Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 14774

DATED 31-5-97

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Famine. P.W.D: Revenue Dep^t, stating, with reference to the remarks of the Board of Revenue on the fortnightly Narrative of the Bellary Dist^t for period ending 15.3.97, that the proposal of the Sanitary Commissioner to import Compressed fodder from Burma will be dealt with separately and that famine labour might be usefully directed to the improvement of village water supply and approving the Board's instructions in the matter of extra wages for work done in excess of the task, Cont^d- 6 Enclosures Cont^d.

[P.W. 25. 5,000—30-11-96.]

1C 1/6/97

Indexed. 2/6

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Public Works (1897) Department

Current No: 4921

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

No 1295 W dt 18-5-97
1157 W dt 5-5-97

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Recd. 19.5. } 1897.
Regd. 19.5. }

Enclosures

Spare copies 16.

G.O., No. 299, 5th May 1897.

B No: 1477 W dt 31.5.97

Communicated to the Supdg Engr III Circle.

22/5/97

MAY.

S.E. III Circle with the 5/16

2/11/97

Fortnightly Narrative.

Stating, with reference to the remarks of the Board of Revenue on the — of the Bellary district, for the period ending 15th March 1897, that the proposal of the Sanitary Commissioner to import compressed fodder from Burma will be dealt with separately and that famine labour might be usefully directed to the improvement of village water-supply and approving the Board's instructions in the matter of payment of extra wages for work done in excess of the task.

O.L.S. 133
R 2575

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. 254 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly narrative of the Bellary district for the fortnight ending 15th March 1897 :—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply.—There has been no rain during the fortnight excepting in a few villages. Water-supply for drinking purposes is generally sufficient in Adóni, Rayadrug, Bellary, Hospet and Harpanahalli taluks ; elsewhere it is becoming scarce. The Tungabhadra and Hagari channels and the tanks fed by them contain an adequate supply for irrigation purposes. The other larger irrigation sources are either dry or contain an insufficient supply. Wells contain a moderate supply.

AGRICULTURAL OPERATION AND CONDITION OF STANDING CROPS.

Adóni division.—The digging of nuth grass and ploughing operations are going on. The condition of standing cotton is fair in Adóni and bad in Alúr. White cholam has withered in many places. In Adóni the castor is fair and garden crops are good. *Bellary division.*—Cotton and horse-gram harvested with an average yield of As. 4, and dhol As. 6. Cotton-picking continues in some places. In Siruguppa and other villages commanded by the Tungabhadra channels, sugar-cane is being cut. White cholam sown after the November rains has withered and is being cut for fodder. Oil-seeds are in fair condition and cotton moderate, while the crops under wells and channels are in good condition. *Hospet division.*—Sugar-cane harvest is proceeding in riverside villages of Hospet taluk. Cotton and castor are being harvested in Harpanahalli, the yield being bad to middling. Cotton and sugar-cane in Hadagalli yielded As. 2 to 6. Garden crops under wells and channels are in fair condition. *Sundúr state.*—Ploughing nearly finished, and fields being manured. There are no standing crops except betel.

SUPPLY OF FODDER AND PASTURE AND CONDITION OF CATTLE.

Adóni division.—Fodder is scanty in Alúr and is estimated to last for about two and half months in Adóni. There is practically no pasture. In Adóni the condition of stall-fed cattle is good and that of others fair. The condition of the cattle of the poorer ryots in Alúr is reported to be growing from bad to worse. Five hundred and fifty head of cattle were brought to the Adóni market for sale during the fortnight. Of these 30 were bought by butchers for prices ranging from Rs. 4 to Rs. 8, and 78 by agriculturists for Rs. 10 to Rs. 25, the rest found no purchasers. It is reported that 30 cattle died at Hibbatam and Peddahotur, apparently from cattle disease, but this is not stated. Inquiries are being made. *Bellary division.*—Very little pasture. Fodder is scanty, except in wet villages. Hill grass and prickly-pear are being used. White cholam which has already withered is being removed for use as fodder. The condition of other than stall-fed cattle is reported to be bad. *Hospet division.*—Pasture is practically unobtainable. Fodder is insufficient except in Harpanahalli and Hire Hadagalli, firka of Hadagalli taluk. Cattle are generally in fair condition though some are getting emaciated in Hospet and suffering from want of fodder in Hadagalli. *Sundúr state.*—The supply of fodder and pasture is sufficient and the condition of cattle good.

