Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 1295 W

DATED 8. mar 1897

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Jaimie; Pros: Revenue Dept recmdg with remarks Board's Pros: submitting for twenty-two Narrative of the Accounts for Dec for the period ending 15th March 1897 Comptr to D.E. McCrae.

//

[P.W. 25. 5,000—30-11-96.]

Indexed.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	1162	W	5.5.97				
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FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Public Works (1897) Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Current No. 4570.

No. 1162 W dy 5-5-97
1067 W dy 23-4-97
1008 W dy 7-4-97
2010 C dy 7-4-97
948 W dy 2-4-97
701 W dy 10-3-97
291 C dy 19-1-97

Recd. 10-5-97. } 1897.
Regd. - - - }

Enclosures

Spare copies 16.

G.O., No. 272, 27th April 1897.

Communicated to

APRIL. the Superintendent of

12/5/97

S.S. III Circle

19/5/97

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording, with remarks, Proceedings of the Board of Revenue submitting the — of the Anantapur district for the period ending 15th March 1897.

O.C.S. 87
R. 14-5

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 27th March 1897, No. 255 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Anantapur district during the period ending with 15th March 1897.

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and Water-supply.—Rainfall *nil* during the fortnight. Aggregate quantity registered up to date is 14·67 inches against an average of 23·52 inches.

Drinking-water supply is generally sufficient in Kalyandrug and elsewhere, excepting parts of the northern, of the two central and the three southern taluks. The deficiency in these localities is mostly felt by the lower castes. The allotment already applied for from Provincial funds is urgently required. Villagewar particulars and estimates have been called for, and as taluk and district boards have no funds whatever to devote for the purpose, a sum of Rs. 100 has been allotted out of the general funds in anticipation of sanction for expenditure in Dharmavaram and Hindupur taluks on the recommendation of the Divisional Officer.

The supply in irrigation tanks is practically *nil*, while that in river channels, springs and wells is diminishing and is hardly sufficient for the standing crops.

Agricultural operations and condition of standing crops.—Standing crops on dry lands (red soil) are cotton and castor and late horse-gram. These have been in parts picked and harvested and elsewhere stunted in growth ; outturn mostly poor, ranging from 1 to 4 annas. In black soils, cholum and bengal-gram are fading and have withered in parts. In tank-beds, bengal-gram and cucumbers are in a fair condition. Indigo in Tadpatri is expected to yield no outturn.

Under tanks, nalas and wells, paddy, sugarcane and cholum are thriving in parts of the Penukonda division. Ragi and korra in Gooty and the two central taluks are being harvested in parts ; outturn 8 to 12 annas. Weeding of paddy, cholum and korra is also going on in parts of Gooty taluk.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture is scarce. Fodder is very scanty and limited. Cattle are generally deteriorating for want of sufficient food and water. Some cattle in Gooty taluk have been taken away to the Mysore province where prospects are better for grazing them.

Cattle disease is prevalent in two villages of Madakasira and one village of Penukonda taluk ; attacks 226, deaths 34.

General remarks on the above subjects.—Water scarcity is gradually increasing. Agricultural operations are slowly coming to a standstill. The condition of non-working cattle is miserable. The standing dry crops are fated to die or yield but poor outturn.

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 15th day of March 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		Ragi.		Cholum (yellow).		Cholum (white).	
	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.
Tadpatri	9 18	9·18	15·52	15·52	14·42	13·39	13·39	12·36
Yadiki	8·64	8·64	14·55	15·52	12·36	12·36	..	..
Gooty	8·64	8·64	15·52	15·52	13·39	13·39	13·39	13·39
Uravakonda	8·40	9·45	17·85	18·90	13 65	13·65	13·12	12·60
Anantapur	8·64	8·64	16·49	16·49	14·42	14·42	12·36	13·39
Kalyandrug	10·26	10·26	16·49	16·49	15·45	15·45	12·36	13·39
Dharmavaram	8·64	8·64	15·52	15·52	14·42	15·45	13·39	14·42
Penukonda	9·72	9·72	18·43	17·46	..	..	15·45	15·45
Hindúpur	10·75	10·75	23·65	24·18	..	..	17·00	18·27
Madakasíra	10·80	10·80	20·37	21·34	..	..	..	..
Average ..	9·36	9·47	17·43	17·69	14·01	14·01	13·81	14·15

Activity of trade.—Private trade is mostly inactive except at Tadpatri where it is reported to be just reviving.

Imports.—Five thousand five hundred and forty-six maunds from Guntúr, Salem, Coimbatore, Nellore and other places.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

(1) *On works.*—Fair generally in the Gooty division and good elsewhere. In Yadiki and Puttur work some of the coolies look emaciated, and this is not due to any "undesirable delay" in opening the works, as suggested by the Sanitary Commissioner lately, but solely to the unwillingness of the labourers to attend relief works on famine wages and the consequent stinting in their daily food in the early part of the distress. A separate report will be submitted on the Sanitary Commissioner's letter as called for.

(2) *In villages.*—Good on the whole.

Sickness and Mortality.—Cholera is prevalent in eight villages of the Anantapur taluk ; attacks 176, deaths 57 during the fortnight. Small-pox in Penukonda division ; attacks in the three southern taluks 106, deaths 10. No deaths from starvation. On a report from the Deputy Collector, Gooty, I have sanctioned that one Boya Latchmigadu and his family in a very destitute state in the village of Karadikonda should be fed at the expense of the State pending the opening of a kitchen and a relief work at that place also recently sanctioned.

Remarks.—Particulars of jail population are as follows :—

Taluk.	Average for three years.	During the fortnight.
Gooty	38	262
Dharmavaram	13	50
Hindúpur	7	2
Madakasira	14	5
Anantapur	6	14
Total ...	78	333

The increase in Gooty and Dharmavaram is attributed to the adverse state of the season and the consequent increase of crime.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed. Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Tadpatri taluk—		
(1) Putlur	554	591
(2) Sanagalagudur	1,984	1,853
(3) Yadiki	596	816
Gooty taluk—		
(1) Guntakal	586	590
(2) Paltur	597	619
Dharmavaram taluk—		
(1) Dharmavaram	223	222
Total	4,540	4,691

Remarks.—No fines were inflicted on the relief works so as to carry the wages below the minimum wage.

Gratuitous Relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

Taluks.	Number relieved at kitchens. Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Tadpatri taluk—		
(1) Putlur	27	49
(2) Sanagalagudur	65	84
(3) Yadiki	31	89
(4) Tadpatri	...	* 1
Gooty taluk—		
(1) Guntakal	45	50
(2) Paltur	79	95
Dharmavaram	76	64
Bukkapatnam	50	53
Total	373	485

* A lame destitute fed at Tadpatri by the orders of Tahsildar.

Private charity.—In Penukonda a few destitute people are being fed by one Etagowin Hanumiah. In Madakasíra, Amarapur, Hindúpur and Penukonda famine committees have been formed for selling grain at reasonable rates to the poorer classes. This has had a distinct effect on the market prices in these places. In Gooty a pleader is similarly selling staple grains one seer cheaper than the bazaar rates. In a meeting held at Anantapur on the 15th instant to form a district committee, &c., a sum of about Rs. 1,000 has been subscribed on the spot.

Inspections—Taluks and places visited.

Head Assistant Collector—

Penukonda	1. Rampuram.	5. Satarlapally.
	2. Jagarajupally.	6. Kottucheruvu.
	3. Pedapally.	7. Beedupally.
	4. Gangireddipally.	8. Bukkapatnam.
Hindúpur		1. Gangampalli.
Dharmavaram	1. Basampally.	5. Rajatipally.
	2. Kanumukkala.	6. Pennubole.
	3. Dharmavaram.	7. Damagipally.
	4. Dadaloor.	

Inspections—Taluks and places visited—*cont.*

Head-quarter Deputy Collector—

Anantapur	1. Somandoddi.	7. Thalajacheepalli.
	2. Pamroy.	8. Papinapalyam.
	3. Vadiampeta.	9. Jambuladinna.
	4. Kottapally.	10. Raghunathapuram.
	5. Taticherla.	11. Akuledu.
	6. Garladinna.	

Gooty Deputy Collector—

Gooty taluk	1. Timmancherla.	7. Vundabunda.
	2. Guntakal.	8. Vidapanakal.
	3. Vajrakarur.	9. Malapuram.
	4. Konakondla.	10. Karakumukkah.
	5. Uravakonda.	11. Gadukal.
	6. Paltur	12. Hanchinahal.
Tadpatri taluk.	1. Tadpatri.	4. Sanagalagudur.
	2. Rayalcheruvu.	5. Vanganur.
	3. Yadiki.	

