Public Works (189 7/) Department.

G.O., No. 1476 W

DATED 31.5.97

one copy taken for
no 5692/97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Famine: Pro: Revenue Dept. recording with remarks Board's Pro: submitting the fortnightly – narrative of the Kurnool Dt. for the period ending 28th February 1897, Comtd. to S.E. III Cir.

[P.W. 25. 5,000—30-11-96.] 5661/97 Indexed. 1/6

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Public works (1897) Department

Current No: 5063

Government (1897) of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. & Regd. 22-5-1897.

Enclosures

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G.O., No. 315, 11th May 1897.

B No: 1476 W, 31-5-97

Communicated to the Supdg. Engr. III Circle.

25/5/97

S. E. III Circle 5/6

1/6/97

MAY.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Board's Proceedings submitting, with remarks, the — of the Kurnool district for the period ending 28th February 1897, recorded with the remark that the Government is prepared to consider any proposals which the Board may, in consultation with the Collectors, send up for the appointment of Taluk Relief officers.

O.L. 5. 125

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 11th March 1897, No. 220 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Kurnool district during the period ending 28th of February 1897 :—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and Water-supply—

	Inches.
Rainfall in rain-registering stations	18
Rainfall up to the period from 1st April 1896	15·91
Average rainfall expected in the period	*Nil.*
Average rainfall expected up to the period from 1st April 1896 ...	27·25

There was a slight fall of rain throughout the district, the heaviest, viz., one inch, being at Kalwa. This increased the drinking water-supply to some extent in parts. Water-supply was generally sufficient for drinking purposes, though diminishing in parts of the western section. A few tanks in the eastern section received fresh supplies, while the Uppalervagu, the Kandleru and the Gundlacamma were in freshes, but the water-supply was generally insufficient for irrigation purposes, except in canal villages and under wells.

Agricultural operations and condition of standing crops.—Cotton-picking was in progress throughout the district, and the yield is supposed to be moderate, at all events, in the Sirvel taluk, where I am touring at present. Bengal-gram and ragi were harvested in parts, and in the eastern section the transplanting of ragi under wells and the harvesting of early sown bengal-gram, wheat and korra were going on. Cotton is almost the only standing crop not under wells, and its condition is fair, except in the western section. Crops under wells are in as good condition as can be expected, considering the state of the season.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture was sufficient in the eastern section, and available to a small extent in the vicinity of hills and in canal villages throughout the district. Grass was sprouting a little in places where there had been rain. Fodder was sufficient in the northern and eastern sections, and insufficient elsewhere. Hill grass continued to be used. Cattle were becoming weak in the western and southern sections. Elsewhere their condition was fair. Rinderpest continued to prevail in parts.

General remarks on above subjects.—Nil.

Food supplies and the state of the markets.

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

Stations.	Rice.		Ragi.		Cholum.		Cumbu.	
	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of this fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of this fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of this fortnight.
Pattikonda	9·72	9·72	..	..	12·87 (W) 14·42 (Y)	12·87 (W) 13·90 (Y)	12·22	12·22
Pyápali	8·64	8·64	..	..	13·90 (Y)	13·39 (Y)	11·28	11·28
Kurnool	8·58	8·58	14·19	12·90	14·38 (W and Y)	14·04 (W) 14·38 (Y)	11·87	12·33
Nandikotkur	9·29	8·58	..	..	15·07 (W and Y)	15·07 (W and Y)	..	..
Atmakúru	10·01	10·01	..	..	15·75 (W and Y)	15·75 (W and Y)	..	..
Nandyal	10·01	9·29	17·41	16·77	14·38 (W) 14·04 (Y)	14·38 (W) 14·04 (Y)	12·50	10·00
Kalwa	8·58	8·58	..	..	15·07 (W and Y)	13·70 (W) 15·07 (Y)	..	..
Koilkuntla	9·96	9·96	15·00	15·00	14·22 (W) 12·64 (Y)	13·82 (W) 13·43 (Y)	13·05	13·05
Owk	9·96	9·96	15·00	15·00	13·43 (W) 13·03 (Y)	13·43 (W) 12·64 (Y)	11·60	11·60
Allagadda	8·58	8·58	15·15	15·00	12 33 (W and Y)	12·33 (W and Y)	..	..
Giddalore	8·71	8·71	15·00	15·00	15·80 (Y)	15·80 (Y)	13·05	13·05
Markapur	9·96	9·96	18·00	18·00	..	..	14·50	14·50
Average ..	9·40	9·21	15·76	15·38	14·39 (W) 14·41 (Y)	13·93 (W) 14·16 (Y)	12·63	12·25

Note.—Prices are either stationary or rising at almost all stations.

Activity of trade.—Trade was moderately active and grain was freely sold in the markets, except in the southern section, where people purchased food-grains chiefly in the weekly market at Nandyal, imports into and exports from which place were extensive as usual. Cholum was exported from Kurnool to Yemmiganur in the Bellary district.

Condition of the people.

On works.—The health of the coolies employed on the Allagadda relief works inspected by me during the fortnight appeared to be pretty good, and the sanitary arrangements made for them were satisfactory.

The Head Assistant Collector reports that the labourers on the several works in his division look healthy and strong. The Pyapali Deputy Collector considers the state of the relief workers in his charge to be good.

The medical subordinates in charge of the several relief works reported that the health of the workers was good for the most part. It is curious, however, that at Kodumur, where there has been practically no fining and B class wages are being almost always earned, about one-fifth of the workers are said to be looking ill-fed : the District Medical and Sanitary officer visited this work a few days ago, and I am awaiting his report as to the actual state of affairs.

In villages.—The condition of the people in the *northern and eastern sections* is good for the present. The few that are in want of labour in the villages at the foot of the Nallamalas in the northern section find work at the three major tank works now being treated as ordinary Public Works Department works.

