Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 1150 W

DATED 4th May 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Famine

Proceedings, Revenue Dept recording Board's Proceedings submitting, with remarks, the fortnightly narrative of the Bellary district for the period ending 28th February 1897, communicated to the S. E. III circle.

[P.W. 25. 5,000—30-11-96.]

Indexed. 14/5 DC 5-5-97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	862	IV	26.3.97				
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FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Public works (1897) department
Current-No: 3932

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. 21.4. } 1897.
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Enclosures

Spare copies 10.

G.O., No. 211, 26th March 1897.

No 1150 W dy 4-5-97

Communicated to the S.S. III circle.

29/4/97

MARCH.

S.S. III Circle

No. 862 W d/26-3-97
640 C d/2-2-97

Letter to PO

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting, with remarks, the — of the Bellary district for the period ending 28th February 1897.

O.L.S. 25

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, (Land Records and Agriculture), dated 8th March 1897, No. 202 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative of the Bellary district for the fortnight ending 28th February 1897 :—

State of Country.

Rainfall and Water-supply.—There were nine cents of rain at Yemmiganúru on 18th February 1897. There was also a slight drizzle in other parts of the district, but the quantity was not sufficient to register.

Drinking water-supply is generally sufficient except in a few villages of Adóni taluk, four villages in Harpanahalli and Bellary and parts of Alúr, Hadagalli, Hospet and Kúdligi with the exception of river-fed channels and tanks fed by them and a few irrigation wells : the irrigation sources are either dry or contain an insufficient supply.

Agricultural operations and condition of standing crops—Adóni division.—Fields are being ploughed and cleared of *nuth* grass. Second crop paddy is being sown under the Rampur channel. Cotton-picking still continues. The outturn is estimated at 8 to 12 annas by the Tahsildar of Adóni and at 2 to 6 annas by the Divisional-officer. I think the former is more nearly correct. The white cholum sown prior to the rains of November is in a fair condition (but its extent is limited), while nearly the whole of that sown subsequently has withered. The garden crops in Adóni are in good condition. Castor is fair in Adóni and is estimated to yield 8 annas. It is beginning to wilt in Alúr. The cotton and white cholum, said to be fair in Alúr, are estimated to yield an outturn of 4 annas.

Bellary division.—Oil seeds, cotton and horse-gram have been harvested in Rayadrug taluk, average yield being 4 to 6 annas. Second crop paddy is being sown in Rayadrug. Oil-seed, cotton and bengal-gram are fair in Rayadrug. There is little or no hope of the crops sown after the November rains coming to maturity, and they are already being cut for fodder. The area covered by these crops is somewhat large.

Hospet division.—Cotton and oil-seeds are being picked and dhall and horse-gram harvested in Harpanahalli, outturn ranging from 4 to 8 annas. In most places lands have already been prepared for next season's crop. White cholum has generally failed except in a few fields of Kóttúru firka in Kúdligi taluk and near Mylar and Holal in the south of Hire Hadagalli firka of the Hadagalli taluk. Standing cotton in Hadagalli is poor to moderate. Sugarcane, wheat, white cholum and garden crops under wells are in fair condition. Wet crops under river channels in Hospet are in good condition.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Fodder is scanty in Alúr. In Adóni the stocks are expected to last for two months more, but I think this is a somewhat despondent estimate. There is little or no pasture. The condition of cattle is generally good in Adóni and is said to be slightly deteriorating in Alúr. Some deterioration is inevitable, and I am still of opinion that the condition of the cattle is by no means bad. Many are trying to sell their animals, but the market is very dull. Out of four hundred and fifty cattle brought to Adóni market during the fortnight only twenty-seven were bought by butchers for prices ranging from Rs. 4 to Rs. 6 and fifty by agriculturists for Rs. 15 to Rs. 25 each; the rest were taken back for want of purchasers. It is reported that seventeen cattle died in Hebbatam, a village in Alúr taluk, where there is some little cattle disease.

Bellary division.—Pasture is limited, and except in wet villages fodder is also scanty. Prickly-pear and hill grass are being used as fodder in many villages. The

condition of other than stall-fed cattle is said to be bad. Cattle disease prevails in one village of Rayadrug taluk. There were seventeen attacks and nine deaths.

Hospet division.—Fodder is generally sufficient except in Hospet taluk and in Holalgundi and Kadlabul firkas of Hadagalli taluk. Pasture is practically *nil*. The condition of cattle is generally good, but some cattle in Hospet are beginning to look thin.

General Remarks.—No fortnightly report has yet been received from the Administrator of Sandúru. From the season report of the last week there seems to be no room for anxiety. The condition of both people and cattle is reported to be good. Ploughing operations are proceeding briskly, but the water-supply is stated to be insufficient. Severe scarcity of water is apprehended in some parts of the district. Every possible attempt is being made to improve the water-supply in the affected tracts, where I am prepared to dig wells as famine works, if it should be necessary. The allotment made by the District Board is altogether insufficient, and I have called on the Presidents of Taluk Boards for proposals. I hope that in many cases the villagers will give much of the labour free. Proposals for dry remissions will be submitted shortly. The delay is due to the Divisional Officers of Bellary and Adóni not having yet submitted their reports.

Food-supplies and the state of the Markets.

Prices of principal food-grains at principal markets in the affected tracts, in seers of 80 tolas per rupee, for the period ending 28th of February 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		White cholum.		Yellow cholum.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	
Ádóni	9·13	9·67	12·36	12·90	13·43	13·70	16·66	17·20	Slight fall in Ádóni and Rayadrug, due probably to increase of imports. Slight rise in Hadagalli, Kudligi and Harpanahalli, due probably to the prophecy * at the Mylar festival that prices will rise and the consequent withholding of stocks. * "Gold and rice will be equal."
Alúr	8·64	8·64	11·85	11·85	12·88	12·88	..	..	
Bellary	9·18	9·18	11·33	11·33	13·39	13·39	16·49	16·49	
Rayadrug ..	9·72	9·72	12·36	13·39	13·39	14·42	14·55	14·55	
Hospet	9·10	8·60	13·30	13·30	14·40	14·40	15·50	16·00	
Kúdligi	8·64	8·64	..	..	14·42	13·91	15·52	15·52	
Harpanahalli ..	9·18	9·18	..	..	15·45	14·94	18·43	18·43	
Hadagalli ..	9·72	9·72	..	..	15·45	14·42	..	..	
Average ..	9·66	9·17	12·24	12·55	14·10	14·42	16·19	16·36	
Sandúru	..	8·60	..	..	..	15·60	..	19·90	

Activity of trade.—Private trade is said to be dull in Bellary, Hospet and Hadagalli and active elsewhere.

From the following rail-borne traffic figures, showing the exports and imports from and to places beyond the district, it will be seen that imports by far exceed the exports. This has, to a certain extent, checked the rise in prices :—

Station.	Import.	Export.	Remarks.
Hospet	198	11	Enquiries are being made as to the place from and to which the exports and imports are made.
Bellary	7,035	570	
Áspari	34	303	
Ádóni	929	..	
Kosgi	318	..	
Total ..	8,514	884	

Condition of the people.

(1) *On works.*—The condition of the people is good on the whole. This is particularly the case with those who have been longest on the works. His Excellency

the Governor visited during the fortnight the Ádóni-Alúr road work, Ádóni municipal works, and the Chippigiri road works. Except in one or two cases on the first work the condition of the workers was found to be good. The Deputy Collector, Ádóni, states that the condition of those on Alúr-Áspari road is poor, and ascribes this to fines imposed on the labourers, but the Famine Commissioner who inspected the works on the 18th and 19th found these labourers in fair condition. Many relief workers complained that the wages earned were not sufficient to maintain them and their dependants. I made careful personal inquiries on this point wherever I went and I am satisfied that the famine wage is generally sufficient to purchase the ration prescribed by the code and to keep the people in good condition. I have recently made a special report on this subject.

(2) *In villages.*—The condition of people in villages is also good. Their stock of food grains is, however, becoming exhausted in some localities and all Reddies have been instructed to keep a close watch over these people in view to the institution of village relief. I must here observe that there is a tendency on the part of villagers to exaggerate matters. When Mr. DeWinton, Superintending Engineer, visited the portion of Adóni taluk to the north-west of Kosgi, in the beginning of this month the people of Kandukur, Vallur, Kambalanur and other villages represented to him that they had been starving for want of employment. He immediately issued orders to start some ordinary works. The Tahsildar and myself have since been to these villages. The people are not in bad condition and most of them refuse to work for famine wage. Of the works ordered by the Superintending Engineer, two have been started, viz., the repair of a kunta at Kandukur and the clearance of prickly-pear in Kambalanore village. I found that men were being paid 2 annas a day, women As. 1–3 and children 9 pies and they were working only from 6 to 11 A.M. I have closed the first work and have ordered the latter to be worked strictly in accordance with the Famine Code. Another work ordered by him could not be started, as the people refused to work even on these terms. At Kosgi, a number of people came to me and represented that they had been starving for three days. A surprise visit was paid to the house of one of the girls who made this statement and she and her mother were found making ragi cakes and there were in the house a bull, a cow, and two calves, also some seed grain and fodder, besides food grains sufficient for three or four days. The Chinnatambalam work is only about 5 miles from this village, and if the people were really suffering from want of food, they would resort to it as some of them have done. But though Kosgi is thus sufficiently provided for, I think from my inspection that work is wanted in some of the villages to the west and north, and I have therefore determined to open a test work on the Halai-Kosgi road to gauge the extent of distress. I have ordered the full tasks to be rigidly enforced and fines to be levied irrespective of the minimum. The time for granting village relief seems to be approaching, and I have already applied for permission to employ Circle Inspectors when necessary. To meet the cases of persons whom Government relief will not reach, I have applied to the Madras Famine Relief Committee for an immediate grant of Rs. 5,000.

A statement showing the statistics of the District jail population is attached. The information furnished by the Divisional Officers is again incomplete, and their attention will be drawn to this omission.

Statement showing the admissions of convicted prisoners in the District Jail, Bellary, for the fortnight ending 28th February 1897, as compared with those for corresponding periods during the three previous years (1894, 1895 and 1896).