By Collector: 1. Guntakal. 2. Dharmavaram.

I have been obliged to remain at head-quarters with a view to the prompt disposal of urgent papers in connection with the erection of plague sheds at Guntakal.

General remarks.—Numbers on relief works are steadily increasing and prices have as yet shown no tendency towards an appreciable fall. Cattle are fast deteriorating and, with the exception of sugarcane harvest in parts of Penukonda and the other two southern taluks, and the very limited weeding and harvesting operations all over the district, there are but few occupations available for the labourers. About 200 coolies are now employed in ballast work on the railway line between Anantapur and Garladinna. There is not much hill grass to be cut in the close vicinity of villages, but the cutting of "Rala" and "Tangedu" bark and making new buckets and repairing old ones is in some parts affording sufficient labour for the low castes. In all these cases the rates of wages are far more favourable than the famine wage. The railway authorities are paying a daily wage of 4 annas per cooly, the well diggers get on an average 2 annas per diem, while the harvest operations fetch the coolies $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 seers of grain per head. In Gooty, the removal of nuth grass is giving considerable employment to the working classes at similar remunerative rates. A number of people were found without work in Karadikonda in the northern portion of this taluk near the Kurnool frontier, and the Deputy Collector has proposed—

(1) the clearance of silt from the bed of Rachapalli tank at Karadikonda after an estimate is ready for the same, and

(2) the starting of work on the Kurnool-Bangalore high road in the *interim*.

I have sanctioned the collection of materials to be begun on the road midway between Karadikonda and Gooty and have asked the Deputy Collector to ascertain if any relief work is in progress within a reasonable distance from the village in question in the adjoining taluk of Pattikonda in the Kurnool district. I have also requested the Assistant Engineer to put the Kondapuram work in the Tadpatri taluk urgently in hand. A kitchen has also been proposed and sanctioned for Gooty, and the Deputy Collector thus writes on the subject:—

"Considering the state of the persons represented in the Tahsildar's report, I am of opinion that no work need be opened at Gooty for the present, but the opening of a kitchen is necessary. As the distress is becoming more acute, springs of charity are fast drying up. The number of persons who come to beg for meals from door to door at night time has considerably increased. If a kitchen is opened at Gooty, the destitute people in the adjoining villages may also be sent to it. I have therefore the honour to request that you will be good enough to sanction the starting of a kitchen at Gooty."

The Head Assistant Collector reports that at Dadalur several ryots of that and of another adjoining village represented to him that they were starving and that he instructed them to go to the relief work at Dharmavaram within four miles from Dadalur. The coolies, however, wanted a work to be opened nearer their villages. "They were told", the Head Assistant Collector writes, "that if a large number of people resorted to the relief work at Dharmavaram, the question of opening a relief work near their villages would be considered." This would practically amount to a "distance test" not contemplated by the code, at least for the other villages beyond Dadalur, and I am therefore addressing the Head Assistant Collector for a detailed report on the subject and shall arrange to start a work in the neighbourhood of these villages, if the coolies are really in want.

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.		
Tadpatri	5	900	3	225	56	17,635	1	50	1	50	21	6,680	6	950	4	275	77	24,315	..	3
Gooty	29	6,165	13	1,645	168	42,850	255	36,790	200	23,700	912	1,61,030	284	42,955	213	25,345	1,080	2,03,880	..	13
Anantapur	331	* 33,242	289	26,512	536	58,334	7	905	7	805	44	5,250	338	30,447	296	27,317	580	63,584	4	178
Kalyandurg	142	19,520	117	8,905	† 133	23,705	17	2,220	17	† 1,160	48	7,350	159	21,740	134	10,065	181	31,055	4	117
Dharmavaram	144	16,985	118	8,235	122	17,940	2	400	2	400	12	1,380	146	17,385	120	8,635	134	19,320	11	119
Penukonda	26	4,270	22	2,005	8	1,400	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	4,270	22	2,005	8	1,400	4	25
Hindupur	153	25,995	127	14,000	48	13,070	2	1,000	2	1,000	1	500	155	26,995	129	15,000	49	13,570	4	132
Madakasira	27	4,685	14	2,105	30	6,475	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	4,685	14	2,105	30	6,475	1	15
Total ..	857	1,11,762	703	63,632	1,101	1,81,409	284	41,365	229	27,115	1,038	1,82,190	1,141	1,53,127	932	90,747	2,139	3,63,599	28	592

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.
Tadpatri	53	3,495	32	2,365	73	5,123	..	..	..	..	1	32	53	3,495	32	2,365	74	5,155
Gooty	5	510	4	450	88	6,845	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	510	4	450	88	6,845
Anantapur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kalyandrug	..	..	..	..	1	20	..	..	..	..	6	400	..	..	..	..	7	420
Dharmavaram	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	1,300	17	940	72	4,355	24	1,300	17	940	72	4,355
Penukonda	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	170	..	..	3	250	3	170	..	..	3	250
Hindupur	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	650	8	450	20	2,060	10	650	8	450	20	2,060
Madakasira	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	500	..	..	..	..	3	500
Total ..	58	4,005	36	2,815	162	11,988	37	2,120	25	1,390	105	7,597	95	6,125	61	4,205	267	19,585

* One case for Rs. 200 wrongly shown in this column in the last statement has now been correctly shown under "other purposes." The Tahsildar has hitherto been giving the amount sanctioned instead of the actual amounts disbursed to the borrowers in these columns. These figures represent the actual amounts disbursed.

Resolution—dated 27th March 1897, No. 255.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The situation in the district is growing more serious. The difficulty felt by the lower castes, especially the Panchamas, in getting drinking water is increasing, and early orders are requested on the application for funds for the improvement of water-supply, submitted with B.P., dated 4th March 1897, No. 189. The Collector's action in having allotted Rs. 100 for the purpose, in anticipation of sanction, is approved, but the sum is inadequate.

3. Agricultural operations are coming to a stand still. Crops under tanks, nalas and wells are said to be thriving in Penukonda, but the standing dry crops in the district are doomed. The Collector's reports to date regarding the outturn of crops in Madakasíra and Hindupur would seem to be too sanguine. Up to the beginning of March, so far as the Board can ascertain, there has not been a word in the Collector's reports to indicate that crops had failed in the two southern taluks of Anantapur, though it was almost a certainty when the Commissioner was there in July 1886. In March the Collector submitted proposals for dry remissions, which are under consideration. From the information received by the Commissioner, the Amarapuram firka of Madakasíra and parts of the Kodikonda firka of Hindupur would seem to have so suffered as to deserve consideration when dry remissions are granted. If crops fail, the ryots do not profit by high prices, for they have nothing to sell. The Commissioner has received several complaints, which will be separately forwarded to the Collector for disposal, from ryots and Madigas of Madulapalle and Bachupalle of Kodikonda firka, and from Kottepalli of Hindupur firka. They complain that both early and late crops failed; that coercive processes are being carried out even against their cooking utensils; that they have no water, and have to go three miles to the river bed for it; that some of them are in urgent need of employment; that they must abandon their villages if arrangements are not made for drinking water; that fodder is very scarce; that they have been stinting in their meals; and that State loans are only given to the rich ryots and not to the deserving poor. These are very serious complaints from a taluk hitherto supposed not to be affected. The low price of grain forbids the opening of relief works in these tracts, but there may be individual cases which require special treatment. The Collector should see that coercive process is not pressed at present against persons whose crops have failed, and can make recommendations to that effect where necessary. Drinking-water sources should be improved, and no time lost in doing this; loans should be freely given to those likely to employ labour in these tracts, and this speedily. There is one important fact noticeable about these men. There were 27 of them in all—caste men, Panchamas and Madigas. They were all in the prime of life, and all, except one or two—who wore jackets, and were not examined—unmistakably emaciated. Now if this be so in a non-affected tract, there is strong reason to doubt whether relief in the affected tracts has gone far enough, and whether Yadiki is an isolated example. The Collector and his officers should redouble their watchfulness and exertions. Pasture is scarce, and of fodder there is but a limited supply. Cattle are generally deteriorating; the condition of non-working cattle is reported to be miserable.

4. Prices are stationary, except at Tadpatri and Uravakonda where the price of cholum has risen. Trade continues to be dull, but at Tadpatri it is reported to be beginning to revive. The average of prices for the district is misleading, owing to the inclusion of Hindupur and Madakasíra. The Collector should look into the price reported for ragi at Uravakonda. There is no known reason why ragi should be so cheap there.

