Elsewhere in the district, except in large towns and their immediate vicinity, relief was not distributed on the scale on which it was really needed.

A total sum of Rs. 42,500 was placed at my disposal under Head IV for seed-grain advances, the purchase of ploughing cattle and the relief of the agricultural classes. The original instructions of the Central Committee were to limit advances in the case of the Ganjam district to ryots whose annual kist did not exceed Rs. 5. This was found to be inconsistent, chiefly because the district is mainly composed of Zemindari lands, in which there are no fixed money rentals, the produce being shared between the landlord and the cultivator. There were also many other ryots in Government taluks whose kists exceeded Rs. 5, but who were in an exceedingly wretched plight, large numbers being dependent on Government grain dole for the support of themselves and their families. This state of things is largely due to the fact that the lands of this district are mostly *rainfed*; in consequence of which the ryots, who would have been able on the same land to obtain a fair dry crop, had, owing to their attempt to secure a wet crop, failed to reap any harvest at all. There is also another class of petty service inamdars called "Samastanam Paiks" both in the Government taluks of Goomsur and in the Uriya Zemindaris of the district. These persons hold these lands on inam tenure for military and other service; the incomes derivable from these lands are even in ordinary years not large, while during the past year their lands yielded barely any crops at all. These Paiks almost invariably cultivate their own lands, and are unable owing to their caste to engage in ordinary manual labour on Government relief works. They are in reality agriculturists, but as they hold their lands for personal service, are incapable of alienating the same, and in consequence are really in a worse position regarding the raising of funds when required than an ordinary Government ryot. I accordingly dealt with this class in the same way as Government ryots for the purpose of relief under Head IV, and the relief so afforded was most highly appreciated by the Paiks who would otherwise have been compelled to leave their lands uncultivated for another year.

A special allotment was also made for the relief of the Savaras of Tekkali and Parlakimedi taluks.

At the time of distribution I found that the lists of ryots needing relief which had been prepared by Revenue Inspectors, Circle Inspectors and others required very careful check. It was not infrequent to find the names of temples put down and the advance applied for in respect of temple lands, while in one case a Brahmin assessed to an income-tax of Rs. 20 was entered in the list. I am of opinion that full and sufficient inquiries were made and that all undeserving cases were eliminated from the lists. In one case I detected a case of personation in which the sanctioned advance was applied for by another person who gave a false name. He was duly prosecuted for attempting to cheat by personation, and the example had a warning effect.

The distribution was made almost entirely by Divisional officers, members of the Local or Sub-Committees being invited to attend at the time of distribution. In some cases the distribution was made by taluk officers in the presence of Sub-Committee members, while allotments were also made by me direct to the local Committees of Berhampur and Parlakimedi. Especially hard work was done by Mr. Elphinstone, the Special Principal Assistant Collector at Chatrapur.

At the commencement of the distribution I found that there was a tendency to give totally inadequate grants: thus in some cases grants of 8 annas or rupee 1 were made. I immediately issued orders pointing out that the distribution of petty sums like this could not be expected to improve the material condition of the ryot, or to be expended on the object for which it was granted. It was pointed out that the advance was intended not only for the bare seed-grain, but for agricultural expenses and the support of the ryot until he could hope to reap a harvest or obtain an advance on his crop.

Of the distributions made by myself, I found that Rs. 3 was about the minimum amount which would be capable of producing any real relief, though, as a general rule, no sums less than Rs. 5 were advanced, while the maximum was fixed at Rs. 20. The latter sum was only given in a few cases in which the parties had lost their ploughing cattle from disease or been compelled to sell them owing to stress of famine. As cattle on the whole had fair pasture and were healthy throughout, there was very little need for relief in the matter of ploughing cattle. The classes of agriculturists relieved did not for the most part possess cattle of their own and were accustomed to hire the same in each cultivation season. 12,516 persons were relieved at a total cost of Rs. 42,500, or an average of Rs. 3-6-4 per head. Seven persons were given advances for the purchase of cattle.

A sum of Rs. 750 was advanced by the Madras Committee for the relief of distressed artisans. Liberal relief had been given by Government during the famine to the weaving classes, so that there was not much need for relief to weavers; at the same time a large sum

could have been judiciously expended under this head, only unfortunately the lists were not received in sufficiently detailed form from the various officers at the time when estimates had to be sent in. The persons to whom relief was granted were strictly selected from those who had been in receipt of Government relief, while all weavers who through misappropriation of Government advances had shown themselves to be unworthy of consideration were rigidly excluded from the lists. Such weavers as were granted relief were given a couple of boxes of twist at cost price from the Government depôts, together with a small cash balance to enable them to live until the first batch of cloths could be woven and sold. Those weavers or artisans who had mortgaged or sold their looms and implements were given a sufficient sum to redeem or purchase the same.

Vouchers have not as yet been received in full for the total amount of Rs. 750, but the recipients of relief have been selected and the allotment distributed talukwar.

The following were the classes of artisans relieved:—

	No.	Amount.		
		Rs.	A.	P.
Weavers	46	465	0	0
Goldsmiths	5	89	0	0
Carpenters	6	95	0	0
Blacksmiths	3	63	0	0
Potters	1	8	0	0
Tinkers	3	30	0	0
Total	64	750	0	0

Private Charity.—Heavy expenditure was incurred by the Rajah of Parlakimedi, who employed all comers on works at a fixed wage irrespective of outturn on his relief works, as many as 10,000 having been employed at one time. The Zemindar of Kallikote and Atagada opened a kitchen at Haradamoli and executed some petty works throughout his estate. The Proprietrix of Utlam opened a kitchen at Devadi. The Zemindar of Chinnakimedi fed about 100 poor daily in the temples and mutts of his estate. Some gentlemen of Aska subscribed to give a meal daily to about 30 deserving caste poor, while Messrs. Art. Viswasara and Vinayaka Sautra of Radhadevipur Agraharam near Pattapuram, fed 100 of the most deserving cases for one month after cessation of Government relief.

APPENDIX No. 8.

GANJAM DISTRICT.

The following is the report of the Ganjam District Committee:—

The Ganjam district, to which this report relates, has a permanent place in the famine zone. Except in the south, i.e., in some portions of the Chicacole taluk—and now in the tract served by the Rushikulya Canal, the district is entirely dependent on rain, timely rain and not more than enough, for its crops. Hence the failure of the rains in 1896, preceded by a somewhat poor outturn of crops, resulted in the severe famine, of which we can now happily speak in the past tense. The chief crop is rice, which needs one good rain before sowing and another before transplantation, and a third while the ear is forming. Next in importance is ragi—which, though a 'dry' crop, needs rain all the more because it is grown on high ground. Sugarcane is largely grown in the northern half, and red gram and horse gram, castor and til are the chief minor crops. The rice crop was a disastrous failure, the ragi was blighted, and the minor crops were none of them good.

The cold weather of 1896-97 thus opened very diamally. Added to this, the great Pushkaram festival at Rajahmundry attracted large numbers from here, who brought back cholera with them of an unusually virulent type.

The northern half of the district is peopled by Oriyas and the southern by Telugus, roughly speaking. Telugu-Komatis and others who have settled in the northern half for two or more generations have forgotten their own tongue, and have adopted Oriya customs and even names. Many Oriyas settled in the southern half have nearly forgotten their language, and certainly are more at home in Telugu. The "Oriya Villager," a recent season report describes as "the laziest and most helpless creature in existence." Oriyas are rather more conservative than other sections of the people in the Presidency, and Government have recognized them as a backward class. The Telugu ryot is more enterprising; after sowing his fields he often emigrates to Burmah, returning in two or three months with his purse well filled, in time to cut his own crops. Khonds and Savaras (hill tribes) form the bulk of the emigrants who go to the Assam tea gardens.

The average ryot here—as distinct from the tenant farmers and occupancy ryots—is as hopelessly in the toils of the money lender as elsewhere in the country. Suits laid in the Courts often disclose what exorbitant rates of interest are sometimes charged—24 and 36 per cent. are nowhere near the mark.

The hill men grow coarse paddy by *podu* cultivation (*kumri*) on patches on the hill sides. Even those crops failed last year.

Weavers are a large class, the silk cloths of Berhampur, the cotton cloths of Narasannapet and Anipolu, and the muslins of Chicacole having more than a merely local reputation. Workers in brass and steel, iron and bell-metal are fairly numerous and skilful. Even the wild Khond makes his own steel from the iron ore which is plentiful in his native hills, and the Khond *tangi* or battle axe is generally of finely tempered steel. Bell-metal cups and utensils are very largely used and manufactured in the district. Other artisans, such as goldsmiths, carpenters, masons, &c., are found, as usual, in every village and town.

1. *The organisation of the Local Committees.*—In compliance with the requisition made by the Madras Executive Committee for the formation of a Local Committee and Sub-Committees in this district for raising subscriptions towards and administering the moneys of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, a public meeting for the above purpose was held under the auspices of Mr. H. D. Taylor, Acting Collector of Ganjam, on the 6th March 1897 in the Senior Assistant Collector's office at Berhampur. At the meeting, which was attended by the representative men of the district, it was resolved—

(1) that a Local Committee be formed consisting of sixteen members with power to add to their number, with a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and a Secretary and Treasurer;

(2) that the Local Committee consist of the nine gentlemen of the district nominated as members by the Provincial Committee, the four Secretaries of the Sub-Committees to be formed and three other gentlemen elected by the general meeting;

(3) that Sub-Committees be formed at Berhampur, Chicacole, Parlákimedi and Goomsur; each Sub-Committee consisting of twelve members with Chairman and Secretary and Treasurer;

(4) that the local jurisdiction of the Sub-Committees at Berhampur and Goomsur should be co-extensive with that of the Berhampur and Goomsur Taluk Boards, respectively. The local jurisdiction of the Chicacole Sub-Committee was to be the same as that of the Chicacole Taluk Board minus the Parlákimedi Estate, which would be the jurisdiction of the Parlákimedi Sub-Committee;

(5) that the Secretaries and Chairmen of the Sub-Committees be *ex-officio* members of the Local Committee;

(6) that the Divisional Officers, Berhampur, Chicacole and Russellkonda, and Chairman, Parlákimedi Municipality, be requested to convene public meetings for the election of Sub-Committees for their respective divisions.

2. The first meeting of the Local Committee was held on Tuesday the 16th March 1897 in the Senior Assistant Collector's Outcherry, Berhampur, when Mr. H. D. Taylor, Mr. W. L. Venkataramiah and Mr. B. Chatterjea were elected Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary and Treasurer, respectively, of the Committee. Subsequently Mr. H. D. Taylor had to resign the chairmanship, Mr. W. L. Venkataramiah was elected as Chairman, and Mr. D. V. Ramiah Pantulu as Vice-Chairman.

The Berhampur Sub-Committee was formed with Mr. P. Gopala Rao as Chairman and Mr. M. V. Chalapati Rao as Secretary and Treasurer.

The Chicacole Sub-Committee was formed with Mr. J. G. D. Partridge as Chairman, Mr. S. Baupirazu Pantulu as Secretary.

The Parlákimedi Sub-Committee was formed with Mr. W. V. Gopala Rao as Chairman and Mr. S. S. Rajaguru as Secretary and Treasurer.

The Goomsur Sub-Committee was formed with Mr. B. Narainamoorthy Pantulu as Chairman and Mr. Upendra Patnaik as Secretary and Treasurer.

From time to time the District and Sub-Committees have been strengthened by the addition of new members.

3. Each of the Sub-Committees, except the Parlákimedi Sub-Committee, following closely on the lines of the State relief organization, divided the tract of the country assigned to it into so many circles, each circle being in charge of certain members who were chosen as being the best qualified to ascertain the needs of their particular circle and distribute the relief sanctioned by the District Committee. It has invariably been found possible to enlist the hearty co-operation of Government officers and enrol them as members of the Sub-Committees. Thus the double advantage has been achieved of securing the services of responsible and capable men accustomed to gauge the needs of the people, and whose very presence on the Sub-Committees would necessarily keep the Fund's operations in the district in close touch with State relief operations and preclude the possibility of valuable funds being wasted by reason of the two agencies overlapping. The Committee feel that they ought here to place on record their grateful acknowledgments of the unfailing sympathy and cordial assistance received from the Acting Collector, Mr. D.

Taylor, but for whose valuable advice and suggestions on several occasions the Committee would have found its labours considerably more arduous and perplexing.

4. *The modes of relief administered.*—The operations of the Fund in this district have been directed to all four 'objects' originally indicated by the Central Committee as well as to the rehabilitation of artisans whom the recent hard times had reduced to the brink of destitution. Under head I, the Committee has supplemented Government relief by supplying clothing to 2,801 persons on relief works and kitchens, &c. The cost of this form of relief was Rs. 1,646-12-11. The stress of famine long before it threatened starvation to the working classes showed itself by a greater disregard than usual of decency in the matter of clothing, and merely in the interests of decency it was found necessary to serve out large quantities of clothing, especially to the women on relief works and kitchens and to the aged and infirm. The clothing thus distributed being, of course, purchased from the looms in the district, this branch of relief also helped the weavers—a considerable class in our district—whose constituents, being mainly such as would easily be crippled by famine, had withheld their patronage during the year. The women of all classes of people in this district, except in the lowest of the low among the Telugus, as a rule drape their persons more completely (even to covering their heads in public) than in many other parts of the Presidency. Thus the supply of clothing was in response to a distinct demand by the prevailing feeling as well as in the interests of public decency and morality.

Under this head the "famine babies" were not forgotten. Three dozens of Mellin's food were distributed amongst the Sub-Committees with directions that they should be used under the personal supervision of the local medical officers for emaciated "famine babies" on relief works and in kitchens. The Committee has yet received no report as to how this has worked.

(b) The second 'object', namely, providing for the maintenance of orphans, was never lost sight of by the Committee, as it was apprehended that the combined effects of the recent famine and the unusually high mortality by cholera and small-pox and fevers, would leave a large number of destitute orphans. Happily, the apprehensions of the Committee have been found thus far to be groundless; the solitary case, which has as yet come to the notice of the Committee, being that of two orphans in Goomsur for whom the General Deputy Collector of that taluk made application to the Collector, who forwarded the papers to the Committee. Rs. 10 was sanctioned as a consolidated payment to a Haddi man who, for that consideration, agreed to adopt the two children, the Deputy Collector undertaking to see by personal inspection that they are well cared for. The administration of relief under this head is beset with serious practical difficulties. When the matter once came up for discussion in a general way the sense of the Committee was entirely against the policy pursued elsewhere of handing over orphans to Missionary societies and thus indirectly proselytizing them. There is no undenominational organization, in these parts at least, where orphans could be sent to be reared and educated. No private individuals will, as a rule, undertake the care and bringing up of destitute orphans, unless there is some guarantee of payments therefor being continued for a reasonably long period; and this of course the Committee cannot promise. To make one substantial consolidated payment for each orphan would be not only utterly beyond the means at our disposal, but would be leaving the orphans completely at the mercy of the guardians, without any supervision, since the Committee will soon cease to exist. But happily there has been no occasion for the Committee to face these perils and perplexities.

(c) Object III has been the most important branch of relief with which the Committee has directly had to deal. In the Ganjam district there is scarcely any respectable class or sect but affects the *parda nashim* system for its women. The Oriyas, of course, are *Gosha* excepting the lowest. So are the Muhammadans of whom we have a fair sprinkling—a despised and impoverished remnant of the former rulers of the land. Even the Telugu-speaking Sudras of the better classes are *Gosha* observers. Thus the conditions of this district are more like those prevailing in the North of India than other parts of the Presidency, and this fact will explain the large outlay under this head of Rs. 14,833-13-8 to 32,449 persons. It seems to the Committee that so strong is the sentiment amongst all classes in India, except the lowest, that women should not show themselves in public, and so strong is the aversion to herding with the cool classes, that Government relief as at present conducted by means of kitchens and relief works will never touch the middle classes. Thus it is the middle classes that will suffer most in times of scarcity, and it is especially the women of indigent middle class families that need help such as the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund has addressed itself to supplying under head III. The Committee feels assured that, as a rule, the doles under this head have been made with discrimination to deserving persons only; and that no deserving person has been wilfully passed over. The distributing members of the Sub-Committees seem to have realised the pressing need for this form of relief, and many of them have displayed a laudable energy and resourcefulness in looking for deserving persons who should be helped, and overcoming prejudices against the acceptance of help of this kind.

(d) The relief under head IV has been directed to helping to set the ryots on their legs again by grants towards seed grain, and to setting up artisans on whom the famine had told too heavily. That these forms of relief were imperatively demanded goes without saying, and the Committee feels sure that what the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund has been able to do in this direction will contribute materially towards restoring many an unfortunate ryot or artisan to something like what he was before one year of scarcity and another of famine had reduced him to the verge of ruin. The details of the actual distribution of relief amounting

to Rs. 43,250 under this head, the Committee cannot give, as the allotments were made direct to the Collector and distributed by him either personally, or by his subordinate officers, or through the Sub-Committees, to whom he, from time to time, directly remitted funds. In fact, properly speaking, the Committee cannot be held responsible for moneys spent under this head, since it neither received the moneys nor sanctioned any distributions. The vouchers, however, having been submitted to the Committee, the figures thereof are incorporated in the forms already forwarded, and mere mention is made of the relief under this head, and its suitability to the needs of the district.

5. The Committee would here place on record their sense of thankfulness for the abundant harvest of this year which will make men forget the rigors of the recent famine; and would also assure all the subscribers to the Fund in India and abroad that every pain has been taken to guard against waste, and malversation of any kind. The Sub-Committees have worked hard, sparing no pains to find out and relieve want. The labours of the Committee, as a merely deliberative body, have, of course, been lighter, though the responsibility has been heavier. But the members of the Committee feel they have done their bare duty to the suffering poor around them by undertaking the administration of the Fund in the district, and neither expect nor deserve any commendation therefor.

In conclusion, the Committee feel that they ought also to place on record the sense of the deep debt of gratitude the people of this land have been laid under to the benevolent subscribers to the Fund in India and chiefly abroad—whose liberality and forethought have made it possible for thousands of sufferers in the famine districts to escape starvation and want.

