Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 1471 W

DATED 31.5.97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Famine : Pro: Revenue Dept. Re-
cording with a remark, Board's Pro:
submitting the fortnightly narrative
of the Bellary Dt. for period ending
31st March 97, Comtd. to S.E. III Circle.

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[P.W. 25. 5,000—30-11-96.]

JC 11/6/97 Indexed. 2/6.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	1157	W	5.5.97				

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Public works (1897) department

Current Number: 4997

Government (1897) of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. 21.5. 1897.
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Enclosures –
Spare copies 16

G.O., No. 310, 8th May 1897.

G.O. No. 1157 W d/ 5 May /97

B No: 1471 W d/ 31.5.97

Communicated to the S.E. III circle.

Cn 25/5/97

S.E. III circle

MAY.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording, with a remark, Proceedings of the Board of Revenue submitting the — of the Bellary district for the period ending 31st March 1897.

O.L.S. 144.
R 29/5

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 16th April 1897, No. 305 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Bellary district during the period ending 31st day of March 1897 :—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and water-supply.—There were 70 cents of rain registered on the 29th at Alúr, and next morning some of the nallas were running. No rain was registered elsewhere. Water-supply for drinking purposes is generally sufficient in Adóni, Rayadrug, Bellary, Hospet and Harpanahalli taluks, with the exception of a few villages in each. Elsewhere it is scanty. The water in wells is steadily diminishing and some have already run dry. The recent rain in Alúr will do some good in the matter of drinking-water for man and beast. The Tungabhadra channels contain an adequate supply for irrigation purposes, while the Hagari channels are being cleared of sand to secure a sufficient supply. Irrigation wells in Adóni, Bellary and Rayadrug contain a moderate supply. Excepting that at Kamalápuram which is fed by the Tungabhadra, the tanks are generally dry except in south of Harpanahalli.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops—Adóni Division.—Lands are being cleared of nuth grass; ploughing continues and manure is being taken to the fields. Garden crops are in good condition. Standing cotton in Adóni is in tolerably good condition. *Bellary Division.*—Sugarcane is being cut in Siruguppa and a few other villages of Bellary taluk. Korra, cholam and wheat harvested with an outturn of 8 annas and oil-seeds 6 annas. Cotton-picking continues. Crops under wells and streams are in fair condition; so also are oil-seeds, cotton and wheat. *Kanekal* tank is empty and the standing crop, which is two months' old is being irrigated from temporary wells. Such wells are not possible on the northern side of the tank ayacut and the crop there is fading. *Hospet Division.*—Sugarcane-cutting continues in Hospet and Hadagalli; some ploughing in the south of Hadagalli, wheat and bengal-gram in tank-bed lands and garden crops under wells are in fair condition. Sugarcane is being planted in the south of Harpanahalli. *Sanduru State.*—Manure is being carted to the fields. There are no standing crops except betel.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle—Adóni Division.—Pasture is *nil.* Fodder is scanty in Alúr, and it is stated that it will last for about 2½ months in Adóni. This statement has been repeated week after week since February and a more trustworthy estimate has been called for. The condition of stall-fed cattle is good, and that of others is fair in Adóni and growing worse in Alúr. There is some cattle disease in Hebbatam and Peddahotur in Alúr taluk. Out of 510 head of cattle brought to Adóni market 347 found no sale, 30 were bought by butchers for prices ranging from Rs. 4 to Rs. 8 and 133 by agriculturists for prices varying from Rs. 15 to Rs. 30. *Bellary Division.*—There is very little pasture. Fodder is scanty except in wet villages. Prickly-pear and hill grass are being used as fodder in Bellary. The condition of other than stall-fed cattle is bad. There is slight cattle disease at Rakatla. *Hospet Division.*—Pasture is almost *nil.* Fodder is sufficient in Harpanahalli and Hirehadagalli firka of Hadagalli; elsewhere generally insufficient. The condition of cattle is generally good, except in Kadlabal firka of Hadagalli and parts of Hospet. *Sanduru State.*—Fodder and pasture sufficient, but obtained with great difficulty. The condition of cattle is good.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—The failure of the drinking water-supply has given me much anxiety, and the Executive Engineer has been asked to clear out or deepen a number of wells in villages near the relief works, and similar work will be undertaken by the Revenue Department in other villages. The attention