5. The condition of the people is reported to be good on the whole. The relief workers in the Tadpatri taluk are some of them emaciated, but this is explained to be due to the tardiness of the people in coming on the works. The Collector promises a further report on the matter. Employment is available for the working classes to some extent, at wages higher than the famine wage, in ballast work on the railway line between Anantapur and Garladinne, in cutting tangedu bark and hill grass, in digging

wells and in removing nuth grass from the fields; and arrangements are said to have been made for starting relief works wherever there appears to be demand for them. The Board would be glad to see these arangements take effect, as the number of works now open is insufficient. The numbers on relief works have increased, especially in the Tadpatri taluk; so also have the numbers fed in kitchens. No explanation has been given for the falling off in the numbers at Sanagalagudur. The Deputy Collector should enquire into the matter, which should be noticed in the next fortnightly narrative. The Collector has ordered that a destitute Boya and his family in Karadikonda should be fed pending the opening of a kitchen; but it is not stated in what form the relief was to be given, by grant of grain dole, money dole or otherwise. The Board presumes that no money dole has been given. No mention is made by the Collector of the action taken by him to give effect to the scheme of weavers' relief already approved by the Board. This matter should receive his earliest attention and should be referred to in future narratives. In a separate proceedings—No. 263, dated 31st March 1897—the Commissioner has referred to his inspection in Dadalur, Regatupalle and other villages.

6. Private charity seems to be active. It is gratifying to learn that the pleader in Gooty who was reported to be selling staple grains cheaper than the bazaar rates, and certain famine committees formed by charitably disposed persons in the southern taluks for selling grain at reasonable prices to the poorer classes, have been continuing their philanthropic measures. This benevolent action is said to have tended to check the rise in prices in these taluks.

7. A large number of applications for loans is still pending in the affected taluks, and the Board trusts that these applications will be speedily disposed of, as the appointment of a special Tahsildar for loans work in the district has recently been sanctioned by Government.

8. The rise in the jail population is regrettable, but is a concomitant feature in times of distress. The Collector need not allude to the matter in his future narratives, as the figures are being submitted from the office of the Inspector-General of Prisons.

9. The attention of the District Medical and Sanitary officer should be called to the outbreak of cholera reported. The village officers are generally quite incapable of diagnosing cholera from famine diarrhœa and other bowel complaints. This mistake came recently to special notice on enquiry made by the District Surgeon in the Kistna uplands. The Collector does not say what steps were taken to disinfect wells in affected villages.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Anantapur.
" Sanitary Commissioner.

Order—No. 272, Revenue, dated 27th April 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. A sum of Rs. 3,000 has already been placed at the disposal of the Collector for the improvement of the water-supply (*vide* G.O., No. 286, Financial, dated 29th March 1897). In view of the general scarcity of drinking water in parts of the affected districts, the Board of Revenue is requested to consider the feasibility of carrying out the improvement of village water-supply as part of the programme of relief works. The scheme, if any be adopted, should be simple and easy to work as anything elaborate is sure to be attended with unexpected practical difficulties in the working and is likely to fail.

1067022

3. There appears to be too much of "reporting" in the Gooty division. The Collector quotes from the report of the Deputy Collector who again refers to the report of the Tahsildar. The Deputy Collector should be able to state the result of his own observations and not merely accept the Tahsildar's statement.

4. The charity of Etagowin Hanumiah of Penukonda and the efforts of the famine committees of Madakasira, Amarapur, Hindupur and Penukonda to mitigate distress and of the Gooty pleader referred to by the Collector are commendable.

(True Extract.)

for Ag. Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. Shaik Karim.

70 Copies.

Public Works Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. }
} 1897.
Regd. }

Enclosures

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G.O., No. 272, 27th April 1897.

Order thereon No. 1256 of 18.5.97

Communicated to the Supdg: Engineer III Circle

(True extract)

for Secy

APRIL.

To

The Supdg: Engineer III Circle

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording, with remarks, Proceedings of the Board of Revenue submitting the — of the Anantapur district for the period ending 15th March 1897.

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The supply in irrigation tanks is practically *nil*, while that in river channels, springs and wells is diminishing and is hardly sufficient for the standing crops.

Agricultural operations and condition of standing crops.—Standing crops on dry lands (red soil) are cotton and castor and late horse-gram. These have been in parts picked and harvested and elsewhere stunted in growth ; outturn mostly poor, ranging from 1 to 4 annas. In black soils, cholum and bengal-gram are fading and have withered in parts. In tank-beds, bengal-gram and cucumbers are in a fair condition. Indigo in Tadpatri is expected to yield no outturn.

Under tanks, nalas and wells, paddy, sugarcane and cholum are thriving in parts of the Penukonda division. Ragi and korra in Gooty and the two central taluks are being harvested in parts ; outturn 8 to 12 annas. Weeding of paddy, cholum and korra is also going on in parts of Gooty taluk.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture is scarce. Fodder is very scanty and limited. Cattle are generally deteriorating for want of sufficient food and water. Some cattle in Gooty taluk have been taken away to the Mysore province where prospects are better for grazing them.

Cattle disease is prevalent in two villages of Madakasira and one village of Penukonda taluk ; attacks 226, deaths 34.

General remarks on the above subjects.—Water scarcity is gradually increasing. Agricultural operations are slowly coming to a standstill. The condition of non-working cattle is miserable. The standing dry crops are fated to die or yield but poor outturn.

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 15th day of March 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		Ragi.		Cholum (yellow).		Cholum (white).	
	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.
Tadpatri	9·18	9·18	15·52	15·52	14·42	13·39	13·39	12·36
Yadiki	8·64	8·64	14·55	15·52	12·36	12·36	..	..
Gooty	8·64	8·64	15·52	15·52	13·39	13·39	13·39	13·39
Uravakonda	8·40	9·45	17·85	18·90	13 65	13·65	13·12	12·60
Anantapur	8·64	8·64	16·49	16·49	14·42	14·42	12·36	13·39
Kalyandrug	10·26	10·26	16·49	16·49	15·45	15·45	12·36	13·39
Dharmavaram	8·64	8·64	15·52	15·52	14·42	15·45	13·39	14·42
Penukonda	9·72	9·72	18·43	17·46	..	..	15·45	15·45
Hindúpur	10·75	10·75	23·65	24·18	..	..	17·00	18·27
Madakasira	10·80	10·80	20·37	21·34	..	..	..	..
Average ..	9·36	9·47	17·43	17·69	14·01	14·01	13·81	14·15

Activity of trade.—Private trade is mostly inactive except at Tadpatri where it is reported to be just reviving.

Imports.—Five thousand five hundred and forty-six maunds from Guntúr, Salem, Coimbatore, Nellore and other places.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

(1) *On works.*—Fair generally in the Gooty division and good elsewhere. In Yadiki and Puttur work some of the coolies look emaciated, and this is not due to any "undesirable delay" in opening the works, as suggested by the Sanitary Commissioner lately, but solely to the unwillingness of the labourers to attend relief works on famine wages and the consequent stinting in their daily food in the early part of the distress. A separate report will be submitted on the Sanitary Commissioner's letter as called for.

(2) *In villages.*—Good on the whole.

Sickness and Mortality.—Cholera is prevalent in eight villages of the Anantapur taluk ; attacks 176, deaths 57 during the fortnight. Small-pox in Penukonda division ; attacks in the three southern taluks 106, deaths 10. No deaths from starvation. On a report from the Deputy Collector, Gooty, I have sanctioned that one Boya Latchmigadu and his family in a very destitute state in the village of Karadikonda should be fed at the expense of the State pending the opening of a kitchen and a relief work at that place also recently sanctioned.

Remarks.—Particulars of jail population are as follows :—

Taluk.	Average for three years.	During the fortnight.
Gooty	38	262
Dharmavaram	13	50
Hindúpur	7	2
Madakasira	14	5
Anantapur	6	14
Total ...	78	333

The increase in Gooty and Dharmavaram is attributed to the adverse state of the season and the consequent increase of crime.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed. Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Tadpatri taluk—		
(1) Putlur	554	591
(2) Sanagalagudur	1,984	1,853
(3) Yadiki	596	816
Gooty taluk—		
(1) Guntakal	586	590
(2) Paltur	597	619
Dharmavaram taluk—		
(1) Dharmavaram	223	222
Total ...	4,540	4,691

Remarks.—No fines were inflicted on the relief works so as to carry the wages below the minimum wage.

Gratuitous Relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

Taluks.	Number relieved at kitchens. Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Tadpatri taluk—		
(1) Putlur	27	49
(2) Sanagalagudur	65	84
(3) Yadiki	31	89
(4) Tadpatri	...	* 1
Gooty taluk—		
(1) Guntakal	45	50
(2) Paltur	79	95
Dharmavaram	76	64
Bukkapatnam	50	53
Total ...	373	485

* A lame destitute fed at Tadpatri by the orders of Tahsildar.