General remarks.—Water-supply is diminishing in many villages. I have just applied through the Board for the sanction of Government to the utilization of surplus pound funds for the improvement of drinking-water wells. Steps are being taken to improve by means of famine labour the wells situated in villages adjoining relief-works. To supplement the water-supply in Sundúr, wells are being cleared out and deepened and water-holes are being dug in the bed of the Narivanka. The condition of cattle continues to be fair in Adóni and in the unaffected tracts, where there is a fair amount of fodder. It is deteriorating in Alúr and Bellary; and in the neighbourhood of Daroji and Gudiganur, I found the stock looking worse than in any part of the district I have yet visited. Over 1,000 head of cattle from adjacent taluks are grazing in the Sundúr Amani forest on payment of As. 4 per head. Every endeavour is being made to encourage the taking of loans for the purchase of fodder in tracts where the condition of the cattle is reported to be bad. If inquiries show that fodder cannot be obtained at a reasonable prices, the question of preparing prickly-pear as a famine relief-work will be considered.

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 of March 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		White cholam.		Yellow cholam.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	
Adóni	9·67	9·67	12·90	12 90	13·70	13 97	17·20	17·20	Except in Harpanahalli and Sundúr the prices are almost stationary. The fluctuations in the above two places have not been explained.
Alúr	8·64	8·64	11·85	11·85	12·88	12 88	..	..	
Bellary	9·18	9·18	11·33	11·33	13·39	13·39	16 49	16·49	
Rayádrug	9·72	9·72	13·39	13·39	14·42	14 42	14·55	15·52	
Hospet	8·60	8·10	13·30	13·30	14·40	14 40	16·00	16·50	
Kúdligi	8·64	8·64	..	..	13·91	13·91	15·52	15·52	
Harpanahalli ..	9·18	9·45	..	..	14·94	14·42	18 43	17·46	
Hadagalli	9·72	9·72	..	..	14 42	14·42	..	..	
Sundúr	8·60	9·45	..	..	15·60	13·10	19·90	15·90	
Average ..	9·10	9·17	12·55	12·55	14·18	13·88	16·87	16·37	

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

As will be seen from the following figures the imports continue to exceed the exports and it is to be feared that in parts of the district stocks are running short. The net imports during the last week represent the food of about 9,500 (95,000) people for a week at $1\frac{1}{4}$lb. per head :—

Station.	Imports during week ending			Exports during week ending		
	27th Feb. 1897.	6th Mar. 1897.	13th Mar. 1897.	27th Feb. 1897.	6th Mar. 1897.	13th Mar. 1897.
	I. mds.	I. mds.	I. mds.	I. mds.	I. mds.	I. mds.
Hospet	198	38	1,250	11	238	649
Bellary	7,035	3,987	8,055	570	287	110
Virapur	..	..	..	..	29	..
Aspari	34	8	..	303	..	8
Adoni	929	3,129	1,742	..	364	77
Kosgi	318	..	..	..	..	3
Total ..	8,514	7,162	11,047	884	918	847

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

(1) *On works.*—Generally good.

(2) *In villages.*—Generally good. The sugarcane-crushing along the Tungabhadra is giving employment to many and also to their cattle. It is reported that the

people in the Hansi firka of the Kúdligi taluk, in the south-east of the Hospet taluk, and in Holagundi and the neighbouring villages of the Alúr taluk feel the want of employment. The Divisionl Officers concerned have been called on to submit definite proposals for test works in those parts. The condition of weavers remains unaltered in Hospet division. A statement showing the statistics of jail population is attached. They do not show that crime has increased in consequence of the distress.

Statement showing the admissions of convicted prisoners in the District Jail, Bellary, for the fortnight ending 14th March 1897, as compared with those for corresponding periods during the three previous years—1894, 1895 and 1896 :—

Date.	Convicts.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	
1st to 14th March 1894	45	2	47
Do. 1895	40	2	42
Do. 1896	34	1	35
Do. 1897	38	4	42

(3) *Sickness and mortality.*—There were 29 cases of small-pox with two deaths in Hadagalli. There were no deaths from starvation.

Public health is generally good.

(4) *Remarks.*—One Agricultural Inspector and two Stock Inspectors have been deputed for this district for employment as Circle Inspectors. The Agricultural Inspector has arrived and he has been deputed to Alúr taluk to prosecute enquiries in the villages from which the labourers come to the Chippagiri works. The two Stock Inspectors have not yet arrived. During the fortnight, I have inspected the relief works at Moka, Paramadivanahalli, Gadiganur and Daroji and I have visited the villages in the neighbourhood. At Daroji I found the people in worse condition than on any other work I have seen—clothed in rags, dirty in their persons and poor in physique. Yet they usually do their task and only one gang had been fined recently ; and on the 13th, they all deserted the work, thus forfeiting a day's wage and the pay for the rest-day, to attend a car festival. I found some of the children eating the fruit of the prickly-pear, and though there was an ostentation about this which showed that much of it was for my benefit, I found that this fruit was being eaten daily. Inquiries addressed to the women as to the whereabouts of their husbands usually met with the reply that they were too old to come to the work or were ill with fever ; but the children, in answer to similar questions about their fathers, said they were minding the cattle, or had gone as cart-drivers or had emigrated to the Dharmavar country.