Western section.—During the early part of the fortnight, I inspected Katarkonda, Mallyala, Vepadinne and Alamkonda lying in the south-east of the Pattikonda taluk, and finding that about 50 coolies in each of these villages were without employment, I called upon the Executive Engineer to provide work for them either by starting the Alamkonda tank project, or, if that could not be taken up, to offer work at a convenient centre on the branch road connecting the Gooty and Aspari roads. The condition of the people in this section bordering the Bellary district, as already reported in

the last fortnightly narrative, is demanding early attention; but I regret to state that the Executive Engineer does not seem to have yet opened the work on the Kodumur-Yemmiganúru road near Gonegundla in spite of my requests. He has been asked to state definitely what steps he is taking, and I have also spoken to the Sub-Engineer personally on the subject. The Deputy Collector of Pyápali having, under my orders, inspected the villages lying between Ternikal and the Bellary frontier on the one side and between that place and Devanabanda on the other side and reported that the poorer classes on those parts need relief, the Executive Engineer has been requested to put in hand a new road to connect the Bellary high road with the Adóni-Yemmiganúru road, which the Deputy Collector considers will be a useful communication. Relief is proposed to be offered in the neighbourhood of Mulagundam and Ternakal.

Southern section.—The Head Assistant Collector reports that the people in his division are generally in a healthy condition. I have inspected a portion of the Sirvel taluk and find the condition of the people to be not so critical as yet as in the western section. Nevertheless, prompt steps are being taken to offer adequate relief to all those that are in need of it. The Koilkuntla section of the Koilkuntla-Allagadda road has begun to attract labourers, while the number on relief at the Allagadda end has risen to over 1,000. A work was also opened on the Rampur pass road near Chennur under the supervision of the Local Fund Engineer on the 23rd ultimo, and is attracting some 400 or 500 workers. I have requested the Superintending Engineer to take over the work at a very early date. The District Forest-officer offered line-clearing work to the villagers of Mutyalpad at a distance of about 2½ miles from their village on 19th ultimo, but none attended. He was informed by the reddi that there would be no applicants for 2 or 3 weeks, and I have since ascertained by personal enquiry that the people were not then willing to accept the B class wages offered to them. Another attempt to start this work will be made in due course.

Banganapalle State.—The Nawab has not yet furnished his promised report regarding the condition of his subjects, and an urgent reminder is being sent to him to expedite it. The Head Assistant Collector, in passing through the southern extremity of the State, noticed signs of distress: to this the Nawab's attention is being drawn.

Relief for weavers.—The scheme for the relief of weavers in the Pattikonda taluk was put into operation during the fortnight. The narrative of the Pyápali Deputy Collector affords but very meagre details of the extent to which the weavers are availing themselves of the relief. The branch depôt at Kodumur should have been opened by this time, and I have called for proposals for establishing a similar depôt at Maddikera. A revised scheme for the relief of Kurnool weavers was received from the Assistant Collector just at the close of the fortnight, and has since been submitted to the Board for orders.

Jail population.—The information under this head has again been received from only seven out of the thirteen sub-jails of the district. Due notice will be taken of the conduct of the defaulting officers. The fluctuations are reported to be due to no particular causes.

Sickness and mortality.—No deaths were reported from want of food. Public health was generally good, except that small-pox was slightly prevalent in some villages of the Kurnool and the Nandyal divisions.

Remarks.—Nil.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Nandyal	547	1,505
Sirvel	355	1,669
Koilkuntla	2,066	3,164
Pattikonda	3,403	3,692
Total ...	6,371	10,030

Gratuitous relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

Taluks.	Number relieved at kitchens	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Nandyal	...	92
Sirvel	16	29
Koilkuntla	131	222
Pattikonda	228	154
Total ...	375	497

Private charity.—Raja Sir Savalay Ramaswami Mudaliar of Madras has kindly sent me 300 cloths for distribution among the coolies attending the relief works and their dependants.

Inspections of the District Collector and Divisional Officers.

Taluks and places visited.—I was on tour for 11 days out of the fortnight and visited the following places: Pattikonda, Ratana, Mallyala, Vepedinne, Alamkonda, Deebaguntla, Erraguntla and Allagadda.

The Pyápali Deputy Collector visited the following villages: Hosur, Tuggali, Maddikera, Agraharam, Humpa, Edanabi, Bylupala, Chinna hulti, Devanabanda, Billekal, Atikala gundu, Nalakadoddi, Jutur, Yatakal, Thogalakal, Bylu Pattikonda, Karwemile, Karumanchi, Dadadoddikatakonda, Mulagundam, Peda Pendekal, Chinna Pendekal, Banavanur, Ternikal, Pulukurti, Kapatralla, Machapuram and Kodumur. He has not stated how many days he spent on tour.

The Head Assistant Collector, who was in camp throughout the fortnight inspected the following villages: Ligamdinne, Tudumuladinne, Putchakayapalli, Nossam, Reddiwari Jambaldinne, Pedda Yemmanur, Kakaravada, Bodiammanur, Rupanagudi, Mayalur, Allur, Gulladurti, Pottipad, Koilkuntla, Biginavemula, Pedda Kopperla, Chinna Kopperla, Vallampad, Lingala, Gundupupala, Vantiverla, Gala, Gospaud, Pasarapad, Nagalavaram, Dibaguntla, Boyalakuntla, Chennur, Gangavaram, Matakulapalli and Beravole.

The Head-quarter Deputy Collector, Nandikotkur, visited the following villages: Atmakur, Nandigunta, Gollavaram, Bhuttuvanipalli, Musalimadugu, Gunneadapuram, Sivapuram, Yerramatam, Pratakota, Pagadyala, Nagatur, Kodudela, Nandikotkur, Maddigatla, Mallyala and Godidemadugu.

The Deputy Collector of Cumbum visited the following villages: Cumbum taluk—Kandulapuram, Nadimpalli, Sydapuram, Hozrathgudem, Kaghithalagudem, Chinthlapolam, Somavarepet, Papayapalli and Giddalore.

General Remarks.—I beg to submit that the time appears to me to have now come to relieve both the Pyápali Deputy Collector and the Pattikonda Tahsildar of their ordinary duties. The state of the people in the villages of the Pattikonda taluk calls for the close attention of both those officers, and the former must further arrange to spend more time than he has been doing in the Ramallakot taluk. There is much business to be got through in connection with applications for loans and the weavers' relief scheme.

Again, there is evidently much to be done towards popularizing the kitchens attached to the relief works which are not attracting nearly so many dependants of the workers as they should. I request, therefore, that a Special Deputy Collector and a Special Deputy Tahsildar may be sanctioned as soon as possible. The Tahsildar ask for the services of a second Special Revenue Inspector in connection with loans works, and as that work is assuming large proportions, I support the request.

Read—the following letter from Surgeon-Lieut.-Colonel W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department (through the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture), dated Camp Tadpatri, 5th March 1897, No. 567 S.:—

I have the honour to forward herewith my inspection notes as to the famine conditions found by me in the Sirvel taluk, Kurnool district.