of the Chairmen, Municipal Councils, has been invited to the necessity of taking measures for the water-supply of the towns. There is still a fair amount of fodder in the villages, but the ryots are keeping it for use in June when the bullocks will be wanted for the plough. Hill grass is being freely used, and at Kurugodu (Bellary taluk) I saw a cart-load, which had been brought from the Sanduru hills, sold for Rs. 5. In Bellary town the price is about Rs. 6. For cholam straw the price varies from Rs. 7 to Rs. 8–8–0 the cart-load, paddy straw fetches rather less. The cattle of the Alúr taluk have deteriorated since I saw them six weeks ago, but in many villages, *e.g.*, Peddahotur, Holalagondi and the villages on the west of the Alúr hills, their condition is still fair. I was shown a young heifer that was said to be dying of starvation, but inquiry showed that her back was broken. It is certain that numbers will die of starvation, and I can suggest no complete remedy. Loans for the purchase of fodder will be given freely, and most of the plough cattle will, I hope, be saved. An attempt made in 1892 to import hill grass from the Nallamala hills and paddy straw from Kistna proved a failure.

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 31st March 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		White cholam.		Yellow cholam.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
Adóni	9·67	9·13	12·90	10·75	13·97	12·90	17·20	17·20	The prices are generally rising. This is due to gradual exhaustion of stocks in villages and consequent increased demand on the market. There has also been some demand for cholam from Miraz, Sangli, &c., places in Bombay.
Alúr	8·64	8·37	11·85	11·88	12·88	12·88	..	..	
Bellary	9·18	9·18	11·33	10 30	13·39	12·36	16·49	15·52	
Rayadrug	9·72	9·72	13 39	13·39	14·42	13·91	15·52	15·52	
Hospet	8·10	8·64	13·30	10·30	14·40	11·33	16·50	13·58	
Kudligi	8·64	8·64	..	..	13·91	12·36	15·52	14·55	
Harpanahalli ..	9·45	9·72	..	..	14·42	13·39	17·46	15·52	
Hadagalli	9·72	9·72	..	..	14·42	12·36	..	..	
Sanduru	9·45	9·45	..	..	13·10	12·60	15·90	15·90	
Average ..	9·17	9·17	12·55	11·32	13·88	12·67	16·37	15·39	

Activity of trade.—Reported to be active in Adóni, Alúr, Rayadrug and Harpanahalli.

The import of cholam and ragi is chiefly from Bangalore and other places in Mysore. Kistna sends chiefly rice and a small quantity of cholam. The stocks in Bellary town with the merchants are estimated to be—ragi 11,500 bags, cholam 9,000, rice 15,800, cumbu 1,500, and wheat 4,000. From the rail-borne trade figures it will be seen that the imports are on the increase :—

Stations.	Imports during week ending			Exports during week ending		
	13th March 1897.	20th March 1897.	27th March 1897.	13th March 1897.	20th March 1897.	27th March 1897.
Hospet	1,250	285	188	649	633	953
Bellary	8,055	3,092	9,225	110	1,517	194
Adóni	1,742	3,376	5,945	77	681	485
Others	..	182	4	11	..	..

Condition of the People.

(1) *On works.*—Generally good. The exceptions are nearly always old people, whose condition would be poor in any season.

(2) *In Villages.*—Generally good. In Holagundi (Alúr taluk), the Madigas were stinting themselves, taking only one meal a day, eating tamarind seeds, and showing other signs of distress. The Boyas are but little better off. In other villages in the

neighbourhood the position was not so bad, but the collection of hill grass, which now affords some employment, cannot last much longer. I accordingly ordered a kitchen to be opened at once and a relief work (village road from Holagundi to Hebbatam) to be started without delay. Central kitchens were ordered to be opened at Kosgi and Yemmiganúru in Adóni taluk and at Chintakunta in Alúr taluk. One more kitchen was ordered to be opened at Santekúdlur on the Harivanum road. Most of the people selected in Kurugodu (Bellary taluk) for gratuitous relief were found on examination to be habitual beggars. They were told to go to the kitchen at Kolur. Two more kitchens have been ordered on the Bellary-Siruguppa road. A special kitchen for Muhammadans has been opened in Adóni town and it has proved fairly successful.