But whatever the truth may be, I fear that these workers are sharing their wage with dependants at home and I am having inquires made into the matter. At Gadiganur, only 7 miles away, the workers were in much better condition, and at the other two works mentioned above, the people had a cheerful expression and were evidently quite content with their lot. In the villages I have come across no cases of emaciation, and I should still describe the condition of the people as good. On all works I find old women, and sometimes old men who are not fit for work, but I cannot, as a rule, induce them to go to a kitchen, and no other form of relief is permissible. The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund will, I hope, be utilized for meeting such cases as these.

I offer the above remarks upon the condition of the people with some hesitation as, in the review of my penultimate report, the Board in criticising my views stated that long famine experience or a medical training is necessary before an officer can pronounce with certainty as to the condition of workers. I have neither of these qualifications, but I do claim to have some power of observation and some knowledge of the people of Southern India and I have used these to the best of my poor ability.

Measures of Relief.

(1) *On works.*—In what taluks open, and comparison of numbers—

Taluks.	Number employed.		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Adóni	10,073	11,603	Gradual increase due to diminished demand for labour for agricultural operations.
Alúr	18,200	19,749	
Bellary	3,266	4,015	
Hospet	2,230	2,377	
Hadagalli	746	1,150	
Total ..	34,515	38,894	

(2) *Gratuitous Relief.*—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

Taluks.	Numbers relieved			
	At kitchens.		Weavers.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Adóni	827	834	751	729
Alúr	892	904	..	..
Bellary	203	111	..	..
Hospet	333	310	..	..
Hadagalli	17	24	..	..
Total ..	2,272	2,183	751	729

(3) *Private charity.*—There were 172 kitchen inmates in Bellary public kitchen against 280 at the end of the last fortnight. The committee has to-day asked me to take over the kitchen. The Komati lady, Paramma, continues to feed daily about 300 paupers, chiefly children. A meeting in connection with the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund was held at Bellary and committees were formed. Estimates of the requirements of this district were also sent to the Madras Committee.

(4) *Remarks.*—The new work started on the Gooty road has attracted between 600 and 700 workers. Of whom 250 come from the Bellary-Moka road work. The numbers on the Madhavaram work continue to rise rapidly and additional work will have to be opened in that neighbourhood. The Halvi work will be started to-day.

Inspections—Taluks and Places visited.

By the Collector.—Moka, Daroji, Gadigunur and Parumadevanahalli road works, Gonahalu, Bananahalli, Bisalahalli, Amarapuram, Joluduragi, Minahalli and Siddiganamola.

Deputy Collector, Adóni.—Ádóni Municipal road works, Ádóni-Madhavaram road work, Balasuldoddi tank work, Pedduthumbalam, Chinnathumbalam, Balasuldoddi, Malapalli, Sunkeswari, Sonlapalli, Sangarajamhalli, Pallepadu, Chintakunta and Kosgi.

Deputy Collector, Bellary Division.—Paramadevanahalli road work, Siruguppa road work and the kitchen ; Kolur, Bylur, Sindigiri, Sannaspur, Tekkalkota, Karilingunur, Siruguppa, Bagavadi, Chanakanur and Boggur.

Head Assistant Collector.—Dugganatti, Teligi, Chiristahalli, Anantanahalli, Machihalli and Harpanhalli.

General Remarks.—The Deputy Collector, Ádóni Division, has been asked to open a kitchen in Adóni town for the benefit of the indigent gosha females in Mahomedan quarters. The existing kitchens not being sufficient, one more kitchen has been ordered to be opened on each of the following works in Alúr taluk, viz., Chippagiri work, Halharvi work, Aspari work and Kammerchedu work The Executive Engineer has been directed to take charge of the Antapur, Vaddu and the Ballahunsi road works which were hitherto under the control of the Local Fund Engineer. The demand for employment will continue to grow and the numbers on works must increase, I fear.

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

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.								Other purposes.								Total.				Numbers of wells.	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		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.	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	1	150	..	..	65	13,466	32	3,115	12	750	457	44,906	33	3,265	12	750	457	44,906	1	..	..	..
Alúr	2	600	2	600	75	24,090	524	57,465	376	43,235	1,656	2,54,000	526	58,065	378	43,235	1,656	2,54,000	..	..	2	..
Bellary	5	625	6	625	45	10,225	60	6,375	47	5,995	1,201	1,63,725	65	7,400	62	5,995	1,201	1,63,725	..	..	4	..
Rayadrug	22	2,150	5	450	62	15,350	30	3,900	17	2,100	163	36,100	52	6,050	17	2,100	163	36,100	..	..	5	..
Hospet	3	650	1	125	26	4,860	..	..	1	125	61	6,190	3	550	1	125	61	6,190	..	..	1	..
Kúdligi	..	..	..	..	18	3,050	..	..	..	..	19	3,075	..	..	..	..	19	3,075	..	..	..	..
Harpanahalli	..	..	..	..	2	500	29	3,830	16	2,230	41	4,450	29	3,830	16	2,230	41	4,450	..	..	..	..
Hadagalli	..	..	..	..	42	9,150	20	3,335	9	1,800	260	43,060	20	3,335	9	1,800	260	43,060	..	..	..	..
Total ..	33	3,975	13	1,700	325	80,691	695	78,520	472	54,535	3,858	5,56,006	668	82,495	485	56,235	3,858	5,56,006	1	..	12	..