Enclosure.

Inspection Notes by the Sanitary Commissioner as to famine conditions in the Sirvel taluk, Kurnool district.

Gazulapalli and Mahadevapuram.—I unite these two villages not only on account of their proximity but on account of the similarity of the conditions of the population. The cooly class in both have been able to sustain themselves during the stress of high prices by taking to Nandyal grass and fruit from the Nallamalas, and participating in the agricultural operations round Nandyal. Within the last ten days these sources of income have gradually diminished, and relief works within one week would be essential here. The Mahadevapuram well requires silt clearing urgently.

Bassapur.—The people of this small village are much reduced by fever, but visits to the houses showed that they were not without means of subsistance. Still, life is a struggle, and wages can only be obtained irregularly. All maintained that they would hail the opening of relief works. The village well requires deepening at once, as it is fast drying up. If this supply is lost, water will have to be carried for two miles.

Boyalakuntla.—This village is too far from the Nallamalas to allow people to readily benefit by work obtainable there, and is also awkwardly situated as to the area under irrigation in the taluk. There has, consequently, throughout the period of scarcity, been difficulty in the inhabitants obtaining *sufficient* food. So-called relief works were opened here in November, but the test was severe being excavation of the tank and the formation of an embankment. Fining was enforced, so that of the total wage of one anna and three pies the men received but two pies on the first day, and on the second, four pies, and on the third day, three pies. The works were then closed, with the result that a living has since been obtained in competition with villages more advantageously situated as to the irrigated area. The following is the result of my inspection of the inhabitants who turned out in response to my request for volunteers for relief works:—

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Castemen	71·4	25·7	2·9
Malas and Madigas—			
Men	59·3	29·6	11·1
Women	41·9	48·4	9·7
Children	50·0	42·9	7·1

The influence of insufficient diet upon the Malas and Madigas is specially evident.

The villagers were particularly anxious as to their water-supply; the Veeranah Bávi and Hambacki Bávi being silted and nearly dry (one of these has, I believe, been, since my visit, attended to by the Tahsildar on his own responsibility as an urgent matter).

Kotakonda.—Here work obtainable has gradually dwindled to *nil* during the last fortnight. Two families have left the village. The family of Majabosi who wandered in search of employment looks very starved.

Srirangapuram.—Here no work is obtainable, nor has there been any for some time back. Not only is there no cultivation in the village fields, but it is awkwardly

situated both as to the hills and canal. Relief work for this village is essential. The following is the condition of applicants for relief work:—

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Malas and Madigas—			
Men	6·2	81·2	12·5
Women	36·8	36·8	26·3
Children	28·6	57·1	14·3
Muddis—			
Men	82·1	17·9	..

It will be noted that the condition of the Malas is in great contrast to the caste labourer. Whilst the caste men have been able to obtain a living by collecting and selling fruit from the hills, this is out of the question for the Malas, as caste people will not buy from them.

Padakandla.—Here are about sixty weaver families. In house after house visited work was found, but the people themselves looked very pinched. This apparent anomaly is explained by the fact that weaving work during the past three months has been almost *nil*; but, at the present moment, orders have been received from ryots of the canal villages who, not having lost their crops, can afford to recognize the usual marriage season.

Narasapuram.—Here the cessation of work of harvesting in the canal villages is already exhibiting its effects, and the field labourer is beginning to feel the pinch. About sixty persons go daily to Allagadda (representing a twelve mile walk daily) from here for work—a very fair test of necessity.

The only available fresh water well contains but a few inches of water. The villagers have themselves attempted to deepen it. This is a work that should be effected without delay. The well should then be correctly lined, and converted into a "draw well." There is no well for the Malas and Madigas. Seeing that they must depend upon the charity of caste people for water under the present circumstances, their condition is much to be pitied. It is most desirable that a well should be provided for them. The death registers in this village show the following contrast:—

Deaths.

November 1895	... ...	November 1896	 2
December „	 1	December „	 4
January 1896	 1	January 1897	 3

Allagadda famine-relief works.—These works were opened in November last, but were again closed by order of the Collector on the advent of rain. On the 6th of February 1897 again the works were opened, but the people on receiving only D wages deserted the work. This is not now the case, as the numbers are fast rising and, on the day of my inspection, there were 1,200 on the works. The following exhibits the condition of the gangs, with the names of the villages from which they were chiefly derived. The result is to show that whilst the canal villages have naturally not felt the pinch of starvation, those distant from it have, and that in respect to them the opening of works has been unnecessarily delayed.

ALLAGADDA WORKS.

Gang No. 5.

From Patakandukuru—3½ miles distant.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	73·3	20·0	6·7
Women	72·2	16·7	11·1
Nursing mothers	70·0	20·0	10·0
Children	76·5	17·6	5·9

Gang No. (?).

From Jamaldine—2 miles distant.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	69·2	23·1	7·7
Women	82·9	14·3	2·8
Nursing mothers	77·8	11·1	11·1
Children	88·2	..	11·8

CLASS A.

Gang No. 1.

From Patakandukuru—3½ miles distant.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men (Malas)	87·3	12·7	..
Women	78·1	12·5	9·4
Nursing mothers	78·6	21·4	..
Children	95·0	2·5	2·5

Gang No. 3.

From Jambuldine—3 miles distant.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	88·9	11·1	..
Nursing mothers	69·2	30·8	..
Children	74·1	22·2	3·7

Gang No. 4.

From Muthutur—6 miles distant.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	72·4	27·6	..
Women	82·8	17·2	..
Nursing mothers	42·9	57·1	..
Children	75·8	24·2	..

Gang No. 6.

From Allagadda, Chintakunta and Ortampalli.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	80·0	20·0	..
Women	86·2	13·8	..
Children	47·6	52·4	..

Gang No. 10.

From Mandaluru—5½ miles distant.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	80·0	20·0	..
Women	71·9	21·9	6·2
Nursing mothers	14·3	71·4	14·3
Children	65·6	34·4	..

Gang No. 7.

From Narasapuram—6 miles distant.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	62·1	27·6	* 10·3
Women	34·5	37·9	27·6
Nursing mothers	60·0	35·0	5·0
Children	36·4	27·2	36·4

* 66 per cent. are weavers.

Nallagatla.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	73·7	26·3	..
Women	69·7	23·3	7·0
Nursing mothers	† 68·7	31·2	..
Children	50·0	40·0	10·0

† 20 per cent. are weavers.