Private charity.—In Penukonda a few destitute people are being fed by one Etagowin Hanumiah. In Madakasíra, Amarapur, Hindúpur and Penukonda famine committees have been formed for selling grain at reasonable rates to the poorer classes. This has had a distinct effect on the market prices in these places. In Gooty a pleader is similarly selling staple grains one seer cheaper than the bazaar rates. In a meeting held at Anantapur on the 15th instant to form a district committee, &c., a sum of about Rs. 1,000 has been subscribed on the spot.

Inspections—Taluks and places visited.

Head Assistant Collector—

Penukonda	1. Rampuram.	5. Satarlapally.
	2. Jagarajupally.	6. Kottucheruvu.
	3. Pedapally.	7. Beedupally.
	4. Gangireddipally.	8. Bukkapatnam.
Hindúpur		1. Gangampalli.
Dharmavaram	1. Basampally.	5. Rajatipally.
	2. Kanumukkala.	6. Pennubole.
	3. Dharmavaram.	7. Damagipally.
	4. Dadaloor.	

Inspections—Taluks and places visited—*cont.*

Head-quarter Deputy Collector—

Anantapur	1. Somandoddi.	7. Thalajacheepalli.
	2. Pamroy.	8. Papinapalyam.
	3. Vadiampeta.	9. Jambuladinna.
	4. Kottapally.	10. Raghunathapuram.
	5. Taticherla.	11. Akuledu.
	6. Garladinna.	

Gooty Deputy Collector—

Gooty taluk	1. Timmancherla.	7. Vundabunda.
	2. Guntakal.	8. Vidapanakal.
	3. Vajrakarur.	9. Malapuram.
	4. Konakondla.	10. Karakumukkah.
	5. Uravakonda.	11. Gadukal.
	6. Paltur	12. Hanchinahal.
Tadpatri taluk. ...	1. Tadpatri.	4. Sanagalagudur.
	2. Rayalcheruvu.	5. Vanganur.
	3. Yadiki.	

By Collector ... ... 1. Guntakal. 2. Dharmavaram.

I have been obliged to remain at head-quarters with a view to the prompt disposal of urgent papers in connection with the erection of plague sheds at Guntakal.

General remarks.—Numbers on relief works are steadily increasing and prices have as yet shown no tendency towards an appreciable fall. Cattle are fast deteriorating and, with the exception of sugarcane harvest in parts of Penukonda and the other two southern taluks, and the very limited weeding and harvesting operations all over the district, there are but few occupations available for the labourers. About 200 coolies are now employed in ballast work on the railway line between Anantapur and Garladinna. There is not much hill grass to be cut in the close vicinity of villages, but the cutting of "Rala" and "Tangedu" bark and making new buckets and repairing old ones is in some parts affording sufficient labour for the low castes. In all these cases the rates of wages are far more favourable than the famine wage. The railway authorities are paying a daily wage of 4 annas per cooly, the well diggers get on an average 2 annas per diem, while the harvest operations fetch the coolies $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 seers of grain per head. In Gooty, the removal of nuth grass is giving considerable employment to the working classes at similar remunerative rates. A number of people were found without work in Karadikonda in the northern portion of this taluk near the Kurnool frontier, and the Deputy Collector has proposed—

(1) the clearance of silt from the bed of Rachapalli tank at Karadikonda after an estimate is ready for the same, and

(2) the starting of work on the Kurnool-Bangalore high road in the *interim*.

I have sanctioned the collection of materials to be begun on the road midway between Karadikonda and Gooty and have asked the Deputy Collector to ascertain if any relief work is in progress within a reasonable distance from the village in question in the adjoining taluk of Pattikonda in the Kurnool district. I have also requested the Assistant Engineer to put the Kondapuram work in the Tadpatri taluk urgently in hand. A kitchen has also been proposed and sanctioned for Gooty, and the Deputy Collector thus writes on the subject:—

"Considering the state of the persons represented in the Tahsildar's report, I am of opinion that no work need be opened at Gooty for the present, but the opening of a kitchen is necessary. As the distress is becoming more acute, springs of charity are fast drying up. The number of persons who come to beg for meals from door to door at night time has considerably increased. If a kitchen is opened at Gooty, the destitute people in the adjoining villages may also be sent to it. I have therefore the honour to request that you will be good enough to sanction the starting of a kitchen at Gooty."

The Head Assistant Collector reports that at Dadalur several ryots of that and of another adjoining village represented to him that they were starving and that he instructed them to go to the relief work at Dharmavaram within four miles from Dadalur. The coolies, however, wanted a work to be opened nearer their villages. "They were told", the Head Assistant Collector writes, "that if a large number of people resorted to the relief work at Dharmavaram, the question of opening a relief work near their villages would be considered." This would practically amount to a "distance test" not contemplated by the code, at least for the other villages beyond Dadalur, and I am therefore addressing the Head Assistant Collector for a detailed report on the subject and shall arrange to start a work in the neighbourhood of these villages, if the coolies are really in want.

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.		
Tadpatri	5	900	3	225	56	17,635	1	50	1	50	21	6,680	6	950	4	275	77	24,315	..	3
Gooty	29	6,165	13	1,645	168	42,850	255	36,790	200	23,700	912	1,61,030	284	42,955	213	25,345	1,080	2,03,880	..	13
Anantapur	331	* 33,242	289	26,512	536	58,334	7	905	7	805	44	5,250	338	30,447	296	27,317	580	63,584	4	178
Kalyandurg	142	19,520	117	8,905	† 133	23,705	17	2,220	17	† 1,160	48	7,350	159	21,740	134	10,065	181	31,055	4	117
Dharmavaram	144	16,985	118	8,235	122	17,940	2	400	2	400	12	1,380	146	17,385	120	8,635	134	19,320	11	119
Penukonda	26	4,270	22	2,005	8	1,400	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	4,270	22	2,005	8	1,400	4	25
Hindupur	153	25,995	127	14,000	48	13,070	2	1,000	2	1,000	1	500	155	26,995	129	15,000	49	13,570	4	132
Madakasira	27	4,685	14	2,105	30	6,475	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	4,685	14	2.105	30	6,475	1	15
Total ..	857	1,11,762	703	63,632	1,101	1,81,409	284	41,365	229	27,115	1,038	1,82,190	1,141	1,53,127	932	90,747	2,139	3,63,599	28	592

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.	
Tadpatri	53	3,495	32	2,365	73	5,123	..	..	..	..	1	32	53	3,495	32	2,365	74	5,155
Gooty	5	510	4	450	88	6,845	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	510	4	450	88	6,845
Anantapur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kalyandrug	..	..	..	..	1	20	..	..	..	..	6	400	..	..	..	..	7	420
Dharmavaram	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	1,300	17	940	72	4,355	24	1,300	17	940	72	4,355
Penukonda	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	170	..	..	3	250	3	170	..	..	3	250
Hindupur	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	650	8	450	20	2,060	10	650	8	450	20	2,060
Madakasira	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	500	..	..	..	..	3	500
Total ..	58	4,005	36	2,815	162	11,988	37	2,120	25	1,390	105	7,597	95	6,125	61	4,205	267	19,585

* One case for Rs. 200 wrongly shown in this column in the last statement has now been correctly shown under "other purposes."
The Tahsildar has hitherto been giving the amount sanctioned instead of the actual amounts disbursed to the borrowers in these columns. These figures represent the actual amounts disbursed.

Resolution—dated 27th March 1897, No. 255.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The situation in the district is growing more serious. The difficulty felt by the lower castes, especially the Panchamas, in getting drinking water is increasing, and early orders are requested on the application for funds for the improvement of water-supply, submitted with B.P., dated 4th March 1897, No. 189. The Collector's action in having allotted Rs. 100 for the purpose, in anticipation of sanction, is approved, but the sum is inadequate.