Sickness and Mortality.—The public health is generally good. No deaths reported from want of food. There is some small-pox in Adóni.

Remarks.—The numbers on Madhavaram road are rapidly increasing, and in order to ensure the work lasting until the end of the present distress, it was desirable to diminish the pressure on it. In addition to the Halvi-Kosgi road already opened, I have ordered the repair of the road work from Kupgal to Kowtalam to be started as a relief work, with a kitchen at Kowtalam. The Bellary-Siruguppa work will be divided into two sections—one section to work from the 7th mile towards Bellary, and the other from the 14th mile towards Siruguppa. The Madhavaram road work has been ordered to be divided into three sections. To provide employment for the people in the south-east of Hospet, a test-work has been ordered on the Gowripur-Kudligi road near Mariammanahalli. Proposals to open a work in Kudligi taluk have not yet been received from Head Assistant Collector. The condition of the weavers in Yemmiganúru and Nandavaram is beginning to demand attention and proposals have been called for.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed.		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Adóni	11,603	14,995	General increase due to diminished local demand for labour.
Alúr	19,749	21,913	
Bellary	4,015	4,398	
Hospet	2,377	2,975	
Hadagalli	1,150	1,437	
Total ..	38,894	45,718	

Gratuitous Relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

Taluks.	Number relieved			
	At kitchens.			
	Dependants.		Others.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Adóni	823	* 1,209	11	..
Alúr	860	898	44	50
Bellary	108	187	3	..
Hospet	310	328	..	..
Hadagalli	24	91	..	..
Total ..	2,125	2,713	58	50

* The increase is due in part to the opening of new kitchens and in part to better attendance at those already existing.

Taluks.	Weavers' relief.			
	Number of villages in which relief was given.		Number of persons relieved.		Number of cloths manufactured.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	In the period.	Up to date.
Adóni	..	..	751	780	860	7,751

Private charity.—Paramma continues to feed about 300 paupers every day. The kitchen opened by the Bellary public will be closed from the 1st April 1897, and I have ordered a Government kitchen to be opened between Brucepetta and Cowle Bazaar. This will be worked in accordance with the Code. A native gentleman distributed some jackets to the inmates in the kitchen on the Bellary-Siruguppa road and has promised to give them a special meal on New Year's day (April 3rd). The District Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund has started operations in the Bellary town and a beginning has been made outside also, at present, chiefly in the direction of supplying cloths which are much needed.

General Remarks.

With reference to paragraph 9 of B.P., dated 8th March 1897, No. 202, I have the honour to report that the "full tasks" therein referred to are the tasks of the district task-table prepared by the Executive Engineer and sanctioned by the Collector, that those tasks are differentiated with reference to age and sex, that allowance is separately made for the distance to be traversed from the village to the work, and that a kitchen was opened in connection with the work. I do not, therefore, understand why the Board objects to my order, which in effect merely required that the test should be properly applied (B.P., dated 14th January 1897, No. 33).

In reply to paragraph 10, in which I am accused of doing injustice to the religious feelings of the people, I beg to state that the festival referred to was a car festival, and that the religious element in such festivals attracts but a very small proportion of those who attend them. In this matter of the Hindu religion I claim to know what I am writing about, and I say, without fear of contradiction, that the great majority of the people who attend a car festival go there for the fair, for the round-abouts, the dramatic performances and the amusements generally.

Moreover, many of the workers at Moka and Daroji are not Hindus at all. A number are Mussalmans and many are Malas and Madigas who are not admitted into temples and whom no Hindu would recognise as a follower of his religion. But I trust I have said enough to prove that I am not obnoxious to the serious charge of doing "injustice to the religious feelings of the people."

With reference to paragraph 11, I beg to report that no person, whether clothed in rags or adorned in silk and jewels, is refused admission to the famine relief work in this district. I have been told by a high authority on the subject that it was not intended by the framers of the Code that every applicant should be admitted—and this receives support from section 161 of the Code—but that view has never been taken in this district. I trust, therefore, that I am free from the charge of "maligning and misrepresenting the intentions of the Government."