Katakandukuru.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	36·0	‡ 60·0	§ 4·0
Women	58·8	35·3	5·9
Children	75·0	25·0	..

‡ 6·6 per cent. are weavers. § 100 per cent. are weavers.

Golampalle—2½ miles.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	69·6	26·1	‖ 4·2
Women	64·3	28·6	7·1
Nursing mothers	66·6	22·2	11·1
Children	71·4	25·0	‖ 3·6

‖ 100 per cent. are weavers.

General remarks and recommendations.—The evidence collected by inspection of this taluk may be summed up in a very few words, although obtained at considerable expenditure of time, on account of evil roads. The opening of the works at

Public Works Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

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

G.O., No. 315, 11th May 1897.

No: 1476 W d/31.5.97.

Communicated to the Supdg: Engr: III Circle.

MAY.

[illegible] D.P.W.

To the S. E. III Circle.

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General remarks on above subjects.—Nil.

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

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Pattikonda	9·72	9·72	..	..	12·87 (W) 14·42 (Y)	12·87 (W) 13·90 (Y)	12·22	12·22
Pyápali	8·64	8·64	..	..	13·90 (Y)	13·39 (Y)	11·28	11·28
Kurnool	8·58	8·58	14·19	12·90	14·38 (W and Y)	14·04 (W) 14·38 (Y)	11·87	12·33
Nandikotkur	9·29	8·58	..	..	15·07 (W and Y)	15·07 (W and Y)	..	..
Atmakúru	10·01	10·01	..	..	15·75 (W and Y)	15·75 (W and Y)	..	..
Nandyal	10·01	9·29	17·41	16·77	14·38 (W) 14·04 (Y)	14·38 (W) 14·04 (Y)	12·50	10·00
Kalwa	8·58	8·58	..	..	15·07 (W and Y)	13·70 (W) 15·07 (Y)	..	..
Koilkuntla	9·96	9·96	15·00	15·00	14·22 (W) 12·64 (Y)	13·82 (W) 13·43 (Y)	13·05	13·05
Owk	9·96	9·96	15·00	15·00	13·43 (W) 13·03 (Y)	13·43 (W) 12·64 (Y)	11·60	11·60
Allagadda	8·58	8·58	15·15	15·00	12·33 (W and Y)	12·33 (W and Y)	..	..
Giddalore	8·71	8·71	15·00	15·00	15·80 (Y)	15·80 (Y)	13·05	13·05
Markapur	9·96	9·96	18·00	18·00	..	..	14·50	14·50
Average ..	9·40	9·21	15·76	15·38	14·39 (W) 14·41 (Y)	13·93 (W) 14·16 (Y)	12·63	12·25

Note.—Prices are either stationary or rising at almost all stations.

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Remarks.—Nil.

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Private charity.—Raja Sir Savalay Ramaswami Mudaliar of Madras has kindly sent me 300 cloths for distribution among the coolies attending the relief works and their dependants.

Inspections of the District Collector and Divisional Officers.

Taluks and places visited.—I was on tour for 11 days out of the fortnight and visited the following places: Pattikonda, Ratana, Mallyala, Vepedinne, Alamkonda, Dcebaguntla, Erraguntla and Allagadda.

The Pyápali Deputy Collector visited the following villages: Hosur, Tuggali, Maddikera, Agraharam, Humpa, Edanabi, Bylupala, Chinna hulti, Devanabanda, Billekal, Atikala gundu, Nalakadoddi, Jutur, Yatakal, Thogalakal, Bylu Pattikonda, Karwemile, Karumanchi, Dadadoddikatakonda, Mulagundam, Peda Pendekal, Chinna Pendekal, Banavanur, Ternikal, Pulukurti, Kapatralla, Machapuram and Kodumur. He has not stated how many days he spent on tour.

The Head Assistant Collector, who was in camp throughout the fortnight inspected the following villages: Ligamdinne, Tudumuladinne, Putchakayapalli, Nossam, Reddiwari Jambaldinne, Pedda Yemmanur, Kakaravada, Bodiammanur, Rupanagudi, Mayalur, Allur, Gulladurti, Pottipad, Koilkuntla, Biginavemula, Pedda Kopperla, Chinna Kopperla, Vallampad, Lingala, Gundupupala, Vantiverla, Gala, Gospaud, Pasarapad, Nagalavaram, Dibaguntla, Boyalakuntla, Chennur, Gangavaram, Matakulapalli and Beravole.

The Head-quarter Deputy Collector, Nandikotkur, visited the following villages: Atmakur, Nandigunta, Gollavaram, Bhuttuvanipalli, Musalimadugu, Gunneadapuram, Sivapuram, Yerramatam, Pratakota, Pagadyala, Nagatur, Kodudela, Nandikotkur, Maddigatla, Mallyala and Godidemadugu.

The Deputy Collector of Cumbum visited the following villages: Cumbum taluk—Kandulapuram, Nadimpalli, Sydapuram, Hozrathgudem, Kaghithalagudem, Chinthlapolam, Somavarepet, Papayapalli and Giddalore.

General Remarks.—I beg to submit that the time appears to me to have now come to relieve both the Pyápali Deputy Collector and the Pattikonda Tahsildar of their ordinary duties. The state of the people in the villages of the Pattikonda taluk calls for the close attention of both those officers, and the former must further arrange to spend more time than he has been doing in the Ramallakot taluk. There is much business to be got through in connection with applications for loans and the weavers' relief scheme.

Again, there is evidently much to be done towards popularizing the kitchens attached to the relief works which are not attracting nearly so many dependants of the workers as they should. I request, therefore, that a Special Deputy Collector and a Special Deputy Tahsildar may be sanctioned as soon as possible. The Tahsildar ask for the services of a second Special Revenue Inspector in connection with loans works, and as that work is assuming large proportions, I support the request.

Read—the following letter from Surgeon-Lieut.-Colonel W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department (through the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture), dated Camp Tadpatri, 5th March 1897, No. 567 S.:—

I have the honour to forward herewith my inspection notes as to the famine conditions found by me in the Sirvel taluk, Kurnool district.

Enclosure.

Inspection Notes by the Sanitary Commissioner as to famine conditions in the Sirvel taluk, Kurnool district.