3. Agricultural operations are coming to a stand still. Crops under tanks, nalas and wells are said to be thriving in Penukonda, but the standing dry crops in the district are doomed. The Collector's reports to date regarding the outturn of crops in Madakasíra and Hindupur would seem to be too sanguine. Up to the beginning of March, so far as the Board can ascertain, there has not been a word in the Collector's reports to indicate that crops had failed in the two southern taluks of Anantapur, though it was almost a certainty when the Commissioner was there in July 1886. In March the Collector submitted proposals for dry remissions, which are under consideration. From the information received by the Commissioner, the Amarapuram firka of Madakasíra and parts of the Kodikonda firka of Hindupur would seem to have so suffered as to deserve consideration when dry remissions are granted. If crops fail, the ryots do not profit by high prices, for they have nothing to sell. The Commissioner has received several complaints, which will be separately forwarded to the Collector for disposal, from ryots and Madigas of Madulapalle and Bachupalle of Kodikonda firka, and from Kottepalli of Hindupur firka. They complain that both early and late crops failed; that coercive processes are being carried out even against their cooking utensils; that they have no water, and have to go three miles to the river bed for it; that some of them are in urgent need of employment; that they must abandon their villages if arrangements are not made for drinking water; that fodder is very scarce; that they have been stinting in their meals; and that State loans are only given to the rich ryots and not to the deserving poor. These are very serious complaints from a taluk hitherto supposed not to be affected. The low price of grain forbids the opening of relief works in these tracts, but there may be individual cases which require special treatment. The Collector should see that coercive process is not pressed at present against persons whose crops have failed, and can make recommendations to that effect where necessary. Drinking-water sources should be improved, and no time lost in doing this; loans should be freely given to those likely to employ labour in these tracts, and this speedily. There is one important fact noticeable about these men. There were 27 of them in all—caste men, Panchamas and Madigas. They were all in the prime of life, and all, except one or two—who wore jackets, and were not examined—unmistakably emaciated. Now if this be so in a non-affected tract, there is strong reason to doubt whether relief in the affected tracts has gone far enough, and whether Yadiki is an isolated example. The Collector and his officers should redouble their watchfulness and exertions. Pasture is scarce, and of fodder there is but a limited supply. Cattle are generally deteriorating; the condition of non-working cattle is reported to be miserable.

4. Prices are stationary, except at Tadpatri and Uravakonda where the price of cholum has risen. Trade continues to be dull, but at Tadpatri it is reported to be beginning to revive. The average of prices for the district is misleading, owing to the inclusion of Hindupur and Madakasíra. The Collector should look into the price reported for ragi at Uravakonda. There is no known reason why ragi should be so cheap there.

5. The condition of the people is reported to be good on the whole. The relief workers in the Tadpatri taluk are some of them emaciated, but this is explained to be due to the tardiness of the people in coming on the works. The Collector promises a further report on the matter. Employment is available for the working classes to some extent, at wages higher than the famine wage, in ballast work on the railway line between Anantapur and Garladinne, in cutting tangedu bark and hill grass, in digging

wells and in removing nuth grass from the fields; and arrangements are said to have been made for starting relief works wherever there appears to be demand for them. The Board would be glad to see these arangements take effect, as the number of works now open is insufficient. The numbers on relief works have increased, especially in the Tadpatri taluk; so also have the numbers fed in kitchens. No explanation has been given for the falling off in the numbers at Sanagalagudur. The Deputy Collector should enquire into the matter, which should be noticed in the next fortnightly narrative. The Collector has ordered that a destitute Boya and his family in Karadikonda should be fed pending the opening of a kitchen; but it is not stated in what form the relief was to be given, by grant of grain dole, money dole or otherwise. The Board presumes that no money dole has been given. No mention is made by the Collector of the action taken by him to give effect to the scheme of weavers' relief already approved by the Board. This matter should receive his earliest attention and should be referred to in future narratives. In a separate proceedings—No. 263, dated 31st March 1897—the Commissioner has referred to his inspection in Dadalur, Regatupalle and other villages.

6. Private charity seems to be active. It is gratifying to learn that the pleader in Gooty who was reported to be selling staple grains cheaper than the bazaar rates, and certain famine committees formed by charitably disposed persons in the southern taluks for selling grain at reasonable prices to the poorer classes, have been continuing their philanthropic measures. This benevolent action is said to have tended to check the rise in prices in these taluks.

7. A large number of applications for loans is still pending in the affected taluks, and the Board trusts that these applications will be speedily disposed of, as the appointment of a special Tahsildar for loans work in the district has recently been sanctioned by Government.

8. The rise in the jail population is regrettable, but is a concomitant feature in times of distress. The Collector need not allude to the matter in his future narratives, as the figures are being submitted from the office of the Inspector-General of Prisons.

9. The attention of the District Medical and Sanitary officer should be called to the outbreak of cholera reported. The village officers are generally quite incapable of diagnosing cholera from famine diarrhœa and other bowel complaints. This mistake came recently to special notice on enquiry made by the District Surgeon in the Kistna uplands. The Collector does not say what steps were taken to disinfect wells in affected villages.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Anantapur.
" Sanitary Commissioner.

Order—No. 272, Revenue, dated 27th April 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. A sum of Rs. 3,000 has already been placed at the disposal of the Collector for the improvement of the water-supply (*vide* G.O., No. 286, Financial, dated 29th March 1897). In view of the general scarcity of drinking water in parts of the affected districts, the Board of Revenue is requested to consider the feasibility of carrying out the improvement of village water-supply as part of the programme of relief works. The scheme, if any be adopted, should be simple and easy to work as anything elaborate is sure to be attended with unexpected practical difficulties in the working and is likely to fail.

3. There appears to be too much of "reporting" in the Gooty division. The Collector quotes from the report of the Deputy Collector who again refers to the report of the Tahsildar. The Deputy Collector should be able to state the result of his own observations and not merely accept the Tahsildar's statement.

4. The charity of Etagowin Hanumiah of Penukonda and the efforts of the famine committees of Madakasira, Amarapur, Hindupur and Penukonda to mitigate distress and of the Gooty pleader referred to by the Collector are commendable.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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REVENUE.

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G.O., No. 272, 27th April 1897.

Order thereon W.P. 1295 dt 7.5.97
Communicated to the Supdg. Engineer III Circle
(true extract)
for D.R.C

APRIL.

To
The Supdg. Engineer III Circle

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording, with remarks, Proceedings of the Board of Revenue submitting the — of the Anantapur district for the period ending 15th March 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 27th March 1897, No. 255 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Anantapur district during the period ending with 15th March 1897.

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and Water-supply.—Rainfall *nil* during the fortnight. Aggregate quantity registered up to date is 14·67 inches against an average of 23·52 inches.

Drinking-water supply is generally sufficient in Kalyandrug and elsewhere, excepting parts of the northern, of the two central and the three southern taluks. The deficiency in these localities is mostly felt by the lower castes. The allotment already applied for from Provincial funds is urgently required. Villagewar particulars and estimates have been called for, and as taluk and district boards have no funds whatever to devote for the purpose, a sum of Rs. 100 has been allotted out of the general funds in anticipation of sanction for expenditure in Dharmavaram and Hindupur taluks on the recommendation of the Divisional Officer.

The supply in irrigation tanks is practically *nil*, while that in river channels, springs and wells is diminishing and is hardly sufficient for the standing crops.

Agricultural operations and condition of standing crops.—Standing crops on dry lands (red soil) are cotton and castor and late horse-gram. These have been in parts picked and harvested and elsewhere stunted in growth; outturn mostly poor, ranging from 1 to 4 annas. In black soils, cholum and bengal-gram are fading and have withered in parts. In tank-beds, bengal-gram and cucumbers are in a fair condition. Indigo in Tadpatri is expected to yield no outturn.

Under tanks, nalas and wells, paddy, sugarcane and cholum are thriving in parts of the Penukonda division. Ragi and korra in Gooty and the two central taluks are being harvested in parts; outturn 8 to 12 annas. Weeding of paddy, cholum and korra is also going on in parts of Gooty taluk.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture is scarce. Fodder is very scanty and limited. Cattle are generally deteriorating for want of sufficient food and water. Some cattle in Gooty taluk have been taken away to the Mysore province where prospects are better for grazing them.

Cattle disease is prevalent in two villages of Madakasira and one village of Penukonda taluk; attacks 226, deaths 34.

General remarks on the above subjects.—Water scarcity is gradually increasing. Agricultural operations are slowly coming to a standstill. The condition of non-working cattle is miserable. The standing dry crops are fated to die or yield but poor outturn.

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 15th day of March 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		Ragi.		Cholum (yellow).		Cholum (white).	
	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.
Tadpatri	9·18	9·18	15·52	15·52	14·42	13·39	13·39	12·36
Yadiki	8·64	8·64	14·55	15·52	12·36	12·36	..	..
Gooty	8·64	8·64	15·52	15·52	13·39	13·39	13·39	13·39
Uravakonda	8·40	9·45	17·85	18·90	13·65	13·65	13·12	12·60
Anantapur	8·64	8·64	16·49	16·49	14·42	14·42	12·36	13·39
Kalyandrug	10·26	10·26	16·49	16·49	15·45	15·45	12·36	13·39
Dharmavaram	8·64	8·64	15·52	15·52	14·42	15·45	13·39	14·42
Penukonda	9·72	9·72	18·43	17·46	..	..	15·45	15·45
Hindúpur	10·75	10·75	23·65	24·18	..	..	17·00	18·27
Madakasira	10·80	10·80	20·37	21·34	..	..	..	..
Average ..	9·36	9·47	17·43	17·69	14·01	14·01	13·81	14·15

Activity of trade.—Private trade is mostly inactive except at Tadpatri where it is reported to be just reviving.