Date.	Convicts.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.
From 15th to 28th February 1894	45	3	48
„ „ to „ „ 1895	46	3	49
„ „ to „ „ 1896	31	6	37
„ „ to „ „ 1897	54	..	54

Sickness and Mortality.—The public health is generally good. No deaths from starvation. A little small-pox is prevalent in south of Harpanahalli and malarial fever in Bellary. From the mortality returns it will be seen that the death-rate has increased during January 1897 in the taluks of Alúr, Bellary and Hospet, the number of deaths being 148, 256 and 190 against 101, 189 and 159 in the same month of the previous year. The attention of the District Medical officer will be drawn to this. It will be observed that the increase does not correspond with the severity of the distress, and is probably due, in a great measure, to other causes.

Remarks.—The number seeking relief continues to increase, but many of these people possess cattle and other property and are not actually destitute. On the Bellary-Moka work the number fell from 1,381 to 1,079 owing to a festival at Moka, and on the 23rd and 24th the work was deserted. People who can give up their wage for two days to a week for the sake of a car festival cannot be in much want. I have directed all Divisional Officers to give their attention to the enforcement of tasks, and I shall not be surprised to find that greater strictness will lead to a decrease in number, or that it will at least check the tendency to increase.

Measures of Relief.

On works.—In what taluks open, and comparison of numbers.

Taluks.	Number employed.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Adóni	7,967	10,073
Alúr	16,213	18,200
Bellary	3,278	3,266
Hospet	1,953	2,230
Hadagalli	657	746
Total ...	30,068	34,515

Gratuitous relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise:—

Taluks.	Number relieved		Remarks.
	At kitchens.		
	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	
Adóni	827	1,025	The fall in Adóni is due to the removal from the kitchen of children of other than relief-workers. Several persons employed in clearance of nuth grass had sent their children and dependants to the kitchen, though they were able to support them. All such persons were removed from the list.
Alúr	892	828	
Bellary	203	194	
Hospet	333	285	
Hadagalli	17	..	
Total ..	2,272	2,332	
Weavers, Adóni	751	753	

Private charity.—The number fed in the kitchen opened by the Bellary public is 280 against 200 at the end of the last fortnight. Paramma continues to feed about 300 paupers, chiefly children. Raja Sir Savalay Ramaswami Mudaliar has sent 1,240 cloths for distribution to destitute people. Steps will be taken to distribute them as soon as the lists of persons requiring clothes already called for are received. Some of the municipal councillors and other gentlemen of Adóni distributed cloths to the inmates of the Adóni town kitchen in honour of His Excellency the Governor's visit. The Madras Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund has called for proposals in connection with measures of relief to be organized by that fund. I have convened a meeting for the 4th instant and proposals will be duly submitted.

Inspections of taluks and places visited—*Collector.*—Adóni, Basapuram, Naganadavahalli, Chyagi, Naranapuram, Kosgi, Tippaladoddi, Karam, Tsudi, Halvi, Marali, Gudikambali, Vallur, Kadedoddi, Kandukur, Kamanadoddi, Chintalakunta, Balasaladoddi and Chinnatumbalum in Adóni taluk.

Deputy Collector, Adóni division.—The Kammarachedu and Chippagiri works in Alúr taluk. Adóni Municipal work and Veerapuram village in Adóni taluk. Alúr-Adóni road work, Alúr-Chippagiri road work, Alúr-Aspari road work and the villages Chippagiri, Joharapuram, Aspari, Chyali and Benigiri.

Head-quarter Deputy Collector, Bellary.—Malyam, Sobapuram, Rakatla, Hanakanahal, Kolikurti, Namakal, Hulikera, Yerragunta, Gonahal, Sreedharghatta, Ginjera, Doddaghatta, Kandlur, Kadabur, Somalapuram, Nagalapuram, Mallikyati, Kowkuntla-Ramapur in Rayadrug taluk and Hyaradahal, Halukundi, Sanjeevarayanapetta, Marur, Paramadevanahalli and the relief works at Moka and Kolur in Bellary taluk.

Head Assistant Collector.—Hospet, Narayandevaraker, Morabbihal, Bellahunsi, Hadagalli, Hirehadagali, Mylar, Hagamur, Basarakodu, Uppinayakanahalli, Bannikal, Gaddikeri, Byasigaderi, Hagribomanhalli and Pinjaraheggadahal.

General remarks.—A test work was opened at Paramadevanahalli in Bellary taluk. A small test work (removing prickly-pear) in Hospet taluk having been completed, was closed and the coolies that were thus thrown out of employment were drafted on to the Antapur-Vaddu road work in the same village. An attempt to start operations for the relief of the weavers at Kampli proved unsuccessful, the weavers declining to accept the terms offered. The Head Assistant Collector anticipates that it will very shortly be necessary to start relief-works near Nidugarti in the north of the Kudligi taluk and Dhanayankanker, Hospet taluk. The works at Paramadevanahally, Bellahunsi and Antapur are still in the 'test' stage, and I have not sanctioned any relaxation in the matter of fines for short work.

Loan Transactions.—Statement showing particulars of loan transactions under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Act.

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.						Other purposes.						Total.						Number of wells.	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Adóni	..	..	..	..	52	9,716	21	1,630	..	..	393	24,865	21	1,630	..	..	145	34,581	1	..
Alúr	1	100	1	100	75	25,540	348	36,745	299	32,745	1,662	2,29,645	349	36,845	300	32,845	1,737	2,55,185	..	1
Bellary	5	525	4	400	53	8,850	43	4,850	33	3,700	1,122	1,40,250	48	5,375	37	4,100	1,175	1,57,100	..	4
Rayadrug	7	1,250	5	450	..	..	16	2,050	8	1,150	160	35,000	23	3,300	13	1,600	160	35,000	..	5
Hospet	3	550	1	125	26	4,860	..	..	..	..	35	1,830	3	550	1	125	61	6,690	..	1
Kudligi	..	..	..	..	18	3,050	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	3,050	..	..
Harpanahalli	..	..	..	..	2	500	25	3,230	17	2,230	39	4,400	25	3,230	17	2,230	41	4,900	..	..
Hadagalli	..	..	..	..	37	7,905	12	2,035	4	900	228	35,385	12	2,035	4	900	265	43,290	..	..
Total ..	16	2,425	11	1,075	263	60,481	465	50,540	361	40,725	3,639	4,79,375	481	52,965	372	41,800	3,902	5,39,796	1	11

Taluks.	Purchase of fodder.						Cattle and seed-grain.						Total.					
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Adóni	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alúr	40	1,917	32	1,477	131	8,084	13	1,785	*16	1,995	3	1,875	53	3,702	48	3,472	184	9,959
Bellary	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	155	6	155	382	13,755	6	155	6	155	382	13,755
Rayadrug	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	400	..	..	..	..	3	400
Hospet	..	..	..	..	86	3,569	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	86	3,569
Kudligi	30	935	15	370	77	2,243	..	..	..	..	..	..	30	935	15	370	77	2,243
Harpanahalli	2	100	..	..	7	390	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	100	..	..	7	390
Hadagalli	4	300	..	..	60	2,645	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	300	..	..	60	2,645
Total ..	76	3,252	47	1,847	361	16,931	19	1,940	22	2,150	388	16,030	95	5,192	69	3,997	749	32,961

* Three cases accepted last fasli, but paid this year.

Note.—The number of applications pending is very large, particularly in Alúr and Bellary. Early orders are solicited for the appointment of Special Tahsildars for the disposal of these applications. One more Revenue Inspector and a clerk on Rs. 25 have been employed in Alúr in anticipation of sanction. I am not satisfied with the progress made in Adóni, and I have taken measures, which will, I hope, bring about an improvement. A further allotment of funds will be necessary and an application will be made at once.

Resolution—dated 8th March 1897, No. 202.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. In the eastern section of the Bellary district, the principal grain crop of the year—white cholum—has failed almost entirely, and the earlier-sown grain crops were very poor. Cotton has yielded some crop in parts of the section and failed entirely or not been sown at all in others. The western section of the district is not so much dependent on the late-sown cholum, but this crop has failed there also.

3. There is little or no pasture, and fodder is scanty, and the people are endeavouring to sell off their cattle, but in the circumstances there are few buyers except butchers.

4. Prices became a little easier during the period under reference, but trade is dull, though imports are going on, and this has checked the rise of prices.

5. The condition of the people is still satisfactory, and the Collector has been authorised to appoint Circle Inspectors in Alŭr and Adóni to enquire into the condition of destitute persons in the villages. The number relieved at kitchens in connection with works is, however, small and it therefore appears that an undue strain is being imposed upon the workers in their efforts to support those dependent on them. The Collector should urge all revenue officers to use their best endeavours to overcome the objections of the people to sending their children to the kitchens, whilst they should see that the provision of kitchens is adequate, and arranged to suit, so far as possible, the convenience of the people. The Revenue officers should not relax their efforts until the number of persons receiving relief in kitchens—dependants, destitutes and children—is 15 per cent. of the number on the works, and 20 per cent. is near the result to be aimed at.

In the three taluks of Adóni, Alúr and Bellary, there has been from October 1896 to January 1897 a considerably increased mortality reported, although the death-rates reported are in themselves so low as to suggest that the reporting has been very inefficiently done. The increase has been greatest in the Alúr taluk and demands the closest investigation of the Revenue and Sanitary officers. For the four months, it has amounted there to 50 per cent.; the ratio having risen from 16 to 24 per mille.

	Average.	1896-97.
Total mortality—		
In January 1897 ...	... 651	777
October to January	... 2,751	3,094
Ratio per mille—		
October to January ...	... 20	22

6. The progress made in the loan operations is satisfactory, and it is hoped that the early appointment of special officers competent to deal with the numerous applications direct will expedite the operations. In the Alúr and Bellary taluks, the number of applications at present pending for land improvement loans is very large, whilst in the former taluk 131 applications for loans for the purchase of fodder are also pending which demand early disposal.

7. The Collector should not submit any more figures from the jail returns: these are being received, in a much more useful form, from the Inspector-General of Prisons.

8. No effort should be made to induce the villagers—unless they are wealthy villagers—to contribute labour, in the present season, for the improvement of water-supply. This is as useful a mode of employing famine labour as any other.