Gazulapalli and Mahadevapuram.—I unite these two villages not only on account of their proximity but on account of the similarity of the conditions of the population. The cooly class in both have been able to sustain themselves during the stress of high prices by taking to Nandyal grass and fruit from the Nallamalas, and participating in the agricultural operations round Nandyal. Within the last ten days these sources of income have gradually diminished, and relief works within one week would be essential here. The Mahadevapuram well requires silt clearing urgently.

Bassapur.—The people of this small village are much reduced by fever, but visits to the houses showed that they were not without means of subsistance. Still, life is a struggle, and wages can only be obtained irregularly. All maintained that they would hail the opening of relief works. The village well requires deepening at once, as it is fast drying up. If this supply is lost, water will have to be carried for two miles.

Boyalakuntla.—This village is too far from the Nallamalas to allow people to readily benefit by work obtainable there, and is also awkwardly situated as to the area under irrigation in the taluk. There has, consequently, throughout the period of scarcity, been difficulty in the inhabitants obtaining *sufficient* food. So-called relief works were opened here in November, but the test was severe being excavation of the tank and the formation of an embankment. Fining was enforced, so that of the total wage of one anna and three pies the men received but two pies on the first day, and on the second, four pies, and on the third day, three pies. The works were then closed, with the result that a living has since been obtained in competition with villages more advantageously situated as to the irrigated area. The following is the result of my inspection of the inhabitants who turned out in response to my request for volunteers for relief works:—

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Castemen	71·4	25·7	2·9
Malas and Madigas—			
Men	59·3	29·6	11·1
Women	41·9	48·4	9·7
Children	50·0	42·9	7·1

The influence of insufficient diet upon the Malas and Madigas is specially evident.

The villagers were particularly anxious as to their water-supply; the Veeranah Bávi and Hambacki Bávi being silted and nearly dry (one of these has, I believe, been, since my visit, attended to by the Tahsildar on his own responsibility as an urgent matter).

Kotakonda.—Here work obtainable has gradually dwindled to *nil* during the last fortnight. Two families have left the village. The family of Majabosi who wandered in search of employment looks very starved.

Srirangapuram.—Here no work is obtainable, nor has there been any for some time back. Not only is there no cultivation in the village fields, but it is awkwardly

situated both as to the hills and canal. Relief work for this village is essential. The following is the condition of applicants for relief work:—

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Malas and Madigas—			
Men	6·2	81·2	12·5
Women	36·8	36·8	26·3
Children	28·6	57·1	14·3
Muddis—			
Men	82·1	17·9	..

It will be noted that the condition of the Malas is in great contrast to the caste labourer. Whilst the caste men have been able to obtain a living by collecting and selling fruit from the hills, this is out of the question for the Malas, as caste people will not buy from them.

Padakandla.—Here are about sixty weaver families. In house after house visited work was found, but the people themselves looked very pinched. This apparent anomaly is explained by the fact that weaving work during the past three months has been almost *nil*; but, at the present moment, orders have been received from ryots of the canal villages who, not having lost their crops, can afford to recognize the usual marriage season.

Narasapuram.—Here the cessation of work of harvesting in the canal villages is already exhibiting its effects, and the field labourer is beginning to feel the pinch. About sixty persons go daily to Allagadda (representing a twelve mile walk daily) from here for work—a very fair test of necessity.

The only available fresh water well contains but a few inches of water. The villagers have themselves attempted to deepen it. This is a work that should be effected without delay. The well should then be correctly lined, and converted into a "draw well." There is no well for the Malas and Madigas. Seeing that they must depend upon the charity of caste people for water under the present circumstances, their condition is much to be pitied. It is most desirable that a well should be provided for them. The death registers in this village show the following contrast:—

Deaths.

November 1895	...	...	...
December „	...	...	1
January 1896	...	...	1
November 1896	...	...	2
December „	...	...	4
January 1897	...	...	3

Allagadda famine-relief works.—These works were opened in November last, but were again closed by order of the Collector on the advent of rain. On the 6th of February 1897 again the works were opened, but the people on receiving only D wages deserted the work. This is not now the case, as the numbers are fast rising and, on the day of my inspection, there were 1,200 on the works. The following exhibits the condition of the gangs, with the names of the villages from which they were chiefly derived. The result is to show that whilst the canal villages have naturally not felt the pinch of starvation, those distant from it have, and that in respect to them the opening of works has been unnecessarily delayed.

ALLAGADDA WORKS.

Gang No. 5.

From Patakandukuru—3½ miles distant.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	73·3	20·0	6·7
Women	72·2	16·7	11·1
Nursing mothers	70·0	20·0	10·0
Children	76·5	17·6	5·9

Gang No. (?).

From Jamaldine—2 miles distant.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	69·2	23·1	7·7
Women	82·9	14·3	2·8
Nursing mothers	77·8	11·1	11·1
Children	88·2	..	11 8

CLASS A.

Gang No. 1.

From Patakandukuru—3½ miles distant.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men (Malas)	87·3	12·7	..
Women	78·1	12·5	9·4
Nursing mothers	78·6	21 4	..
Children	95 0	2·5	2·5

Gang No. 3.

From Jambuldine—3 miles distant.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	88·9	11·1	..
Nursing mothers	69·2	30·8	..
Children	74·1	22·2	3·7

Gang No. 4.

From Muthutur—6 miles distant.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	72·4	27·6	..
Women	82·8	17·2	..
Nursing mothers	42·9	57·1	..
Children	75·8	24·2	..

Gang No. 6.

From Allagadda, Chintakunta and Ortampalli.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	80·0	20·0	..
Women	86·2	13·8	..
Children	47·6	52·4	..

Gang No. 10.

From Mandaluru—5½ miles distant.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	80·0	20·0	..
Women	71·9	21·9	6·2
Nursing mothers	14·3	71·4	14·3
Children	65·6	34·4	..

Gang No. 7.

From Narasapuram—6 miles distant.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	62·1	27·6	*10·3
Women	34·5	37·9	27·6
Nursing mothers	60·0	35·0	5·0
Children	36·4	27·2	36·4

* 66 per cent. are weavers.

Nallagatla.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	73·7	26·3	..
Women	69·7	23·3	7·0
Nursing mothers	†68·7	31·2	..
Children	50·0	40·0	10·0

† 20 per cent. are weavers.

Katakandukuru.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	36·0	‡60·0	§4·0
Women	58·8	35·3	5·9
Children	75·0	25·0	..

‡ 6·6 per cent. are weavers. § 100 per cent. are weavers.