Imports.—Five thousand five hundred and forty-six maunds from Guntúr, Salem, Coimbatore, Nellore and other places.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

(1) *On works.*—Fair generally in the Gooty division and good elsewhere. In Yadiki and Puttur work some of the coolies look emaciated, and this is not due to any "undesirable delay" in opening the works, as suggested by the Sanitary Commissioner lately, but solely to the unwillingness of the labourers to attend relief works on famine wages and the consequent stinting in their daily food in the early part of the distress. A separate report will be submitted on the Sanitary Commissioner's letter as called for.

(2) *In villages.*—Good on the whole.

Sickness and Mortality.—Cholera is prevalent in eight villages of the Anantapur taluk; attacks 176, deaths 57 during the fortnight. Small-pox in Penukonda division; attacks in the three southern taluks 106, deaths 10. No deaths from starvation. On a report from the Deputy Collector, Gooty, I have sanctioned that one Boya Latchmigadu and his family in a very destitute state in the village of Karadikonda should be fed at the expense of the State pending the opening of a kitchen and a relief work at that place also recently sanctioned.

Remarks.—Particulars of jail population are as follows :—

Taluk.	Average for three years.	During the fortnight.
Gooty	38	262
Dharmavaram	13	50
Hindúpur	7	2
Madakasira	14	5
Anantapur	6	14
Total ...	78	333

The increase in Gooty and Dharmavaram is attributed to the adverse state of the season and the consequent increase of crime.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed. Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Tadpatri taluk—		
(1) Putlur	554	591
(2) Sanagalagudur	1,984	1,853
(3) Yadiki	596	816
Gooty taluk—		
(1) Guntakal	586	590
(2) Paltur	597	619
Dharmavaram taluk—		
(1) Dharmavaram	223	222
Total	4,540	4,691

Remarks.—No fines were inflicted on the relief works so as to carry the wages below the minimum wage.

Gratuitous Relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

Taluks.	Number relieved at kitchens. Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Tadpatri taluk—		
(1) Putlur	27	49
(2) Sanagalagudur	65	84
(3) Yadiki	31	89
(4) Tadpatri	...	* 1
Gooty taluk—		
(1) Guntakal	45	50
(2) Paltur	79	95
Dharmavaram	76	64
Bukkapatnam	50	53
Total	373	485

* A lame destitute fed at Tadpatri by the orders of Tahsildar.

Private charity.—In Penukonda a few destitute people are being fed by one Etagowin Hanumiah. In Madakasíra, Amarapur, Hindúpur and Penukonda famine committees have been formed for selling grain at reasonable rates to the poorer classes. This has had a distinct effect on the market prices in these places. In Gooty a pleader is similarly selling staple grains one seer cheaper than the bazaar rates. In a meeting held at Anantapur on the 15th instant to form a district committee, &c., a sum of about Rs. 1,000 has been subscribed on the spot.

Inspections—Taluks and places visited.

Head Assistant Collector—

Penukonda	1. Rampuram.	5. Satarlapally.
	2. Jagarajupally.	6. Kottucheruvu.
	3. Pedapally.	7. Beedupally.
	4. Gangireddipally.	8. Bukkapatnam.
Hindúpur	1. Gangampalli.	
Dharmavaram	1. Basampally.	5. Rajatipally.
	2. Kanumukkala.	6. Pennubole.
	3. Dharmavaram.	7. Damagipally.
	4. Dadáloor.	

Inspections—Taluks and places visited—*cont.*

Head-quarter Deputy Collector—

Anantapur	1. Somandoddi.	7. Thalajacheepalli.
	2. Pamroy.	8. Papinapalyam.
	3. Vadiampeta.	9. Jambuladinna.
	4. Kottapally.	10. Raghunathapuram.
	5. Taticherla.	11. Akuledu.
	6. Garladinna.	

Gooty Deputy Collector—

Gooty taluk	1. Timmancherla.	7. Vundabunda.
	2. Guntakal.	8. Vidapanakal.
	3. Vajrakarur.	9. Malapuram.
	4. Konakondla.	10. Karakumukkah.
	5. Uravakonda.	11. Gadukal.
	6. Paltur	12. Hanchinahal.
Tadpatri taluk.	1. Tadpatri.	4. Sanagalagudur.
	2. Rayalcheruvu.	5. Vanganur.
	3. Yadiki.	

By Collector — 1. Guntakal. 2. Dharmavaram.

I have been obliged to remain at head-quarters with a view to the prompt disposal of urgent papers in connection with the erection of plague sheds at Guntakal.

General remarks.—Numbers on relief works are steadily increasing and prices have as yet shown no tendency towards an appreciable fall. Cattle are fast deteriorating and, with the exception of sugarcane harvest in parts of Penukonda and the other two southern taluks, and the very limited weeding and harvesting operations all over the district, there are but few occupations available for the labourers. About 200 coolies are now employed in ballast work on the railway line between Anantapur and Garladinna. There is not much hill grass to be cut in the close vicinity of villages, but the cutting of "Rala" and "Tangedu" bark and making new buckets and repairing old ones is in some parts affording sufficient labour for the low castes. In all these cases the rates of wages are far more favourable than the famine wage. The railway authorities are paying a daily wage of 4 annas per cooly, the well diggers get on an average 2 annas per diem, while the harvest operations fetch the coolies $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 seers of grain per head. In Gooty, the removal of nuth grass is giving considerable employment to the working classes at similar remunerative rates. A number of people were found without work in Karadikonda in the northern portion of this taluk near the Kurnool frontier, and the Deputy Collector has proposed—

(1) the clearance of silt from the bed of Rachapalli tank at Karadikonda after an estimate is ready for the same, and

(2) the starting of work on the Kurnool-Bangalore high road in the *interim*.

I have sanctioned the collection of materials to be begun on the road midway between Karadikonda and Gooty and have asked the Deputy Collector to ascertain if any relief work is in progress within a reasonable distance from the village in question in the adjoining taluk of Pattikonda in the Kurnool district. I have also requested the Assistant Engineer to put the Kondapuram work in the Tadpatri taluk urgently in hand. A kitchen has also been proposed and sanctioned for Gooty, and the Deputy Collector thus writes on the subject:—

"Considering the state of the persons represented in the Tahsildar's report, I am of opinion that no work need be opened at Gooty for the present, but the opening of a kitchen is necessary. As the distress is becoming more acute, springs of charity are fast drying up. The number of persons who come to beg for meals from door to door at night time has considerably increased. If a kitchen is opened at Gooty, the destitute people in the adjoining villages may also be sent to it. I have therefore the honour to request that you will be good enough to sanction the starting of a kitchen at Gooty."

The Head Assistant Collector reports that at Dadalur several ryots of that and of another adjoining village represented to him that they were starving and that he instructed them to go to the relief work at Dharmavaram within four miles from Dadalur. The coolies, however, wanted a work to be opened nearer their villages. "They were told", the Head Assistant Collector writes, "that if a large number of people resorted to the relief work at Dharmavaram, the question of opening a relief work near their villages would be considered." This would practically amount to a "distance test" not contemplated by the code, at least for the other villages beyond Dadalur, and I am therefore addressing the Head Assistant Collector for a detailed report on the subject and shall arrange to start a work in the neighbourhood of these villages, if the coolies are really in want.