9. As regards the test-work on the Halai-Kosgi road, the Collector states that he has ordered "full tasks to be rigidly enforced, and fines to be levied irrespective of the minimum." The Board regrets to see an order issued in such terms. To the experienced famine officers such an order will be unnecessary, as they already know how to administer test-works; but there are many officers who would not understand the spirit in which, no doubt, the Collector intends that his order should be carried out. In his late tour His Excellency the Governor of Madras is reported to have said, "I must confess I do not like this fining," and this is a pronouncement which the Board would earnestly commend to the consideration of all officers who have to deal with relief works. The Board presumes that the "full tasks" referred to are those of Mr. Somers-Eve's task table. These, again, require to be modified with reference to the condition of the workers, the sex and composition of the gangs, and the distance

which the coolies have to traverse in going to, and coming from, the work, 20 minutes being allowed for every mile traversed each way, when the worker's village is more than one mile distant from the work. It is presumed also that a kitchen has been established on the works; for, under the Code, test-works are to be carried out in the same way as relief works. If these conditions have not been complied with the work is no test-work, and the Collector should see that in this case, and in the case of all test-works opened, similar instructions are given and enforced.

10. The inference drawn by the Collector from the fact that the labourers forsook a work in order to attend a festival is not correct, and does injustice to the religious feelings of the people. The Hindu religion is not, with the masses, a decorous sacrifice to the proprieties, but a part and parcel of their lives, and the ordinary Hindu will rather go hungry than forego the performance of his religious duties.

11. The fact—if true, and it is no doubt in part true—that some of the people coming to the works "are not actually destitute" is as it should be. The lessons of 1877 have been taught in vain if the perverted idea is to revive, that only those actually and literally resourceless are to be admitted to relief works. This is simply tantamount to saying that, "until the people have been reduced to abject pauperism, the State will not relieve them. They must sell—at a cruel sacrifice—their last head of cattle, and their seed-grain, before they qualify for earning the *saueres Brot* of the famine wage. When the distress is over, the State will *lend* them money to buy cattle with which to plough, and seed-grain with which to sow; and, instead of starting them afresh in the battle of life, will send them out to struggle with a load of debt round their necks." This is to malign and misrepresent the intentions of the Government.

12. In the earlier stage of famine administration in this presidency in 1877, all who had resources of any kind; the poor caste wife, with a ragged silk cloth; the village maid, with her little bravery of an agate-stone necklace; the honest Bhoyi not actually emaciated by famine; the woman whose breasts had not wholly shrivelled through prolonged innutrition;—all these were driven from relief, and died by hundreds of thousands. The spirit of famine administration has now been remodelled, and all who are willing to work should be received, without question, on the works. There is no fear that they will come too soon; but rather there is fear lest they should come too late. The case of Yadiki is a notable instance in point, and the tocsin of increased mortality has already been rung in Bellary. As the Secretary of State observed in his last speech at Ealing, "there must be great suffering, and *the death-rate for the year will be abnormally high among those who will not come to Government for relief until they have exhausted their resources.*" Speaking elsewhere, he shows how distress may exist "though the amount of food *for those who can afford to buy* is as great as ever. The difficulty, of course, does not consist in the actual absence of food. During the Lancashire cotton famine there was plenty of food in England, *and no rise in price*, but the mill hands out of work had no means of purchasing, and there was acute distress . . . in all centres of industry." The case in the Deccan districts is worse. Prices have more than doubled; even ordinary wages would only purchase less than half the usual quantity of food; but the ordinary wage is not to be earned, and the famine wage is far below it; and, practically speaking, there is absolutely no means for the common labourer, or even the poorer pattadar, to earn a livelihood, unless he and his come on the relief works. As the Secretary of State puts the case, "the distress is due to the failure of the crops over a vast area, in which all whose daily bread depends on agriculture are *deprived of their means of a livelihood, because there is no work in the fields, and the suffering thus caused is intensified by the rise in the price of grain-stuffs.*"

13. The Collector anticipates that "greater strictness will lead to a decrease in number" on the works, "or that it will at least check the tendency to increase," and has issued orders, to this end, to "all Divisional Officers to give their attention to the enforcement of tasks." The spirit which pervades these remarks is not the spirit of the Famine Code which enjoins that the destitute should be "induced" to come to relief; nor is it the spirit in which the Secretary of State views the case. Up to the end of next May, the numbers on relief works will, and should, go on steadily

increasing; and, beyond exacting from those who can work a task carefully and sympathetically adjusted to their capacity and environment, no step whatever should be taken to stem the tide of coming labour, *except* by the free grant of loans for agricultural improvement, on the execution of which coolies can find better wages and more humane treatment than they sometimes meet with on relief works.

14. While on this subject, the Board must refer to the fetish which is sometimes set up, in reference to famine relief, in the shape of "the interests of Government," as distinct from "the interests of the people." *Salus populi suprema lex.* It cannot be too strongly laid down that Government has no interests which are not those of the people. Government *is* the people. The interests of the Government are the interests of the people, and the interests of the people are the interests of Government. It is the first interest of Government to have a well nourished and prosperous peasantry. In time of trouble it is the duty of the public servant to take that peasantry in hand in time, and hand it over, at the end of the trial, in a physical and moral state fit for the resumption of the labours of agriculture, and properly equipped for the same. To require the poorer classes to strip themselves to the skin before giving relief would be, not only a cruel, but also a shortsighted policy. It is foolish to take away with one hand and give with another: it is more foolish to take away with one hand and lend with another. The money expended on relief is not the money of Government, but the money of the people; and the servants of Government are the servants of the people. The poorest cooly, who purchases a pinch of salt, contributes his quota to pay the "public servant," who is at the beck and call of his masters at all times; but, in times of trouble, of the poorest and meanest first. While, therefore, all due prudence is desirable in the expenditure of public funds, on which famine makes so terrible a drain, the famine officer must remember that the money which he spends is the money supplied by the very workers whom he employs; and, with due regard to economy, should be spent freely to alleviate and prevent distress. The principle underlying the whole Famine Code, and distinctly enunciated in the introduction to the same, is "Benevolence first and Economy second." It is not uncommon to find some officers with whom Economy is first and Benevolence second. There is a lower depth in which Economy is first and Benevolence nowhere. In the greatest instance of relief on record it is narrated, first, that the Giver had "compassion on the multitude." They are not required to be even destitute; for the Giver would not send them away into the villages to buy themselves victuals, for which they had the means; nor was the "distance test" applied, for, He said "if I send them away fasting to their own homes, they will faint by the way, for divers of them came from far:" nor was "the C. ration" given; for the people "did eat and were filled," and there was something over. It was only at the close that economy was remembered, when the Giver said "gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost." It is not from want of humanity but from want of thought, and a capacity to feel with and "think themselves into" the actual position of the suffering poor, that very conscientious and well intentioned officers sometimes regard the question of relief from a somewhat unsympathetic standpoint. No officer of intelligence who knows the country, and will try to think himself down into the daily life of the people, will fail to realise the terrible trial through which tens of thousands of the poor in the Deccan are now passing; when he has done this, he will have, no doubt, as to the course to adopt, and the Famine Code is broad enough to cover all reasonable concessions which the labourer and his dependents require.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of Bellary.
Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.
„ „ Collectors of other affected districts.

Order—No. 211, Revenue, dated 26th March 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

Ag. Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. C. M. Thumbuswamy.

70 Copies.

Public Works Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. Enclosures

Regd. } 1897. Spare copies

G.O., No. 211, 26th March 1897.

Order thereon Rc 1506/94-5-97
communicates to the
Supt. Engr. III Circle.
(True extract)
HJ Drake

MARCH.

To

The Supt. Engr. III Circle

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting, with remarks, the — of the Bellary district for the period ending 28th February 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, (Land Records and Agriculture), dated 8th March 1897, No. 202 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative of the Bellary district for the fortnight ending 28th February 1897 :—

State of Country.

Rainfall and Water-supply.—There were nine cents of rain at Yemmiganúru on 18th February 1897. There was also a slight drizzle in other parts of the district, but the quantity was not sufficient to register.

Drinking water-supply is generally sufficient except in a few villages of Adóni taluk, four villages in Harpanahalli and Bellary and parts of Alúr, Hadagalli, Hospet and Kúdligi with the exception of river-fed channels and tanks fed by them and a few irrigation wells : the irrigation sources are either dry or contain an insufficient supply.

Agricultural operations and condition of standing crops—Adóni division.—Fields are being ploughed and cleared of *nuth* grass. Second crop paddy is being sown under the Rampur channel. Cotton-picking still continues. The outturn is estimated at 8 to 12 annas by the Tahsildar of Adóni and at 2 to 6 annas by the Divisional-officer. I think the former is more nearly correct. The white cholum sown prior to the rains of November is in a fair condition (but its extent is limited), while nearly the whole of that sown subsequently has withered. The garden crops in Adóni are in good condition. Castor is fair in Adóni and is estimated to yield 8 annas. It is beginning to wilt in Alúr. The cotton and white cholum, said to be fair in Alúr, are estimated to yield an outturn of 4 annas.

Bellary division.—Oil seeds, cotton and horse-gram have been harvested in Rayadrug taluk, average yield being 4 to 6 annas. Second crop paddy is being sown in Rayadrug. Oil-seed, cotton and bengal-gram are fair in Rayadrug. There is little or no hope of the crops sown after the November rains coming to maturity, and they are already being cut for fodder. The area covered by these crops is somewhat large.

Hospet division.—Cotton and oil-seeds are being picked and dhall and horse-gram harvested in Harpanahalli, outturn ranging from 4 to 8 annas. In most places lands have already been prepared for next season's crop. White cholum has generally failed except in a few fields of Kóttúru firka in Kúdligi taluk and near Mylar and Holal in the south of Hire Hadagalli firka of the Hadagalli taluk. Standing cotton in Hadagalli is poor to moderate. Sugarcane, wheat, white cholum and garden crops under wells are in fair condition. Wet crops under river channels in Hospet are in good condition.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Fodder is scanty in Alúr. In Adóni the stocks are expected to last for two months more, but I think this is a somewhat despondent estimate. There is little or no pasture. The condition of cattle is generally good in Adóni and is said to be slightly deteriorating in Alúr. Some deterioration is inevitable, and I am still of opinion that the condition of the cattle is by no means bad. Many are trying to sell their animals, but the market is very dull. Out of four hundred and fifty cattle brought to Adóni market during the fortnight only twenty-seven were bought by butchers for prices ranging from Rs. 4 to Rs. 6 and fifty by agriculturists for Rs. 15 to Rs. 25 each; the rest were taken back for want of purchasers. It is reported that seventeen cattle died in Hebbatam, a village in Alúr taluk, where there is some little cattle disease.