Golampalle—2½ miles.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	69·6	26·1	‖4·2
Women	64·3	28·6	7·1
Nursing mothers	66·6	22·2	11·1
Children	71·4	25·0	‖3·6

‖ 100 per cent. are weavers.

General remarks and recommendations.—The evidence collected by inspection of this taluk may be summed up in a very few words, although obtained at considerable expenditure of time, on account of evil roads. The opening of the works at

Public Works Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. } *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 315, 11th May 1897.

No: 1476 W dt 31.5.97

Communicated to the Supdg. Engr. III circle.

MAY.

H. G. D. M. C.

To The S. E. III circle

Fortnightly Narrative.

Board's Proceedings submitting, with remarks, the — of the Kurnool district for the period ending 28th February 1897, recorded with the remark that the Government is prepared to consider any proposals which the Board may, in consultation with the Collectors, send up for the appointment of Taluk Relief officers.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 11th March 1897, No. 220 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Kurnool district during the period ending 28th of February 1897 :—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and Water-supply—

	INCHES.
Rainfall in rain-registering stations	·18
Rainfall up to the period from 1st April 1896	15·91
Average rainfall expected in the period	*Nil.*
Average rainfall expected up to the period from 1st April 1896 ...	27·25

There was a slight fall of rain throughout the district, the heaviest, viz., one inch, being at Kalwa. This increased the drinking water-supply to some extent in parts. Water-supply was generally sufficient for drinking purposes, though diminishing in parts of the western section. A few tanks in the eastern section received fresh supplies, while the Uppalervagu, the Kandleru and the Gundlacamma were in freshes, but the water-supply was generally insufficient for irrigation purposes, except in canal villages and under wells.

Agricultural operations and condition of standing crops.—Cotton-picking was in progress throughout the district, and the yield is supposed to be moderate, at all events, in the Sirvel taluk, where I am touring at present. Bengal-gram and ragi were harvested in parts, and in the eastern section the transplanting of ragi under wells and the harvesting of early sown bengal-gram, wheat and korra were going on. Cotton is almost the only standing crop not under wells, and its condition is fair, except in the western section. Crops under wells are in as good condition as can be expected, considering the state of the season.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture was sufficient in the eastern section, and available to a small extent in the vicinity of hills and in canal villages throughout the district. Grass was sprouting a little in places where there had been rain. Fodder was sufficient in the northern and eastern sections, and insufficient elsewhere. Hill grass continued to be used. Cattle were becoming weak in the western and southern sections. Elsewhere their condition was fair. Rinderpest continued to prevail in parts.

General remarks on above subjects.—Nil.

Food supplies and the state of the markets.

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

Stations.	Rice.		Ragi.		Cholum.		Cumbu.	
	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of this fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of this fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of this fortnight.
Pattikonda	9·72	9·72	..	..	12·87 (W) 14·42 (Y)	12·87 (W) 13·90 (Y)	12·22	12·22
Pyápali	8·64	8·64	..	..	13·90 (Y)	13·39 (Y)	11·28	11·28
Kurnool	8·58	8·58	14·19	12·90	14·38 (W and Y)	14·04 (W) 14·38 (Y)	11·87	12·33
Nandikotkur	9·29	8·58	..	..	15·07 (W and Y)	15·07 (W and Y)	..	..
Atmakúru	10·01	10·01	..	..	15·75 (W and Y)	15·75 (W and Y)	..	..
Nandyal	10·01	9·29	17·41	16·77	14·38 (W) 14·04 (Y)	14·38 (W) 14·04 (Y)	12·50	10·00
Kalwa	8·58	8·58	..	..	15·07 (W and Y)	13·70 (W) 15·07 (Y)	..	..
Koilkuntla	9·96	9·96	15·00	15·00	14·22 (W) 12·64 (Y)	13·82 (W) 13·43 (Y)	13·05	13·05
Owk	9·96	9·96	15·00	15·00	13·43 (W) 13·03 (Y)	13·43 (W) 12·64 (Y)	11·60	11·60
Allagadda	8·58	8·58	15·15	15·00	12·33 (W and Y)	12·33 (W and Y)	..	..
Giddalore	8·71	8·71	15·00	15·00	15·80 (Y)	15·80 (Y)	13·05	13·05
Markapur	9·96	9·96	18·00	18·00	..	..	14·50	14·50
Average ..	9·40	9·21	15·76	15·38	14·39 (W) 14·41 (Y)	13·93 (W) 14·16 (Y)	12·63	12·25

Note.—Prices are either stationary or rising at almost all stations.

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Inspections of the District Collector and Divisional Officers.

Taluks and places visited.—I was on tour for 11 days out of the fortnight and visited the following places: Pattikonda, Ratana, Mallyala, Vepedinne, Alamkonda, Deebaguntla, Erraguntla and Allagadda.

The Pyápali Deputy Collector visited the following villages: Hosur, Tuggali, Maddikera, Agraharam, Humpa, Edanabi, Bylupala, Chinna hulti, Devanabanda, Billekal, Atikala gundu, Nalakadoddi, Jutur, Yatakal, Thogalakal, Bylu Pattikonda, Karwemile, Karumanchi, Dadadoddikatakonda, Mulagundam, Peda Pendekal, Chinna Pendekal, Banavanur, Ternikal, Pulukurti, Kapatralla, Machapuram and Kodumur. He has not stated how many days he spent on tour.

The Head Assistant Collector, who was in camp throughout the fortnight inspected the following villages: Ligamdinne, Tudumuladinne, Putchakayapalli, Nossam, Reddiwari Jambaldinne, Pedda Yemmanur, Kakaravada, Bodiammanur, Rupanagudi, Mayalur, Allur, Gulladurti, Pottipad, Koilkuntla, Biginavemula, Pedda Kopperla, Chinna Kopperla, Vallampad, Lingala, Gundupupala, Vantiverla, Gala, Gospaud, Pasarapad, Nagalavaram, Dibaguntla, Boyalakuntla, Chennur, Gangavaram, Matakulapalli and Beravole.

The Head-quarter Deputy Collector, Nandikotkur, visited the following villages: Atmakur, Nandigunta, Gollavaram, Bhuttuvanipalli, Musalimadugu, Gunneadapuram, Sivapuram, Yerramatam, Pratakota, Pagadyala, Nagatur, Kodudela, Nandikotkur, Maddigatla, Mallyala and Godidemadugu.