Cattle and seed grain.

Taluks.	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.		
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Adóni	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Alúr	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Bellary	40	2,047	36	1,787	167	10,049	13	1,785	..	..	2	1,800	53	2,832	52	3,782	169	11,849		
Rayadrug	10	310	10	310	388	13,928	..	..	..	..	3	400	10	310	10	310	388	13,928		
Hospet	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	400		
Kúdligi	..	..	..	..	86	3,569	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	86	3,569		
Harpanahalli	31	1,805	18	480	79	2,283	..	..	..	..	..	..	31	1,305	18	480	79	2,283		
Hadagalli ..	3	150	..	250	6	340	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	150	..	250	6	340		
	4	300	3		65	2,750	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	300	..		65	2,750		
Total ..	88	4,112	67	2,827	791	32,919	13	1,785	..	..	5	2,200	101	5,897	83	4,832	796	35,119		

Purchase of fodder.

Taluks.	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.		
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Adóni	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Alúr	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Bellary	..	..	36	1,787	167	10,049	13	1,785	..	..	2	1,800	53	2,832	52	3,782	169	11,849		
Rayadrug	40	2,047	10	310	388	13,928	..	..	..	..	3	400	10	310	10	310	388	13,928		
Hospet	10	310	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	400		
Kúdligi	..	..	..	..	86	3,569	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	86	3,569		
Harpanahalli	31	1,805	18	480	79	2,283	..	..	..	..	..	..	31	1,305	18	480	79	2,283		
Hadagalli ..	3	150	..	250	6	340	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	150	..	250	6	340		
	4	300	3		65	2,750	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	300	..		65	2,750		
Total ..	88	4,112	67	2,827	791	32,919	13	1,785	..	..	5	2,200	101	5,897	83	4,832	796	35,119		

* The Deputy Collector not having given particulars for this amount last fortnight they were shown under "cattle and seed grain." He has since shown this amount under "purchase of fodder." Hence the transfer of these figures from the former to the latter heading.

Remarks.—The number of applications pending in Alúr, Bellary and Adóni is very large. The progress made in Adóni is slow. The sanction of Government has not yet been accorded for the appointment of Special Tahsildars for loans, but, with the sanction of the Board, one special Tahsildar has been appointed for loans work in Alúr and it is hoped that the progress will now be better.

———

Read—also the following letter from C. G. SPENCER, Esq , Acting Head Assistant Collector, Bellary, to the Collector of Bellary, dated 1st March 1897, and endorsement thereon, dated 13th March 1897 :—

With reference to your endorsement, Dis. No. 734, dated 6th February 1897, on B.P., dated 1st Februarv 1897, Mis. No. 752, requiring a report on the results of my tour in Hadagalli and Kúdligi taluks and in the Antapur valley of Hospet, I have the honour to state that I have already embodied in my fortnightly narrative most of the general facts of interest with regard to the condition of the people, cattle and crops observed in the villages visited by me, but at the risk of repetition I will now proceed to notice a few of the impressions I gathered from my inspections.

2. Leaving Hospet on the 6th January, I went first to Hadagalli taluk, as special reports were due about the relief works at Nárayanadevarakeri and Devagondanahally. My predecessor, Mr. Lloyd, had already inspected over 25 per cent. of the affected villages in this taluk, so that I thought it best to push on as quickly as possible to Kúdligi taluk, whence reports had come of greater loss of crop and where less inspection had already been made. At the same time I did not omit to notice on my way the state of crops and the condition of the people in the villages along the main road between Bellahunsi and Hadagalli and between Hadagalli and Ittigi.

3. In Hospet taluk between Hospet and Nárayanadevarakeri, the whole country is a barren wilderness with hardly a green blade anywhere. As soon as the confines of Hadagalli taluk are entered, a change for the better is perceptible. At Marabbihal for instance, I found castor-oil plants in fair condition, horse-gram with a yield rather over 4 annas, and cholum and onions under wells doing well. Women were to be seen working in the fields at the horse-gram harvest for 2 annas cooly and men also had some employment of their own, for none of the inhabitants were attending the relief work progressing in their midst.