We feel assured that the people of the land will not easily forget the spirit and manner in which kind hearts in England and America responded to the call for help, and we feel also that the large-hearted benevolence displayed towards the poor famine-stricken people of India cannot fail to draw closer in bonds of fellowship the East and West.

APPENDIX No. 9.

VIZAGAPATAM DISTRICT.

The following Report has been received from Mr. E. B. Elwin, Principal Assistant Collector of Vizagapatam on the relief in Palkonda Agency :—

Palkonda Agency extends along the north of Palkonda taluk on the border between Vizagapatam and Ganjam districts. Its area is about 40 square miles, and consists of hills covered with jungle intersected by narrow valleys. Paddy is grown in these villages where any level ground is found and is watered by petty hill streams, which dry up very soon after the rains are over. On the slopes of the hills are grown ragi, cumbu, cholam, tsamai, vuda, korra and grams. The dry crop grains are eaten by the people, but the paddy is all given over to Sowears for export, the Sowears advancing loans on the crop. In addition to these crops, there is the natural forest produce, especially mangoes and tamarinds, which form the chief food of the people in their season, and which they also take to Palkonda and other markets for sale. It may be said that the people live on their dry crops and forest produce, while they sell their paddy and surplus forest produce to obtain loans and luxuries.

The population of these hills was 23,648 in 1891. It consists chiefly of Jats, Savaras, Paidis and Sondis, the major portion being Jats. The Jats cultivate the valleys and slopes, while Savaras prefer the hills and practise *podu* cultivation. Most of the hills have been much damaged by this wasteful practice, and forest reserves have lately been formed to preserve the remaining forest from destruction. The Paidis are a low caste and weave coarse cloths, amongst other occupations. The Sondis chiefly distil and sell arrack, which is very extensively drunk on all special occasions, such as births, marriages, deaths and religious festivals. The general population is very poor, their poverty being chiefly caused by disproportionate expenditure on marriages and similar occasions, for which they obtain large loans from Sowears. The Savaras are addicted to emigration in case of bad seasons or epidemics of cholera and small-pox, but they usually return as soon as the danger has gone. Apart from this habit, there is no custom of emigration among the hill people.

During the two or three years preceeding 1896-97, the usual crops yielded well, but in 1895-96 mangoes and tamarinds failed to a large extent. In 1896-97 all crops failed entirely, and mangoes and tamarinds again failed entirely owing to a very poor south-west monsoon and the utter failure of the north-east. The people very soon used up their grain and consumed their seed-grain which they had been keeping for the next crop. The usual hill produce having also failed for two successive years, the people were reduced to living on leaves and roots.

It was at this stage, when people were living on leaves and roots and the pith of sago palms and had consumed their seed-grain, that the Charitable Relief Fund stepped in and placed Rs. 10,000 at the Collector's disposal for distribution to the hill people in order that they might

buy seed-grain and sow their crops this year. The people were in utter despair last June, as their Sowcars refused further loans and they knew not where to turn. The rains began early in these hills, but were of little use in the absence of seed. The distribution of the relief granted in June and July entirely changed the aspect of affairs and, together with the relief given by Government, instilled fresh hope in the minds of all. I distributed most of the money on the 27th June at Sitampeta, the most central place in the hills, and the Tahsildar distributed the remaining small amount to those who had not come when I was present. At my request the Collector allowed me to spend Rs. 300 on cloths, which were distributed chiefly to those in receipt of Government relief at the kitchen and in their own villages. I found Rs. 9,375-14-0 sufficient to meet all needs for seed-grain. Adding the Rs. 300 for cloths, there was a total expenditure of Rs. 9,675-14-0. The rest, Rs. 321-2-0, was remitted into the treasury to the credit of the District Committee of the Charitable Relief Fund under the Collector's instructions.

The relief given by Government consisted of a kitchen at Sitampeta, and of village relief distributed at two centres, viz., Donuvayi and Kadagandi. The average number relieved daily at Sitampeta was 77, and the kitchen was open for one month and twenty-eight days. Circle relief was distributed for one month and ten days to 106 and 84 persons respectively at Donuvayi and Kadagandi. In addition to this famine relief, ordinary work was carried out by a special grant of Rs. 1,000 on the Sitampeta-Gumada road for two and a half months. The relief given by the Charitable Fund fitted in with and supplemented that given by Government, and between the two all cases of distress were met. This was made all the easier by the fact that all forms of relief were administered and supervised by the same Agency officers, viz., the Tahsildar and myself. The Tahsildar, M.R.Ry. B. V. Ramanarsu Pantulu Garu, is accustomed to the hills and has a wide experience of them. Hence he was of great use to me in distributing relief.

It is reported that the different measures of relief have been highly successful. The Tahsildar's inquiries show that "the money distributed for buying seed-grain has not been misused, but spent for the legitimate purpose in most cases." The crops are now in excellent condition, and prospects are as bright as they can be. There is no doubt that the distribution of money for the purchase of seed-grain from the Charitable Relief Fund's grant was the most successful and suitable form of relief possible in these hills. The absence of roads, inaccessibility of the country and ignorance of the people, made it impossible for ordinary forms of Government relief to reach more than a very small part of the population, but all alike were willing to come from the remotest villages to obtain means for replenishing their stock of seed-grain.

APPENDIX No. 10.

VIZAGAPATAM DISTRICT.

The following is from the report of the Vizagapatam District Committee :—

Vizagapatam district consists of 9 towns and 2,659 villages, covering an area of 4,619 square miles excluding the Agency. A chain of the Eastern Ghats runs through the district from north-east to south-west dividing it into two unequal portions. This range forms the chief watershed of the country. Numerous streams flow from the range, some towards the east direct to the sea, and others towards the west into the river Gótlavari. Almost all of them dry up soon after the rains are over. The plains of the district watered by these streams yield such wet crops as rice and sugarcane, and dry crops as indigo, cotton, ragi, cumbu, korra and gingelly. Almost all the wet and dry produce is consumed by the people of the district with the exception of cotton, indigo, sugarcane and gingelly which are mostly exported. The population of the district excluding that of the Agency was 1,943,211 according to the census taken in 1891. 97 per cent. of the total population belong to the cultivating classes such as Kapús, shephords, Ayyarakas, Velamas, Gavaras, Roddis, &c. The lower classes, which consist of Yatas, Dasaries, Malas, Madigas, Paidis and Relies, live by daily labour. The sowcars who advance loans on the crops to the cultivators take most of the produce, leaving a portion just sufficient for the cultivators' maintenance. Many of the cultivators of this district are involved in debt on account of occasional failure of crops. During the years preceding 1896-97, a considerable portion of the produce of the ryot thus passed into the sowcars' possession. Thus, when the famine came, there was a large accumulation of produce in the sowcars' warehouses on the one hand, and considerable deprivation of the resources of the ryot on the other. During the two years preceding 1896-97, almost all the crops yielded well, but in 1895-96, the principal crop, namely, paddy, which is used by almost all the people in the district, was only fairly satisfactory. In 1896-97, all crops failed entirely for want of rains. The people very soon consumed their little stock of grain and even the seed-grain which they had intended for the next crop. The failure of crops in many districts as well as in the Agency of the district caused a considerable falling off in commerce. There was thus plenty of room for the operation of the Charitable Relief Fund in this district, and, on receipt of the printed circular letter dated the 13th February last from the Executive

Committee of the Fund at Madras, Mr. W. O. Horne, the Collector of the district, issued notices to all officials and the wealthy public with a request to attend a meeting on 9th March 1897. A public meeting was held on that date, and the object of the meeting was fully explained by the Collector to the public. A subscription list was opened and circulated among the members that were present then, and a sum of Rs. 2,390 was subscribed on the spot. This list was headed with a liberal subscription of Rs. 1,000 by M.R.Ry. Perla Narayana Chetti Garu of Vizianagram. On the whole a sum of Rs. 8,686 (up to 30th November 1897) was collected in this district under subscriptions. The collections, on the whole, have been very fair. Of the persons that were present at the meeting, a District Executive Committee was formed with Mr. E. C. Rawson, the District Judge, as Chairman, to transact the business connected with the administration of the Fund. At a meeting held on 17th March 1897, M.R.Ry. B. V. Jogayya Naidu Garu, Sheristadar of the district, was elected Honorary Secretary, and M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur R. Suriarow Naidu Garu, Huzur Treasury Deputy Collector, Honorary Treasurer. It was resolved at the meeting to request the four Divisional Officers of the district to co-operate with the District Committee, and to send a printed circular letter in Telugu and English to all well-to-do people in the district appealing for aid for their suffering fellow countrymen. The District Committee undertook the task of addressing letters to the charitable public, forming Sub-Committees, obtaining funds from Madras, furnishing the Sub-Committees with the funds required, and issuing the necessary instructions, from time to time, for the prompt distribution of the funds. Twelve Sub-Committees were started. The table annexed hereunder shows the different centres of the Sub-Committees, the dates on which they were started, the number of circles into which each centre was divided, and the number of members in charge of different circles:—

No.	Name of Sub-Committee.	Date of formation of the Sub-Committee.	Number of Circles under each Sub-Committee.	Number of members in charge of Circles.	Remarks.
1	Saluru	27th Mar. 1897	6	9	
2	Anakapalli	31st Mar. 1897	10	27	
3	Bobbili	Do.	12	2	
4	Yellamanchilli	1st Apl. 1897	5	10	
5	Parvatipuram	Do.	5	10	
6	Narsipatam	4th Apl. 1897	4	10	
7	Vizagapatam town	5th Apl. 1897	8 wards.	12	
8	Chodavaram	Do.	23 circles.	23	
9	Vizianagram	7th Apl. 1897	6 wards.	12	
10	Bhimlipatam	13th Apl. 1897	5 circles.	5	
11	Huzur Deputy Collector's Division	14th Apl. 1897	8	20	
12	Razam	16th July 1897	8	8	

As proposed by the Collector, Mr. E. B. Elwin, the Principal Assistant Collector, was asked to undertake the work of distribution at Cheepurupalli and Gajapatinagram, and Mr. J. H. Tomlinson, Agent to Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., to do the same at Palkonda, as it was not found practicable to establish Sub-Committees in these places. They kindly undertook the work on 23rd July 1897 and on 27th July 1897, respectively. Thus the district was divided into 14 charges of which 12, as noted in the tabular statement, were under Sub-Committees, and the rest under the personal supervision of the two gentlemen named above. By means of relief works and kitchens started by Government in the district, the cooly class of persons such as Kapus, shepherds and Koppala Velamas, who are accustomed to outdoor work, and who have no great scruples of caste, were maintained. The other classes of persons who were not willing to go to relief works and kitchens, and who were not accustomed to outdoor work, have been chiefly aided by the Charitable Fund. The aid given by Government to cultivators by means of relief works was supplemented by payments from the Charitable Fund under head IV. The relief given by Government has fitted in well with that given by the Fund, and they were not allowed to overlap each other. An amount of Rs. 531 was expended under head I for the purchase of cloths given to the persons at the Government kitchens who were in need of them. The distribution of cloths was made after careful enquiries by the officers in charge of the kitchens. The distribution was in many cases conducted by the Huzur Deputy Collector, by the Tahsildars and by the Deputy Tahsildars. A small sum of Rs. 51-7-7 was spent at the beginning under head II by the Sub-Committees at Chodavaram and Parvatipuram in giving money and cloths. Subsequent to the despatch of the October accounts, a sum of Rs. 256-12-4 was reported to have been spent by the Parvatipuram Sub-Committee among 593 orphans. A large portion of the funds allotted to this district was spent under head III in the distribution of money doles for food and clothing by almost all the Sub-Committees. The Sub-Committees at Vizianagram, Salur and Narsipatam distributed rice doles and cooked-food doles among the deserving poor who were not willing to go to Government kitchens. The distribution was made by the members in charge of each circle after careful enquiry. Money doles were distributed by the members in charge of each circle once a fortnight in some places and once a week in other places. Cooked-food doles were given only by the Sub-Committee at Narsipatam. The cloths were distributed

by the Sub-Committees after making careful enquiries as to their wants, and money too was given to some who were in need of cloths. The expenditure under this head helped a great deal those who did not resort to Government relief. The Sub-Committees at Salur, Bobbili, Palkonda and Parvatipuram found the amount allotted under this head insufficient, and accordingly utilize surplus under head IV for that purpose. The total amount spent on clothing under heads I and III out of the allotment of Rs. 30,000 was Rs. 1,586, which relieved 2,298 persons, who were in bad need of raiment. The amount spent under money doles, &c., under head III was Rs. 26,033 devoted to relieving 74,654 persons from starvation. The amount of Rs. 1,03,000 allotted under head IV was utilized in affording cultivators pecuniary aid in the purchase of cattle and seed-grain, for wages to labourers, and for the maintenance of the cultivators and their families. Rs. 718-6-0 under this head were also spent in providing habitations to 258 families, whose houses had been burnt down and who were too poor to rebuild them. A small sum of Rs. 142-12-0 was distributed by the Chairman of the Sub-Committee at Razam among 71 weavers of that place to enable them to start in life afresh. These weavers were reported to have been in such distress as to have been driven to the last resource of selling even the implements of their trade. On the whole, the aid given to the cultivating classes from the Charitable Relief Fund met with most success. The amount of Rs. 95,334 spent under this head, helped 49,473 cultivators in starting and continuing agricultural operations which would have been entirely given up but for the timely assistance afforded. Every possible effort was made to extend relief to the remotest corners of the district, so that no distressed ryots should be lost sight of. The special services of the under-mentioned gentlemen are worthy of mention:—

(1) M.R.Ry. Dewan Bahadur R. Dharwarow Naidu Garu, who undertook the work of supervising the various Sub-Committees and of giving instructions for the proper utilization and distribution of the Charitable Fund.

(2) M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur R. Suriarow Naidu Garu, Treasury Deputy Collector, who spared no pains in rendering valuable service as Honorary Treasurer of the District Committee.

(3) M.R.Ry. P. Andinarayanah Garu, District Munsif of Parvatipuram, and the President of the Local Sub-Committee, and M.R.Ry. B. Suryanarayana Sastri Garu, High Court Vakil and Chairman of the Vizagapatam Town Sub-Committee, who spent nothing on contingencies out of the amounts placed at their disposal, but have borne the same out of their own pockets, so that the whole allotment should reach the poor direct.

(4) Thanks are due to all the members of the District and Sub-Committees for the gratuitous services rendered by them to the Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committee.

It is gratifying to note that there was only one instance in which any malversation on the part of persons engaged in distributing relief came to notice. The District Committee has not received a single complaint of any unfairness in the way in which the money has been distributed, or, except in the solitary instance just referred to, of peculation. Every one connected with the Fund has given his services gratuitously, and the only portion of the allotment that has not been spent directly in relieving distress has been a sum of Rs. 97-0-7 spent in absolute necessary contingencies, such as postage, printing, telegrams, &c. Acknowledgment has to be made of the great assistance the Committee has received from all the Revenue officials, from the Collector downwards. They have spared no pains to assist the Committee in every possible way, and there has been an entire absence of any friction. The special thanks are due to Mr. B. V. Jogayya Naidu, Sheristadar of the District Court, the Honorary Secretary, on whose shoulders the greater part of the administration of the Fund has been thrown, and to whom it is principally due that the work of charitable relief in the district has been so successful.

APPENDIX No. 11.

GÓDÁVARI DISTRICT.

The following interesting extracts are taken from the report of Mr. V. A. Brodie, Collector of Gódavari, on the relief of the Koyas, or Hillmen of the Agency tracts:—

The first taluk that showed signs of distress was Bhadrachalam. As already stated, the kondajonna crop, the principal crop of the Koya, almost totally failed. In the riverside villages, in many of which there was a very good crop of manchijonna, the ryots did not open their cholam pits, partly in expectation of a rise in prices, and partly from a feeling of panic that we were only at the beginning of a cycle of bad years. The price of cholam in the Bhadrachalam taluk in the months of December and January was 12 and 13 seers, respectively, per rupee, and as the Koya generally has no property beyond his podu and is a thriftless being who ever lives on credit when available, when his podu fails and prices rise high, he is bound to suffer; for, at such times, in place of further advances, his usual bankers demand repayment of their previous

loans. In ordinary seasons he is, however, little depressed by these difficulties, as he can fall back on the forest produce to which he is accustomed. He finds an agreeable food in the ippa flower, the tuniki fruit and the kernels of the tamarind nut and the mango stone, a wholesome vegetable in the leaves of the boddikura and other plants, and an especially nutritious and favourite diet in the pith of the jilugu palm (bastard sago) and the flowers of the bamboo. The jilugu and the palmyra palms supply him with meat and drink in the shape of toddy, and from the ippa flower he distils a potent spirit. Food also is obtainable from certain roots. Owing to his special ill-luck in the current year, however, these resources proved much more scanty than usual and, of course, he had no store remaining from the previous year which had been one of exceptional abundance, as he takes no thought for the morrow and limits his efforts to procuring sufficient for his immediate needs. Of all the above, the tuniki fruit alone was an abundant crop, but although it can be dried, it will not in this shape keep long. Still from January to May, it was of invaluable assistance to him. The tamarind crop was a poor one, varying from 4 annas to 8 annas, and the ippa crop was worse. A mango was hardly to be found. In the whole of the Bhadrachalam taluk, the Forest Sub-divisional officer only saw one with fruit on it and could hear only of one other. On no mango tree in the Agency did I see a vestige of fruit, and not one was brought to the markets at Chodavaram, Devipatnam and Rekapalli on the days I visited them in April. The bamboos in great part of the Agency had flowered and died the year before, and none flowered anywhere in 1897. The jack is not a common tree, but its crop, too, was of the scantiest; whilst the ground was so hard and parched that it was not possible to dig up roots when found; but until the rains set in, it was hopeless almost to look for them as the leaves springing from them were dead themselves and the ground covered with dead leaves fallen from the trees. The jilugu remained, but it occurs only in favoured localities out of Rampa, and to destroy it for its sago means its loss as a toddy-producer, so that it is out only as a last resource. Even the palmyra yielded less toddy than usual and ceased to yield sooner than usual. It is also a rare tree in Bhadrachalam, except in the Sebari valley and the Godavari valley east of Bhadrachalam.