Bellary division.—Pasture is limited, and except in wet villages fodder is also scanty. Prickly-pear and hill grass are being used as fodder in many villages. The condition of other than stall-fed cattle is said to be bad. Cattle disease prevails in one village of Rayadrug taluk. There were seventeen attacks and nine deaths.

Hospet division.—Fodder is generally sufficient except in Hospet taluk and in Holalgundi and Kadlabul firkas of Hadagalli taluk. Pasture is practically *nil*. The condition of cattle is generally good, but some cattle in Hospet are beginning to look thin.

General Remarks.—No fortnightly report has yet been received from the Administrator of Sandúru. From the season report of the last week there seems to be no room for anxiety. The condition of both people and cattle is reported to be good. Ploughing operations are proceeding briskly, but the water-supply is stated to be insufficient. Severe scarcity of water is apprehended in some parts of the district. Every possible attempt is being made to improve the water-supply in the affected tracts, where I am prepared to dig wells as famine works, if it should be necessary. The allotment made by the District Board is altogether insufficient, and I have called on the Presidents of Taluk Boards for proposals. I hope that in many cases the villagers will give much of the labour free. Proposals for dry remissions will be submitted shortly. The delay is due to the Divisional Officers of Bellary and Adóni not having yet submitted their reports.

Food-supplies and the state of the Markets.

Prices of principal food-grains at principal markets in the affected tracts, in seers of 80 tolas per rupee, for the period ending 28th of February 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		White cholum.		Yellow cholum.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	
Ádóni	9·13	9·67	12·36	12·90	13·43	13·70	16·66	17·20	Slight fall in Ádóni and Rayadrug, due probably to increase of imports. Slight rise in Hadagalli, Kudligi and Harpanahalli, due probably to the prophecy * at the Mylar festival that prices will rise and the consequent withholding of stocks. * "Gold and rice will be equal."
Alúr	8·64	8·64	11·85	11·85	12·88	12·88	..	..	
Bellary	9·18	9·18	11·33	11·33	13·39	13·39	16·49	16·49	
Rayadrug ..	9·72	9·72	12·36	13·39	13·39	14·42	14·55	14·55	
Hospet	9·10	8·60	13·30	13·30	14·40	14·40	15·50	16·00	
Kúdligi	8·64	8·64	..	..	14·42	13·91	15·52	15·52	
Harpanahalli ..	9·18	9·18	..	..	15·45	14·94	18·43	18·43	
Hadagalli ..	9·72	9·72	..	..	15·45	14·42	..	..	
Average ..	9·66	9·17	12·24	12·55	14·10	14·42	16·19	16·36	
Sandúru	..	8·60	..	..	..	15·60	..	19·90	

Activity of trade.—Private trade is said to be dull in Bellary, Hospet and Hadagalli and active elsewhere.

From the following rail-borne traffic figures, showing the exports and imports from and to places beyond the district, it will be seen that imports by far exceed the exports. This has, to a certain extent, checked the rise in prices :—

Station.	Import.	Export.	Remarks.
Hospet	198	11	Enquiries are being made as to the place from and to which the exports and imports are made.
Bellary	7,035	570	
Áspari	34	303	
Ádóni	929	..	
Kosgi	318	..	
Total ..	8,514	884	

Condition of the people.

(1) *On works.*—The condition of the people is good on the whole. This is particularly the case with those who have been longest on the works. His Excellency

the Governor visited during the fortnight the Ádóni-Alúr road work, Ádóni municipal works, and the Chippigiri road works. Except in one or two cases on the first work the condition of the workers was found to be good. The Deputy Collector, Ádóni, states that the condition of those on Alúr-Áspari road is poor, and ascribes this to fines imposed on the labourers, but the Famine Commissioner who inspected the works on the 18th and 19th found these labourers in fair condition. Many relief workers complained that the wages earned were not sufficient to maintain them and their dependants. I made careful personal inquiries on this point wherever I went and I am satisfied that the famine wage is generally sufficient to purchase the ration prescribed by the code and to keep the people in good condition. I have recently made a special report on this subject.

(2) *In villages.*—The condition of people in villages is also good. Their stock of food grains is, however, becoming exhausted in some localities and all Reddies have been instructed to keep a close watch over these people in view to the institution of village relief. I must here observe that there is a tendency on the part of villagers to exaggerate matters. When Mr. DeWinton, Superintending Engineer, visited the portion of Adóni taluk to the north-west of Kosgi, in the beginning of this month the people of Kandukur, Vallur, Kambalanur and other villages represented to him that they had been starving for want of employment. He immediately issued orders to start some ordinary works. The Tahsildar and myself have since been to these villages. The people are not in bad condition and most of them refuse to work for famine wage. Of the works ordered by the Superintending Engineer, two have been started, viz., the repair of a kunta at Kandukur and the clearance of prickly-pear in Kambalanore village. I found that men were being paid 2 annas a day, women As. 1–3 and children 9 pies and they were working only from 6 to 11 A.M. I have closed the first work and have ordered the latter to be worked strictly in accordance with the Famine Code. Another work ordered by him could not be started, as the people refused to work even on these terms. At Kosgi, a number of people came to me and represented that they had been starving for three days. A surprise visit was paid to the house of one of the girls who made this statement and she and her mother were found making ragi cakes and there were in the house a bull, a cow, and two calves, also some seed grain and fodder, besides food grains sufficient for three or four days. The Chinnatambalam work is only about 5 miles from this village, and if the people were really suffering from want of food, they would resort to it as some of them have done. But though Kosgi is thus sufficiently provided for, I think from my inspection that work is wanted in some of the villages to the west and north, and I have therefore determined to open a test work on the Halai-Kosgi road to gauge the extent of distress. I have ordered the full tasks to be rigidly enforced and fines to be levied irrespective of the minimum. The time for granting village relief seems to be approaching, and I have already applied for permission to employ Circle Inspectors when necessary. To meet the cases of persons whom Government relief will not reach, I have applied to the Madras Famine Relief Committee for an immediate grant of Rs. 5,000.

A statement showing the statistics of the District jail population is attached. The information furnished by the Divisional Officers is again incomplete, and their attention will be drawn to this omission.

Statement showing the admissions of convicted prisoners in the District Jail, Bellary, for the fortnight ending 28th February 1897, as compared with those for corresponding periods during the three previous years (1894, 1895 and 1896).

Date.	Convicts.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.
From 15th to 28th February 1894	45	3	48
„ „ to „ „ 1895	46	3	49
„ „ to „ „ 1896	31	6	37
„ „ to „ „ 1897	54	..	54

Sickness and Mortality.—The public health is generally good. No deaths from starvation. A little small-pox is prevalent in south of Harpanahalli and malarial fever in Bellary. From the mortality returns it will be seen that the death-rate has increased during January 1897 in the taluks of Alúr, Bellary and Hospet, the number of deaths being 148, 256 and 190 against 101, 189 and 159 in the same month of the previous year. The attention of the District Medical officer will be drawn to this. It will be observed that the increase does not correspond with the severity of the distress, and is probably due, in a great measure, to other causes.

Remarks.—The number seeking relief continues to increase, but many of these people possess cattle and other property and are not actually destitute. On the Bellary-Moka work the number fell from 1,381 to 1,079 owing to a festival at Moka, and on the 23rd and 24th the work was deserted. People who can give up their wage for two days to a week for the sake of a car festival cannot be in much want. I have directed all Divisional Officers to give their attention to the enforcement of tasks, and I shall not be surprised to find that greater strictness will lead to a decrease in number, or that it will at least check the tendency to increase.

Measures of Relief.

On works.—In what taluks open, and comparison of numbers.

Taluks.	Number employed.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Adóni	7,967	10,073
Alúr	16,213	18,200
Bellary	3,278	3,266
Hospet	1,953	2,230
Hadagalli	657	746
Total ...	30,068	34,515

Gratuitous relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise:—

Taluks.	Number relieved at kitchens.		Remarks.
	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	
Adóni	827	1,025	The fall in Adóni is due to the removal from the kitchen of children of other than relief-workers. Several persons employed in clearance of nuth grass had sent their children and dependants to the kitchen, though they were able to support them. All such persons were removed from the list.
Alúr	892	828	
Bellary	203	194	
Hospet	333	285	
Hadagalli	17	..	
Total ..	2,272	2,332	
Weavers, Adóni	751	753	

Private charity.—The number fed in the kitchen opened by the Bellary public is 280 against 200 at the end of the last fortnight. Paramma continues to feed about 300 paupers, chiefly children. Raja Sir Savalay Ramaswami Mudaliar has sent 1,240 cloths for distribution to destitute people. Steps will be taken to distribute them as soon as the lists of persons requiring clothes already called for are received. Some of the municipal councillors and other gentlemen of Adóni distributed cloths to the inmates of the Adóni town kitchen in honour of His Excellency the Governor's visit. The Madras Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund has called for proposals in connection with measures of relief to be organized by that fund. I have convened a meeting for the 4th instant and proposals will be duly submitted.

Inspections of talúks and places visited—Collector.—Adóni, Basapuram, Nagana-davahalli, Chyagi, Naranapuram, Kosgi, Tippaladoddi, Karam, Tsudi, Halvi, Marali, Gudikambali, Vallur, Kadedoddi, Kandukur, Kamanadoddi, Chintalakunta, Balasala-doddi and Chinnatumbalum in Adóni talúk.

Deputy Collector, Adóni division.—The Kammarachedu and Chippagiri works in Alúr talúk. Adóni Municipal work and Veerapuram village in Adóni talúk. Alúr-Adóni road work, Alúr-Chippagiri road work, Alúr-Aspari road work and the villages Chippagiri, Joharapuram, Aspari, Chyali and Benigiri.

Head-quarter Deputy Collector, Bellary.—Malyam, Sobapuram, Rakatla, Hana-kanahal, Kolikurti, Namakal, Hulikera, Yeraguuta, Gonahal, Sreedharghatta, Ginjera, Doddaghatta, Kandlur, Kadabur, Somalapuram, Nagalapuram, Mallikyati, Kowkuntla-Ramapur in Rayadrug talúk and Hyaradahal, Halukundi, Sanjeevarayanapetta, Marur, Paramadevanahalli and the relief works at Moka and Kolur in Bellary talúk.