4. At Bellahunsi, 32 men, 9 women and 12 children applied to me for the opening of relief works for the benefit of that village and its hamlets and adjoining villages. They expressed their unwillingness to go three and a half miles and back every day to attend the Nárayanadevarakeri supply channel work, or to leave their houses if sheds were furnished for their habitation in the vicinity of the work. Two or 3 men of this village had a somewhat starved appearance, but I think they were professional beggars. On my special report, a test work was opened on the 2nd February at Bellahunsi and the numbers have risen from 40 to 220 in less than a fortnight.

5. Between Bellahunsi and Hampasagar I noticed some horse-gram with an outturn of 4 annas and some distinctly under 4 annas. Castor was between 4 and 6 annas. In a few fields it was very thin and must be estimated at less than 4 annas. A little dholl of about 4 annas outturn was growing, some under. About Tambrahalli some irrigated sugarcane was seen in very good condition. At Hampasagar, I found some hingari cholum doing well with an estimated yield of 8 annas and even over on ground moistened by flooding of the Tungabhadra. The people there seemed to be in average condition and the children well-fed and playing in the streets. It will be remembered that a relief work was here tried for a few days as an experiment in November and proved a failure.

6. Between Hampasagar and Hadagalli, the soil is poor and the country bare. Some big fields of ragi resulted in total failure or a yield of 2 annas. Some cholum was seen in similar condition and only useful for fodder, some having been grazed upon already. Some castor was about 4 annas. Some very short crops of horse-gram were visible. Near Huvinahadagalli, I saw some withered cotton widely sown.

7. At Devagondanahally, I saw a field of 8 annas *mommoi* cotton irrigated from a private well. Some fields of cotton contained a two anna crop, some 4 annas and some above 4 annas. But as a first crop of a korra 4 annas or more in value is reported to have been harvested on some fields, the net result of the mixed crop is that no remission can be expected. Some 4 annas cholum had already been reaped and the straw had been used for fodder in this village. Some late-sown white cholum was a span high at my inspection, but dependent on dew which has been scanty in this season.

8. In Holalgundi firka, I found a tract of high-level black cotton soil between Holalgundi and Ittigi that has practically yielded nothing this year. Much of it had been left waste, the rest has yielded a crop under 2 annas, and the whole deserves remission except in one or two fields where a four-anna yellow cholum crop is said to have been harvested early. There is a similar tract of black cotton soil between Uttangi and Ittigi. On the north side of Holalgundi village, crops on the red soils fared better, the average being about four to six, castor best. The average for the whole village may be a four-anna crop. Cotton about Holalgundi was a six-anna crop, but in a few fields only 2 annas. Yellow cholum already reaped produced little more than fodder, though the Revenue Inspector says there was enough grain in it to make it a four-anna crop. Dholl only yielded 2 annas. The Wodders of this village petitioned for remission of seigniorage on burnt stone taken from the reserve for sale and the matter is still under correspondence.

9. The outturn in Uttangi village averaged 4 to 6 annas for the whole village. The Revenue Inspector estimated it at 8 annas. Different officers may easily held different opinions regarding the outturn of a crop and it is, of course, particularly difficult for me to make a certain estimate of the average yield of any village when I was not in the district at the time of the harvest of the first cholum crop, but from the little I have seen and from a comparison of the outturn of crops in Kudligi taluk where a fair valuation has been made, I am strongly inclined to think that the average outturn of villages in the Hadagalli taluk has been generally overestimated by at least 2 annas, not sufficient account having been taken of the large areas in some villages unavoidably left waste by no neglect of the ryots, by which the total average should properly be reduced.

10. Thus, in the wide tract of black-cotton soil between Ittigi and Tonna and Morigeri, it is difficult to ascertain the value of the cholum crop already reaped on some fields, but now there is no crop anywhere above 2 annas. Cotton where standing in one or two places at the time of my inspection was below 2 annas, but generally the fields were all waste and the average deserves remission, unless the first cholum crop was above 2 annas.

11. Proceeding to Kudligi taluk, I chose a line by which I could see about four or five villages every day, at the same time taking care to rather avoid the beaten track as I had already in December inspected a few villages in each firka that lie on the lines of communication. In this way I succeeded in seeing 41 affected villages, hamlets and parent villages, in the space of ten days, chiefly in Hanasi and Choranur firkas where the loss of crop has been most extensive. Wherever I went I made detailed notes of everything I observed as regards crops, state of drinking water-supply and need for relief works, intending them to serve both as a check on the Tahsildar's proposals for remission and as some guidance to the jamabandi officer. As you have, I understand, arranged to conduct the jamabandi of this taluk, I now enclose these notes for your perusal and this done, I think that little remains to be said as to the results of my inspection beyond one or two general facts that I will proceed to notice.