LOAN TRANSACTIONS.—*Statement showing particulars of loan transactions under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Act.*

Taluks.	Other purposes.								Total.				Number of wells.	
	Applications pending.		Loans disbursed.		Applications accepted.		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.		
1	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Tadpatri	1	50	21	6,680	6	950	4	275	77	24,315	..			3
Gooty	200	23,700	912	1,61,030	284	42,955	213	25,345	1,080	2,03,880	74	5,155		13
Anantapur	7	805	44	5,250	38	30,447	296	27,317	580	63,584	88	6,845	4	178
Kalyandurg	17	†1,160	48	7,350	159	21,740	134	10,065	181	31,055	..	..	4	117
Dharmavaram	2	400	12	1,380	146	17,385	120	8,635	134	19,320	..	..	11	119
Penukonda	..	..	..	..	26	4,270	22	2,005	8	1,400	7	420	4	25
Hindupur	2	1,000	1	500	155	26,995	129	15,000	49	13,570	72	4,355	4	132
Madakasira	..	..	..	..	27	4,685	14	2,105	30	6,475	3	250	1	15
Total ..	229	27,115	1,038	1,82,190	1,141	1,53,127	932	90,747	2,139	3,63,599	20	2,060	28	592
											38	600		
											267	19,585		

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.		
	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39			
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.			
Tadpatri	..	..	..	..	1	32	53	3,495	32	2,365	74	5,155		
Gooty	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	510	4	460	88	6,845		
Anantapur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Kalyandrug	..	..	..	..	6	400	..	..	..	..	7	420		
Dharmavaram	17	1,300	17	940	72	4,355	24	1,300	17	940	72	4,355		
Penukonda	..	170	..	..	3	250	3	170	..	..	3	250		
Hindupur	8	650	..	450	20	2,060	10	650	8	450	20	2,060		
Madakasira	..	..	..	..	3	500	..	..	..	..	3	600		
Total ..	25	2,120	25	1,390	105	7,597	95	6,125	61	4,205	267	19,585		

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.								Purchase of fodder.					
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.				Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.			
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.			Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.				Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Tadpatri	5	900	3	225	56	17,635	1	50	53	3,495	32	2,365	73	6,123	..	..
Gooty	29	6,165	13	1,645	168	42,850	255	36,790	6	610	4	450	88	6,845	..	..
Anantapur	831	*33,242	289	26,512	536	58,334	7	905	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kalyandurg	142	19,520	117	8,906	†133	23,705	17	2,220	..	..	..	..	1	20	..	..
Dharmavaram	144	16,935	118	8,235	122	17,940	2	400	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Penukonda	26	4,270	22	2,005	8	1,400	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	1,300
Hindupur	153	26,995	127	14,000	48	13,070	2	1,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	170
Madakasira	27	4,685	14	2,105	30	6,475	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	650
Total ..	857	1,11,762	703	63,632	1,101	1,81,409	284	41,365	59	4,105	36	2,815	162	11,988	37	2,120

* One case for Rs. 200 wrongly shown in this column in the last statement has now been correctly shown under "other purposes."
The Tahsildar has hitherto been giving the amount sanctioned instead of the actual amounts disbursed to the borrowers in these columns. These figures represent the actual amounts disbursed.

Resolution—dated 27th March 1897, No. 255.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The situation in the district is growing more serious. The difficulty felt by the lower castes, especially the Panchamas, in getting drinking water is increasing, and early orders are requested on the application for funds for the improvement of water-supply, submitted with B.P., dated 4th March 1897, No. 189. The Collector's action in having allotted Rs. 100 for the purpose, in anticipation of sanction, is approved, but the sum is inadequate.

3. Agricultural operations are coming to a stand still. Crops under tanks, nalas and wells are said to be thriving in Penukonda, but the standing dry crops in the district are doomed. The Collector's reports to date regarding the outturn of crops in Madakasíra and Hindupur would seem to be too sanguine. Up to the beginning of March, so far as the Board can ascertain, there has not been a word in the Collector's reports to indicate that crops had failed in the two southern taluks of Anantapur, though it was almost a certainty when the Commissioner was there in July 1886. In March the Collector submitted proposals for dry remissions, which are under consideration. From the information received by the Commissioner, the Amarapuram firka of Madakasíra and parts of the Kodikonda firka of Hindupur would seem to have so suffered as to deserve consideration when dry remissions are granted. If crops fail, the ryots do not profit by high prices, for they have nothing to sell. The Commissioner has received several complaints, which will be separately forwarded to the Collector for disposal, from ryots and Madigas of Madulapalle and Bachupalle of Kodikonda firka, and from Kottepalli of Hindupur firka. They complain that both early and late crops failed; that coercive processes are being carried out even against their cooking utensils; that they have no water, and have to go three miles to the river bed for it; that some of them are in urgent need of employment; that they must abandon their villages if arrangements are not made for drinking water; that fodder is very scarce; that they have been stinting in their meals; and that State loans are only given to the rich ryots and not to the deserving poor. These are very serious complaints from a taluk hitherto supposed not to be affected. The low price of grain forbids the opening of relief works in these tracts, but there may be individual cases which require special treatment. The Collector should see that coercive process is not pressed at present against persons whose crops have failed, and can make recommendations to that effect where necessary. Drinking-water sources should be improved, and no time lost in doing this; loans should be freely given to those likely to employ labour in these tracts, and this speedily. There is one important fact noticeable about these men. There were 27 of them in all—caste men, Panchamas and Madigas. They were all in the prime of life, and all, except one or two—who wore jackets, and were not examined—unmistakably emaciated. Now if this be so in a non-affected tract, there is strong reason to doubt whether relief in the affected tracts has gone far enough, and whether Yadiki is an isolated example. The Collector and his officers should redouble their watchfulness and exertions. Pasture is scarce, and of fodder there is but a limited supply. Cattle are generally deteriorating; the condition of non-working cattle is reported to be miserable.

4. Prices are stationary, except at Tadpatri and Uravakonda where the price of cholum has risen. Trade continues to be dull, but at Tadpatri it is reported to be beginning to revive. The average of prices for the district is misleading, owing to the inclusion of Hindupur and Madakasíra. The Collector should look into the price reported for ragi at Uravakonda. There is no known reason why ragi should be so cheap there.

5. The condition of the people is reported to be good on the whole. The relief workers in the Tadpatri taluk are some of them emaciated, but this is explained to be due to the tardiness of the people in coming on the works. The Collector promises a further report on the matter. Employment is available for the working classes to some extent, at wages higher than the famine wage, in ballast work on the railway line between Anantapur and Garladinne, in cutting tangedu bark and hill grass, in digging

wells and in removing nuth grass from the fields; and arrangements are said to have been made for starting relief works wherever there appears to be demand for them. The Board would be glad to see these arangements take effect, as the number of works now open is insufficient. The numbers on relief works have increased, especially in the Tadpatri taluk; so also have the numbers fed in kitchens. No explanation has been given for the falling off in the numbers at Sanagalagudur. The Deputy Collector should enquire into the matter, which should be noticed in the next fortnightly narrative. The Collector has ordered that a destitute Boya and his family in Karadikonda should be fed pending the opening of a kitchen; but it is not stated in what form the relief was to be given, by grant of grain dole, money dole or otherwise. The Board presumes that no money dole has been given. No mention is made by the Collector of the action taken by him to give effect to the scheme of weavers' relief already approved by the Board. This matter should receive his earliest attention and should be referred to in future narratives. In a separate proceedings—No. 263, dated 31st March 1897—the Commissioner has referred to his inspection in Dadalur, Regatupalle and other villages.

6. Private charity seems to be active. It is gratifying to learn that the pleader in Gooty who was reported to be selling staple grains cheaper than the bazaar rates, and certain famine committees formed by charitably disposed persons in the southern taluks for selling grain at reasonable prices to the poorer classes, have been continuing their philanthropic measures. This benevolent action is said to have tended to check the rise in prices in these taluks.

7. A large number of applications for loans is still pending in the affected taluks, and the Board trusts that these applications will be speedily disposed of, as the appointment of a special Tahsildar for loans work in the district has recently been sanctioned by Government.

8. The rise in the jail population is regrettable, but is a concomitant feature in times of distress. The Collector need not allude to the matter in his future narratives, as the figures are being submitted from the office of the Inspector-General of Prisons.

9. The attention of the District Medical and Sanitary officer should be called to the outbreak of cholera reported. The village officers are generally quite incapable of diagnosing cholera from famine diarrhœa and other bowel complaints. This mistake came recently to special notice on enquiry made by the District Surgeon in the Kistna uplands. The Collector does not say what steps were taken to disinfect wells in affected villages.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of Anantapur.
„ Sanitary Commissioner.

Order—No. 272, Revenue, dated 27th April 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. A sum of Rs. 3,000 has already been placed at the disposal of the Collector for the improvement of the water-supply (*vide* G.O., No. 286, Financial, dated 29th March 1897). In view of the general scarcity of drinking water in parts of the affected districts, the Board of Revenue is requested to consider the feasibility of carrying out the improvement of village water-supply as part of the programme of relief works. The scheme, if any be adopted, should be simple and easy to work as anything elaborate is sure to be attended with unexpected practical difficulties in the working and is likely to fail.

3. There appears to be too much of "reporting" in the Gooty division. The Collector quotes from the report of the Deputy Collector who again refers to the report of the Tahsildar. The Deputy Collector should be able to state the result of his own observations and not merely accept the Tahsildar's statement.

4. The charity of Etagowin Hanumiah of Penukonda and the efforts of the famine committees of Madakasira, Amarapur, Hindupur and Penukonda to mitigate distress and of the Gooty pleader referred to by the Collector are commendable.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*
Regd. } *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 272, 27th April 1897.

Br: 1295 w 3 18.5.97

APRIL.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording, with remarks, Proceedings of the Board of Revenue submitting the — of the Anantapur district for the period ending 15th March 1897.