Head Assistant Collector.—Hospet, Narayandevaraker, Morabbihal, Bellahunsi, Hadagalli, Hirehadagali, Mylar, Hagamur, Basarakodu, Uppinayakanahalli, Bannikal, Gaddikeri, Byasigaderi, Hagribommanhalli and Pinjaraheggadahal.

General remarks.—A test work was opened at Paramadevanahalli in Bellary talúk. A small test work (removing prickly-pear) in Hospet talúk having been completed, was closed and the coolies that were thus thrown out of employment were drafted on to the Antapur-Vaddu road work in the same village. An attempt to start operations for the relief of the weavers at Kampli proved unsuccessful, the weavers declining to accept the terms offered. The Head Assistant Collector anticipates that it will very shortly be necessary to start relief-works near Nidugarti in the north of the Kudligi talúk and Dhanayankanker, Hospet talúk. The works at Paramadevanahally, Bella-hunsi and Antapur are still in the 'test' stage, and I have not sanctioned any relaxation in the matter of fines for short work.

Loan Transactions.—Statement showing particulars of loan transactions under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Act.

Talúks.	Repair and construction of wells.						Other purposes.						Total.						Number of wells.	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Adóni	..	..	..	..	52	9,716	21	1,630	..	..	393	24,865	21	1,630	..	..	145	34,581	1	..
Alúr	1	100	1	100	75	25,540	348	36,745	299	32,745	1,662	2,29,645	349	36,845	300	32,845	1,737	2,55,185	..	1
Bellary	5	525	4	400	53	8,850	43	4,850	33	3,700	1,122	1,40,250	48	5,375	37	4,100	1,175	1,57,100	..	4
Rayadrug	7	1,250	5	450	..	..	16	2,050	8	1,150	160	35,000	23	3,300	13	1,600	160	35,000	..	5
Hospet	3	550	1	125	26	4,860	..	..	..	..	35	1,830	3	550	1	125	61	6,690	..	1
Kudligi	..	..	..	..	18	3,050	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	3,050	..	..
Harpanahalli	..	..	..	..	2	500	25	3,230	17	2,230	39	4,400	25	3,230	17	2,230	41	4,900	..	..
Hadagalli	..	..	..	..	37	7,805	12	2,035	4	900	228	35,385	12	2,035	4	900	265	43,290	..	..
Total	16	2,425	11	1,075	263	60,481	465	50,540	361	40,725	3,639	4,79,375	481	52,965	372	41,800	3,902	5,39,796	1	11

Talúks.	Purchase of fodder.						Cattle and seed-grain.						Total.					
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Adóni	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alúr	40	1,917	32	1,477	131	8,084	13	1,785	*16	1,995	3	1,875	53	3,702	48	3,472	134	9,956
Bellary	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	155	6	155	382	13,755	6	155	6	155	382	13,755
Rayadrug	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	400	..	..	..	..	3	400
Hospet	..	..	..	..	86	3,569	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	86	3,569
Kudligi	30	935	15	370	77	2,243	..	..	..	..	..	..	30	935	15	370	77	2,243
Harpanahalli	2	100	..	..	7	390	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	100	..	..	7	390
Hadagalli	4	300	..	..	60	2,645	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	300	..	..	60	2,645
Total	76	3,252	47	1,847	361	16,931	19	1,940	22	2,150	388	16,030	95	5,192	69	3,997	749	32,961

* Three cases accepted last fasli, but paid this year.

Note.—The number of applications pending is very large, particularly in Alúr and Bellary. Early orders are solicited for the appointment of Special Tahsildars for the disposal of these applications. One more Revenue Inspector and a clerk on Rs. 25 have been employed in Alúr in anticipation of sanction. I am not satisfied with the progress made in Adóni, and I have taken measures, which will, I hope, bring about an improvement. A further allotment of funds will be necessary and an application will be made at once.

Resolution—dated 8th March 1897, No. 202.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. In the eastern section of the Bellary district, the principal grain crop of the year—white cholum—has failed almost entirely, and the earlier-sown grain crops were very poor. Cotton has yielded some crop in parts of the section and failed entirely or not been sown at all in others. The western section of the district is not so much dependent on the late-sown cholum, but this crop has failed there also.

3. There is little or no pasture, and fodder is scanty, and the people are endeavouring to sell off their cattle, but in the circumstances there are few buyers except butchers.

4. Prices became a little easier during the period under reference, but trade is dull, though imports are going on, and this has checked the rise of prices.

5. The condition of the people is still satisfactory, and the Collector has been authorised to appoint Circle Inspectors in Alúr and Adóni to enquire into the condition of destitute persons in the villages. The number relieved at kitchens in connection with works is, however, small and it therefore appears that an undue strain is being imposed upon the workers in their efforts to support those dependent on them. The Collector should urge all revenue officers to use their best endeavours to overcome the objections of the people to sending their children to the kitchens, whilst they should see that the provision of kitchens is adequate, and arranged to suit, so far as possible, the convenience of the people. The Revenue officers should not relax their efforts until the number of persons receiving relief in kitchens—dependants, destitutes and children—is 15 per cent. of the number on the works, and 20 per cent. is near the result to be aimed at.

In the three taluks of Adóni, Alúr and Bellary, there has been from October 1896 to January 1897 a considerably increased mortality reported, although the death-rates reported are in themselves so low as to suggest that the reporting has been very inefficiently done. The increase has been greatest in the Alúr taluk and demands the closest investigation of the Revenue and Sanitary officers. For the four months, it has amounted there to 50 per cent.; the ratio having risen from 16 to 24 per mille.

	Average.	1896-97.
Total mortality—		
In January 1897	651	777
October to January ...	2,751	3,094
Ratio per mille—		
October to January	20	22

6. The progress made in the loan operations is satisfactory, and it is hoped that the early appointment of special officers competent to deal with the numerous applications direct will expedite the operations. In the Alúr and Bellary taluks, the number of applications at present pending for land improvement loans is very large, whilst in the former taluk 131 applications for loans for the purchase of fodder are also pending which demand early disposal.

7. The Collector should not submit any more figures from the jail returns: these are being received, in a much more useful form, from the Inspector-General of Prisons.

8. No effort should be made to induce the villagers—unless they are wealthy villagers—to contribute labour, in the present season, for the improvement of water-supply. This is as useful a mode of employing famine labour as any other.

9. As regards the test-work on the Halai-Kosgi road, the Collector states that he has ordered "full tasks to be rigidly enforced, and fines to be levied irrespective of the minimum." The Board regrets to see an order issued in such terms. To the experienced famine officers such an order will be unnecessary, as they already know how to administer test-works; but there are many officers who would not understand the spirit in which, no doubt, the Collector intends that his order should be carried out. In his late tour His Excellency the Governor of Madras is reported to have said, "I must confess I do not like this fining," and this is a pronouncement which the Board would earnestly commend to the consideration of all officers who have to deal with relief works. The Board presumes that the "full tasks" referred to are those of Mr. Somers-Eve's task table. These, again, require to be modified with reference to the condition of the workers, the sex and composition of the gangs, and the distance

which the coolies have to traverse in going to, and coming from, the work, 20 minutes being allowed for every mile traversed each way, when the worker's village is more than one mile distant from the work. It is presumed also that a kitchen has been established on the works; for, under the Code, test-works are to be carried out in the same way as relief works. If these conditions have not been complied with the work is no test-work, and the Collector should see that in this case, and in the case of all test-works opened, similar instructions are given and enforced.

10. The inference drawn by the Collector from the fact that the labourers forsook a work in order to attend a festival is not correct, and does injustice to the religious feelings of the people. The Hindu religion is not, with the masses, a decorous sacrifice to the proprieties, but a part and parcel of their lives, and the ordinary Hindu will rather go hungry than forego the performance of his religious duties.

11. The fact—if true, and it is no doubt in part true—that some of the people coming to the works "are not actually destitute" is as it should be. The lessons of 1877 have been taught in vain if the perverted idea is to revive, that only those actually and literally resourceless are to be admitted to relief works. This is simply tantamount to saying that, "until the people have been reduced to abject pauperism, the State will not relieve them. They must sell—at a cruel sacrifice—their last head of cattle, and their seed-grain, before they qualify for earning the *saueres Brot* of the famine wage. When the distress is over, the State will *lend* them money to buy cattle with which to plough, and seed-grain with which to sow; and, instead of starting them afresh in the battle of life, will send them out to struggle with a load of debt round their necks." This is to malign and misrepresent the intentions of the Government.

12. In the earlier stage of famine administration in this presidency in 1877, all who had resources of any kind; the poor caste wife, with a ragged silk cloth; the village maid, with her little bravery of an agate-stone necklace; the honest Bhoyi not actually emaciated by famine; the woman whose breasts had not wholly shrivelled through prolonged innutrition;—all these were driven from relief, and died by hundreds of thousands. The spirit of famine administration has now been remodelled, and all who are willing to work should be received, without question, on the works. There is no fear that they will come too soon; but rather there is fear lest they should come too late. The case of Yadiki is a notable instance in point, and the tocsin of increased mortality has already been rung in Bellary. As the Secretary of State observed in his last speech at Ealing, "there must be great suffering, and *the death-rate for the year will be abnormally high among those who will not come to Government for relief until they have exhausted their resources.*" Speaking elsewhere, he shows how distress may exist "though the amount of food *for those who can afford to buy* is as great as ever. The difficulty, of course, does not consist in the actual absence of food. During the Lancashire cotton famine there was plenty of food in England, *and no rise in price*, but the mill hands out of work had no means of purchasing, and there was acute distress . . . in all centres of industry." The case in the Deccan districts is worse. Prices have more than doubled; even ordinary wages would only purchase less than half the usual quantity of food; but the ordinary wage is not to be earned, and the famine wage is far below it; and, practically speaking, there is absolutely no means for the common labourer, or even the poorer pattadar, to earn a livelihood, unless he and his come on the relief works. As the Secretary of State puts the case, "the distress is due to the failure of the crops over a vast area, in which all whose daily bread depends on agriculture are *deprived of their means of a livelihood, because there is no work in the fields, and the suffering thus caused is intensified by the rise in the price of grain-stuffs.*"

13. The Collector anticipates that "greater strictness will lead to a decrease in number" on the works, "or that it will at least check the tendency to increase," and has issued orders, to this end, to "all Divisional Officers to give their attention to the enforcement of tasks." The spirit which pervades these remarks is not the spirit of the Famine Code which enjoins that the destitute should be "induced" to come to relief; nor is it the spirit in which the Secretary of State views the case. Up to the end of next May, the numbers on relief works will, and should, go on steadily

increasing; and, beyond exacting from those who can work a task carefully and sympathetically adjusted to their capacity and environment, no step whatever should be taken to stem the tide of coming labour, *except* by the free grant of loans for agricultural improvement, on the execution of which coolies can find better wages and more humane treatment than they sometimes meet with on relief works.