In reply to paragraph 13, I have the honour to inquire whether tasks should not be enforced. Every allowance is made and the task as finally fixed is, I am convinced, a light one. Having fixed a fair task, I require it to be performed. If I am wrong, I beg that I may receive definite instructions. With reference to the order that people are to be induced to come to the relief works I beg to refer the Commissioner to G.O., Mis. No. 724, dated 17th December 1896, and to ask whether I am to consider that order cancelled. Beyond enforcing a fair task nothing has

been done "to stem the tide of coming labour." I have not heard of any instance of the coolies on the relief works in the Bellary district receiving other than humane treatment.

I do not know how far the remarks in the concluding paragraph of the proceedings are directed against myself, but I may perhaps be permitted to say that I never forget that the money I am spending on famine relief is not my own, nor even that of the inhabitants of this district, but that it belongs to the people of the Presidency, or country as a whole, and that it, therefore, behoves me to refrain from spending it on works of mere benevolence. And as the Famine Commissioner has quoted the Scriptures to show how relief should be given, he will, I am sure, permit me to refer him to a yet earlier instance, when the people were not given food for nothing, but were taught that the way to meet years of drought was to save the surplus produce of the years of plenty.

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

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.		Rs.
Adóni	5	760	3	280	68	14,311	59	4,565	35	2,740	561	44,125	64	5,325	38	3,020	629	58,436	1	..
Alur	2	600	2	600	77	26,550	706	78,570	615	65,675	1,610	2,35,920	708	79,170	617	66,275	1,687	2,62,470	..	2
Bellary	5	525	4	400	48	9,725	147	14,600	116	11,750	1,125	1,53,675	152	15,125	120	12,150	1,173	1,63,400	..	4
Rayadrug	* 12	2,350	12	1,175	60	16,850	52	7,425	52	7,425	137	20,700	64	9,775	64	8,600	197	37,550	..	12
Hospet	7	1,300	2	250	22	4,110	11	950	3	200	24	880	18	2,250	5	450	46	4,990	..	2
Kudligi	..	..	..	..	15	2,600	..	..	..	..	4	475	..	..	..	..	19	3,075	..	..
Harpanahalli	..	..	..	..	2	500	30	3,930	22	2,880	39	3,950	30	3,930	22	2,880	41	4,450	..	..
Hadagalli	1	100	1	50	45	9,450	29	4,255	26	3,905	219	33,770	30	4,355	27	3,955	264	43,220	..	..
Total ..	32	5,635	24	2,755	337	84,096	1,034	1,14,295	869	96,575	3,719	4,93,495	1,066	1,19,930	893	97,330	4,056	5,77,591	1	20

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.		R .		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Adóni	..	..	..	..	28	1,845	..	..	..	..	7	310	..	..	..	..	35	2,155
Alur	41	2,047	37	1,817	194	11,974	13	1,785	† 16	1,995	2	1,800	54	3,832	53	3,812	196	13,774
Bellary	12	360	11	340	429	16,615	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	360	11	340	429	16,115
Rayadrug	..	..	..	..	6	500	..	..	..	..	5	360	..	..	..	..	11	860
Hospet	..	..	..	..	86	3,569	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	86	3,569
Kudligi	32	1,320	26	1,220	79	2,283	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	1,320	26	1,220	79	2,283
Harpanahalli	3	150	2	100	6	340	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	150	2	100	6	340
Hadagalli	8	455	5	350	62	2,665	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	455	5	350	62	2,665
Total ..	96	4,332	81	3,827	890	39,791	13	1,785	16	1,995	14	2,470	109	6,117	97	5,822	904	42,261

* Revised figure. † Three cases sanctioned last year but paid this year.

N.B.—The progress in Alur is satisfactory, the amount disbursed during the fortnight being nearly Rs. 23,000. In Bellary the amount disbursed was Rs. 6,155 and in Adóni Rs. 2,270. A special Tahsildar having been appointed in Bellary, better results may be expected hereafter, but in Adóni the progress is still comparatively backward, and it may prove advisable to send the Alúr special Tahsildar on to that taluk. Every effort will be made to ensure prompt disposal of the applications for the purchase of fodder.

Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and places visited—by the Collector.—Bellary-Siruguppa road work, Halaharvi-Moka road work, Alur-Aspari work and Bellary-Moka road works. The villages of Koluru, Kurugodu, Badanahatti, Vaddehatti, Yaryangaligo, Kolagallu, Yerragudi, Aspari, Peddahotur, Alur, Halaharvi, Kuruvalli, Agraharam, Virupapuram, Salavoyi, Bolugoti, Kanelihalli, Mugamanagundi, Sammatagiri, Holalgundi.