The Deputy Collector of Cumbum visited the following villages: Cumbum taluk—Kandulapuram, Nadimpalli, Sydapuram, Hozrathgudem, Kaghithalagudem, Chinthlapolam, Somavarepet, Papayapalli and Giddalore.

General Remarks.—I beg to submit that the time appears to me to have now come to relieve both the Pyápali Deputy Collector and the Pattikonda Tahsildar of their ordinary duties. The state of the people in the villages of the Pattikonda taluk calls for the close attention of both those officers, and the former must further arrange to spend more time than he has been doing in the Ramallakot taluk. There is much business to be got through in connection with applications for loans and the weavers' relief scheme.

Again, there is evidently much to be done towards popularizing the kitchens attached to the relief works which are not attracting nearly so many dependants of the workers as they should. I request, therefore, that a Special Deputy Collector and a Special Deputy Tahsildar may be sanctioned as soon as possible. The Tahsildar ask for the services of a second Special Revenue Inspector in connection with loans works, and as that work is assuming large proportions, I support the request.

Read—the following letter from Surgeon-Lieut.-Colonel W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department (through the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture), dated Camp Tadpatri, 5th March 1897, No. 567 S.:—

I have the honour to forward herewith my inspection notes as to the famine conditions found by me in the Sirvel taluk, Kurnool district.

—

Enclosure.

Inspection Notes by the Sanitary Commissioner as to famine conditions in the Sirvel taluk, Kurnool district.

Gazulapalli and Mahadevapuram.—I unite these two villages not only on account of their proximity but on account of the similarity of the conditions of the population. The cooly class in both have been able to sustain themselves during the stress of high prices by taking to Nandyal grass and fruit from the Nallamalas, and participating in the agricultural operations round Nandyal. Within the last ten days these sources of income have gradually diminished, and relief works within one week would be essential here. The Mahadevapuram well requires silt clearing urgently.

Bassapur.—The people of this small village are much reduced by fever, but visits to the houses showed that they were not without means of subsistance. Still, life is a struggle, and wages can only be obtained irregularly. All maintained that they would hail the opening of relief works. The village well requires deepening at once, as it is fast drying up. If this supply is lost, water will have to be carried for two miles.

Boyalakuntla.—This village is too far from the Nallamalas to allow people to readily benefit by work obtainable there, and is also awkwardly situated as to the area under irrigation in the taluk. There has, consequently, throughout the period of scarcity, been difficulty in the inhabitants obtaining *sufficient* food. So-called relief works were opened here in November, but the test was severe being excavation of the tank and the formation of an embankment. Fining was enforced, so that of the total wage of one anna and three pies the men received but two pies on the first day, and on the second, four pies, and on the third day, three pies. The works were then closed, with the result that a living has since been obtained in competition with villages more advantageously situated as to the irrigated area. The following is the result of my inspection of the inhabitants who turned out in response to my request for volunteers for relief works:—

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Castemen	71·4	25·7	2·9
Malas and Madigas—			
Men	59·3	29·6	11·1
Women	41·9	48·4	9·7
Children	50·0	42·9	7·1

The influence of insufficient diet upon the Malas and Madigas is specially evident.

The villagers were particularly anxious as to their water-supply; the Veeranah Bávi and Hambacki Bávi being silted and nearly dry (one of these has, I believe, been, since my visit, attended to by the Tahsildar on his own responsibility as an urgent matter).

Kotakonda.—Here work obtainable has gradually dwindled to *nil* during the last fortnight. Two families have left the village. The family of Majabosi who wandered in search of employment looks very starved.

Srirangapuram.—Here no work is obtainable, nor has there been any for some time back. Not only is there no cultivation in the village fields, but it is awkwardly

situated both as to the hills and canal. Relief work for this village is essential. The following is the condition of applicants for relief work:—

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Malas and Madigas—			
Men	6·2	81·2	12·5
Women	36·8	36·8	26·3
Children	28·6	57·1	14·3
Muddis—			
Men	82·1	17·9	..

It will be noted that the condition of the Malas is in great contrast to the caste labourer. Whilst the caste men have been able to obtain a living by collecting and selling fruit from the hills, this is out of the question for the Malas, as caste people will not buy from them.

Padakandla.—Here are about sixty weaver families. In house after house visited work was found, but the people themselves looked very pinched. This apparent anomaly is explained by the fact that weaving work during the past three months has been almost *nil*; but, at the present moment, orders have been received from ryots of the canal villages who, not having lost their crops, can afford to recognize the usual marriage season.

Narasapuram.—Here the cessation of work of harvesting in the canal villages is already exhibiting its effects, and the field labourer is beginning to feel the pinch. About sixty persons go daily to Allagadda (representing a twelve mile walk daily) from here for work—a very fair test of necessity.

The only available fresh water well contains but a few inches of water. The villagers have themselves attempted to deepen it. This is a work that should be effected without delay. The well should then be correctly lined, and converted into a "draw well." There is no well for the Malas and Madigas. Seeing that they must depend upon the charity of caste people for water under the present circumstances, their condition is much to be pitied. It is most desirable that a well should be provided for them. The death registers in this village show the following contrast:—

Deaths.

November 1895	...	...	...
December „	...	...	1
January 1896	...	...	1
November 1896	...	...	2
December „	...	...	4
January 1897	...	...	3

Allagadda famine-relief works.—These works were opened in November last, but were again closed by order of the Collector on the advent of rain. On the 6th of February 1897 again the works were opened, but the people on receiving only D wages deserted the work. This is not now the case, as the numbers are fast rising and, on the day of my inspection, there were 1,200 on the works. The following exhibits the condition of the gangs, with the names of the villages from which they were chiefly derived. The result is to show that whilst the canal villages have naturally not felt the pinch of starvation, those distant from it have, and that in respect to them the opening of works has been unnecessarily delayed.

ALLAGADDA WORKS.

Gang No. 5.

From Patakandukuru—3½ miles distant.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	73·3	20·0	6·7
Women	72·2	16·7	11·1
Nursing mothers	70·0	20·0	10·0
Children	76·5	17·6	5·9

Gang No. (?).

From Jamaldine—2 miles distant.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	69·2	23·1	7·7
Women	82·9	14·3	2·8
Nursing mothers	77·8	11·1	11·1
Children	88·2	..	11 8

CLASS A.

Gang No. 1.

From Patakandukuru—3½ miles distant.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men (Malas)	87·3	12·7	..
Women	78·1	12·5	9·4
Nursing mothers	78·6	21·4	..
Children	95 0	2·5	2·5

Gang No. 3.