14. While on this subject, the Board must refer to the fetish which is sometimes set up, in reference to famine relief, in the shape of "the interests of Government," as distinct from "the interests of the people." *Salus populi suprema lex.* It cannot be too strongly laid down that Government has no interests which are not those of the people. Government *is* the people. The interests of the Government are the interests of the people, and the interests of the people are the interests of Government. It is the first interest of Government to have a well nourished and prosperous peasantry. In time of trouble it is the duty of the public servant to take that peasantry in hand in time, and hand it over, at the end of the trial, in a physical and moral state fit for the resumption of the labours of agriculture, and properly equipped for the same. To require the poorer classes to strip themselves to the skin before giving relief would be, not only a cruel, but also a shortsighted policy. It is foolish to take away with one hand and give with another: it is more foolish to take away with one hand and lend with another. The money expended on relief is not the money of Government, but the money of the people; and the servants of Government are the servants of the people. The poorest cooly, who purchases a pinch of salt, contributes his quota to pay the "public servant," who is at the beck and call of his masters at all times; but, in times of trouble, of the poorest and meanest first. While, therefore, all due prudence is desirable in the expenditure of public funds, on which famine makes so terrible a drain, the famine officer must remember that the money which he spends is the money supplied by the very workers whom he employs; and, with due regard to economy, should be spent freely to alleviate and prevent distress. The principle underlying the whole Famine Code, and distinctly enunciated in the introduction to the same, is "Benevolence first and Economy second." It is not uncommon to find some officers with whom Economy is first and Benevolence second. There is a lower depth in which Economy is first and Benevolence nowhere. In the greatest instance of relief on record it is narrated, first, that the Giver had "compassion on the multitude." They are not required to be even destitute; for the Giver would not send them away into the villages to buy themselves victuals, for which they had the means; nor was the "distance test" applied, for, He said "if I send them away fasting to their own homes, they will faint by the way, for divers of them came from far:" nor was "the C. ration" given; for the people "did eat and were filled," and there was something over. It was only at the close that economy was remembered, when the Giver said "gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost." It is not from want of humanity but from want of thought, and a capacity to feel with and "think themselves into" the actual position of the suffering poor, that very conscientious and well intentioned officers sometimes regard the question of relief from a somewhat unsympathetic standpoint. No officer of intelligence who knows the country, and will try to think himself down into the daily life of the people, will fail to realise the terrible trial through which tens of thousands of the poor in the Deccan are now passing; when he has done this, he will have, no doubt, as to the course to adopt, and the Famine Code is broad enough to cover all reasonable concessions which the labourer and his dependents require.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of Bellary.
Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.
„ „ Collectors of other affected districts.

Order—No. 211, Revenue, dated 26th March 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. C. M. Thumbuswamy.

70 Copies.

Public Works Department

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd.	1897.	*Enclosures*
Reyd.		*Spare copies*

G.O., No. 211, 26th March 1897.

Order thereon No. 1150 Way 4.5.97
Communicated to the
Supt. Engr. III circle.
(Fene extract)
HSD Dy. Sec. C

To The Supt. Engr. III circle

MARCH.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting, with remarks, the — of the Bellary district for the period ending 28th February 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, (Land Records and Agriculture), dated 8th March 1897, No. 202 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative of the Bellary district for the fortnight ending 28th February 1897 :—

State of Country.

Rainfall and Water-supply.—There were nine cents of rain at Yemmiganúru on 18th February 1897. There was also a slight drizzle in other parts of the district, but the quantity was not sufficient to register.

Drinking water-supply is generally sufficient except in a few villages of Adóni taluk, four villages in Harpanahalli and Bellary and parts of Alúr, Hadagalli, Hospet and Kúdligi with the exception of river-fed channels and tanks fed by them and a few irrigation wells : the irrigation sources are either dry or contain an insufficient supply.

Agricultural operations and condition of standing crops—Adóni division.—Fields are being ploughed and cleared of *nuth* grass. Second crop paddy is being sown under the Rampur channel. Cotton-picking still continues. The outturn is estimated at 8 to 12 annas by the Tahsildar of Adóni and at 2 to 6 annas by the Divisional-officer. I think the former is more nearly correct. The white cholum sown prior to the rains of November is in a fair condition (but its extent is limited), while nearly the whole of that sown subsequently has withered. The garden crops in Adóni are in good condition. Castor is fair in Adóni and is estimated to yield 8 annas. It is beginning to wilt in Alúr. The cotton and white cholum, said to be fair in Alúr, are estimated to yield an outturn of 4 annas.

Bellary division.—Oil seeds, cotton and horse-gram have been harvested in Rayadrug taluk, average yield being 4 to 6 annas. Second crop paddy is being sown in Rayadrug. Oil-seed, cotton and bengal-gram are fair in Rayadrug. There is little or no hope of the crops sown after the November rains coming to maturity, and they are already being cut for fodder. The area covered by these crops is somewhat large.

Hospet division.—Cotton and oil-seeds are being picked and dhall and horse-gram harvested in Harpanahalli, outturn ranging from 4 to 8 annas. In most places lands have already been prepared for next season's crop. White cholum has generally failed except in a few fields of Kóttúru firka in Kúdligi taluk and near Mylar and Holal in the south of Hire Hadagalli firka of the Hadagalli taluk. Standing cotton in Hadagalli is poor to moderate. Sugarcane, wheat, white cholum and garden crops under wells are in fair condition. Wet crops under river channels in Hospet are in good condition.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Fodder is scanty in Alúr. In Adóni the stocks are expected to last for two months more, but I think this is a somewhat despondent estimate. There is little or no pasture. The condition of cattle is generally good in Adóni and is said to be slightly deteriorating in Alúr. Some deterioration is inevitable, and I am still of opinion that the condition of the cattle is by no means bad. Many are trying to sell their animals, but the market is very dull. Out of four hundred and fifty cattle brought to Adóni market during the fortnight only twenty-seven were bought by butchers for prices ranging from Rs. 4 to Rs. 6 and fifty by agriculturists for Rs. 15 to Rs. 25 each; the rest were taken back for want of purchasers. It is reported that seventeen cattle died in Hebbatam, a village in Alúr taluk, where there is some little cattle disease.

Bellary division.—Pasture is limited, and except in wet villages fodder is also scanty. Prickly-pear and hill grass are being used as fodder in many villages. The condition of other than stall-fed cattle is said to be bad. Cattle disease prevails in one village of Rayadrug taluk. There were seventeen attacks and nine deaths.

Hospet division.—Fodder is generally sufficient except in Hospet taluk and in Holalgundi and Kadlabul firkas of Hadagalli taluk. Pasture is practically *nil*. The condition of cattle is generally good, but some cattle in Hospet are beginning to look thin.

General Remarks.—No fortnightly report has yet been received from the Administrator of Sandúru. From the season report of the last week there seems to be no room for anxiety. The condition of both people and cattle is reported to be good. Ploughing operations are proceeding briskly, but the water-supply is stated to be insufficient. Severe scarcity of water is apprehended in some parts of the district. Every possible attempt is being made to improve the water-supply in the affected tracts, where I am prepared to dig wells as famine works, if it should be necessary. The allotment made by the District Board is altogether insufficient, and I have called on the Presidents of Taluk Boards for proposals. I hope that in many cases the villagers will give much of the labour free. Proposals for dry remissions will be submitted shortly. The delay is due to the Divisional Officers of Bellary and Adóni not having yet submitted their reports.

Food-supplies and the state of the Markets.

Prices of principal food-grains at principal markets in the affected tracts, in seers of 80 tolas per rupee, for the period ending 28th of February 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		White cholum.		Yellow cholum.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	
Ádóni	9·13	9·67	12·36	12·90	13·43	13·70	16·66	17·20	Slight fall in Ádóni and Rayadrug, due probably to increase of imports. Slight rise in Hadagalli, Kudligi and Harpanahalli, due probably to the prophecy * at the Mylar festival that prices will rise and the consequent withholding of stocks. * "Gold and rice will be equal."
Alúr	8·64	8·64	11·85	11·85	12·88	12·88	..	..	
Bellary	9·18	9·18	11·33	11·33	13·39	13·39	16·49	16·49	
Rayadrug ..	9·72	9·72	12·36	13·39	13·39	14·42	14·55	14·55	
Hospet	9·10	8·60	13·30	13·30	14·40	14·40	15·50	16·00	
Kúdligi	8·64	8·64	..	..	14·42	13·91	15·52	15·52	
Harpanahalli ..	9·18	9·18	..	..	15·45	14·94	18·43	18·43	
Hadagalli ..	9·72	9·72	..	..	15·45	14·42	..	..	
Average ..	9·66	9·17	12·24	12·55	14·10	14·42	16·19	16·36	
Sandúru	..	8·60	..	..	..	15·60	..	19·90	

Activity of trade.—Private trade is said to be dull in Bellary, Hospet and Hadagalli and active elsewhere.

From the following rail-borne traffic figures, showing the exports and imports from and to places beyond the district, it will be seen that imports by far exceed the exports. This has, to a certain extent, checked the rise in prices :—

Station.	Import.	Export.	Remarks.
Hospet	198	11	Enquiries are being made as to the place from and to which the exports and imports are made.
Bellary	7,035	570	
Áspari	34	303	
Ádóni	929	..	
Kosgi	318	..	
Total ..	8,514	884	

Condition of the people.

(1) *On works.*—The condition of the people is good on the whole. This is particularly the case with those who have been longest on the works. His Excellency

the Governor visited during the fortnight the Ádóni-Alúr road work, Ádóni municipal works, and the Chippigiri road works. Except in one or two cases on the first work the condition of the workers was found to be good. The Deputy Collector, Ádóni, states that the condition of those on Alúr-Áspari road is poor, and ascribes this to fines imposed on the labourers, but the Famine Commissioner who inspected the works on the 18th and 19th found these labourers in fair condition. Many relief workers complained that the wages earned were not sufficient to maintain them and their dependants. I made careful personal inquiries on this point wherever I went and I am satisfied that the famine wage is generally sufficient to purchase the ration prescribed by the code and to keep the people in good condition. I have recently made a special report on this subject.