By the Deputy Collector, Adoni.—Adoni-Madhavaram road work, Kosigi, Bellagallu, Bannipalli, Rachmari, in Adoni taluk. Alur-Aspari road, Alur-Adoni road, and Alur-Moka road works and the villages of Arpari, Peddahotur, Alur, Halaharvi, Kuruvalli, Agraharam, Virupapuram, Salavoyi, Kumbahalu, Migamavagundi, Sammatageri, Holagundi, and Habbatam.

By the Head-Quarter Deputy Collector.—Parmadevanahalli and Moka road works and the villages of Parmadevanahalli, Kokkabevinahalli, Bodinahatti, Bisalahalu, Sanganakal, Marur, in Bellary taluk, Badanahal, Malliam, Udagolam, Bommakupalli, Rayadrug, Gollapalli, Jolivanka, Golagala, in Rayadrug taluk.

By the Head Assistant Collector.—Devaratimalapuram, Komaranapalli, Arasikera, Harpanahalli, Kanivihalli, Konganahorur, Misuvankalahatti, Nandeleevoor, Hagarihommanahalli and Hospet.

Resolution—dated 16th April 1897, No. 305.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. Except a shower at Alúr registering 70 cents, there was no rain during the fortnight under report. Water-supply for drinking is reported to be sufficient in parts but scanty elsewhere, and wells have either run, or are running, dry. The Collector's proposal to utilise surplus Pound funds for the improvement of supplies for man and beast has been strongly recommended by the Board for the approval of Government. Meanwhile, the Collector has been directed to apply at once, if necessary, for a grant from Provincial funds for the purpose.

Agricultural operations are being carried on to a limited extent. Small areas harvested have yielded a moderate outturn. Standing crops are generally in fair condition, but are fading in parts, where not protected by wells.

3. It is to be feared that the loss of cattle will be very considerable. Pasture is *nil;* water is failing in parts; and fodder is scanty. The ryot is compelled for his own interest to see to the welfare of his more valuable cattle as long as he can, but the inferior classes are less cared for, and are already exhibiting symptoms of distress. Numbers of cattle are now coming into the market, but are mostly unsaleable, even at very low prices. The attention of Government is once more invited to B.P., No. 230 of 1897, and early orders are solicited, so that action, if any, may be taken before it is too late. Meanwhile the attention of the Executive Committee of the Famine Relief Fund will be drawn to the distress in Bellary. The Board thinks that the formation of cattle camps, and the gratuitous distribution of fodder at centres between Adóni and Alúr would do much to mitigate the sufferings of the cattle in Bellary, and would be a suitable object on which to expend relief funds.

4. The price of rice is stationary, but that of cholam, the staple food-grain of the district, has risen sharply, especially at Hospet, Kúdligi and Hadagalli. The scarcity rate of the district is 15 seers a rupee; this was exceeded in 1891–92, when the highest rate touched was 14·2. The rate now reported is 12·67, and from the subsequent weekly season telegram it appears that the price has since risen to 11·6. The rise is said to be due to gradual exhaustion of stocks, and consequent increased local demand, while there has also been a demand from the Bombay side. Trade is active.

5. The condition of the people both on works and in villages was generally good. The numbers on relief works increased during the fortnight from 38,894 to 45,718

or by 17·5 per cent., and the numbers on gratuitous relief have risen from 2,183 to 2,763.

6. Good work was turned out under the Loans Acts. Considering the number of loans pending disposal, the Board does not agree with the Collector that it may prove advisable to send the Alúr Special Tahsildar to Adóni. It appears that another Special Tahsildar should be appointed for Alúr, and it seems more than probable that still more special officers are required for the Alúr and Bellary taluks. The Collector will report upon this point.