To work of any kind that he is not used to, the Koya is averse, and beyond his podu cultivation and scanty rice cultivation, the only work he is accustomed to is timber-cutting. At this he is a deft hand and many found employment in cutting and carting timber for merchants in Bastar and the neighbourhood of the Godavari and Sebari rivers from the month of November onwards; but this trade was so overdone that the prices of bamboos and timber fell very heavily at Rajahmundry—the great emporium of the timber trade of the district—so that towards the end of the season most merchants having lost money were chary of making advances for this purpose.

Sales of grain at reduced prices.—The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Committee having placed Rs. 2,000 at my disposal for the relief of the Koyas of Bhadrachalam, I considered the best means of relief would be to sell staple food-grains at normal prices, as that would tend to keep down prices in the market and at the same time enable the Koya to pull on with what little money he had as long as possible without being a burden to the State. Such a measure was especially necessary in a tract like Bhadrachalam, where trade competition is nil and importation of grain other than rice from Rajahmundry unknown. I therefore ordered the opening of cheap grain shops at convenient centres in the Bhadrachalam taluk, and, as the sum of Rs. 2,000 would go a very little way in getting the requisite supplies, made Government advances, advancing the necessary funds for the outlay from the allotment of Rs. 10,000 placed at my disposal in the beginning. The sale-proceeds went to Government and the loss was debited to the allotment of the Charitable Relief Fund. In the months of July and August there was a great run on these grain depôts, and the loss sustained, together with the conveyance charges, not only exhausted the allotment of Rs. 2,000, but also a further allotment of Rs. 3,000, which the Committee ultimately allowed me on my representation. I knew that the closure of these grain depôts would mean serious hardship and extra cost to Government, for there was almost no grain for sale elsewhere in the taluk, and in the flood season to leave the supply to depend on imports by private individuals was practically to leave the taluk without grain at all. Only two courses were open: either to import grain and in place of selling it, utilize it for the distribution of grain doles in place of money doles, or to continue the depôt system, which differed little directly from the other, as nine-tenths of the grain at least was purchased by the recipients of gratuitous relief in the shape of money doles, and had the indirect advantages of exercising a salutary influence on prices in the open market, and of enabling Koyas and others to get advances in money that kept them off the gratuitous relief list, when those merchants, who made them, neither would nor could advance grain. Had I stopped importing grain altogether, and continued money doles, the price of cholam in Bhadrachalam would have risen at once to 6 or 7 seers per rupee, and twice as much and more would have had to be paid away in doles to existing recipients of relief, whilst many more would have had to be taken on to the list in consequence of the rise in prices. Had I imported grain and stopped money doles, much inconvenience would have been caused to every one, and probably more would have had to be taken on to the relief list, for prices in the open grain market, such as it was, would certainly have risen. In these circumstances on 5th August 1897, I asked Government to allow me to carry on the depôts at its expense in the event of the Charitable Fund Committee refusing my application for a further advance of Rs. 5,000, as it seemed very likely it would and, pending a reply, continued them. The Government order rejecting my proposal as being opposed to the

provisions of the Famine Code, reached me only on 3rd October 1897, and meanwhile the sales had been proceeded with at Government expense, and were finally stopped on 10th October 1897. On a further report of the circumstances, Government was pleased to approve of my action in continuing the sales at the depôts at Government expense. On a final audit of the accounts of Government and the Charitable Relief Fund by the Special Deputy Tahsildar, M.R.Ry. A. Appa Rao Pantulu, a sum of Rs. 2,846-4-11 has been found to have been spent in connection with the grain depôts of the Bhadrachalam taluk in excess of the allotment sanctioned by the Charitable Relief Fund.

Again, grain was sold at reduced rates in the Chodavaram market during the month of August and the loss sustained by the sales is Rs. 81-8-6.

The cost to Government on account of the sales at reduced prices is, therefore, Rs. 2,846-4-11, plus Rs. 81-8-6 which comes to Rs. 2,927-13-5 in all.

Loans.—The Special Assistant Agent having reported that loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act XII of 1884 for the purchase of seed-grain and for subsistence were urgently required to be given to save Koya cultivators in the Polavaram division, I permitted him to accept the applications and grant loans wherever necessary in anticipation of sanction, and applied to the Board for the necessary sanction; but before receipt of the Board's orders, a sum of Rs. 10,000 having been placed at my disposal by the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Committee for advances to needy Koya cultivators to carry them on till the next harvest, which were not, however, recoverable, I directed that the amounts already disbursed, amounting to Rs. 1,074-15-9, which were advanced in grain, should be considered free gifts of the Indian Charitable Fund and that the same should be met from the above allotment of Rs. 10,000. No loans have, therefore, been disbursed in this district for purposes connected with the relief of distress, and I am glad to be rid of the unpleasant duty of recovering loans from Koyas. Loans to them mean practically free gifts, as to find them with the means of repaying in their hands would not be easy, and it would be hopeless to expect them to save in order to repay; for the burden of an unpaid debt sits lightly on their consciences.

The Charitable Relief Fund has allotted in all Rs. 18,000 for relief in the Bhadrachalam taluk of this district, and the contributions to the Fund from this district amounted to nearly Rs. 17,000. It was utilized for the following measures of relief:—

1. Sales of grain at reduced prices.
2. Distribution of cloths.
3. Relief to Koya cultivators for the purchase of seed-grain and cattle.
4. Advances (not recoverable) of grain to needy Koya cultivators to carry them on till harvest.

Sales of grain at reduced prices.—The sales of grain at reduced prices were made at eight centres, viz:—

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| (1) Dummagudem, | (4) Kachavaram, | (7) Jeediguppa, |
| (2) Bhadrachalam, | (5) Pedamattapalli, | (8) Chintur, |
| (3) Kunavaram, | (6) Gollagudem, | |

which commanded in all 236 villages with a population of 23,861. The Pedamattapalli and Kunavaram depôts were started on the 28th April, while the others were started in the first week of May. By far the heaviest sales took place at Dummagudem and Kunavaram depôts. The classes of people to whom the relief was extended were (1) Koyas, (2) Reddis, (3) Malas, (4) Madigas and (5) Christians. On one occasion when the supply of grain with the local petty merchants at Bhadrachalam ran out and prices went up to 8 seers of cholam per rupee, there was a clamour from all classes of people for admission to this relief, and accordingly, till a new supply arrived, all classes were permitted to buy without restriction. The depôt sales at Dummagudem were conducted in the beginning by the Rev. John Cain of the Church Mission and latterly by the Revenue Inspector from the Yernagudem taluk, Ch. V. Subrahmanyam, in addition to his other duties of inspecting villages and assisting the Probationary Deputy Collector in the distribution of grain and money doles. His services are highly spoken of by the Probationary Deputy Collector, the Tahsildar and the Special Assistant Agent. At Bhadrachalam, the depôt sales were conducted under the supervision of one Mr. Ramaswami Naidu, a wealthy proprietor of the place. At Kunavaram the office establishment of Mr. Ward conducted the depôt transactions, and in other places the village officers were made to look after this work. A special remuneration of Rs. 2 to 4 was granted to the village officers so employed for their services in connection with the depôts, and no doubt they richly deserved it as the work done was considerable and well done. These depôts are admitted by all to have proved a great boon at a time when prices were rising very high, and it is generally thought prices would have risen higher still than they did but for their being started. The depôts have benefited not only the people but also Government as it was a gainer by their existence in that the wages and money doles of relief-workers and recipients of gratuitous relief were calculated on a market price of 16 seers per rupee (depôt price) as against an open market price of sometimes 8 to 10 seers per rupee, such persons being freely permitted to buy at the depôts. The whole of the allotment of Rs. 5,000, sanctioned by the Charitable Fund for the purpose, was spent in the shape of loss sustained at the depôts, and Government charged itself with the excess loss and the contingent expenditure to the extent of Rs. 2,927-13-5.

Distribution of Cloths.—A sum of Rs. 233-4-6 has been spent by the Charitable Fund for the purpose, but it was not in my opinion a success, as funds were very insufficient and all the needy could not be relieved. There is no certainty, too, that those who received cloths were those most in need of them, for the Koya is ceasing to be the simple unsophisticated individual every one takes him for, and can play a trick or two though often clumsily, and the women especially did not hesitate to appear almost naked in order to excite pity, and some received cloths more than once. The Panchamas are even more shameless deceivers in this respect. The cloths were distributed by Messrs. Cain and Woodhouse at Dummagudem and by Messrs. Coleridge and Ward at Kunavaram.

Relief for the purchase of seed-grain and cattle.

A sum of Rs. 2,769-12-0 was disbursed in all to 1,352 Koya cultivators and Rs. 12 to one individual for the purchase of cattle.

Advances to needy Koya cultivators to carry them on till harvest.

The Hon'ble Mr. Crole who visited Bhadrachalam as President of the Madras Branch of the Charitable Relief Fund on the 25th August was greatly struck with the poor and depressed condition of the Koyas and immediately obtained an allotment of Rs. 10,000 for petty grain advances to those of them who were cultivators. The expenditure up to the end of October was Rs. 5,839-10-9 in Bhadrachalam taluk and Rs. 1,074-15-9 in Polavaram division. A second consignment of grain which was sent up by the 20th of October has also reached Kunavaram and Bhadrachalam and been disbursed. The cost of the second consignment was Rs. 1,925-5-10. A third and last consignment of grain, costing Rs. 700, was sent up on the 20th ultimo, and has now reached its destination. All has been disbursed at Woddigudem and Kunavaram by Mr. Ward—though not all removed—except a few bags which are over and above his requirements. I have instructed him to distribute the contents of these amongst the most needy generally and trust the Committee will approve this course. The Tahsildar has been instructed to follow the same course with the small balance I understand he has left over. The total expenditure under this head has therefore been Rs. 9,540-0-4 up to date. These advances reduced the Government famine expenditure by reducing the numbers on the gratuitous relief list on a considerable scale. At the same time it was somewhat anomalous for Government to be giving gratuitous relief to men with considerable areas under what promise to be excellent crops, which is what it was doing in the case of many Koyas.

Private Charity.

A sum of Rs. 162 was subscribed at Dummagudem for relief to Koyas. I at first utilized the same for the test relief works but subsequently on receipt of the allotment of Rs. 10,000, I ordered the amount to be spent for the maintenance of the grain depôts in addition to the allotment of Rs. 5,000 sanctioned by the Charitable Fund for the purpose. The Rev. John Cain, Miss Cain and the other ladies of the Dummagudem C.M.S. Mission have worked indefatigably in dispensing charity and deserve public recognition of their labours. The actual figures of their expenditure are unfortunately not to hand, but not less than Rs. 10,000 have been so spent for different charitable purposes—a large portion of the amount having been spent before Government and the Charitable Fund intervened. Their benevolence, it is reported, comprised the following objects of relief:—

- (a) Medical aid.
- (b) Gifts of cloths.
- (c) Gifts of food-grain.
- (d) Gifts of seed-grain.
- (e) Construction of petty works and repairs such as digging wells, repairing tank bunds, &c.
- (f) Purchases of cloths from weavers and supply of yarn to others.
- (g) "Famine schools" where "ambali" was given to the children for drink.
- (h) Distribution of "ambali" to relief-workers at midday.
- (i) Aid to hire bullocks.
- (j) Money aid.

The assistance and advice given by Rev. Mr. Cain in the conduct of Government and charitable relief operations were also invaluable, and the thanks of Government are due to him and the ladies of the Mission for their indefatigable endeavours to assist the poor. In matters of policy and as to what measures were necessary, Mr. Cain and myself have by no means always agreed, but I readily admit his sincerity in advocating more liberal expenditure than I thought or was advised by others to be necessary, and my own obligations to him for the assistance he was always ready to render to myself and the Probationary Deputy Collector, frequently, I fear, at much personal inconvenience.

In Cocanada town some leading gentlemen even so early as September 1896 raised a fund of Rs. 2,000, and laid in a stock of rice for sale to the poor at cheap rates. The relief was premature, and the money did not last long, but the charity was laudable all the same. In May, June and July there was considerable relief given by the charitable merchants of the place to

the Vizagapatam paupers, who gathered in the streets to a number of about 2,000 at one time. Systematic and punctual meals were given. Indeed, I hear, the meals given were sumptuous. The Prince of Wales' choultry in the town also fed a large number daily. The principal private charity which I must bring to the notice of Government was, however, that of M.R. Ry. Kovvuri Basivireddi, a wealthy merchant of Cocanada, who, with princely liberality, maintained three big choultries at Samalkot, Annavaram and Tuni, three important stations on the great northern trunk road and also on the railway line. He has opened his choultry, feeding hundreds of people every day at all hours till agricultural operations were fully started and field labour became available for all that live by it, at Samalkot, in a pucca building which cost him about Rs. 20,000, and he is, I hear, going to make a similar provision to his Tuni choultry. His local charities were also considerable and he has well earned the thanks of Government for the assistance he so freely and liberally rendered to those in distress. The Temperance Association of Chintalapudi also did its best to relieve local distress, though on a small scale. Many ryots in the delta too—especially in the Ramachandrapuram taluk—displayed much liberality to the pauper-seekers for work that flocked to it, whereby those who could not find employment were always able to find a meal.

APPENDIX No. 12.

LETTERS FROM THE REV. J. CAIN AND MR. H. H. WARD.

The following letters to the Madras Committee from the Rev. John Cain and Mr. H. H. Ward on the condition of the Godavari hillmen contain much interesting information on the same subject:—

DUMMAGUEM, 18th March.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 13th instant. It is impossible for me to give an account of the condition of the Kois in the whole of this taluk, as there is a considerable part of it that we have not visited this year in consequence of the lack of drinking water. I can answer for the condition of most of the villages around here, and will send this letter on to Mr. Ward, asking him to add his remarks, as he lives at the other end of the taluk, and is well acquainted with the villages there.

Most of the Kois live in villages away from the banks of the Godavari, and the soil of the land which they cultivate is light and of little depth, so that failure of rain is most disastrous to them. Those villages on the banks of the Sebari and Godavari which had a seasonable day's rain in October or November have had a fair cholum crop. The villages whose crops were the greatest failure principally lie to the north and east of Dummagudem. The early, that is the kondajonna, crop was not more than a four-anna crop, and the later jonna crop was a total failure in the inland villages. Twelve miles farther up the river this latter crop was a splendid one. They had the rain which so utterly failed here, and the soil of those villages is dark black cotton soil, not a thin soil on the top of limestone. There is now before me a list of 20 villages within 9 miles of us, in none of which was there enough crop to "put a threshing floor" for the cholum. This month and April are the months in which the Kois enjoy themselves and have most of their marriages; this year up to the present time there has only been one in all these villages and this would not have taken place if a friendly merchant in Dummagudem had not supplied the grain for the feast. At this season, the Kois, being a good natured improvident lot of people, usually sell cholum on their floors at from 30—40 seers for the rupee; this year, there is none to be had in any Koi village around here and the price in the Dummagudem bazaar is 11 seers to the rupee (and there is not very much of it, as the ryots in the villages where the crop has been fair, refuse to sell and are storing it away for fear of another famine). Ragi is being imported from Rajahmundry to Bhadrachalam and being carted on here, so the price is 12 seers to the rupee (and this is not the staple food of the taluk).

In the months, December, January and February the Kois dug up all kinds of roots to eke out the supplies of grain, but this supply is quite exhausted, and the fruits of the Embryopteris glutinifera are being used, but these are not very sustaining. The gum of some of the Acacias and the Spondia mangifera was obtainable a few weeks ago, but the Kois complained that gum was more satisfying than nourishing, and that their digestive organs suffered from the use of this new kind of diet. They always look forward to the crop of the flowers of the Bassia latifolia, but there does not seem to be more than half the usual crop of these flowers, and, strange to say, the flying foxes in some villages are levying contributions from these trees. The kernels of the tamarind stones are now being eaten. But none of the above are sufficient of themselves to keep up the strength of hard-working cultivators, and the general health of the people is suffering.

All the Kois are cultivators: their villages are small; and the headman of each village apportionates out the land and is responsible to Government or the Zemindar for the rent. In most instances the headman is the best off man in the village and takes care to keep so.



The reasons why the Kois refused to go to the test-relief works are as follows:—

(1) The pay is very small, and many of them were imbued with idea that the Government intended to get a full day's work out of them for a third of the usual rate of pay. The Kois are a very suspicious folk.

(2) Many of them get at this time of the year a few days' work every week in Dummagudem and other villages on the banks of the river. A man told me this morning that he had earned 12 annas in three days in Dummagudem and that at the relief camp it would have taken him eight days to earn the same, and that at a distance of 10 miles from home.

(3) A dislike of breaking up their homes, leaving their cattle, etc., behind them, and going to a style of work, the like of which neither they nor their forefathers had ever seen.

(4) A kind of fatalistic notion that some way or other something will turn up nearer their homes by which they may live. The reply of one of the headmen to the Special Assistant Agent illustrates their recklessness. "Well, suppose you do not get food you must die," was the remark of the Special Assistant Agent. "Well, if we die we will throw out our corpses and the kites and the vultures will come and eat them" was the answer.

There can be no harvest for six months, and it is utterly impossible for all around here to live and carry on their usual cultivation. What would have been the best way, if it had been feasible, would have been some small improvements round or near each village, or in the forest near. But as most of the villages are on zemindari land, I do not see how the Government could have undertaken it. Our old friend Major-General Haig, R.E., hearing in November-December of the failure of the crops around, set to work to gather subscriptions amongst his friends, and has sent us over Rs. 4,000. (He raised most of this before the Mansion House Fund was started.) With this we have helped some to repair their own tanks, clear out three wells, given yarn to poor weavers, distributed grain to the utterly destitute. Our policy is that of the Relief Fund, viz., to help the people to help themselves, and to save from starvation the women and children. We have had to get up and are still getting up ragi from Rajahmundry, as cholera is not to be had here in any quantity, and, if we have sufficient funds, we hope to supply the poorest with seed-grain when the early rains set in.