(2) *In villages.*—The condition of people in villages is also good. Their stock of food grains is, however, becoming exhausted in some localities and all Reddies have been instructed to keep a close watch over these people in view to the institution of village relief. I must here observe that there is a tendency on the part of villagers to exaggerate matters. When Mr. DeWinton, Superintending Engineer, visited the portion of Adóni taluk to the north-west of Kosgi, in the beginning of this month the people of Kandukur, Vallur, Kambalanur and other villages represented to him that they had been starving for want of employment. He immediately issued orders to start some ordinary works. The Tahsildar and myself have since been to these villages. The people are not in bad condition and most of them refuse to work for famine wage. Of the works ordered by the Superintending Engineer, two have been started, viz., the repair of a kunta at Kandukur and the clearance of prickly-pear in Kambalanore village. I found that men were being paid 2 annas a day, women As. 1–3 and children 9 pies and they were working only from 6 to 11 A.M. I have closed the first work and have ordered the latter to be worked strictly in accordance with the Famine Code. Another work ordered by him could not be started, as the people refused to work even on these terms. At Kosgi, a number of people came to me and represented that they had been starving for three days. A surprise visit was paid to the house of one of the girls who made this statement and she and her mother were found making ragi cakes and there were in the house a bull, a cow, and two calves, also some seed grain and fodder, besides food grains sufficient for three or four days. The Chinnatambalam work is only about 5 miles from this village, and if the people were really suffering from want of food, they would resort to it as some of them have done. But though Kosgi is thus sufficiently provided for, I think from my inspection that work is wanted in some of the villages to the west and north, and I have therefore determined to open a test work on the Halai-Kosgi road to gauge the extent of distress. I have ordered the full tasks to be rigidly enforced and fines to be levied irrespective of the minimum. The time for granting village relief seems to be approaching, and I have already applied for permission to employ Circle Inspectors when necessary. To meet the cases of persons whom Government relief will not reach, I have applied to the Madras Famine Relief Committee for an immediate grant of Rs. 5,000.

A statement showing the statistics of the District jail population is attached. The information furnished by the Divisional Officers is again incomplete, and their attention will be drawn to this omission.

Statement showing the admissions of convicted prisoners in the District Jail, Bellary, for the fortnight ending 28th February 1897, as compared with those for corresponding periods during the three previous years (1894, 1895 and 1896).

Date.	Convicts.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.
From 15th to 28th February 1894	45	3	48
,, ,, to ,, ,, 1895	46	3	49
,, ,, to ,, ,, 1896	31	6	37
,, ,, to ,, ,, 1897	54	..	54

Sickness and Mortality.—The public health is generally good. No deaths from starvation. A little small-pox is prevalent in south of Harpanahalli and malarial fever in Bellary. From the mortality returns it will be seen that the death-rate has increased during January 1897 in the taluks of Alúr, Bellary and Hospet, the number of deaths being 148, 256 and 190 against 101, 189 and 159 in the same month of the previous year. The attention of the District Medical officer will be drawn to this. It will be observed that the increase does not correspond with the severity of the distress, and is probably due, in a great measure, to other causes.

Remarks.—The number seeking relief continues to increase, but many of these people possess cattle and other property and are not actually destitute. On the Bellary-Moka work the number fell from 1,381 to 1,079 owing to a festival at Moka, and on the 23rd and 24th the work was deserted. People who can give up their wage for two days to a week for the sake of a car festival cannot be in much want. I have directed all Divisional Officers to give their attention to the enforcement of tasks, and I shall not be surprised to find that greater strictness will lead to a decrease in number, or that it will at least check the tendency to increase.

Measures of Relief.

On works.—In what taluks open, and comparison of numbers.

Taluks.	Number employed.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Adóni	7,967	10,073
Alúr	16,213	18,200
Bellary	3,278	3,266
Hospet	1,953	2,230
Hadagalli	657	746
Total ...	30,068	34,515

Gratuitous relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise:—

Taluks.	Number relieved at kitchens.		Remarks.
	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	
Adóni	827	1,025	The fall in Adóni is due to the removal from the kitchen of children of other than relief-workers. Several persons employed in clearance of nuth grass had sent their children and dependants to the kitchen, though they were able to support them. All such persons were removed from the list.
Alúr	892	828	
Bellary	203	194	
Hospet	333	285	
Hadagalli	17	..	
Total ..	2,272	2,332	
Weavers, Adóni	751	753	

Private charity.—The number fed in the kitchen opened by the Bellary public is 280 against 200 at the end of the last fortnight. Paramma continues to feed about 300 paupers, chiefly children. Raja Sir Savalay Ramaswami Mudaliar has sent 1,240 cloths for distribution to destitute people. Steps will be taken to distribute them as soon as the lists of persons requiring clothes already called for are received. Some of the municipal councillors and other gentlemen of Adóni distributed cloths to the inmates of the Adóni town kitchen in honour of His Excellency the Governor's visit. The Madras Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund has called for proposals in connection with measures of relief to be organized by that fund. I have convened a meeting for the 4th instant and proposals will be duly submitted.

Inspections of taluks and places visited—Collector.—Adóni, Basapuram, Naganadavahalli, Chyagi, Naranapuram, Kosgi, Tippaladoddi, Karam, Tsudi, Halvi, Marali, Gudikambali, Vallur, Kadedoddi, Kandukur, Kamanadoddi, Chintalakunta, Balasaladoddi and Chinnatumbalum in Adóni taluk.

Deputy Collector, Adóni division.—The Kammarachedu and Chippagiri works in Alúr taluk. Adóni Municipal work and Veerapuram village in Adóni taluk. Alúr-Adóni road work, Alúr-Chippagiri road work, Alúr-Aspari road work and the villages Chippagiri, Joharapuram, Aspari, Chyali and Benigiri.

Head-quarter Deputy Collector, Bellary.—Malyam, Sobapuram, Rakatla, Hanakanahal, Kolikurti, Namakal, Hulikera, Yerragunta, Gonahal, Sreedharghatta, Ginjera, Doddaghatta, Kandlur, Kadabur, Somalapuram, Nagalapuram, Mallikyati, Kowkuntla-Ramapur in Rayadrug taluk and Hyaradahal, Halukundi, Sanjeevarayanapetta, Marur, Paramadevanahalli and the relief works at Moka and Kolur in Bellary taluk.

Head Assistant Collector.—Hospet, Narayandevaraker, Morabbihal, Bellahunsi, Hadagalli, Hirehadagali, Mylar, Hagamur, Basarakodu, Uppinayakanahalli, Bannikal, Gaddikeri, Byasigaderi, Hagribonuanhalli and Pinjaraheggadahal.

General remarks.—A test work was opened at Paramadevanahalli in Bellary taluk. A small test work (removing prickly-pear) in Hospet taluk having been completed, was closed and the coolies that were thus thrown out of employment were drafted on to the Antapur-Vaddu road work in the same village. An attempt to start operations for the relief of the weavers at Kampli proved unsuccessful, the weavers declining to accept the terms offered. The Head Assistant Collector anticipates that it will very shortly be necessary to start relief-works near Nidugarti in the north of the Kudligi taluk and Dhanayankanker, Hospet taluk. The works at Paramadevanahally, Bellahunsi and Antapur are still in the 'test' stage, and I have not sanctioned any relaxation in the matter of fines for short work.

Loan Transactions.—Statement showing particulars of loan transactions under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Act.

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.										Other purposes.								Total.				Number of wells.	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.						Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.				Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.					Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.			Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7					8	9	10	11	12	13			16	17	18	19	20	21
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.						Rs.		Rs.		Rs.				Rs.		Rs.		
Adóni	..	..	..	..	52	9,716					21	1,630	..	..	393	24,865			..	..	145	34,581	1	.. 1
Alúr	1	100	..	..	75	25,540					348	36,845	299	32,745	1,662	2,39,645			300	32,845	1,737	2,55,185	..	4
Bellary	5	525	1	100	63	8,850					43	4,850	33	3,700	1,122	1,40,250			37	4,100	1,176	1,67,100	..	4
Rayadrug	7	1,250	4	400	..	..					16	2,050	8	1,160	160	35,000			13	1,600	160	35,000	..	5
Hospet	3	650	5	460	26	4,860					..	..	..	..	35	1,830			3	650	61	6,690	..	1
Kudligi	..	..	1	125	18	3,050					..	..	..	..	..	..			1	125	18	3,050	..	..
Harpanahalli	..	..	..	..	2	500					25	3,230	17	2,230	39	4,400			17	2,230	41	4,900	..	..
Hadagalli	..	..	..	..	37	7,505					12	2,035	4	900	228	35,385			4	900	265	43,290	..	..
Total ..	16	2,425	11	1,075	263	60,481					465	50,540	361	40,725	3,639	4,79,375			481	52,965	3,902	5,89,796	1	11

Taluks.	Cattle and seed-grain.								Total.							
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.				Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.			
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.			Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
	28	29	30	31	32	33			34	35	36	37	38	39		
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.				Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Adóni	..	..	..	..	..	..			..	..	..	..	..	..		
Alúr	13	1,735	* 16	1,995	.. 3	1,875			53	3,702	48	3,472	184	9,959		
Bellary	6	155	6	155	382	13,755			6	155	6	155	382	18,755		
Rayadrug	..	..	..	..	3	400			..	..	..	..	3	400		
Hospet	..	..	..	..	..	..			..	..	..	..	86	3,569		
Kudligi	..	..	..	..	..	..			30	935	15	370	77	2,243		
Harpanahalli	..	..	..	..	..	..			2	100	..	..	7	390		
Hadagalli	..	..	..	..	..	..			4	300	..	..	60	2,645		
Total ..	19	1,940	22	2,150	388	16,030			95	5,192	69	3,997	749	32,961		

Taluks.	Purchase of fodder.					
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
	22	23	24	25	26	27
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Adóni	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alúr	40	1,917	32	1,477	131	8,084
Bellary	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rayadrug	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hospet	..	..	..	..	86	3,569
Kudligi	30	935	15	370	77	2,243
Harpanahalli	2	100	..	..	7	390
Hadagalli	4	300	..	..	60	2,645
Total ..	76	3,252	47	1,847	361	16,931

* Three cases accepted last fasli, but paid this year.