7. With regard to the Collector's remarks about full tasks, he will be referred once more to the words used by him: "I have . . . . . determined to open a test-work . . . . 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 object of this severity was evidently the hope "that greater strictness will lead to a decrease in number, or that it will at least check the tendency to increase." The Collector did not state that allowances were to be made for the composition of the gangs and the distance travelled to the work-spot, nor did he say that a kitchen was to be attached to the work; and, judging from the stringent nature of the instructions issued by him, it was doubtful whether orders had been issued to attend to these matters. The Board therefore remarked: "If these conditions have not been complied with, the work is no test-work." Had the Collector, when reporting that the conditions adverse to the workers' interests were to be strictly enforced, stated that the conditions in the workers' favour would also be strictly adhered to, there would have been no necessity for the remarks of the Board. The Board, however, cannot approve of the object the Collector had in view, in directing the rigid exaction of tasks and unrestricted fining.

8. The Collector's ideas as to the intention of the framers of the Code with regard to admission to relief-works are incorrect. In paragraph 110 of the report of the Indian Famine Commission it was considered how the proper recipients of public charity could be most effectually ascertained, and it was decided that the main test to be adopted should be the "demand of labour commensurate with the labourer's powers in return for a wage sufficient for the purposes of maintenance, but not more" (paragraph 111). Subsequently, in paragraph 131, it is distinctly stated that *all applicants should be received who are willing to submit to the test.* Later, this policy was formally approved of by the Government of Madras, after the experience gained in 1891–92 (*vide* G.O., No. 839, Revenue, dated 11th August 1892, and official memorandum No. 138, dated 5th July 1892) and was adopted when drafting section 93 of the Code, which provides that all persons applying for work, however weakly, shall be received by the officer in charge of a work. Mr. Stuart is in error in supposing that his view finds support in section 161 of the revised Code. He has wholly misinterpreted the meaning of that section. The section is an exact reproduction of section 161 of the old Code, and merely provides for a medical officer to help the civil authorities in deciding the nature of the relief to be granted to any particular applicant. This is clearly shown by section 20 of the old Famine Code, which empowers medical officers to send an applicant to the tasked labour of Professional Agency works, or the light employment of Civil Agency works, or to admit him to gratuitous relief. In fact, the medical officer is to assist the Civil officers in making the discrimination required by paragraph 77 of the Code, viz, whether the applicant for relief is to be relieved under section 57, or under section 60, of the Famine Code.

9. The Collector will be referred to G.O., No. 216 of 1897, for the reply to his enquiry whether tasks are to be enforced. He will see that the officer in charge of the work has first to satisfy himself that the task set is really a fair one, and that deficient outturn is clearly due to malingering. With reference to his question regarding G.O., No. 724, dated 17th December 1896, the matter was brought to the notice of Government in B.P., No. 462 of 1896, and in B.P., dated 19th February 1897, No. 145, and the question was disposed of in G.O., Mis. No. 170, Revenue, in which the papers were "recorded with reference to G.O., No. 216, dated 30th March 1897". The Collector will, therefore, understand that section 36 of the Famine Code

is in full force. The G.O. referred to by him was, as is plain from the use of the word "now", passed with reference only to a particular time, long past, and to particular circumstances. The Collector will be now guided solely by G.O., No. 216, dated 30th March 1897, which contains nothing germane to the language of the obsolete G.O. quoted by the Collector.

10. The Board considers it unnecessary to discuss further the other general remarks of the Collector.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of Bellary.
Copy to the Joint Honorary Secretaries, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Committee, Madras, with reference to paragraph 3.
„ the Sanitary Commissioner.
„ Collectors of other affected districts.

Order—No. 310, Revenue, dated 8th May 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. Orders have already been passed on the question referred to in paragraph 3 of the Board's Proceedings.

(True Extract.)

for Ag. Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. Shaik Karim.

70 Copies.

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

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

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Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and places visited—by the Collector.—Bellary-Siruguppa road work, Halaharvi-Moka road work, Alur-Aspari work and Bellary-Moka road works. The villages of Koluru, Kurugodu, Badanahatti, Vaddehatti, Yaryangaligo, Kolagallu, Yerragudi, Aspari, Peddahotur, Alur, Halaharvi, Kuruvalli, Agraharam, Virupapuram, Salavoyi, Bolugoti, Kanelihalli, Mugamanagundi, Sammatagiri, Holalgundi.

By the Deputy Collector, Adoni.—Adoni-Madhavaram road work, Kosigi, Bellagallu, Bannipalli, Rachmari, in Adoni taluk. Alur-Aspari road, Alur-Adoni road, and Alur-Moka road works and the villages of Arpari, Peddahotur, Alur, Halaharvi, Kuruvalli, Agraharam, Virupapuram, Salavoyi, Kumbahalu, Migamavagundi, Sammatageri, Holagundi, and Habbatam.