12. First as to loss of crop, there can be no doubt that the failure in this taluk has been very extensive and severe in degree. Though before inclined to doubt whether the reports received on the subject did not represent rather an extensive view of the real state of things, I came to the conclusion that the Revenue Inspectors' estimates confirmed by the Tahsildar's opinion fairly appreciated the worth of the produce of the villages in their ranges. Standing crops were, of course, few and far between in the month of January. A fair amount of castor and little cotton remained

in Hanasi firka, besides sugarcane and garden crops under wells. In Choranur range there were even fewer dry crops left, but I made careful enquiries in the village about the yield, examining specimens of each sort of straw from the rick yards and the size of the cholum stalks in the fields.

13. Secondly, as to the need for relief works, I noticed that there was practically no demand for it. In fact, it was not till I reached the north-east corner of the taluk that any people came forward to suggest the opening of works. At Bandri, Nidugurti and Mallapuram a number of ryots petitioned for relief works, but they all wanted works to be opened in their own villages and expressed their unwillingness to go to any distance for work. A certain number of the poorer people in each village had, for some time, been deriving a not very certain or remunerative livelihood by cutting and conveying grass from the Sandur and other hills for cooly. This employment was then diminishing and has by this time quite come to an end.

The reason why the people who are out of employment are unwilling to resort to relief works situated at a distance from their homes was discovered to be that in this part of the district as well as most of Hospet taluk, the ryots have not yet begun to sell their cattle. The stock of fodder in Kúdligi taluk, supplemented by hill grass, varies from one month's to three months' supply. With this the ryots hope, not without difficulty, to tide over the bad time coming until the rains become due without selling their cattle and thus to be in a better position to take advantage of a more fortunate season.

14. It may, at first sight, seem strange that there is no great demand for relief works in a taluk where the loss of crops has been so extensive. The probable explanation appears to me is that in Kúdligi the villages are mostly small and the land is cultivated by the ryots that own it. Consequently, there is no large cooly-population to be thrown out of employment immediately that agricultural operations come to a standstill. There are also more date topes and pasture land interspersed between the cultivated area, and thus a source of employment in tending sheep and cattle and other sundry occupations is afforded. The opinion that I formed at the time was that no relief works would be needed in Kúdligi taluk till March and then only in the north-east corner of the taluk.

15. Lastly, one of the most serious features of the present distress is the failing of the drinking-water supply. In Kúdligi, which is essentially a dry taluk, it came to my notice that in several villages, notably Dhupadahally, Kandagal, Morabahalli, Ammankeri, Appayyanahalli, Muttazanahalli, Yerrainahally, Hirekeriyaginahally, Mallapuram and Kondapuram, much difficulty was being felt owing to the supply of drinking-water going out or becoming so scanty that people were standing waiting for hours before they could fill a few cocoanut shells. At Seliappenahally the well commenced in a previous famine year requires to be revetted and the stones now have been lying for a long while ready near the pool proposed to be revetted. The Hospet Taluk Board has no funds available to spend under the head of water-supply. At the same time as it is absolutely necessary to alleviate real distress caused by want of drinking-water in cases where the ryots are unable to help themselves, I have called for estimates and intend to apply for a special allotment to meet the need as soon as the amount required for the purpose can be approximately estimated.

16. I visited the Antapur valley from Daroji on February 6th and inspected the test work of clearing prickly-pear on the Avinamadugu supply channel. The country is much overgrown with prickly-pear, and the soil is generally poor and stony. Two or three villages, such as, Rajapur and Ubbalagandi lying near the Sandur hills, as also Tumati, had comparatively good crops, and even elsewhere the loss of crop is to some extent mitigated by fair cultivation under wells.

On my way to Antapur I passed through the villages of Torngal, Sultanpur and Yerrabanahalli; on the 7th I rode out to the villages of Avinamadugu and Vitlapuram and made enquiries into the condition of the people and the most suitable form of relief. I returned to Gadiganur by way of Kodalu and Vaddu. Almost everywhere the people seemed to be out of employment and ready to come on relief works; and the reality of the existence of distress was evidenced by the fact that men came

forward as soon as the prickly-pear work was opened, and by the steady increase of numbers on the road work subsequently opened on the 8th February. Only at first women would not attempt the prickly-pear clearance work as it was unsuited for them, especially so for children and nursing mothers. It is, however, the most useful work that can be undertaken in a place where the prickly-pear has spread so far as to become a pest, provided that the clearance is effectual and lasting.

I found it to be true that the people were living on the fruit of the plant—a fact which the Tahsildar regards as a sure sign of distress. The cattle about Torngal appeared to be rather emaciated, and I found the carcase of a bull that had died on the road between Kadalu and Vaddu. But elsewhere they are in fair condition and are being supported, to some extent, on the grass that the people have hitherto been employed in collecting from the hills.