From Jambuldine—3 miles distant.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	88·9	11·1	..
Nursing mothers	69·2	30·8	..
Children	74·1	22·2	3·7

Gang No. 4.

From Muthutur—6 miles distant.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	72·4	27·6	..
Women	82·8	17·2	..
Nursing mothers	42·9	57·1	..
Children	75·8	24·2	..

Gang No. 6.

From Allagadda, Chintakunta and Ortampalli.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	80·0	20·0	..
Women	86·2	13·8	..
Children	47·6	52·4	..

Gang No. 10.

From Mandaluru—5½ miles distant.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	80·0	20·0	..
Women	71·9	21·9	6·2
Nursing mothers	14·3	71·4	14·3
Children	65·6	34·4	..

Gang No. 7.

From Narasapuram—6 miles distant.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	62·1	27·6	*10·3
Women	34·5	37·9	27·6
Nursing mothers	60·0	35·0	5·0
Children	36·4	27·2	36·4

* 66 per cent. are weavers.

Nallagatla.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	73·7	26·3	..
Women	69·7	23·3	7·0
Nursing mothers	† 68·7	31·2	..
Children	50·0	40·0	10·0

† 20 per cent. are weavers.

Katakandukuru.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	36·0	‡ 60·0	§ 4·0
Women	58·8	35·3	5·9
Children	75·0	25·0	..

‡ 6·6 per cent. are weavers. § 100 per cent. are weavers.

Golampalle—2½ miles.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men	69·6	26·1	‖ 4·2
Women	64·3	28·6	7·1
Nursing mothers	66·6	22·2	11·1
Children	71·4	25·0	‖ 3·6

‖ 100 per cent. are weavers.

General remarks and recommendations.—The evidence collected by inspection of this taluk may be summed up in a very few words, although obtained at considerable expenditure of time, on account of evil roads. The opening of the works at

Allagadda, that is, close to the canal, was a mistake originally. The villages that required relief in November, *and do so now*, are those which are between the Nallamalas and the canal, that is, too distant from either to be regarded as affording easily obtainable work. The closing of the work at Boyalakuntla, therefore, was very undesirable, the result has been that the people have been put to some straits as to food supplies, and families have had to be, temporarily at least, broken up to enable the male members to go to distant villages in the Nandikotkur taluk and the canal villages of this taluk. The rush for work before and during harvest had the evil influence of causing all work to be completed in far less time than usual. Except for a little cotton-picking here and there, it may be said that no work is now obtainable for labourers, and distress must become acute shortly. The Acting Tahsildar Mr. Padmanaban Naidu, B.A., seems to have intelligently grasped the situation and has advised works that would tap the affected villages by making a road between Narasapuram and Alampur on the main road to Cumbum and *viâ* Sirvel to Gazulapalli. I would especially urge the importance of the last work suggested. From Sirvel to Allagadda there is a fair road; but from Sirvel to Gazulapalli, the nearest railway station, the cart-track in use is abominable. The making of a "railway feeder" here is of importance; but what seems to me the great reason why this should be preferred is, that it would occupy that equi-distant line from the canal and villages on the base of the hills and therefore would run through an area that has been pressed up to date and is now sore in need of help. It would, for example, be a great pity that villages near Boyalakuntla and Srirangapuram should depend upon so distant a site as the Cumbum road, but, if this be not adopted, at Boyalakuntla tank work could doubtless be started, and at Srirangapuram it was represented to me that four smaller tanks exist which might, with profit to Government, be repaired. I suggest inquiry into this latter point. Allagadda does not appear to me to be a suitable site for relief works. It would be advisable to shift this to Narasapuram, and thus be nearer a distressed centre than is represented by the canal villages chiefly served in the neighbourhood. The statistics given show that weavers have been put to special difficulties. It seems to me that relief to weavers in this district has been dangerously delayed.

Resolution—dated 11th March 1897, No. 220.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. Except some harvest and cultivation under wells, there are scarcely any agricultural operations going on in the affected portions of the district. Grass and fodder are scarce and the cattle are suffering.

3. Prices became dearer during the period and are rising, but the markets are well supplied.

4. It is not quite clear what the Collector refers to as the "northern" section of the district, but apparently he means the Nandikotkur taluk, which forms the northern part of the central section. There and in the eastern section, the people are in good condition; but from the report of the Sanitary Commissioner on Sirvel, it appears that in that taluk there is much to be desired, and the attention of the Collector will be drawn to the remarks of Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel King in the matter. He should arrange for affording the people of the northern part of the taluk relief on works at the earliest possible date, putting in hand, wherever possible, tank works in preference to road works. He should also give immediate attention to the provision of relief for the weavers of the taluk.

5. The attention of the Chief Engineer has already (B.P., dated 26th February 1897, No. 168) been drawn to the inordinate delays of the Executive Engineer in starting relief works when called upon to do so by the Collector, and it is hoped that such delays will not recur, and that that officer will be fully prepared for a large increase of workers at short notice. When Mr. Johnston rejoins the district, a new method of dealing with the requirements thereof may be expected.

6. Application has already been made to Government for the assistance asked for by the Collector in his general remarks, but the Board would submit that the time has now come for the appointment of Taluk Relief Officers in all the more affected taluks, and that arrangements should be made for providing suitable officers.

7. The Collector need not submit any more information about jail returns. This is being obtained from the Inspector-General of Prisons.

8. The Collector's statement, that B class wages are being almost always earned at Kodumur, does not agree with that of the Sanitary Commissioner (*vide* B.P., dated 5th March 1897, No. 195), who says that the relief workers "have been uniformly retained on the C wage."

9. The Collector's attention is invited to some notes on Kurnool which appeared in the *Madras Mail* of the 8th instant. If there is any truth in the statement therein, the shortcomings should be remedied without delay.

10. The Board is much pleased with the general tenor of Mr. Elwin's report, and is sanguine that, with his advent to the district, the poor will find that they have a protector.

(True Copies and Extract).

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
,, Collector of Kurnool.
Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

Order—No. 315, Revenue, dated 11th May 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded with the remark that the Government is prepared to consider any proposals which the Board may send up in consultation with Collectors for the appointment of Taluk Relief Officers.

2. Government has already issued orders elsewhere in regard to the other questions raised in the Board's Proceedings.

(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. W. D'Moss

80 Copies.