The more we think over the problem here, the more we feel that relief works, in the usual acceptance of that term, would be out of place. They would be too costly. If there were some way for the Government to supply grain to the most destitute, relief would reach the needy and no money be wasted on elaborate organisation, necessary enough in other places, but too wasteful here. Our fear is that the Kois, in many instances, will just let matters drift on, until they become too weak to do anything, and, as soon as the rains set in, gradually succumb. As far as lies in our power we wish to prevent this in the neighbouring villages. But we do not wish to apply to your Committee until it is absolutely necessary to do so.

(Signed) JOHN CAIN.

CAMP CHINTUR, 22nd March.

SIR,—The Rev. Mr. Cain in sending his letter to you, to me for perusal, has asked me to give my opinion of the condition of the Kois, &c., in this taluk and I shall try to do so as well and as briefly as I can. Except a field or two in each of half-a-dozen villages the rice crop completely failed and the sama, except in a few villages in the Badrachallam Range and in one hill village of four families in the Rekapalle Range, withered and yielded nothing. The kondajonna was a complete failure except in two villages, and I saw only two good fields of manchijonna in a four months' tour. The above applies to the villages away from the rivers Godavari and Sebari. But even here though the manchijonna yielded well, the minor crops such as gingelly, castor, greens and horse gram failed, and in some villages on the Sebari there was a total failure of crops. Fortunately this year there has been a bumper crop of toomiki fruit and the people have been living on this and the small quantities of grain got in exchange for the fruit, supplemented by the leaves of the bothi (a creeper), etc. In several villages the men only have toddy in addition. But the toomiki fruit and bothi leaves will give out by the end of this month and toddy by the middle of next. Mhowa flowers are being gathered now: but the crop this year is very poor, a four-anna one I estimate, in some villages much less. The mango crop has completely failed and the yield of tamarind is very small. The majority of the Kois and Reddies at the best of times live from hand to mouth and in ordinary seasons suffer to a certain extent on the failure of one or more of the minor sources mentioned above, especially for the last month or two before the early harvest of panasa rice or sama. This year I am afraid they will suffer actual starvation from June to November.

The Kois and Reddies will not come to ordinary relief works because if they did, their agricultural work would suffer. Till the end of May they will be engaged cutting and burning their podus and in June and July in ploughing and sowing. In August and September they will have nothing to do, but it is the season of the heaviest rains here when little work of any kind can be done.

(Signed) H. H. WARD.

APPENDIX No. 13.

BELLARY DISTRICT.

The following is the Report from Mr. Gillman, Secretary of the Bellary District Committee:—

I have the honour to report on the administration of the Famine Charitable Relief Fund in the Bellary District up to the end of October 1897. The statement forwarded to you on the 23rd instant gives all necessary details of the money spent and the numbers relieved from the Fund during that period.

The physical features of the Bellary district need little notice. The district may be described as a plateau sloping gradually from the Western Ghâts towards the East Coast, and divided almost in half by the hills of the Sundur State running north-west and south-east. It is studded with hills, more especially towards the west and south. Heavy black soil, known as black cotton, predominates in the eastern taluks—Alûr, Adóni and Bellary—and red soil in the west. Early cholum and early korra and cumbu, sown in June-July are the principal red-soil crops, and the cotton-korra crop, sown in September-October, and white cholum sown about the middle of October are the principal crops raised on the heavy black soils. The three named taluks and eastern portion of the taluk of Hospet adjoining Bellary taluk were those that suffered most in the recent distress, owing to the entire failure of the North-East monsoon in October and November 1896, on which the late or hingari crops depend.

The landholders of this district are mostly small pattadars holding from 10 to 30 acres each. Except the wet lands in the west of the district under the Tungabhadra channels and a comparatively small area protected by tanks and wells, altogether totalling about 60,000 acres, the entire district is cultivated with dry crops which are entirely dependant on rain. The rainfall is seldom absolutely satisfactory in any year and is often seriously deficient. The resources of the average small pattadar with a dry holding are not great, as he possesses little besides his land and cattle and he has hardly any idea of laying by the surplus of a good year to assist him in a year of scarcity. Under these circumstances it is not a matter for wonder that the cultivators are at once affected by a failure of crops, and that a serious and extensive failure, such as occurred in the past year, necessitates assistance from Government. It is seldom that one meets a man who has grown rich on the produce of his lands; the seasons during the past seven years have been too generally unfavourable to admit of large profits. The rich men in the villages have generally made their money by money-lending or trade.

The record of agricultural operations in this district in 1896 is a dismal one. Sowings of the early or mungari crops—yellow cholum, korra and cumbu—commenced in June under a rainfall which though not up to the average, was sufficient. These are generally harvested in October-November and require good showers in September to bring them along. In 1896 the rainfall up to the middle of August was sufficient to prevent any great anxiety being felt as to the prospects of the standing crops. But in August the rains ceased and during the period of three months from the 24th August till 24th November, practically no rain fell in the three eastern taluks, the falls being—

	INCHES.					
Alûr	..	..	..	..	..	.. 30
Adóni	..	..	..	..	..	.. 42
Bellary	..	..	..	..	..	.. 1.26

There was a similar want of rain in the rest of the district, though not so absolute. The drought proved disastrous to the mungari crops.

In November there was a sudden burst of the North-East monsoon, but the fall was not sufficiently copious to thoroughly soak the black cotton soil, nor well distributed. The rain stopped as suddenly as it came and the extensive sowings of late or hingari crops which it stimulated, were an almost entire failure. Out of 18½ lakhs of acres sown during the cultivation season of 1896, 7½ lakhs (41 per cent.) had no yield and 5½ lakhs yielded 1 to 4 annas. This was a more serious failure of crops than in the year 1891, when out of 15 lakhs of acres sown, 5½ lakhs (37 per cent.) yielded nothing and 5 lakhs 1 to 4 annas. Bellary and Alûr, which are chiefly dependant on the late crops of cotton and korra, were far the worst affected taluks. Adóni and Hospet did not suffer to such an extent, as the early crops sown in the red soils in Adóni yielded something, and in the west of Hospet the wet crops under river channels gave at any rate straw for cattle and also some outturn. But the east of Hospet was as bad as Bellary and Alûr taluks. Cholum, which is the most important food-grain in the district, occupying as it does 46 per cent. of the cultivated area, suffered severely, 50 per cent. of the area sown with this crop yielding nothing and 23 per cent. from 1 to 4 annas. Next to cholum, korra is the most extensively grown crop, occupying 14 per cent. of the area sown. Of the sowings 55 per cent. were a total failure and 28 per cent. yielded 4 annas or less. Cumbu and ragi come next in importance and paddy last.

Paddy was the least affected of all as it depends not on rainfall but on unfailing sources of irrigation.

Such, very briefly stated, is the account of the failure of the harvest of 1896, which necessitated the starting of Government measures of relief in the district before the close of the year. I now turn to the organization and work of the Charitable Relief Fund.

On the 4th March 1897 a public meeting was held at the Court-house, Bellary, for the purpose of appointing a general District Committee to administer the moneys of the Charitable Relief Fund which might be allotted to the district, and also to raise subscriptions in aid of the same. Mr. Stuart, the Collector, who presided explained the objects of the Fund, distinguishing them from the relief that it was the duty of Government to afford. A District Committee of representative gentlemen, European and Native, from every taluk in the district was formed for the purpose of collecting subscriptions in aid of the Fund and an Executive Committee consisting of the principal officials of the district and of non-official residents of Bellary was also formed to transact all business connected with the administration of the Fund in the district. Immediately after the conclusion of the general meeting, the Executive Committee sat to arrange for the formation of sub-committees to administer relief in the taluks and municipalities of the District. In the result the following sub-committees were formed on the dates noted:—

For Brucepetah, Bellary town, on	..	..	14th March 1897.
For Cowl Bazaar ..	..	..	15th " "
For Adoni town ..	..	..	2nd April "
For Adoni taluk ..	..	..	13th March "
For Alur ..	..	..	13th " "
For Bellary ..	..	..	7th April "
For Hospet ..	..	..	about 7th April.

In the taluks of Hadagalli, Kudligi and Ravadrug, no regular sub-committees were formed, but allotments were made to the Tahsildars of these taluks and distributed by them and their subordinates. In Bellary town the presidentship of the two sub-committees was voluntarily undertaken by M.R.Ry. P. C. Ananta Charlu Garu, B.A., Government Pleader, and Mr. Mathew Abraham, merchant, both members of the Provincial Committee. Under their guidance strong sub-committees of non-official gentlemen were formed, the members being so selected that each ward was represented by two, one being a Hindu and the other a Muhammadan. The wants of the starving poor in each ward were noted by the members and reported to the President, who issued relief tickets to those deserving them. The daily money-dole was limited to the B. class wage as calculated according to the Famine Code, and distribution was made once a week. For the first month or so this weekly grant was given at a house-to-house visitation by the members, but subsequently, to lighten the labours of the members, distributing centres were fixed by each committee at which recipients of relief were required to attend. The work of the committees ceased when the distribution of grain doles was undertaken by Government.

In Adoni town a similar committee was formed with Mr. Williams, the Deputy Collector, as President, the wards being allotted in the same way amongst the members—all non-officials. Mr. Williams was transferred soon after the formation of the sub-committee and the conduct of relief devolved on M.R.Ry. P. Hanumantha Rao Garu.

Indeed the work of relief in these towns was performed entirely by non-official gentlemen, who gave their services voluntarily and gratuitously. In the taluks the case was different. At the outset, the Tahsildars were appointed Presidents of the sub-committees to be formed within their taluks, and they were asked to divide their taluks into groups of villages or circles and to select a representative man in each circle as a member of the sub-committee, whose duty it should be to report requirements within his charge, and, if he could be trusted, to distribute relief therein. The result of the Tahsildar's selection in the taluks of Bellary, Alur and Adoni, the most affected in the district, is noteworthy as showing the dearth of reliable men outside the towns. In the Bellary taluk, 53 circles were formed with a member to each. Of these, 44 were village officers or their relations. In Alur, out of 87 circle members, 27 were village headmen and two were the fathers of village headmen. In Adoni taluk out of 28 circle members, 16 were village headmen. The private individuals appointed on the sub-committees are described in the lists submitted by Tahsildars as "large pattadars or inamdars" and "Sowcars." These types, and the Karnams and Reddis following, represent the elite of a Bellary village. Besides them there are none gifted with any capacity or intelligence. And it is frequently the case that the village headman is the principal ryot and a sowcar of the village. Little assistance was expected or obtained from such men. The general standard of morality among village officers is unfortunately not so high as to admit of their being entrusted with money for distribution. There have been a few satisfactory exceptions of Reddis who did good work, but the record of village officers who have been punished during the past six months for endeavouring to appropriate portions of grants after the same had reached the grantees, is sufficiently large to justify the want of trust in these men. From sowcars no assistance could, of course, be expected; it was not to the sowcar's interest that charity from an outside source should be given to any of his clients to drag them out of the slough into which distress had plunged them and from which they would ordinarily look to him for assistance. Of the few "large pattadars and inamdars" whose names find a place in the lists of sub-committees, not a single one so far as is known, rendered any help.

The distribution of relief in the taluks devolved in consequence almost entirely on officials, the bulk of the money being spent by Divisional officers and Tahsildars. The information upon which they acted was obtained in the first instance from village officers, but this was verified in every case by the Revenue or Circle Inspector and checked in a great number of cases by the Tahsildars themselves, who cut out or added names to the lists in their numerous tours. The village officer's report has not been accepted as a basis for distribution without being fully verified.

In deciding the various forms of relief to be granted from the Fund, the Executive Committee of this district have been extremely careful to avoid any clashing with the Government measures, while at the same time endeavouring to keep in close touch with and to supplement those measures.

The objects on which the Fund money has been spent are —

- (a) Money-doles to respectable poor before the introduction of gratuitous grain-doles by Government.
- (b) Money-doles in addition to the famine wage on works and grain-doles.
- (c) Cloths to poor on relief works and in kitchens.
- (d) Grants for fodder for cattle to poor ryots.
- (e) Do. seed-grain.
- (f) Do. cattle.
- (g) Grants to ryots, artisans and others who have suffered during the distress, to give them a fresh start in life.

None of these measures of relief, except the first, trenching in any way upon the measures undertaken by Government during the recent distress. The explanation of the expenditure under object (a) is that the Committee at its formation in March noticed the existence of severe distress amongst the respectable poor, especially in the municipalities of Bellary and Adoni, which was not being relieved by any Government measure. The Committee felt itself bound to step in and succour the starving townspeople, chiefly Muhammadans. The distribution of relief in this form ceased in May upon the introduction of free doles of grain at the expense of Government.

Very real relief was afforded under head (b) which can hardly be gauged by the amount spent. The individual items making up the account are small, not exceeding a rupee in most cases, but the recipients were in the direst need. An advance of Rs. 10 (re-couped when necessary) was placed in the hands of each officer in charge of a relief work and was spent most beneficially in such cases as the following:—

- (i) Daily allowance to relief-workers prevented by accident or by sickness from attending the relief work.
- (ii) Grants to destitute persons before their admission on the works or on the Government grain-dole list.
- (iii) Daily allowance to mothers on works to attend to sick children during a reasonable period.
- (iv) Allowance of 6 pies per diem to nursing mothers for thirty days after confinement.

In kitchens, the Government ration was supplemented by vegetables and condiments to the value of about 6 pies each meal in the case of nursing mothers and others who needed extra nutriment.

In villages, the Government dole of cholam, dhal, salt, tamarind and chillies was considered sufficient for all ordinary cases, but here and there individuals were found who were unaccustomed to such a diet and unable to thrive on it. They were chiefly people of respectability unfortunately reduced to straitened circumstances and also the old and sickly. In such cases the Government ration was supplemented by a small money dole from the Fund, and in special cases a money dole was permitted in place of the Government ration.

As regards object (c), in G.O., No. 218, Revenue, dated 30th March 1897, Government drew the attention of the Executive Committee to a remark of the Collector's in one of his fortnightly narratives that a portion of the Famine Fund could be usefully employed in purchasing and distributing cloths to relief-workers. Thereupon the Executive Committee decided to make grants for the purchase of cloths for persons in need of them, and Tahsildars were directed to prepare and submit to their Taluk sub-committees lists of people eligible for this form of relief, whether on relief works, in kitchens or in villages. Great care was enjoined in the preparation of these lists and preliminary inquiries in villages were insisted on to ensure that no person who though wearing a ragged cloth had a better cloth at home should receive the benefit of the charity.

The cloths were distributed in the taluks entirely by Divisional Officers and Tahsildars and in the municipalities by the Presidents and principal members and, with a few exceptions, those alone received them who deserved them. In August, the Executive Committee resolved to discontinue this form of charity as it was of opinion that the number of cloths distributed were sufficient to clothe the most deserving people, and also as it was informed that workers who really possessed good cloths at home or the means to buy them were attending the works in a semi-nude condition in the hope of getting a cloth from a distributing officer.

On the 26th July, the Provincial Committee intimated the despatch of a consignment of 160 cotton skirts, 20 flannellette, 160 chadars, 4 sheets, 1 parcel of tape, which represented the

allotment to this district of the articles of clothing prepared by English ladies and sent to this country for the famine-stricken women of India through the instrumentality of Mrs. Janette G. Hauser. The consignment was duly received and as the cloths were such as would be especially prized by Muhammadan females, they were divided between the Municipalities of Bellary and Adóni where the Muhammadan element of the population is considerable and also very poor.

The clothes were much appreciated by the recipients. The President of one of the Bellary Sub-Committees reported: "They were much appreciated and the bright colours greatly admired. They were just the kind wanted by Muhammadan females." From Adóni town a long report has been received which shows that the cloths were distributed among children in the kitchens and among the respectable poor in the town. The recipients were most thankful for the beautiful articles and wore them with pride. Several charitable native gentlemen throughout the district distributed cloths at their own expense, notable among them being Kari Gangappa of Hospet, who distributed a number of cloths to members of his own caste (Lingayet) in the presence of the Honorary Secretary. He also maintained a private kitchen at Hospet for his caste men. This gentleman also materially assisted the President of the Taluk Sub-Committee in the distribution of charitable relief from the Fund.

In the beginning of May, the Chairman brought to the notice of the Committee that there was much suffering among cattle and that many of the smaller cattle holders were threatened with the loss of some of their stocks. Owing to the absence of pasture and scarcity of fodder it was known that Government was granting loans for the purchase of fodder, but it was also a fact that the poorest ryots often could not obtain loans, being unable to give the requisite security, and it was just these ryots who would most feel the loss of their cattle. The Executive Committee therefore considered that, as they were permitted to grant money for the purchase of cattle to replace those that perished during the famine, they might make grants to keep them from dying. And it was thought that this course would be more economical, for, assuming the South-West monsoon of 1897 proved favourable, it would cost only from Rs. 12 to Rs. 20 to feed a pair of bulls until pasture became available, while the cost of replacing them would be from Rs. 70 to Rs. 120.

The Committee decided to give grants for fodder to agriculturists owning not more than two pairs of ploughing cattle, the grant to be for the support of such cattle only and not to exceed Rs. 2-8-0 per week for each ryot.

The order was brought into force at once and, owing to short rainfall in July and the beginning of August, the grants had to be continued until September. The amounts spent in each taluk on fodder were as under:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Alúr	21,161	2	8
Adóni	15,904	8	3
Bellary	11,029	8	1
Hospet	2,444	0	0
Kudligi	31	0	0
Hadagalli	2,192	0	0
Total	52,761	14	0

In addition to this expenditure free orders on the Fund's fodder depôts in the district were granted for a few weeks to ryots of the same class as were receiving the money grants. These orders were stopped in deference to the wish of the Provincial Committee.

There can be no doubt that in Alúr, Adóni and Bellary where the grants were systematically distributed, they were instrumental in saving a number of valuable cattle. The number of ryots who received grants in the whole district was 14,034 and of these about 13,000 belonged to the three taluks named. As the greatest care was taken to select only really deserving ryots for this form of relief, and as each of those relieved had at least one valuable bull, we may safely assume that at least 13,000 valuable cattle were either saved or prevented from hopelessly deteriorating through these grants.

There can be no doubt that the course adopted was more economical than to allow the cattle to die and then replace them, as the average cost of fodder per bull works out to about Rs. 4. The average number of weeks during which distribution of fodder grants continued was in Alúr 6, in Adóni 7 and in Bellary 6.