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Taluks.	Number employed. Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
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(2) Sanagalagudur	1,984	1,853
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Gooty taluk—		
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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.		
Tadpatri	5	900	3	225	56	17,635	1	50	1	50	21	6,680	6	950	4	275	77	24,315	..	3
Gooty	29	6,165	13	1,645	168	42,850	255	36,790	200	23,700	912	1,61,030	284	42,955	213	25,345	1,080	2,03,880	..	13
Anantapur	331	* 33,242	289	26,512	536	58,334	7	905	7	805	44	5,250	338	30,447	296	27,317	580	63,584	4	178
Kalyandurg	142	19,520	117	8,905	† 133	23,705	17	2,220	17	† 1,160	48	7,350	159	21,740	134	10,065	181	31,055	4	117
Dharmavaram	144	16,985	118	8,235	122	17,940	2	400	2	400	12	1,380	146	17,385	120	8,635	134	19,320	11	119
Penukonda	26	4,270	22	2,005	8	1,400	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	4,270	22	2,005	8	1,400	4	25
Hindupur	153	25,995	127	14,000	48	13,070	2	1,000	2	1,000	1	500	155	26,995	129	15,000	49	13,570	4	132
Madakasira	27	4,685	14	2,105	30	6,475	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	4,685	14	2,105	30	6,475	1	15
Total ..	857	1,11,762	703	63,632	1,101	1,81,409	284	41,365	229	27,115	1,038	1,82,190	1,141	1,53,127	932	90,747	2,139	3,63,599	28	592

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.
Tadpatri	53	3,495	32	2,365	73	5,123	..	..	..	..	1	32	53	3,495	32	2,365	74	5,155
Gooty	5	510	4	450	88	6,845	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	510	4	450	88	6,845
Anantapur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kalyandrug	..	..	..	..	1	20	..	..	..	..	6	400	..	..	..	..	7	420
Dharmavaram	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	1,300	17	940	72	4,355	24	1,300	17	940	72	4,355
Penukonda	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	170	..	..	3	250	3	170	..	..	3	250
Hindupur	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	650	8	450	20	2,060	10	650	8	450	20	2,060
Madakasira	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	500	..	..	..	..	3	500
Total ..	58	4,005	36	2,815	162	11,988	37	2,120	25	1,390	105	7,597	95	6,125	61	4,205	267	19,585

* One case for Rs. 200 wrongly shown in this column in the last statement has now been correctly shown under "other purposes."
The Tahsildar has hitherto been giving the amount sanctioned instead of the actual amounts disbursed to the borrowers in these columns. These figures represent the actual amounts disbursed.

Resolution—dated 27th March 1897, No. 255.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The situation in the district is growing more serious. The difficulty felt by the lower castes, especially the Panchamas, in getting drinking water is increasing, and early orders are requested on the application for funds for the improvement of water-supply, submitted with B.P., dated 4th March 1897, No. 189. The Collector's action in having allotted Rs. 100 for the purpose, in anticipation of sanction, is approved, but the sum is inadequate.

3. Agricultural operations are coming to a stand still. Crops under tanks, nalas and wells are said to be thriving in Penukonda, but the standing dry crops in the district are doomed. The Collector's reports to date regarding the outturn of crops in Madakasíra and Hindupur would seem to be too sanguine. Up to the beginning of March, so far as the Board can ascertain, there has not been a word in the Collector's reports to indicate that crops had failed in the two southern taluks of Anantapur, though it was almost a certainty when the Commissioner was there in July 1886. In March the Collector submitted proposals for dry remissions, which are under consideration. From the information received by the Commissioner, the Amarapuram firka of Madakasíra and parts of the Kodikonda firka of Hindupur would seem to have so suffered as to deserve consideration when dry remissions are granted. If crops fail, the ryots do not profit by high prices, for they have nothing to sell. The Commissioner has received several complaints, which will be separately forwarded to the Collector for disposal, from ryots and Madigas of Madulapalle and Bachupalle of Kodikonda firka, and from Kottepalli of Hindupur firka. They complain that both early and late crops failed; that coercive processes are being carried out even against their cooking utensils; that they have no water, and have to go three miles to the river bed for it; that some of them are in urgent need of employment; that they must abandon their villages if arrangements are not made for drinking water; that fodder is very scarce; that they have been stinting in their meals; and that State loans are only given to the rich ryots and not to the deserving poor. These are very serious complaints from a taluk hitherto supposed not to be affected. The low price of grain forbids the opening of relief works in these tracts, but there may be individual cases which require special treatment. The Collector should see that coercive process is not pressed at present against persons whose crops have failed, and can make recommendations to that effect where necessary. Drinking-water sources should be improved, and no time lost in doing this; loans should be freely given to those likely to employ labour in these tracts, and this speedily. There is one important fact noticeable about these men. There were 27 of them in all—caste men, Panchamas and Madigas. They were all in the prime of life, and all, except one or two—who wore jackets, and were not examined—unmistakably emaciated. Now if this be so in a non-affected tract, there is strong reason to doubt whether relief in the affected tracts has gone far enough, and whether Yadiki is an isolated example. The Collector and his officers should redouble their watchfulness and exertions. Pasture is scarce, and of fodder there is but a limited supply. Cattle are generally deteriorating; the condition of non-working cattle is reported to be miserable.

4. Prices are stationary, except at Tadpatri and Uravakonda where the price of cholum has risen. Trade continues to be dull, but at Tadpatri it is reported to be beginning to revive. The average of prices for the district is misleading, owing to the inclusion of Hindupur and Madakasíra. The Collector should look into the price reported for ragi at Uravakonda. There is no known reason why ragi should be so cheap there.

5. The condition of the people is reported to be good on the whole. The relief workers in the Tadpatri taluk are some of them emaciated, but this is explained to be due to the tardiness of the people in coming on the works. The Collector promises a further report on the matter. Employment is available for the working classes to some extent, at wages higher than the famine wage, in ballast work on the railway line between Anantapur and Garladinne, in cutting tangedu bark and hill grass, in digging

wells and in removing nuth grass from the fields; and arrangements are said to have been made for starting relief works wherever there appears to be demand for them. The Board would be glad to see these arangements take effect, as the number of works now open is insufficient. The numbers on relief works have increased, especially in the Tadpatri taluk; so also have the numbers fed in kitchens. No explanation has been given for the falling off in the numbers at Sanagalagudur. The Deputy Collector should enquire into the matter, which should be noticed in the next fortnightly narrative. The Collector has ordered that a destitute Boya and his family in Karadikonda should be fed pending the opening of a kitchen; but it is not stated in what form the relief was to be given, by grant of grain dole, money dole or otherwise. The Board presumes that no money dole has been given. No mention is made by the Collector of the action taken by him to give effect to the scheme of weavers' relief already approved by the Board. This matter should receive his earliest attention and should be referred to in future narratives. In a separate proceedings—No. 263, dated 31st March 1897—the Commissioner has referred to his inspection in Dadalur, Regatupalle and other villages.

6. Private charity seems to be active. It is gratifying to learn that the pleader in Gooty who was reported to be selling staple grains cheaper than the bazaar rates, and certain famine committees formed by charitably disposed persons in the southern taluks for selling grain at reasonable prices to the poorer classes, have been continuing their philanthropic measures. This benevolent action is said to have tended to check the rise in prices in these taluks.

7. A large number of applications for loans is still pending in the affected taluks, and the Board trusts that these applications will be speedily disposed of, as the appointment of a special Tahsildar for loans work in the district has recently been sanctioned by Government.

8. The rise in the jail population is regrettable, but is a concomitant feature in times of distress. The Collector need not allude to the matter in his future narratives, as the figures are being submitted from the office of the Inspector-General of Prisons.

9. The attention of the District Medical and Sanitary officer should be called to the outbreak of cholera reported. The village officers are generally quite incapable of diagnosing cholera from famine diarrhœa and other bowel complaints. This mistake came recently to special notice on enquiry made by the District Surgeon in the Kistna uplands. The Collector does not say what steps were taken to disinfect wells in affected villages.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of Anantapur.
„ Sanitary Commissioner.

Order—No. 272, Revenue, dated 27th April 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. A sum of Rs. 3,000 has already been placed at the disposal of the Collector for the improvement of the water-supply (*vide* G.O., No. 286, Financial, dated 29th March 1897). In view of the general scarcity of drinking water in parts of the affected districts, the Board of Revenue is requested to consider the feasibility of carrying out the improvement of village water-supply as part of the programme of relief works. The scheme, if any be adopted, should be simple and easy to work as anything elaborate is sure to be attended with unexpected practical difficulties in the working and is likely to fail.