Estimates are being prepared for the deepening of several wells in this valley in villages where the Tahsildar reports that the drinking-water is failing. The people are still in good bodily condition, and the relief work was started in time before the scarcity had begun to tell upon their health. In fact, the only complaint of the famine coolies was that they could not be paid more than the famine wage on days when they turned out an extra quantity of work.

Endorsement by H. A. STUART, Esq., Acting Collector of Bellary, dated 13th March 1897, Dis. No. 1395.

Submitted to the Board of Revenue with reference to B.P., dated 1st February 1897, Mis. No. 752.

2. Regarding the defective water-supply referred to by the Head Assistant Collector, every attempt is being made on the Local Fund side to improve the situation.

3. As regards payment of extra wages for extra work, I find that Mr. Campbell, acting under paragraph 29 of Appendix VI of the Famine Code, laid down an elaborate scale for the calculation of the increments, a copy of which was sent to the Board with endorsement, Dis. No. 16, dated 2nd January 1897. I doubt, however, whether the grant of these fractional differences was intended by the framers of the Code, who seem to have contemplated the raising of the class only. In practice, extra wages are seldom if ever earned.

Resolution—dated 27th March 1897, No. 254.

The papers read above, containing the fortnightly narrative of the Collector of Bellary for the period ending 15th March 1897, and a special report by the Head Assistant Collector on the condition of the people in his division, will be submitted for the information of Government.

2. The condition of the district is naturally deteriorating. Water-supplies for drinking purposes are diminishing, and steps are being taken for the improvement of wells in villages near relief-works by means of famine labour; as regards other wells, the Collector has addressed the Land Revenue Department as to whether the surplus pound funds could be utilized for improving them. If Local funds are exhausted the Collector should apply confidently and without delay for a grant from Provincial funds. Both people and cattle must have water. The condition of the standing crops is reported to be generally fair, but, except in a few favoured localities under wells and channels, the outturn has been poor to middling. The late sown cholam has withered and is being cut for fodder. The loss of crops in Kúdligi is said to be "very extensive and severe in degree", while large areas in Hadagalli and Hospet have been left waste owing to no neglect on the part of the ryots.

3. There is practically no pasture, and fodder is scanty. Endeavours are being made to encourage the taking of loans for the purchase of fodder; and where fodder cannot be had at reasonable prices, it is proposed to prepare, by famine labour, prickly-pear for use as fodder. The Board requests to be informed whether any action will be taken by Government on the proposal of the Sanitary Commissioner to import compressed fodder from Burma—*vide* B.P., dated 15th March 1897, No. 230. The condition of cattle is deteriorating and hundreds of them are being brought to market for sale, but very few find purchasers. In Kúdligi, however, the ryots have not yet begun to sell their cattle.

4. Prices are almost stationary, except in Sandúr, where there was a sharp rise during the fortnight, the cause of which is not explained. The trade is reported to be active but it is feared that, in parts of the district, stocks are running short.

5. The condition of the people is reported to be generally good. The affected area is gradually increasing in extent and proposals for the opening of additional works are being matured. A large number of persons in the Head Assistant's division are reported to be in want of employment but unwilling to go out of their villages for work. Ryots in these villages should, wherever possible, be induced to take out loans for agricultural improvements, which will afford employment to the labouring population near their homes. The numbers on works have increased by more than 4,000 during the fortnight, but the number of kitchen inmates, instead of increasing proportionately, has fallen off. It is remarkable that the decrease has occurred not only in some of the kitchens attached to relief-works but also in the public kitchen maintained by private charity at Bellary. It is very likely that the relief-workers are, as the Collector fears, sharing their wage with dependants at home. Now that Circle Inspectors have been appointed, it is hoped that thorough enquiries will be made into all cases deserving of gratuitous relief and strenuous efforts made to overcome the prejudices of the people to send their non-working children and infirm dependants to kitchens. The Collector has ordered the opening of more kitchens on works, and a special one for the benefit of the indigent gosha females in Adóni town. When the enquiries that are being made in the villages from which the relief-workers come are completed, it will be found necessary to open central kitchens for groups of villages. Permission to open such kitchens has been given by Government in its order communicated with B.P., dated 5th March 1897, No. 195.

6. The question of paying extra wages for work done in excess of the task is under the consideration of the Board. Payment may not be made beyond the rate for A gangs, but there does not seem to be any objection to making this on Mr. Campbell's plan by a fractional rise; fines are inflicted on the same plan, and the argument should cut both ways. In no case, however, can the A wage be exceeded.

7. Sanction has been accorded by Government for the entertainment of special Tahsildars to expedite the disposal of loans applications pending in the district—*vide* G.O. communicated with B.P., dated 19th March 1897, No. 2077.

8. The Collector should not submit any more jail statistics. These are now obtained from the Inspector-General of Prisons.

9. With reference to paragraphs 7 and 10 of Mr. Spencer's letter, the Collector should refer him to paragraph 2 of B.P., dated 3rd February 1897, No. 94, and to the B.Ps. quoted therein.