In the distribution of these grants and also of grants for seed-grain the agency of Circle and Revenue Inspectors and also of village Reddis to a small extent was utilized. Among Reddis and men of their class the following did good work:—In Alúr Rangana Gowd of Hari-vanam and Narayana Reddi of Halharivi; in Adóni Thanganna of Kosgi and Lingana Gowd of Yemmiganur. There were unfortunately many complaints that village officers, not indeed those entrusted with the distribution of money, had levied toll from the grantees. In Alúr eleven village officers were dismissed or punished for dishonesty in connection with the Fund grants.

The need for making grants for seed-grain is obvious. By the time that the cultivation season arrived the poorest ryots had consumed their small stocks of grain, and had neither money nor credit wherewith to purchase the quantity required to sow their land. Grants from the Fund

were limited to the amount of seed required to sow 10 acres, the limit grant per acre being 8 annas. The grants made in the various taluks under this head were as under:—

							RS.	A.	P.
Alúr	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,110	2	0
Adóni	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,305	1	0
Bellary	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,999	2	0
Hospet	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,157	7	0
Hadagalli	..	..	..	..	..	..	709	4	0
Kudlgi	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	0	0
Sandur State	..	..	..	..	..	..	250	0	0
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	32,534	0	0

The grants were made only to the poorest ryots, but it was not considered advisable to impose a limit of individual holding and prescribe that grants should not be made to ryots holding above that limit, the reason being that the poorest ryots are often those holding between 10 and 30 acres. Another reason was that the holding of a ryot could not be gauged by the extent held on patta. The custom of sub-renting lands is very common in the district, and many a ryot who has but a small extent of land in his own name cultivates a considerable extent as a tenant.

Grants for cattle were made *entirely* by Divisional Officers, Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars. The grants were made to struggling ryots who had sold or lost their cattle owing to the famine. The limit grants were Rs. 50 for two bulls generally, and Rs. 40 for a single bull in the black cotton country, where animals of heavier draught are required. The largest grants were made in Alúr (Rs. 17,447) and Bellary (Rs. 14,991). This was the natural consequence of the great loss of cattle by death and by sale owing to the entire absence of pasture and the great insufficiency of fodder in these taluks. There is no satisfactory means of ascertaining the loss of cattle in these taluks, as no cattle census was taken in 1896; probably in Alúr the loss from death and sale of all kinds of cattle was 25 per cent.

As the grants were made entirely by the higher officials, we may be sure that they reached the grantees, and we can also be sure that the grantees were deserving persons, as their names were subject to the scrutiny of three distinct officers, viz., the village Reddi or Karnam, the Revenue or Circle Inspector and the Tahsildar or Deputy Tahsildar. The only question is whether the grants were applied to the purchase of fresh cattle. Upon this point the evidence of the Honorary Secretary may be recorded. In the Alúr taluk grants had been made in July earlier than in any other taluk, and by the end of that month over Rs. 14,000 had been spent. Mr. Gillman toured in the taluk in September and one of his objects in so doing was to see how this money had been applied. He visited nine villages in different parts of the taluk and called upon 63 recipients of cattle grants to show what they had done with the money; 59 of them produced bulls which had undoubtedly been purchased with the grants, and generally these animals were good value for the money. In a few cases the grantees had paid less than the grant of their bulls and had spent the balance upon seed-grain. No objection was taken to this distribution of the grant. But in one village visited (Arikera) it was evident that the grantees had leagued with a rich ryot to cheat the Fund, he selling them some worthless animals at a small price and they exaggerating the price paid before the inspecting officer. Mr. Gillman inspected the village in the morning and by that evening the Tahsildar had recovered Rs. 80, the full grant, from four dishonest grantees. Mr. Gillman was satisfied that the recipients of the grants in the villages inspected were selected from the poorest ryots; 24 of them were Boyas, 13 Lingayets and Telugus, 7 Muhammadans and 4 Madigas, the rest being Malas, Gollas, Kurubas and other poor castes. It may be mentioned that of the four men who had purchased no bulls three had not done so as they complained that the village officers had insisted on being paid Rs. 2 by each of the grantees. This complaint was under inquiry at the time of inspection. And if it should subsequently transpire that similar "mamools" have been received by other village officers, the Famine Fund Executive must be held blameless, as it has so ordered the distribution that every rupee of the major grants and most of the two minor grants—fodder and seed-grain—has been paid direct into the hands of the ryots by officers who are above suspicion. Except in rare cases where actual deceit has been practised and a man has received a grant who is not entitled to it, it will be found that the village officer has been recompensed by the grantee after the latter has received the money.

About the middle of October the accounts of seed-grain and cattle were closed and thenceforth Presidents of sub-committees were directed to include the grants under a final head "grants to ryots, artisans, &c., to enable them to make a fresh start in life." Under this head Presidents were empowered to distribute money to the poor who had suffered in the famine to enable them to recover the position in the social scale which they had lost during it or to enable them to repair any special loss which they had suffered, such as cattle, tools, damage to houses, &c. As the accounts up to October 31st only show the expenditure under this head for a period of fifteen days, the amount spent is not large. Between the 1st and 15th November a further sum of Rs. 80,000 had been spent, and it is expected that the whole allotment will have been distributed by the close of the current month. The distribution has been entrusted entirely to Divisional officers and

Tahsildars, and the lists upon which they act have been most carefully prepared, so that every village receives its fair share of charity and that none but the deserving are relieved.

When the district accounts of the Famine Charitable Relief Fund are finally closed it will be possible to give details of the expenditure under this most important head.

As this report has been promised by the 26th instant it has not been possible to place it before the District Executive Committee. This will be done as soon as possible and their resolution upon it will be forwarded. That resolution will probably contain the Committee's thanks to the many native gentlemen, official and non-official, who have come forward voluntarily to assist in the great and humane work of relieving their famine-stricken brethren and who have not spared themselves in fulfilling the arduous duties that were assigned to them.

APPENDIX No. 14.

KURNOOL DISTRICT.

The following is from the Report of the Kurnool District Committee :—

The Cumbam and the Nandikotkur Divisions having almost entirely escaped, the affected area consisted of the Pyapali Division to the west and the Nandyal Division to the south of the district. Particulars regarding the affected area and its population are given below :—

Taluk.	Division.	Area in square miles.	Population in thousands.
(1) Pattikonda ..	Pyapali ..	(1) 1,134	139
(2) Ramallakott ..		(2) 846	125
(3) Nandyal ..		(3) 854	95
(4) Sirvel ..	Nandyal ..	(4) 613	65
(5) Koilkuntla ..		(5) 572	87

The physical condition of the area in which there has been distress.—Taluk (1) and (2) constitute the western section of the district. They form the northern end of the great Mysore plateau and are distinct in physical features from the other parts of the district. The whole tract is dotted with a number of bare rocky hills. In the north-western portion traversed by the river Hindri the soil is black cotton, while to the south-east it is red and extremely poor. There are numerous tanks in the Pattikonda taluk, but they are in most instances insignificant and cultivation under them is precarious. In the Ramallakott taluk the tanks are few and small, though in eleven villages which are commanded by the Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal the crops irrigated from that source are safe. Taluks (3), (4) and (5) form the middle and southern portions of the Kundu Valley, or the central section of the district. The greater part of this tract is an extensive plain with rich regar soil well adapted for cotton and other valuable crops. The Nallamalai and Erramalai ranges bound the Division on the east and west respectively and in the villages adjacent to these hills the soil is red-greyish and gravelly. The Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal traverses the entire length of the Kundu Valley, and the crops under this source and under the tanks fed by it are permanently protected. In the other cases the harvests depend on the monsoons.

The economic condition of the people.—The people of the affected taluks are generally poor. They live in houses with walls of stone in mud and roofs covered with brushwood and mud. The average extent of a holding is about 11 acres and some 66 per cent. of the pattadars pay less than Rs. 10. The ryots, as a rule, cultivate their own lands. The owners of very large holdings sublet some of their lands and employ labourers on others. About 10 per cent. of the population are field labourers depending for their subsistence on agricultural operations. These are generally paid in grain. General labourers earn from 2 to 3 annas per diem. The poor ryots and weavers, as well as the agricultural and general labourers, get on tolerably well in normal years, but in seasons of drought or famine, they find it difficult to maintain themselves.

Chief occupations.—About half the total population is engaged in agriculture as—

- (1) Land-owners engaged in cultivation.
- (2) Tenants and sharers engaged in cultivation.
- (3) Field labourers and crop watchers.
- (4) Farm servants, &c.

The general and unskilled labourers form about 10 per cent. The occupation next in point of numbers is that of weaving, the chief centres of this industry being Kodumur, Gudur and Kurnool. In the two places first named female cloths are produced and in the last carpets of average quality. Some of the weavers carry on their business with their own capital and others with funds advanced to them for cloths by traders. The other occupations are those of shepherds, artisan and commercial classes, persons doing domestic, &c., service, e.g., washermen. These, however, are not affected by adverse seasons in the same way as ryots, labourers and weavers are. The traders rather welcome a season of distress, as it affords them opportunities of making large profits than usual.

The nature and extent of the failure of the harvests of 1896-97.—The early crops of 1896-97 were in many cases totally lost or yielded only a poor outturn owing to the deficient rainfall in September and the almost complete absence of rain in October. The later sowings of August and September also would have been lost but for the few showers of November which benefited them considerably. The ryots, in the hope that more rain would fall, sowed vast extents with white cholam, &c., in November, but as there was no rain subsequently the outturn of the new sowings was nil.

History of the organization when District and Sub-Committees were appointed.—As desired in paragraph 7 (b) of the circular of the Central Committee, a brief history of the organization of charitable relief in the district will now be given. In accordance with the instructions of the Provincial Committee contained in their initial circular, dated 13th February 1897, steps were taken for the formation of District and Sub-Committees for raising subscriptions towards and administering the monies of the Charitable Relief Fund. A meeting called for the purpose at Kurnool for the 24th February, had, owing to the short notice given, to be postponed. A meeting was subsequently convened on 22nd March 1897, the Assistant Collector presiding, at which the leading gentlemen of the town were present and the District Committee and the Town Sub-Committee were formed and the office bearers were appointed. On 4th April 1897 another meeting, at which the Collector presided and which was largely attended by all classes of the population, was held for the purpose of raising subscriptions towards the Fund. Subscriptions to the extent of about Rs. 1,800 were promised and Rs. 180 was collected on the spot. The Divisional officers were also asked to enlist the sympathy and co-operation of influential and respectable people in their respective Divisions and to arrange for the formation of Sub-Committees at suitable centres. Public meetings were accordingly held and Sub-Committees were appointed at the following places on the dates and for the local areas mentioned opposite :—

Name of place.	Date of formation of Sub-Committee.		Local area.
Cumbum ..	4th April 1897	..	(Cumbum Division.)
Atmakur ..	9th April 1897	..	(Head-quarter or Nandikotkur Division.)
Pattikonda ..	11th April 1897	..	(Pyapalli Division except Kurnool town, the operations in which were managed by the Town Sub-Committee.)
Nandyal ..	14th April 1897	..	(Nandyal Division.)

The nature and the number of the charges into which the district was divided.—The district was thus divided into five charges, of which Kurnool town formed one and the other portions of the Pyapalli Division another, while the remaining three were co-extensive with the Revenue Divisions of Cumbum, Nandikotkur and Nandyal. The Cumbum and Nandikotkur Divisions being unaffected by the distress, the Sub-Committees formed in them only assisted in collecting subscriptions towards the Fund. The other Sub-Committees acted both as collectors of subscriptions and as distributors of relief.

Agencies employed for the actual distribution of relief.—The Nandyal, Pattikonda and Kurnool Town Sub-Committees administered relief under heads I and III out of the funds supplied by the District Committee. Money doles were given and clothing was distributed by the members of the Sub-Committees in person. Sums required for extra relief to inmates of kitchens were generally advanced to the persons in charge of these institutions for the purchase of vegetables, &c. The distribution of relief under head IV to ryots of red soil villages was performed by officers of or above the grade of Tahsildars except in two cases in the Nandyal Division where Deputy Tahsildars were entrusted with the work. These officers were assisted each by a non-official member of the District Committee or the Sub-Committee concerned. The distribution of money in black soil villages was made exclusively by officers of or above the rank of Deputy Collectors similarly assisted by non-official members.

Measures adopted prior to the formation of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.—As stated above, the District and Sub-Committees were all formed by the end of the first half of April 1897, but the actual distribution of relief was commenced only about the beginning of the following month. Distinct symptoms of distress having manifested themselves in the Koilkuntla taluk as early as November 1896, a test work was opened in that month at Owk which was soon converted into a relief work. A few days afterwards another work was opened in the same taluk, and as the season of scarcity advanced, relief works with kitchens attached thereto for feeding the dependants of the coolies and needy persons unfit for work were started in the Pattikonda, Sirvel, Nandyal and Ramallakot taluks. The scheme for the relief of weavers who clamoured for employment as the intensity of distress increased was introduced in the following centres on the dates noted against them :—

Pattikonda ..	..	..	..	..	15th February 1897.
Kurnool town ..	..	..	..	..	15th March 1897.
Koilkuntla-Attagada ..	..	..	..	..	First week of May 1897.

The system of village relief was introduced in a small number of villages in the Ramallakot and Pattikonda taluks towards the end of April. Thus by the time the relief measures organized by the Charitable Fund were actually in operation the distress was fairly widespread.

There were also a few instances of private charity. Raja Sir Savalai Ramaswami Moodelliar, of Madras, sent about 250 cloths in March for distribution among the coolies attending the relief works and their dependants. M.R.Ry. R. Lakshmi Narasu Pantulu, a retired Deputy Tahsildar, fed 300 or 400 people for ten days during the Sivaratri festival at Atmakur. Similar relief was also given by certain Komities for short periods. Gratuitous relief was afforded to the hill tribe of Chenchus by the Baptist Missionaries living in the Cumbum Division out of funds received by them for the purpose from friends in England and America.

How the relief administered by the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund fitted in with that given by Government.—When the operations of the Fund commenced gratuitous relief was being given by the State only in a very few villages. The Sub-Committees had therefore, in the initial stages, to devote the funds at their disposal almost entirely to the relief of the helpless poor by money doles. As the operations of Government in respect of village kitchens and grain doles increased and finally attained completeness, the relief given by the Committees in the shape of money doles was proportionately restricted and eventually withdrawn. Their operations were then confined to giving of clothing to the deserving poor, supplementing the rations given in kitchens by the provision of vegetables, etc., giving additional allowances of a few annas per month to the more respectable of the recipients of grain doles from Government for the provision of firewood, etc., distributing money doles to a few respectable families for subsistence, etc. When the South-West monsoon had set in, grants were made for the purchase of seed-grains, etc., to the impoverished ryots to enable them to commence their agricultural operations. Sums were disbursed for the provision of fodder to the cattle by way of supplementing the aid given by the State in the shape of the concession of free grazing. When in consequence of the copious rains of September the black soil lands were ready for cultivation and the Government relief works were one after another being closed owing to the improvement in the season, extensive grants were made to the ryots whose resources had been exhausted in order to restore them to their original condition and to enable them to make a fresh start in life. In every case therefore the relief afforded by the Fund was a welcome supplement to that given by the State agency and was most opportune. Care was taken by the Divisional and Taluk Officers, who were in all cases members of the Local Sub-Committees, to see that the two agencies did not overlap and that on the other hand they maintained close touch with each other.

Relief actually given by the Fund in all its branches.—A total sum of Rs. 2,22,700 was allotted to this district, the particulars of the grant and of the redistribution of the same for the different affected areas being as follows:—

Object.	Total grant for district.	How redistributed.	To whom redistributed.
I and III	16,000	10,070	Town Sub-Committee.
		2,000	Nandyal do.
		1,500	Pattikonda do.
		2,430	District Committee.
Miscellaneous	1,000	1,000	Nawab of Banaganapalle.
Do.	700	700	Collector for relief to Khondan families.
IV	80,000 (red soil villages).	30,000	Divisional Officer, Pyapalli.
		80,000	Do. Nandyal.
IV	95,000 (black soil villages).	45,000	Do. Pyapalli.
		50,000	Do. Nandyal.
IV	50,000 (artisans who attended relief works).	25,000	Do. Pyapalli.
		25,000	Do. Nandyal.

Objects I and III, Nandyal Sub-Committee.—Of the allotment of Rs. 2,000, the Nandyal Sub-Committee spent Rs. 795-13-1 in relieving the destitute, and Rs. 822-3-1 on account of respectable poor under head III. The balance of Rs. 381-15-10 will be recovered and credited to the Fund. A part of the sum spent under head I was placed by the Committee at the disposal of the persons in charge of certain relief kitchens for the provision of vegetables, butter, milk, etc., to the inmates. Some Chenchus of Basawapuram and some relief workers were supplied with clothing.

This Committee also obtained a consignment of American grain from Calcutta direct and distributed it to about 1,500 people for a few weeks.

Pattikonda Sub-Committee.—A sum of Rs. 1,500 was granted to the Sub-Committee at Pattikonda, out of which Rs. 1,000 was placed at the disposal of Famine Deputy Collector. Rs. 250 was allotted to the Deputy Tahsildar, and Rs. 250 was kept as reserve. Rs. 189 was spent in the purchase of cloths for labourers on works, and Rs. 106 in the supply of food to the children of relief-workers and the provision of butter, milk, &c., to the inmates of kitchens.

Kurnool Town Sub-Committee.—The operations of the Town Sub-Committee were conducted on a large scale and were very satisfactory. Rs. 10,070 was placed at the disposal of this Committee, of which nearly the whole has been utilized. The twelve municipal wards of the town were formed into six divisions, each of which was entrusted to three of the Sub-Committee members.

These made a house-to-house inspection, and after careful enquiries, selected the persons deserving relief, and gave them * tickets, on production of which the sums therein specified were paid.