Note.—The number of applications pending is very large, particularly in Alúr and Bellary. Early orders are solicited for the disposal of these applications. One more Revenue Inspector and a clerk on Rs. 25 have been employed in Alúr in anticipation of sanction. I am not satisfied with the progress made in Adóni, and I have taken measures, which will, I hope, bring about an improvement. A further allotment of funds will be necessary and an application will be made at once.

Resolution—dated 8th March 1897, No. 202.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. In the eastern section of the Bellary district, the principal grain crop of the year—white cholum—has failed almost entirely, and the earlier-sown grain crops were very poor. Cotton has yielded some crop in parts of the section and failed entirely or not been sown at all in others. The western section of the district is not so much dependent on the late-sown cholum, but this crop has failed there also.

3. There is little or no pasture, and fodder is scanty, and the people are endeavouring to sell off their cattle, but in the circumstances there are few buyers except butchers.

4. Prices became a little easier during the period under reference, but trade is dull, though imports are going on, and this has checked the rise of prices.

5. The condition of the people is still satisfactory, and the Collector has been authorised to appoint Circle Inspectors in Alúr and Adóni to enquire into the condition of destitute persons in the villages. The number relieved at kitchens in connection with works is, however, small and it therefore appears that an undue strain is being imposed upon the workers in their efforts to support those dependent on them. The Collector should urge all revenue officers to use their best endeavours to overcome the objections of the people to sending their children to the kitchens, whilst they should see that the provision of kitchens is adequate, and arranged to suit, so far as possible, the convenience of the people. The Revenue officers should not relax their efforts until the number of persons receiving relief in kitchens—dependants, destitutes and children—is 15 per cent. of the number on the works, and 20 per cent. is near the result to be aimed at.

In the three taluks of Adóni, Alúr and Bellary, there has been from October 1896 to January 1897 a considerably increased mortality reported, although the death-rates reported are in themselves so low as to suggest that the reporting has been very inefficiently done. The increase has been greatest in the Alúr taluk and demands the closest investigation of the Revenue and Sanitary officers. For the four months, it has amounted there to 50 per cent.; the ratio having risen from 16 to 24 per mille.

	Average. 1896-97.	1896-97.
Total mortality—		
In January 1897 ...	... 651	777
October to January	... 2,751	3,094
Ratio per mille—		
October to January ...	... 20	22

6. The progress made in the loan operations is satisfactory, and it is hoped that the early appointment of special officers competent to deal with the numerous applications direct will expedite the operations. In the Alúr and Bellary taluks, the number of applications at present pending for land improvement loans is very large, whilst in the former taluk 131 applications for loans for the purchase of fodder are also pending which demand early disposal.

7. The Collector should not submit any more figures from the jail returns: these are being received, in a much more useful form, from the Inspector-General of Prisons.

8. No effort should be made to induce the villagers—unless they are wealthy villagers—to contribute labour, in the present season, for the improvement of water-supply. This is as useful a mode of employing famine labour as any other.

9. As regards the test-work on the Halai-Kosgi road, the Collector states that he has ordered "full tasks to be rigidly enforced, and fines to be levied irrespective of the minimum." The Board regrets to see an order issued in such terms. To the experienced famine officers such an order will be unnecessary, as they already know how to administer test-works; but there are many officers who would not understand the spirit in which, no doubt, the Collector intends that his order should be carried out. In his late tour His Excellency the Governor of Madras is reported to have said, "I must confess I do not like this fining," and this is a pronouncement which the Board would earnestly commend to the consideration of all officers who have to deal with relief works. The Board presumes that the "full tasks" referred to are those of Mr. Somers-Eve's task table. These, again, require to be modified with reference to the condition of the workers, the sex and composition of the gangs, and the distance

which the coolies have to traverse in going to, and coming from, the work, 20 minutes being allowed for every mile traversed each way, when the worker's village is more than one mile distant from the work. It is presumed also that a kitchen has been established on the works; for, under the Code, test-works are to be carried out in the same way as relief works. If these conditions have not been complied with the work is no test-work, and the Collector should see that in this case, and in the case of all test-works opened, similar instructions are given and enforced.

10. The inference drawn by the Collector from the fact that the labourers forsook a work in order to attend a festival is not correct, and does injustice to the religious feelings of the people. The Hindu religion is not, with the masses, a decorous sacrifice to the proprieties, but a part and parcel of their lives, and the ordinary Hindu will rather go hungry than forego the performance of his religious duties.

11. The fact—if true, and it is no doubt in part true—that some of the people coming to the works "are not actually destitute" is as it should be. The lessons of 1877 have been taught in vain if the perverted idea is to revive, that only those actually and literally resourceless are to be admitted to relief works. This is simply tantamount to saying that, "until the people have been reduced to abject pauperism, the State will not relieve them. They must sell—at a cruel sacrifice—their last head of cattle, and their seed-grain, before they qualify for earning the *saueres Brot* of the famine wage. When the distress is over, the State will *lend* them money to buy cattle with which to plough, and seed-grain with which to sow; and, instead of starting them afresh in the battle of life, will send them out to struggle with a load of debt round their necks." This is to malign and misrepresent the intentions of the Government.

12. In the earlier stage of famine administration in this presidency in 1877, all who had resources of any kind; the poor caste wife, with a ragged silk cloth; the village maid, with her little bravery of an agate-stone necklace; the honest Bhoyi not actually emaciated by famine; the woman whose breasts had not wholly shrivelled through prolonged innutrition;—all these were driven from relief, and died by hundreds of thousands. The spirit of famine administration has now been remodelled, and all who are willing to work should be received, without question, on the works. There is no fear that they will come too soon; but rather there is fear lest they should come too late. The case of Yadiki is a notable instance in point, and the tocsin of increased mortality has already been rung in Bellary. As the Secretary of State observed in his last speech at Ealing, "there must be great suffering, and *the death-rate for the year will be abnormally high among those who will not come to Government for relief until they have exhausted their resources.*" Speaking elsewhere, he shows how distress may exist "though the amount of food *for those who can afford to buy* is as great as ever. The difficulty, of course, does not consist in the actual absence of food. During the Lancashire cotton famine there was plenty of food in England, *and no rise in price*, but the mill hands out of work had no means of purchasing, and there was acute distress . . . in all centres of industry." The case in the Deccan districts is worse. Prices have more than doubled; even ordinary wages would only purchase less than half the usual quantity of food; but the ordinary wage is not to be earned, and the famine wage is far below it; and, practically speaking, there is absolutely no means for the common labourer, or even the poorer pattadar, to earn a livelihood, unless he and his come on the relief works. As the Secretary of State puts the case, "the distress is due to the failure of the crops over a vast area, in which all whose daily bread depends on agriculture are *deprived of their means of a livelihood, because there is no work in the fields, and the suffering thus caused is intensified by the rise in the price of grain-stuffs.*"

13. The Collector anticipates that "greater strictness will lead to a decrease in number" on the works, "or that it will at least check the tendency to increase," and has issued orders, to this end, to "all Divisional Officers to give their attention to the enforcement of tasks." The spirit which pervades these remarks is not the spirit of the Famine Code which enjoins that the destitute should be "induced" to come to relief; nor is it the spirit in which the Secretary of State views the case. Up to the end of next May, the numbers on relief works will, and should, go on steadily

increasing; and, beyond exacting from those who can work a task carefully and sympathetically adjusted to their capacity and environment, no step whatever should be taken to stem the tide of coming labour, *except* by the free grant of loans for agricultural improvement, on the execution of which coolies can find better wages and more humane treatment than they sometimes meet with on relief works.

14. While on this subject, the Board must refer to the fetish which is sometimes set up, in reference to famine relief, in the shape of "the interests of Government," as distinct from "the interests of the people." *Salus populi suprema lex.* It cannot be too strongly laid down that Government has no interests which are not those of the people. Government *is* the people. The interests of the Government are the interests of the people, and the interests of the people are the interests of Government. It is the first interest of Government to have a well nourished and prosperous peasantry. In time of trouble it is the duty of the public servant to take that peasantry in hand in time, and hand it over, at the end of the trial, in a physical and moral state fit for the resumption of the labours of agriculture, and properly equipped for the same. To require the poorer classes to strip themselves to the skin before giving relief would be, not only a cruel, but also a shortsighted policy. It is foolish to take away with one hand and give with another: it is more foolish to take away with one hand and lend with another. The money expended on relief is not the money of Government, but the money of the people; and the servants of Government are the servants of the people. The poorest cooly, who purchases a pinch of salt, contributes his quota to pay the "public servant," who is at the beck and call of his masters at all times; but, in times of trouble, of the poorest and meanest first. While, therefore, all due prudence is desirable in the expenditure of public funds, on which famine makes so terrible a drain, the famine officer must remember that the money which he spends is the money supplied by the very workers whom he employs; and, with due regard to economy, should be spent freely to alleviate and prevent distress. The principle underlying the whole Famine Code, and distinctly enunciated in the introduction to the same, is "Benevolence first and Economy second." It is not uncommon to find some officers with whom Economy is first and Benevolence second. There is a lower depth in which Economy is first and Benevolence nowhere. In the greatest instance of relief on record it is narrated, first, that the Giver had "compassion on the multitude." They are not required to be even destitute; for the Giver would not send them away into the villages to buy themselves victuals, for which they had the means; nor was the "distance test" applied, for, He said "if I send them away fasting to their own homes, they will faint by the way, for divers of them came from far:" nor was "the C. ration" given; for the people "did eat and were filled," and there was something over. It was only at the close that economy was remembered, when the Giver said "gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost." It is not from want of humanity but from want of thought, and a capacity to feel with and "think themselves into" the actual position of the suffering poor, that very conscientious and well intentioned officers sometimes regard the question of relief from a somewhat unsympathetic standpoint. No officer of intelligence who knows the country, and will try to think himself down into the daily life of the people, will fail to realise the terrible trial through which tens of thousands of the poor in the Deccan are now passing; when he has done this, he will have, no doubt, as to the course to adopt, and the Famine Code is broad enough to cover all reasonable concessions which the labourer and his dependents require.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Bellary.
Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.
" " Collectors of other affected districts.

Order—No. 211, Revenue, dated 26th March 1897.

Miscellaneous. Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. C. M. Thumbuswamy.

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