By the Head-Quarter Deputy Collector.—Parmadevanahalli and Moka road works and the villages of Parmadevanahalli, Kokkabevinahalli, Bodinahatti, Bisalahalu, Sanganakal, Marur, in Bellary taluk, Badanahal, Malliam, Udagolam, Bommakupalli, Rayadrug, Gollapalli, Jolivanka, Golagala, in Rayadrug taluk.

By the Head Assistant Collector.—Devaratimalapuram, Komaranapalli, Arasikera, Harpanahalli, Kanivihalli, Konganahorur, Misuvankalahatti, Nandeleevoor, Hagarihommanahalli and Hospet.

Resolution—dated 16th April 1897, No. 305.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. Except a shower at Alúr registering 70 cents, there was no rain during the fortnight under report. Water-supply for drinking is reported to be sufficient in parts but scanty elsewhere, and wells have either run, or are running, dry. The Collector's proposal to utilise surplus Pound funds for the improvement of supplies for man and beast has been strongly recommended by the Board for the approval of Government. Meanwhile, the Collector has been directed to apply at once, if necessary, for a grant from Provincial funds for the purpose.

Agricultural operations are being carried on to a limited extent. Small areas harvested have yielded a moderate outturn. Standing crops are generally in fair condition, but are fading in parts, where not protected by wells.

3. It is to be feared that the loss of cattle will be very considerable. Pasture is *nil;* water is failing in parts; and fodder is scanty. The ryot is compelled for his own interest to see to the welfare of his more valuable cattle as long as he can, but the inferior classes are less cared for, and are already exhibiting symptoms of distress. Numbers of cattle are now coming into the market, but are mostly unsaleable, even at very low prices. The attention of Government is once more invited to B.P., No. 230 of 1897, and early orders are solicited, so that action, if any, may be taken before it is too late. Meanwhile the attention of the Executive Committee of the Famine Relief Fund will be drawn to the distress in Bellary. The Board thinks that the formation of cattle camps, and the gratuitous distribution of fodder at centres between Adóni and Alúr would do much to mitigate the sufferings of the cattle in Bellary, and would be a suitable object on which to expend relief funds.

4. The price of rice is stationary, but that of cholam, the staple food-grain of the district, has risen sharply, especially at Hospet, Kúdligi and Hadagalli. The scarcity rate of the district is 15 seers a rupee; this was exceeded in 1891–92, when the highest rate touched was 14·2. The rate now reported is 12·67, and from the subsequent weekly season telegram it appears that the price has since risen to 11·6. The rise is said to be due to gradual exhaustion of stocks, and consequent increased local demand, while there has also been a demand from the Bombay side. Trade is active.

5. The condition of the people both on works and in villages was generally good. The numbers on relief works increased during the fortnight from 38,894 to 45,718

or by 17·5 per cent., and the numbers on gratuitous relief have risen from 2,133 to 2,763.

6. Good work was turned out under the Loans Acts. Considering the number of loans pending disposal, the Board does not agree with the Collector that it may prove advisable to send the Alúr Special Tahsildar to Adóni. It appears that another Special Tahsildar should be appointed for Alúr, and it seems more than probable that still more special officers are required for the Alúr and Bellary taluks. The Collector will report upon this point.

7. With regard to the Collector's remarks about full tasks, he will be referred once more to the words used by him: "I have . . . . determined to open a test-work . . . . 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 object of this severity was evidently the hope "that greater strictness will lead to a decrease in number, or that it will at least check the tendency to increase." The Collector did not state that allowances were to be made for the composition of the gangs and the distance travelled to the work-spot, nor did he say that a kitchen was to be attached to the work; and, judging from the stringent nature of the instructions issued by him, it was doubtful whether orders had been issued to attend to these matters. The Board therefore remarked: "If these conditions have not been complied with, the work is no test-work." Had the Collector, when reporting that the conditions adverse to the workers' interests were to be strictly enforced, stated that the conditions in the workers' favour would also be strictly adhered to, there would have been no necessity for the remarks of the Board. The Board, however, cannot approve of the object the Collector had in view, in directing the rigid exaction of tasks and unrestricted fining.

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