* The tickets were of three kinds: One for 4 annas for children and the others for 8 and 10 annas for adults. The number on relief gradually increased as the registration of the poor in the various wards progressed. The first weekly doles were given on the 9th May. The numbers rose from week to week till the 3rd of June. The system of State gratuitous relief having then been introduced into the town, the persons relieved from the Fund were gradually transferred to the Government lists, and there was a corresponding decline in the weekly number of persons relieved by the Fund. By the beginning of July the Government officials had taken over all the persons and the Committee completely stopped the weekly payments. The latter, however, supplemented the Government grain doles by paying some of the recipients thereof 6 to 8 annas per mensem for fuel, &c. The amount spent on account of full money doles was Rs. 4,570, and the weekly average of persons so relieved was 1,192. The monthly average of the persons who were given supplemental doles was 2,080, and the amount spent on their account was Rs. 2,892. The Committee utilized Rs. 781 in affording relief to respectable people, mostly Ghosha females, for three months. 1,491 persons were supplied with clothing at the aggregate cost of Rs. 1,466. Besides this, some of the chadars and skirts received from England were distributed by the Sub-Committee to 141 persons. A sum of Rs. 44 was spent on account of the town kitchen and Rs. 30 for the relief of certain patients in the municipal hospital.

In case of the Sub-Committees at Nandyal and Pattikonda, the official element took a leading part; but the Town Sub-Committee was almost wholly a non-official body. They did their work with interest and zeal and their operations were on the whole quite successful.

District Committee.—Grants were made by the District Committee in a few cases. Rs. 99 was spent in helping certain poor persons of Atmakur whose huts were destroyed by fire.

Flannel costing Rs. 69 was supplied to "famine babies" on works in the vicinity of the town, and distributed by the Famine Commissioner in person in July last. Rs. 100 was advanced to and spent by the Rev. Mr. Staunton for providing sundry comforts to some nursing mothers and weak persons on relief works. A sum of Rs. 176-11-0 was spent in the purchase, by the Tahsildar of Guntur, of fodder for sale at Nandyal to poor ryots at favourable rates. The fodder was all sold, but only after considerable effort on the part of the Tahsildar. The Provincial Committee is aware of the unsatisfactory result of opening a fodder depot at Dhone.

Special Allotment of Rs. 1,700.—The whole of the amount of Rs. 1,000, sent by the Provincial Committee through the Political Agent to the Nawab of Banganapalle for relief in his territory, was spent by him in money doles and in the purchase of clothing for distribution among the poor. Of the allotment of Rs. 700 for Khandan families (descendants of the old Nawabs and Mahomedan nobles of Kurnool) sent direct to the Collector by the Provincial Committee, Rs. 629 was spent and the balance remitted to the District Committee.

Grants under head IV.—The last and the most important item of relief administered by the Fund was the distribution of money among the ryots soon after the rains of June and September to enable them to resume their agricultural operations. As soon as the allotments for red soil lands were sanctioned, steps were taken to distribute the amounts in the villages where the early sowings were being commenced. The following statement shows the amounts allotted to each of the affected taluks, the members entrusted with distribution, the amounts disbursed and the balance:—

Division.	Taluk.	Persons who were entrusted with the distribution.	Amount allotted.	Amount spent.	Balance.
			RS.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Pyapalli	Pattikonda	Famine Deputy Collector	4,800	4,800 0 0	
		Special Deputy Collector	3,600	2,461 8 0	1,138 8 0
		Tahsildar of Pattikonda	4,200	3,500 0 0	700 0 0
		Special Loans, Tahsildar	5,400	5,400 0 0	
		Head-quarter Deputy Collector	1,386	1,386 0 0	
	Ramallakota	Tahsildar, Ramallakota	6,180	5,504 0 0	672 0 0
		Special Assistant Collector	222	231 0 0	
		Huzur Sheristidar	3,912	3,260 0 0	652 0 0
		Head Assistant Collector, Nandyal	3,000	2,978 8 6	21 7 6
		Deputy Tahsildar, Kalwa	6,000	6,000 0 0	
Nandyal	Nandyal	Stationary Sub-Magistrate, Nandyal	5,400	5,400 0 0	
	Koilkuntla	Tahsildar, Koilkuntla	8,600	3,585 2 0	14 14 0
	Do. Markapur	Do. Markapur	2,400	2,400 0 0	
	Sirvel	Special Deputy Collector, Nandyal	9,600	8,488 12 6	1,111 3 6
Total ..			60,000	55,398 15 0	4,601 1 0

* Rs. 9 spent by Mr. Pope from his own pocket and to be recouped from the district balance.

It will be seen that each taluk was divided into a suitable number of Circles, and an officer of Government and a non-official member were deputed for distributing the money in each Circle. The whole of the allotment was utilized with the exception of Rs. 3,462-8-0 in the Pyapalli Division and Rs. 1,147-9-0 in the Nandyal Division. These amounts were ordered to be utilized for black soil villages along with those sanctioned for such villages.

Grants for black soil villages and Artizans, etc.—The allotments for black soil villages and for the relief of artizans, etc., who attended the relief works have been distributed to the affected taluks as under:—

Division.	Talak.	Allotment for black soil villages.	Allotment for artizans, etc.
		Rs.	Rs.
Pyapalli ..	{ Pattikonda	20,000	15,000
	{ Ramallakot	25,000	10,000
Nandyal ..	{ Nandyal	17,000	8,000
	{ Sirepalli	3,000	5,000
	{ Koilkuntla	30,000	12,000

The distribution was entrusted to officers of and above the rank of Deputy Collectors assisted, as a rule, by two non-official members in each case. It was occasionally found impossible to procure the attendance of more than one non-official. The amounts have almost all been distributed, but particulars as to the exact amounts spent and the number of persons relieved have not yet been received.

The various forms of relief were administered with sufficient care to ensure that the amounts spent were utilized to the best advantage. Owing to the smallness of the allotments under heads I and III relief could be given only on a limited scale, but the grants under IV being larger, thousands of poor ryots were afforded substantial help. In the case of red soil villages the lists of individuals deserving relief were prepared in the first instance by the village officers and generally checked by the Revenue Inspectors. At the time of distribution independent enquiries were made at the appointed centres by the officers deputed to satisfy themselves as to the condition and circumstances of the persons recommended and the lists were revised with reference to the results of these enquiries. Opportunity was also taken by the Tahsildars on these occasions to ascertain in some cases the state of the ryots who were likely to be recommended for relief as cultivators of black soil lands. Lists of such men were prepared by the Tahsildars for future use. In other cases lists were obtained from village officers as soon as the allotment for black soil villages was sanctioned and they were revised after due enquiry, as was the case with the lists for red soil villages and the amounts disbursed accordingly. Wide publicity was given of the date and place of distribution and all ryots were made to assemble and enquiries were made in their presence before money was given away. In some cases the officers deputed for distribution made a house-to-house inspection in each of the villages assigned to them and satisfied themselves with the aid of a committee of respectable ryots in each village as to the eligibility of the individuals for relief. Steps were thus taken to ensure that relief was given to all persons in need of it to the extent that was suited to the circumstances and on a scale compatible with the funds at the disposal of the officers concerned.

Although the amount of Rs. 95,000 allotted for black soil villages has been utilized already, vouchers for the full amount have not yet been received, nor are particulars available as to the number of persons relieved under each sub-head. This amount and the Rs. 50,000 which is still in course of distribution have been shown as outstanding against the Divisional Officers concerned and full details regarding them will be furnished as soon as they are received.

The special thanks of the public are due to Mr. M. B. Varada Aiyangar, B.A., B.L., a First-grade Pleader of Kurnool, for the great interest taken by him as Assistant Honorary Secretary of the District Committee in everything connected with the working of the Fund.

APPENDIX No. 15.

ANANTAPUR DISTRICT.

The following is taken from the Report of the Anantapur District Committee:—

The distressed portion of the district comprised all the taluks with the exception of Madakasira and Ratnagiri firkas in Madakasira taluk, Lepakshi and Hindupur firkas in Hindupur and Roddam range of Penukonda, thus extending over an area of 4,700 square miles with a population of 5,83,495. The excepted tract was by no means quite free from distress, but it did not become so acute as to call for Government intervention. The comparative poverty of the soil, the extensive wastes, the dryness of the atmosphere, the backward condition and want of enterprise of the people are generally the chief local characteristics. The district is situated in the 'famine zone,' so that untimely or deficient visits of rain are frequent. The people are chiefly agricultural, and there are some weavers in parts. There is comparatively little wet

cultivation in the district. The dry cultivation preponderates, so that, the failure of dry crops, especially of cholam and korra, brings about scarcity.

On the sudden rise of prices in November 1896, the leading and influential persons of Hindupur, Madakasira, Penukonda, Gooty and Anantapur convened meetings and formed private Committees to raise subscriptions to purchase grain and to sell it to poor people at cheap rates. The Committee in Hindupur did substantial good to the poorer classes by selling grain to them at cheaper rates during the whole of November. The Committees at Penukonda and Madakasira offered their help to the poor whenever the prices showed a tendency to rise and the stock on hand acted as a check on the local merchants in not increasing the prices. There was grain with the Penukonda Committee up to June 1897, when it was bought over at market rates by the Sub-Committee for distributing grain doles lest it should suffer by keeping when prices fell on the break of the South-West monsoon. The Madakasira Committee had its stock of grain up to October last and wound up its affairs only lately. The action of the Committee at Anantapur was in force during the months of October and November 1896 and that at Gooty existed only in name. M.R.Ry. K. Timma Reddi Garu, a Pleader at Gooty, maintained a stock of grain and sold to the poor during October and November one seer cheaper per rupee than the ruling market rate. And when the prices fell on the fall of the November rains he ceased to offer the help, and did not resume it when the prices again rose. Another form of private charity which existed in the district was by supplementing the Government dole in kitchens with a supply of vegetables, &c. Many kitchens in the Head Assistant Collector's Division had this advantage, and at Tadpatri it was continuously maintained for three or four months. Ediga Hanumanthappa, a toddy contractor at Penukonda, maintained a kitchen at his own cost and gave cooked food to a few destitute persons for nearly a year. The merchants of Bukkapatam were offering to maintain the Government kitchen at Bukkapatam by private subscriptions.

It was at this juncture, when the resources of private charity were being gradually emptied and the public could no longer extend their hand to relieve the suffering poor, that the Famine Fund happily lent its helping hand, and it was arranged that such subscriptions should go to the Indian Famine Charitable Fund which came into existence on 15th March 1897 by the formation of a meeting in the Collector's office attended by the Collector, Divisional Officers, Tahsildars and private gentlemen, when it was resolved that the District Committee was to be aided by similar Divisional and Taluk Committees, and that they should act as auxiliaries for raising and collecting private contributions and administering funds that might be allotted to them by the District Committee. The total amount of subscriptions in the district is Rs. 5,244-6-0. Out of this amount Rs. 5,159-4-0 has been remitted to Madras and the remaining sum Rs. 85-2-0 was kept as permanent advances. Out of Rs. 35-2-0 kept with the Honorary Secretary of the Tadpatri Sub-Committee, Rs. 4 has been spent in relieving some urgent cases of poor cholera patients and the remainder was expended on contingencies and Rs. 60 has been retained by the Honorary Joint Secretary of the District Committee.

The distribution of funds received from the Madras Executive Committee was undertaken by the Divisional and Taluk Sub-Committees. In the Anantapur Division, the Funds under head III have been mainly distributed by the Divisional Officers without the active intervention of any non-official members, but in their presence. In the Penukonda and Gooty Divisions, the course was different. Three Pleaders of Penukonda, viz., M.R.Ry. V. C. Chakravarthi Iyengar Avargal, Sessa Sastrulu Garu and Sivasankaram Pillai Avargal have found time to the detriment of their own professional work to go round the villages with grain and make a proper distribution of doles. In Gooty, M.R.Ry. P. Kesava Pillai Garu and M. Subba Row Garu, Pleaders and Honorary Secretaries of the Committee, and Mr. O. S. R. Krishnamma undertook the enquiry of the deserving cases and have conducted the distribution. In Tadpatri the distribution has been solely gone through by M.R.Ry. M. Lakshminarasimha Sastrulu Garu occasionally aided by Mr. A. Abdul Khadar Sahib, a local merchant, who was also active in selling grain for distribution at a cheap rate. The distribution of Funds under heads I and IV was under the supervision of the Divisional Officers and the major portion was disbursed by the Famine Divisional Officers. Rev. J. M. Ure of Gooty has undertaken to distribute Rs. 500 for seed grain in the Tadpatri taluk and also money doles to the poor people in Gooty taluk. The Tahsildars amidst the hurry of other famine operations showed no less activity and helped in no small degree the successful work of the Famine Fund. In order that the relief of this Fund might not overlap that administered by Government, the supervision was entrusted to the Famine Divisional Officers aided by the Tahsildars on Famine duty. They were in close touch with Government relief, and as such have taken every care to prevent the two agencies from overlapping. Moreover, the only branch which required control was the distribution of money doles to respectable and infirm poor. The Fund was mainly administered in the month of May. When the Government village relief was introduced in the five northern taluks in the latter half of that month, most of the work of relieving the old and infirm was taken up by it and since then the Famine Fund was restricted to the respectable poor. In Penukonda, where Government gratuitous relief was not introduced, the Famine Fund of that Division was mainly spent in that taluk. Thus both the systems have worked together.

The total allotments received for expenditure in this district under the various heads from the Madras Executive Committee are as follow :—

	Rs.
Head I	2,100
Do. II	Nil.
Do. III	6,900
Do. IV	1,84,000
Total	1,93,000

To this must be added Rs. 6 found in excess after payments by the Famine Divisional Officer, Anantapur. The total allotment then comes to Rs. 1,93,006. The total expenditure under various heads amounts to Rs. 1,82,921-14-11 only. The allotment under the several heads made by the District Committee to the several Divisional Committees were not adhered to always, but there are no great deviations from the purposes for which they were allotted. It was also not known in the beginning that the details of information now required in the statement B had to be furnished for the amount expended, and the Divisional Committees were therefore not instructed in the beginning about the method of maintaining proper accounts; and it has therefore now become difficult to give exact particulars.

Head I.—In the distribution of Funds, the amount allotted under head I was mainly utilized in the supply of clothing to Government relief-workers and the inmates of the kitchens. Very little of the amount has been expended to supplement the ration in kitchens or famine wage on the relief works. As already noticed the private charity offered from the Fund, in the Head Assistant Collector's Division, did not necessitate such expenditure from the Fund, but in a few kitchens of Tadpatri taluk and two in the Gooty taluk Rs. 55-4-0 were expended for this kind of relief. At the instance of the Famine Commissioner, the Famine Divisional Officer, Gooty, purchased 244½ yards of black flannel and distributed to 244 mothers to protect their children from variations of temperature. Men under a tropical sun require less clothing than women, and accordingly women's clothes were distributed on a larger scale. The men also had their share, but their wants did not receive so much attention owing to smallness of the amount on hand. The grateful and cheerful way in which the distribution was received by the recipients can be more interestingly described in the words of the Head Assistant Collector Mr. N. Macmichael: "The kitchen inmates often complain of insufficiency of food; the chronic complaint of the relief-workers is that the wage is quite insufficient to fill their stomachs; and ryots who are helped with money to buy seed grain and cattle often grumble and ask for more; but from the women who had received cloths I have had nothing but gratitude, and their faces brightened up wonderfully when they got them. An old man in Dharmavaram kitchen got a blanket from me the other evening; he was so pleased with it that he at once cuddled himself up in it and went off to sleep." The general cry, however, is that the allotment under this head was insufficient for a general distribution.

Head II.—The expenditure under head II is very little, being only Rs. 15 paid to two Bengali deserted orphans at Guntakal for their conveyance as recommended by the District Medical and Sanitary Officer, Surgeon-Major Hakoom. The Divisional Officers have been requested to report the number of orphans to be provided for from the Famine Fund, and their reports are awaited.

Head III.—As described above, the distribution under this head was made by the several Sub-Committees, a few members of which went to villages to enquire into the deserving cases and make a proper distribution. The mode of business under this head at Tadpatri was that each Sub-Committee member was required to prepare a list of persons deserving relief and that the lists received from the several members were, after scrutiny, passed by the Committee. Thus, without the approval of the Chairman nothing was disbursed in that taluk. The same method has been adopted more or less in all the other taluks. The distribution of doles was partly in grain and partly in money only in the cases undertaken by the Sub-Committees themselves and it was not form of small lump money grants in the case of distribution by officers on tour, as it was not possible to dole out grain also. Money under this head was, for the most part, spent in relieving the respectable poor and Muhammadan, Gosha females. The period of relief generally extended from ten days to one month. This relief was given in all the taluks till the latter part of May 1897 when it was taken up by Government village relief in the five northern taluks, and this relief was then continued in the Penukonda taluk and to a few exceptional cases in other taluks. Care was taken to see that only deserving persons were relieved and that those who could in any way receive Government relief were excluded. Opportunity was not lost sight of to relieve the fallen Poligar families of Chendana and Mettur called 'Deralu' in the Tadpatri taluk. On this point the Gooty Deputy Collector remarks: "There can be no doubt that, but for the timely help from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, these families would have been put up to immense suffering. For I saw the hands and the forearms of some the ladies of these families through holes in windows and doors and found them to be greatly emaciated." The following facts cited by the Famine Divisional Officer, Gooty, among others, may be interesting to the subscribers to the Fund: "Gangamma who had come to the work (at Muchukota of Tadpatri) that morning and who was *enroute*, wanted to go home as she felt labour pains. Her home was about two miles distant. Another relief-worker was asked to accompany her home to render any assistance

on the way, but they had gone hardly a furlong when Gangamma was delivered of a child on the top of a gravel heap newly stocked on the side of the road. Her husband had deserted her during the distress. The necessary drugs required and the diet costing Rs. 5-8-1 were purchased and given to her. The poor woman was overcome with fatigue and grief and burst into tears."

"I met a woman named Devakka on the way to the work (Uravakonda). She was very sick and apparently unable to walk further and was sitting down exhausted. In reply to my question, she said with tears streaming down her eyes, that she was delivered of a child two days back, that she had nothing to eat on the preceding day and that, as she would be marked absent and paid nothing, she left the child in a hut and was slowly walking to the work in order to earn the day's wage and thus appease her hunger. The cloth she had on was the one she wore when she was delivered. It had not been washed since, as she had no other cloth and was therefore swarming with flies. I immediately purchased and gave her a new cloth and also rice, &c., which would last her for a fortnight."

"At Malapuram in Gooty taluk, I noticed three orphans. The eldest girl was 12 years of age and had a younger sister and brother aged 5 and 3 years, respectively. I was astonished at the precocious motherly tenderness and care with which she took care of her sister and brother. When I asked her what she wanted, she sobbed and said that she wanted nothing but cloths for her brother and sister as they were shivering at night. I purchased and gave them cloths and also a cloth for the eldest girl as the cloth she had on was only rags."

Other cases of this nature, there are, to show how usefully the money subscribed to relieve suffering humanity was spent.

Cholera which broke out at Tadpatri recently brought mischief in the families already rendered helpless by scarcity. Money from this Fund was also given to deserving cases.

Head IV.—The amount allotted under head IV was partly expended on the fall of the earlier rains in June and secondly on the fall of September rains. The Famine Divisional Officers were instructed first to help the ryots on relieving works to enable them to begin cultivation of their lands. Enquiries were therefore made and many of the ryots, the Head Assistant Collector writes, "were most unwilling to admit that they had any lands; some of them thought they were to be turned off the works, whilst others thought they were to be taken to Bombay to make up for the deficiency in the population there caused by the plague."

The first distribution was mainly restricted to advances for seed-grain to the ryots owning lighter soils (red and mixed). The rate per acre of dry cultivation ranged from 4 to 8 annas. It cannot be denied that a portion of this distribution was used for subsistence, as the cessation of rain for about nine weeks tended to the withering of the early sowings. The distribution was inopportune, and the result could not be foreseen.

The bulk of the amount was distributed after the heavy rains of September, and it may be safely asserted that this amount has been properly used for the purpose intended. It will be seen from statement B that 4,295 persons were given advances for cattle. The grants for cattle predominated in the later distribution, especially in Tadpatri taluk and Uravakonda Division of the Gooty taluk. On the fall of the rains and before the allotment was received for being utilized for advances for seed grain, nearly the whole black cotton tracts which awaited the heavy showers were sown in a very short time and it was therefore considered inexpedient to advance money for seed-grain; and it was on this account that the grants for cattle were greater. To owners of wet fields advances for ploughing buffaloes have also been given. The allotment given to Penukonda Division was not enough to grant advances for buying cattle, and small sums were therefore given to defray the cost of expenses of ploughing fields and manuring, &c. The advance granted for a bull ranged from Rs. 12 to 25 in mixed soils and Rs. 15 to 35 in black-cotton tracts. The price of a buffalo ranged from Rs. 8 to 12. The advance for seed grain ranged from 4 to 8 annas per acre. The village officers first prepared the list of deserving men from the chitta, it was then checked by the Revenue or Circle Inspector or a Sub-Committee member and then by the Tahsildar, occasionally by the Divisional Officer.

The vehemence and persistence with which the ryots requested the Divisional Officers for help can best be described in the following words of the Gooty Deputy Collector: "I first tried to send them away by kind words and explanations, but without the slightest effect. On the contrary they became more noisy and insolent. They invaded the windows and door ways of my room, shutting out the ingress of all fresh air. Their persons and cloths emitted a most offensive smell. Cholera was then raging at Tadpatri and the adjoining villages. And there were in the crowd several near relations of persons who had recently died of cholera. I was therefore obliged to go out and send away the crowd. Directly I came back, the people came in again one by one, and in a quarter of an hour the crowd again became unbearable and I had to go out again and again to send them out. This had to be repeated the whole day. I may add that on one night the people refused to go away even after nightfall and remained there the whole night and dirtied the whole place by chewing betel, spitting and answering calls of nature. I called two police constables to send away the crowd. When I got up in the small hours of the morning, I found that the people had returned and were either lying down or sitting in the verandah of the taluk cutcherry in the compound of which I was staying."

The Divisional Officer concludes that this work of distribution was the hardest and the most trying work he was given. This clamouring will testify to the necessity for such kind of help and

the patience on the part of the officers. The distribution was always attended by a few non-official members. The Divisional Officers and Tahsildars have been requested to make confidential enquiries as to how far the purpose for which these advances were granted has been carried out, and the results will be included in the final report.

Village officers frequently tried to make some gain out of this distribution, but the Head Assistant Collector states "that precautions were taken against extortion on the part of the village officials, but it is feared that in spite of these, at least 25 per cent. of the money found its way into their pockets. Several village officers have been charged with malversation and are now under trial. But so long as the village officers exercise as much power over the ryots as they do at present, it seems difficult to prevent such extortion. They make the ryots believe that it is their influence that has got the ryot the money, and they insist on having their share. It is impossible to help the ryot if he will not do something to help himself." The Divisional Officer of Gooty also tried to prevent such extortions by deputing the Sub-Committee members to prepare the lists on visiting the villages and expelling the village officer at the time of distribution. Of course these means must have mitigated the evil practice to some extent, but still some of the money filtered down to the village officers.

The only other relief given by the Fund needing mention is the great unique one for the cattle, by the establishment of fodder depôts at various centres in the district. Owing to the failure of the crops in 1896 there was no sufficient stock of fodder. The facility afforded by opening the reserves for free grazing, free cutting of grass, &c., was not sufficient. A fodder depôt was therefore opened early in May 1897 at Tadpatri. It was followed by another at Dharmavaram in June, by two more in Anantapur and Guntakal in July, and a fifth in Chakralapalle of the Penukonda taluk in August. The demand for fodder can be estimated by the amount of fodder imported into the district. The total sale-proceeds of fodder credited into the several treasuries in the district amount to Rs. 11,294-1-4, and the contingencies amounted to Rs. 291-2-10. Thousands of cattle have been revived, and but for this fodder the condition of the cattle would have been much worse.

It is observed that the allotment to the district under heads I and III was not sufficient, but that under head IV it was quite enough.

To conclude, credit is due to the Famine Divisional Officers, Tahsildars, especially of Tadpatri and Gooty, and the following persons for their willing operation in the management of the relief:—

M.R.Ry. P. Kesava Pillai Garu	...	...	...	Gooty.
" M. Subba Row Garu	...	...	...	
" P. Sivasankaram Pillai Garu	...	...	...	Penukonda.
" N. C. Chakravarthi Iyengar Avargal	...	...	...	
" S. Sesha Sastrulu Garu	...	...	...	
" M. Lakshminarasimha Sastrulu Garu	...	...	...	Tadpatri.
" A. Abdulkhader Sahib	...	...	...	
" Chinna Kondayya	...	...	...	
Rev. J. M. Ure	...	...	...	Gooty.
M.R.Ry. O. S. R. Krishnamma, District Munsif	...	...	...	

APPENDIX No. 16.

CUDDAPAH DISTRICT.

The following report has been received from the Cuddapah District Committee:—

A public meeting was held on the 24th February 1897 at Cuddapah to organize a District Committee in aid of the Fund. At this meeting Sub-Committees were organized for each of the divisions of the district; later on it was found necessary that each of the affected taluks should have a Committee of its own and such Taluk Committees were accordingly formed. In each Committee the work of organization and direction was in the hands of a small Executive Committee.

The mode of operations of these Committees was as follows:—In the affected area the taluks were divided into circles, each circle containing a small number of villages. In these circles persons deserving of help were registered by gentlemen selected for the purpose, whose work was checked by two other local members. Thus, before any individual's name was accepted for relief the recipient's status should have been examined by three gentlemen. The work of distribution was in the hands of a *panchayat* selected for the purpose and approved of by the Divisional Officer. That *panchayat* generally consisted of the village magistrate of each village and four

other ryots. Every person approved of by the registering officer and two Sub-Committee members, as above, obtained a ticket from the local Secretary. That ticket was actually handed over to the Sub-Committee member concerned who was to give it to the person recommended. The ticket holder had to present the ticket to the *panchayat* for payment. Thus practically the distributing agency was quite distinct from the recommending agency. In the matter of accounts all the money of the Fund was credited into the Government treasury, and money was drawn out as occasion arose; when an amount was sent to the villages for distribution, the receipt of the officer was obtained. When the amount was paid off at the bi-weekly distributions, every payment was marked on the ticket under the signature of the distributing officer. The total amount paid under the ticket for the month was verified by the *panchayatdars* and the paid-up ticket was returned to the Secretary at the end of the month. The paid-up ticket so returned was accepted as a voucher for the expenditure in respect of the ticket holder. The paid-up tickets so far as returned by the holders were filed in the Sub-Committee offices and are being audited. In every Sub-Committee office a daily cash-book, a nominal register of persons helped, and other accounts necessary for check were maintained. Similar accounts were maintained by the disbursing officer.

There are 187 members on the District Committee. These gentlemen are also members of the Committees of the taluks in which they reside. In each taluk there is a small working Executive Committee consisting of officials and non-officials, who had the control of the local work. In Cuddapah taluk there are 19 circles. Of these we have given relief in 12 villages. In Proddatur taluk the number of circles is 8 with 23 villages helped on the average. Pulivendla and Jammalamadugu have 25 and 10 circles, respectively, with 32 and 89 villages helped on the average.

The monetary aspect of the operations is detailed in the October and November accounts.

Under head I, the expenditure was mainly devoted to helping persons on Government relief in the kitchens with vegetables, castor-oil, &c., necessities which were not then allowed under the Famine Code. Rs. 948-1-4 were thus advanced. Of this Rs. 627-1-0 have been vouched for up to date. From all accounts this expenditure was very welcome to the inmates. It is impossible to state how many were thus helped, as the relief was extended over a number of kitchens and the expenditure was practically small.

The bulk of expenditure directly under the Committee was under head III. The total number of individuals helped was 12,483. The expenditure was large in the early stages of the famine, and as the Government operations extended the work of the Committee was narrowed.

The expenditure under head IV was under the hands of the Collector, who, it is believed, has separately sent a report on the same.

The Committee were enabled to do really beneficial work by the allotments of cloths. This benefit was largely appreciated as the State does not help the poor in the same direction. The number of people so helped was 8,708.

We regret our report is necessarily meagre. We have not received as yet any of the Sub-Committee's reports, but as the Honourable Mr. C. S. Crole is personally aware of the work in this district, and as our fortnightly narratives when the operations were in full swing fully disclose the nature of the work, we have refrained from entering into details.

The operations of the Committees are practically over, and as soon as the audit now going on is finished the Committees may cease.

APPENDIX No. 17.

CUDDAPAH DISTRICT.

The following is from a report of Mr. A. C. Tate, Chairman, Cuddapah District Committee:—

Organisation of the District Committee and the Sub-Committees.—Under instructions from the Madras Committee, I convened a public meeting on the 24th February 1897 at Cuddapah and organized a district committee for the management of the funds. At this meeting a district committee consisting of 187 members and sub-committees for each of the four divisions of the district were formed. Later on, it was found that each of the taluks in Jammalamadugu division (forming the major portion of the affected area) should have a committee of its own, besides the sub-committee for the division. Accordingly, such committees were formed on 12th March 1897 at Proddatur at a meeting of the sub-committee under the presidency of M.R.Ry. T. Ranga Row Avargal, Deputy Collector, Jammalamadugu division. In the district committee as well as in each of the divisional or taluk sub-committees, a small executive sub-committee

was organized to have direct control over the business connected with the Funds. Each such Executive Committee consisted of the President, one or more Secretaries, a Treasurer and some official and non-official members.

The dates on which the committees were formed and the number of meetings held by each committee are detailed below :—

Name of the Committee.	Date on which it was formed.	No. of meetings held.
Cuddapah District Committee ..	24th Feb. 1897	26
Cuddapah Taluk ..	5th Mar. 1897	5
Proddatur ..	12th do.	11
Pulivendla ..	12th do.	2
Jammalamadugu ..	12th do.	10
Madanapalle ..	4th do.	8

The mode of operations of these committees under object III was as follows. In the affected area, the taluks were divided into circles, each circle containing a small number of villages. For each village there was a panchayat selected and approved by the Divisional officer to attend to the actual distribution of money. In each circle the persons deserving of help were registered by gentlemen selected for the purpose, and that work was checked by two other local members of the Committee. Thus before any individual name was accepted for relief, the recipient's status should have been examined by three gentlemen. Every person approved of by the registering officer and two Sub-Committee members applied for and obtained a ticket from the local Secretary. The ticket issued in that person's favour by the local Secretary was not given to him direct, but sent through the gentlemen who originally registered his name to guard against false personation. The person who thus received a ticket through the gentleman by whom he was originally recommended had to present it to the Panchayat of his village (consisting generally of the Village Magistrate for that village and four other respectable ryots) for payment. Thus practically the distributing agency was quite distinct from the recommending agency. In the matter of accounts all the money of the Fund lay in the Government treasury; and money was drawn as necessity arose. When a remittance was made to the villages for distribution, the receipt of the members of the Panchayat was obtained. When the amount was paid at the bi-weekly distributions every payment was marked on the ticket under the signature of the distributing officer for a consecutive period, the total amount paid under the ticket for the month was verified by the Panchayatdars, and the paid-up ticket was returned to the Secretary for renewal at the end of the month. The paid-up ticket as returned was accepted as a voucher for the expenditure in respect of the ticket-holder for the period to which the ticket related. The paid-up tickets, so far as returned by the holders, were filed in the Sub-Committees' offices and are being audited. In every Sub-Committee office, a daily cash-book, a nominal register of persons helped and other accounts necessary for check were maintained. Similar accounts were maintained by the disbursing officers. The number of circles into which each taluk was divided and the number of villages comprising those circles are given in the margin.

Taluk.	Number of circles.	Number of villages.
Cuddapah ..	19	24
Proddatur ..	8	38
Jammalamadugu ..	10	54
Pulivendla ..	27	70

In the beginning, i.e., before Government undertook to relieve people gratuitously, the operation of the Fund was extended to all poor people who were either unable to go to relief works owing to infirmity or old age or who being respectable persons were not willing to go to relief works. But when the Government undertook to relieve gratuitously people who were unable to resort to the relief works owing to old age or other physical infirmity, the utilization of the Fund under object III was solely restricted to the respectable poor who being able-bodied were not eligible for gratuitous relief from the State. While the Government relieved the destitute people of the working classes both by means of relief works and by means of gratuitous doles, the Fund under object III was utilized in saving the lives of those respectable poor to whom aid could not be extended under the Famine Code. Thus the relief given from this Fund dovetailed with that given by Government and the one did not overlap the other. The operations of the Fund under head I were conducted through the Tahsildars of the affected taluks and their subordinate Government officials to whom necessary advances were made out of the Fund. The relief was only a supplementary aid to the children fed in the relief kitchens by Government both by way of adding vegetables to their diet which the Famine Code did not allow and by way of supplying necessities for very young children with their nursing mothers.

Monetary Aspect of Operations.—Under object I, Rs. 948-1-4 was advanced and Rs. 627-1-0 of this has been vouched for up to the present. A talukwar statement of the expenditure is appended in the margin. No relief was given in this district under object II. The items to which the expenditure under head I were restricted were as already explained, supplying vegetables and small comforts to the children fed by Government in the relief kitchens—necessaries not allowed by the Famine Code.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Cuddapah ..	148	7	8
Proddatur ..	276	13	10
Jammalamadugu ..	100	0	0
Pulivendla ..	103	11	6

Taluk.	Number relieved.	Amount.				
		Rs.	A.	P.		
Cuddapah	3,193	5,032	12	8		
Proddatur	1,982	5,901	14	1		
Jammalamadugu ..	5,021	5,310	12	6		
Pulivendla	1,977	3,151	2	9		
Madanapalle division ..	8.0	244	12	6		
Total	12,483	19,641	6	6		

Under head III, relief was confined to those already alluded to in the above paragraphs. 12,483 persons were thus helped in all, and the total expenditure, of which details are given in the margin, was Rs. 19,641-6-6. Besides the above a sum of Rs. 7,663-14-4 as detailed below, was spent by the committees, in distributing cloths to the destitute :—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Proddatur taluk	139	8	0
Jammalamadugu taluk	340	11	6
District Committee, Cuddapah	7,183	10	10
Total	7,663	14	4

The number of people so helped was 8,708.

Condition of cattle.—The condition of cattle becomes unsatisfactory with the commencement of the hot weather, owing to scarcity of pasture and the dearness of fodder. At the end of May, a Fund fodder depôt was opened at Yerraguntla under the advice of the Famine Commissioner; but this depôt did not prove a success there, as there was ample fodder in the surrounding villages, and it was subsequently transferred to Muddanur. Experience however soon showed that one depôt was quite insufficient to meet the requirements of the four affected taluks. The opening of one depôt at Muddanur caused much heart-burning among the ryots who did not happen to live within easy reach of Muddanur. Another was therefore opened at Kondapuram in Jammalamadugu taluk in the first week of August 1897. During the hot weather, the cattle in the sub-division taluks suffered much, and it was found necessary to open three depôts—one at Kurabalakota, the second at Vayalpad, and the third at Kadiri; but by the time they were actually opened, pasture sprung up in abundance, owing to the heavy rainfall in the second fortnight of August; and the stock of fodder that was sent down to these depôts remained unsold for a long time, and steps were therefore taken to sell it by auction. The statistics regarding the stock of fodder that was supplied to each of the depôts and the quantity sold are not available here, as the details were being reported by the superintendents in charge of the depôts to the Famine Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

Relief under Object IV.—Of the landholding classes a great many pattadars have holdings only a few acres in extent, the average holding comprising only 6.29 acres of dry, assessed at less than one rupee per acre and 0.67 acre of wet land. The great majority of this class of petty landholders are practically not much better off than the landless labourers and cannot be expected to tide over a season of scarcity. When by the advent of rains the distress was subsiding it was found necessary to give help to the poorer pattadars not only to restore such of them as had suffered by the distress to their original position but to enable those whom the hard times had driven on to the relief works to start in life afresh. With this object a sum of Rs. 1,95,000 was granted by the Madras Committee, for this district, and it was allotted among the various taluks as noted in the margin. The bulk of the amount viz., Rs. 1,40,000 was allotted to the area recognized as the famine tract, while the balance of Rs. 55,000 was allotted to the four sub-division taluks where cattle had suffered during the hot weather for want of pasture and fodder to a larger extent even than in the affected tracts. In the 'affected tract' Cuddapah taluk suffered the least and was therefore given a smaller amount than the remaining three taluks, and for a similar reason the allotment for Madanapalle was smaller by Rs. 5,000 than for her sister taluks of the sub-division.

The lists of recipients for the sub-division taluks were prepared by the Revenue officials under the supervision of Mr. E. I. Vaughan, the Sub-Collector, who distributed the allotment for all the four taluks. The distribution in Madanapalle, Royachoti and Vayalpad was commenced by him on the 27th October 1897 and continued till the 4th November 1897. The distribution in Kadiri was commenced on the 17th November 1897 and completed on the 20th November 1897. The Sub-Committee's lists formed the basis of distribution in the other taluks, with such modifications as were found necessary on scrutiny. This subject has been fully reported upon in my note of the 18th November 1897 and I don't consider it necessary to dwell on it here. The allotment of Pulivendla taluk, viz., Rs. 40,000, was distributed by the Deputy Collector M.R. Ry. Dewan Bahadur K. V. Lakshmana Rau who was in special famine charge of that taluk. The balance of Rs. 1,00,000 relating to Cuddapah, Proddatur and Jammalamadugu taluks (except Rs. 840) has been distributed by myself personally, assisted by the Deputy Collector, M.R. Ry. M. V. Narayanasami Pillai, M.R. Ry. V. Krishnamachariu, my Huzur Sheristadar and the Tahsildars M.R. Ry. G. Naraniah of Cuddapah, M.R. Ry. A. Katchapowara Iyer of Proddatur and M.R. Ry. Rao Bahadur S. Pompapathi Sastri of Jammalamadugu. I commenced the distribution in Jammalamadugu on the 20th September 1897 and the payments continued for five days, i.e., till the 25th September. The total amount paid on these six days

was Rs. 20,305. In Proddatur, I commenced payments on the 28th September 1897 and continued it at Mydukur till the 2nd October. I was prevented from staying there further owing to prevalence of cholera to which four of my party succumbed. The total amount paid between the 28th September and 2nd October was Rs. 34,635. In Cuddapah, I paid Rs. 5,310 on the 8th October. At Yerraguntla, I paid on the 12th October 1897 Rs. 3,080 of Proddatur taluk and Rs. 12,310 of Cuddapah taluk and further sums amounting to Rs. 1,320 were paid by me at Cuddapah on three days between the 13th and 27th October. Between 10th and 16th November 1897 I again paid the Jammalamadugu and Proddatur ryots at Sankarapuram in Proddatur taluk and Muddanur in Jammalamadugu taluk. The amounts paid generally ranged from Rs. 10 to 40. In a very few cases between Rs. 50 and 70 were paid on the recommendation of sub-committees.

My subordinates and myself devoted a great deal of our time to the distribution of this money, taking the greatest possible care to avoid all kinds of scandal necessarily attendant upon such charitable distributions in this country. I do not wish to dilate on this subject at great length here, as I have already submitted a full note about it on the 18th November 1897. It will be sufficient to note here that the time devoted by me personally for work under this head was twenty-three days, during which period my Sheristadar and myself had practically no leisure left for doing other work, as the distribution, which was made publicly in the open air, used to last from 7 A.M. to dark with only an interval of two hours from 10 A.M. to noon and a second interval of about 15 minutes at 4 P.M. The work would not have occupied us so long or have been so troublesome had it not been for the prevalence of cholera throughout the affected tract. This fell disease claimed several victims among those to whom it was intended to give relief, and the dread of the disease frequently kept either whole villages or some of the ryots of villages away from the camps at which I made the distribution. At Jammalamadugu one of the proposed recipients was attacked by cholera while waiting in the crowd about 30 yards from my seat. All possible aid was at once rendered to him, but he died in hospital the same night, and next day large numbers of proposed recipients had gone off in a panic to their own villages and had to be paid on later dates.

It seems unnecessary to refer in detail again here to the controversy mooted by the Reverend Mr. Campbell, as the subject matter has been separately dealt with by me in the note submitted on the 28th November 1897, and disposed of by the Madras Committee in its resolutions passed at the meeting held on the 29th November 1897. In accordance with one of the resolutions above referred to, I have deputed the Deputy Collector of Jammalamadugu division to accompany Mr. Campbell to find out cases from whom aid was "accidentally" withheld, but I may say again that it was manifestly impossible to give every poor person a dole of Rs. 10, Rs. 20, or Rs. 30, and it will be an easy task to find more people ready to accept money and whom it will be impossible to class as undeserving. No one can pretend to be able to ascertain by a brief enquiry the actual monetary position of any ryot. To do so would require protracted enquiry of inquisitorial character. I claim for the work of my subordinates the truth of the converse proposition that no rich or well-to-do persons have been given any relief from the Fund, and I have not hitherto found it asserted by any person that a mistake of this kind has been made. What I personally saw and can vouch for is that all money was distributed in a most public manner, so that every one was aware of what was done, and I impressed on my subordinates the necessity for using the utmost care in drawing up the lists of recipients, and I have the fullest confidence that their lists are in every way admirable ones.

A sum of Rs. 80,000 was allotted by the Madras Committee for making grants to weavers, artisans and craftsmen. The principal industry carried on in this district, especially in the affected taluks, is weaving, and as the workers in cotton fabrics generally suffer during distress I resolved to grant the bulk of the allotment to weavers. In Proddatur and Jammalamadugu the Government scheme for the relief of weavers at their own trade had been at work for many months and enabled us to find out what weavers were really in need of relief. A list of all weavers on the relief rolls at both the centres from the commencement of the relief operations was obtained and adopted as the basis of distribution. From this list I excluded such individuals as had ceased to be borne on Government relief prior to August, as I took that as an indication that they were able to get on without Government aid and were apparently either possessed of sufficient means or were working for the local cloth merchants who were exporting cloths to the Bombay Presidency. To each of those who were on Government relief continuously from the beginning and were turned off by Government on the close of relief operations, or prior to that for other causes not indicating wealth, I gave Rs. 30 as a valedictory dole. This was the maximum dole given; but in some cases where the weavers were irregular workers or were members of the same family or partners of the same loom reduced grants of Rs. 20 or 10 were given according to the circumstances of each case. In some cases the weavers were exceedingly delaying in the production of the Government cloths, thus showing that while being continued on Government relief they were also working for the local cloth traders. In applying this rule every consideration was shown to those whose dilatoriness or other irregularity appeared from my enquiry on the spot to have been due to causes beyond their control such as sickness or death of some members in the family or other domestic inconveniences. Some of the weavers of the villages of Jammalamadugu taluk bordering on Tadpatri taluk who first sought relief under the Jammalamadugu scheme afterwards went over to Tadpatri when the weavers' relief scheme was started at that station. I got a list of such men from Tadpatri and made payments to them and sent a list of such men to the

Collector of Anantapur in order that they might not receive doles again there. Of the weavers that received relief at Proddatur, there were several weavers belonging to the affected villages of Cuddapah taluk and they also got doles along with the Proddatur men. In Pulivendla there was no Government weavers' scheme, and this kind of industry is very insignificant as compared with that carried on in Proddatur and Jammalamadugu. There I adopted the list of weavers that were on the relief works, prepared by the officers in charge of relief works. Experience however showed that their statements were not of much value, and there was no proper and safe means of identifying the persons shown in the lists. With the greatest possible care I made payments to some people of this taluk also. Another large industry is carried on in brass-making in Vonipenta of Proddatur taluk. A list of 66 men employed on this trade and deserving of relief was made by the Tahsildar and they were paid Rs. 30 each. The total allotment, amount paid and the number of persons benefited are shown in the subjoined statement :—

Taluk.					Allotment.	Expenditure.	Balance.	Number of recipients.
					RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
1. Jammalamadugu	..	..	..	..	80,000	53,305	3,775	1,940
2. Proddatur	..	..	..	..		16,090		780
3. Cuddapah	..	..	..	..		4,000		154
4. Pulivendla	..	..	..	..		2,830		
						76,225	3,775	2,874

The distribution of the amount under head F was made by me in person, assisted by my subordinates, and the period occupied in actual distribution was eleven days. The balance in hand under this as well as under head C, viz., Rs. 4,615, will be left over till the result of the enquiry ordered in compliance with the resolution of the Madras Committee on the 29th November is known.

In concluding this note, I desire to express my high appreciation of the disinterested labours of M.R.Ry. T. M. Muniswami Aiyar Avargal, Pleader of Cuddapah, who was one of the Honorary Secretaries of the District Executive Committee. He has been indefatigable in his labours throughout and on his shoulders the brunt of the Committee's work fell. He was ably assisted by the Joint Secretary M.R.Ry. A. S. Vaithenatha Aiyar, Headmaster, Cuddapah High School, but from the nature of the duties of the latter gentleman and from his inability to tour, the great bulk of the work fell to the lot of M.R.Ry. Muniswami Aiyar, and he discharged it most ably and willingly.

APPENDIX 18.

MALABAR DISTRICT.

The following are extracts from a very full and able Report from the Malabar District Committee :—

I.—THE COLLECTION OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Committees formed.—In accordance with the circular of the 18th February 1897 issued by the Provincial Famine Committee, Madras, a public meeting was held at Calicut on the 6th March with the District Judge, Mr. H. H. O'Farrell, in the chair; and an influential District Committee was formed to co-operate with the Provincial Committee in raising subscriptions in aid of the Famine Fund and, if necessary, administering the Fund. The Divisional Officers of Malabar were then requested to arrange for the formation of Sub-Committees, with the result that eighteen Sub-Committees soon came into existence, in the ten taluks of the district, the head-quarters of nearly every Sub-Magistrate and Sub-Registrar being represented by a Sub-Committee.

Appeals for Subscriptions.—Printed subscription lists and appeals for subscriptions in English and Malayalam were freely circulated through the various Sub-Committees. Several members of the District Committee and of the Sub-Committees kindly undertook the circulation of lists among their friends. Lists and appeals were circulated by the District Committee through the heads of various offices among their subordinates and through the Heads of Schools and Colleges among their staff and pupils. Heads of Departments like the Assistant Commissioner of Salt and Abkari Revenue, the Executive Engineer, and the Superintendent of Post Offices kindly undertook the circulation of the District Committee's lists among their subordinates throughout the district. The District Committee insisted on every such list being returned to the Local Secretary after circulation.

Receipts how vouched.—It was ruled that a consecutively numbered printed receipt must be granted to every subscriber on receipt of his subscription. Every time a remittance was made by a Sub-Committee, the Secretary of such Sub-Committee was required to forward to the Secretary of the District Committee a complete list of the names of the gentlemen from whom the subscriptions were collected. The District Committee discouraged the entries of jump amounts as collections made by particular individuals and insisted on the name of every subscriber being specifically entered in the list, however small his subscription. Consolidated lists of the names of all the subscribers were regularly published in the District Gazette and occasionally in the local English and Vernacular newspapers. Spare copies of these complete lists of subscribers were printed in the District Press and freely circulated through the members of the various Committees. Every possible means was thus taken to satisfy the subscribers that every anna paid had been duly credited in the accounts of the District Committee.

The Committees.—The Collector and his Revenue subordinates, while strongly sympathising with the movement and rendering us all the aid we could, abstained from taking any active part in the raising of subscriptions; this work was mainly in the hands of non-officials or of Government servants belonging to departments other than the Executive. When the time came for administering relief, the Collector, Mr. G. W. Dan of our Committee and placed at our disposal the services of our Committee and placed at our disposal the services of our Committee and placed at our disposal the services of our Committee. While the Revenue cordially co-operated throughout the whole period, our Local Committees were made responsible for the administration of relief, the collecting and spending agencies being thus kept distinct.

II.—THE RELIEF OF DISTRESS.

Malabar is a narrow strip of land, about 150 miles long from north to south, situated on the maritime side of the Western Ghats. It embraces an area of 5,585 square miles with a population of two millions and a half.

The south-west monsoon regularly bursts on this coast about the beginning of June, the rains continuing till October. But for the Western Ghats on the one side and the Arabian Sea on the other side and the consequent regularity of the south-west monsoon, the porous soil of Malabar could not be so productive as it is. But it so happens that this monsoon is not an unmixed blessing to the poorer classes. It is just during these monsoon months of July, August and September that the poorer classes find it hard to obtain sustenance. The ports are then closed, and the shipping trade, which is then slack, throws a number of labourers out of work. The harvesting of the first rice crop, known as the *Kanni* crop, begins only in September. The rice crops on the ground are then sufficiently advanced to require only a very small amount of attention from out-of-door labourers. The stores reserved from the previous season's crops are then at the lowest ebb. To add to these, they are the months most injurious to the health of the poor. Their huts are too poorly built to afford them sufficient protection from the damp and cold of these wet months.

Malabar never produces grain enough for home consumption. Though the district exports some rice, it imports a much larger quantity. The famine in other parts of India largely diminished the usual importations this year, while famine prices elsewhere induced a larger export of rice and reduced the slender savings from previous crops. This state of things did not make itself felt till the south-west monsoon began, the ports got closed, and the prices began to rise. High prices became the order of the day, the ruling prices being higher than the normal rates from the beginning of the year. The warning rates were reached by the 1st May and scarcity rates by the end of July. Throughout August, the prices were higher than the scarcity rates, while in September they became a little easier. The October prices were the same as those of May, i.e., higher than the warning rates.

Barring a little ragi grown in Wynad and harvested in November, rice is practically the only food-crop grown and consumed in the district. Until rice became cheap, distress was bound to be widespread. High prices, wet months, and poor huts combined to undermine the health of the labouring classes and to increase the ravages of cholera, which accounted for over 5,000 deaths in July and over 10,000 deaths in August. There was an increase in the number of applicants pressing for admission as in-patients, who were suffering more from the effects of starvation than from any actual disease.

The reality and the acute nature of the distress are best testified to by the fact that at various centres private individuals collected subscriptions and distributed rice and cooked food-doles even before the Famine Committee started relief operations. Such relief operations began on a small scale at Calicut in the middle of June, gradually extended to other parts of Malabar, and continued till August.

Early in August, the District Committee resolved to continue and extend the relief operations that had been started and so successfully carried on by private gentlemen in various parts of Malabar. The Provincial Committee was good enough to promise an allotment equal to the amount of local subscriptions that we should be able to collect for local relief. This condition proved a very strong incentive to the collection of local subscriptions and the appeal for such

subscriptions was cordially and readily responded to by the public of Malabar. Allotments were made from time to time to the Revenue Divisional Officers of the district, who kindly undertook to administer the funds. It was left to the Divisional Officer to decide what portion of the moneys placed at his disposal should be allotted by him to the different centres in his Division that appeared to require relief. He was requested to act in consultation with the Famine Sub-Committees of his Division. The actual granting of relief was entrusted by the Divisional Officers to Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, Sub-Registrars, Medical Officers, Municipal Chairmen, and in some cases to merchants and other private gentlemen.

The relief granted was mostly in the shape of cooked food-doles or rice-doles once a day. This form of relief was found to be the most suited and served to improve the health of the district. As a rule, tickets were issued to the old, the infirm, and the poor, and rice or cooked food was distributed by other gentlemen to the ticket-holders on the production of their tickets. Sanitary Inspectors were empowered to issue tickets to the poor in cholera-stricken houses and Medical officers were empowered to issue tickets to out-patients who were found to be suffering from the effects of starvation. When the Committee's operations were begun in British Cochin, there was at first a rush of the poor from the Native State of Cochin. A representation was at once made to the Dewan, with the result that he arranged for the granting of relief in His Highness's Dominions also.

Cheap grain shops were started in British Cochin and maintained for two months from subscriptions specially collected for the purpose; and rice was sold to the workmen at a rupee per bag less than the market price.

The only other form of relief granted in Malabar was in the shape of relief works in Ernad and Cochin. The work consisted in the construction of a new road in Cochin and another in Ernad and the repair of four old roads. The materials for the new road were supplied *gratis* by the Vicer-General of Cochin out of the ruins of a church that had fallen. The materials for the repair of the old roads were dug up by the coolies employed; no materials were purchased, while some of the materials dug up but unused were sold and the proceeds placed to the credit of the Famine Fund. The pressure on the Famine Fund was to a certain extent lightened by the utilization of the budget allotment of some of the Municipalities and Taluk Boards for the repair and construction of roads.

As a rule, no money-doles for the purchase of food were granted. In certain places, the rice-doles were supplemented by small money-doles of one, two, or three pies for the purchase of condiments.

In most places, the granting of relief ceased with the close of September, while in a few places it continued till the middle or the close of October. In Wynad, for instance, it was not possible to close operations earlier than the 31st of October, as the harvesting season does not commence in that taluk before November.

Calculating as a single unit every individual relieved, whether for a single day or for months, it is found that relief has been granted to 33,906 individuals. The number of individuals in receipt of relief began with 450 in June, rose to 2,000 early in July, and to 5,499 about the end of July; the number rose to 7,600 in August, and reached the maximum, 19,746, about the close of August. The price of rice had meanwhile gradually risen from 9-13 seers per rupee in June, to 2-49 seers and 7-98 seers in July and to 7-35 seers about the end of August. Prices began to fall early in September, declining from 7-59 to 8-71 seers in September, and to 9-58 seers about the end of October. The numbers in receipt of relief accordingly fell to 13,205 early in September, and to 7,676 about the end of that month, and declined in October to 5,009 and finally to 411.

It was not deemed necessary to elect an Honorary Accountant, as suggested in the Central Committee's Circular X Q, as the Honorary Secretary of the District Committee undertook to be in charge of the accounts and the statistics as well of the correspondence and the general management.

The Committee cannot conclude this report of their work without thankfully acknowledging the ready and sympathetic support of Mr. G. W. Dance, the Collector, who not only recognised the necessity for relief even before the District Committee formally applied to the Madras Committee for an allotment, but himself started relief operations from local subscriptions in portions of Ponnani taluk. While leaving the control in our hands, he cheerfully placed the services of his subordinates at our disposal for administering our funds. We are thankful to acknowledge that he neither kept aloof nor so much as desired to fetter our free action.

We also wish to place on record our appreciation of the indefatigable energy and industry displayed by our Secretary Mr. K. Subramani Aiyar, B.A., L.T., A.S.A.A., who devoted his few leisure hours to the administration of this Fund.