10. The cases referred to by the Collector in the second paragraph "(4) Remarks," under the heading "condition of the people" as suitable for relief by the Indian Famine Charitable Relief fund should not be put on the lists of that Fund. Properly they should go to a kitchen or starve; but as the latter alternative is out of the question, the only thing to be done is to leave them on the works and give them light tasks. "Betty Higgins" was not an imaginary character, or peculiar to England: the problem of poor persons who will rather work to the last than "come on the parish" is one which is constantly coming before Relief officers in all districts. In fact there is no answer more complete, to those who fear that gratuitous relief in kitchens is likely to be abused, than the extreme difficulty of getting people into the

kitchens at all. There are two blind men and a nursing mother with twin babies of about five months old on the work at Yadiki. All three should be in the kitchen, but nothing will induce them to go. The spirit is a good one. More success is to be hoped from the children and the destitutes in villages, and special attention should be given to the kitchens in Bellary taluk which are almost empty. The Board is aware that the Deputy Collector, M.R.Ry. T. Rama Rao, has not been remiss in the matter, and that he should have failed shows how very deeprooted the objection to kitchens is. It is worth noting that the Telugu seems to be much more difficult to deal with in this matter than the Tamil.

11. With reference to the last paragraph of the Collector's narrative under the heading "condition of the people," the Board would observe that he is, of course, perfectly capable of judging of the condition of workers who are in good health or unmistakably bad health. It is where the workers are, so to speak, "on the turn" that a difficulty arises in deciding on their condition. It is here that famine experience and medical training come in so useful. There is no Royal Road to the knowledge required; but there is one hint which the Collector will find useful:—For ordinary inspections the morning is a very good time; but, when the object in view is to test the physical condition of the people, the proper time to inspect is the evening, when the day's work is nearly done. Then the workers who are in poor condition will show signs of exhaustion which are not visible in the morning.

12. The two reports herewith recorded are very interesting, and show many traces of personal interest and investigation. It must relieve Mr. Stuart of much anxiety to have so conscientious an officer in charge of the Hospet division.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 299, Revenue, dated 5th May 1897.

Miscellaneous.

The proposal of the Sanitary Commissioner to import compressed fodder will be dealt with separately.

2. The instructions issued in paragraph 6 are approved.

3. In regard to the failure of the drinking water supply referred to in paragraph 15 of the Head Assistant Collector's report, the Government is of opinion that famine labour, either by task work or by piece work or on ordinary contract, at low rates, might be usefully directed to the improvement of village water supply in the Kúdligi taluk and elsewhere. The Board has already been called upon to consider this proposal and propose a scheme (*vide* G.O., No. 272, dated 27th April 1897).

× 1295 CN / 18-5-97

(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. Enclosures

Regd. } Spare copies

G.O., No. 299, 5th May 1897.

No: 1477 W & 31.5.97
Communicated to the
Supts. Engrs. III circle.

MAY.

fldg D-in-C

To
The S.E. III Circle

Fortnightly Narrative.

Stating, with reference to the remarks of the Board of Revenue on the — of the Bellary district, for the period ending 15th March 1897, that the proposal of the Sanitary Commissioner to import compressed fodder from Burma will be dealt with separately and that famine labour might be usefully directed to the improvement of village water-supply and approving the Board's instructions in the matter of payment of extra wages for work done in excess of the task.

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. 254 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly narrative of the Bellary district for the fortnight ending 15th March 1897 :—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and water-supply.—There has been no rain during the fortnight excepting in a few villages. Water-supply for drinking purposes is generally sufficient in Adóni, Rayadrug, Bellary, Hospet and Harpanahalli taluks ; elsewhere it is becoming scarce. The Tungabhadra and Hagari channels and the tanks fed by them contain an adequate supply for irrigation purposes. The other larger irrigation sources are either dry or contain an insufficient supply. Wells contain a moderate supply.

Agricultural operation and condition of standing crops.

Adóni division.—The digging of nuth grass and ploughing operations are going on. The condition of standing cotton is fair in Adóni and bad in Alúr. White cholam has withered in many places. In Adóni the castor is fair and garden crops are good. *Bellary division.*—Cotton and horse-gram harvested with an average yield of As. 4, and dhol As. 6. Cotton-picking continues in some places. In Siruguppa and other villages commanded by the Tungabhadra channels, sugar-cane is being cut. White cholam sown after the November rains has withered and is being cut for fodder. Oil-seeds are in fair condition and cotton moderate, while the crops under wells and channels are in good condition. *Hospet division.*—Sugar-cane harvest is proceeding in riverside villages of Hospet taluk. Cotton and castor are being harvested in Harpanahalli, the yield being bad to middling. Cotton and sugar-cane in Hadagalli yielded As. 2 to 6. Garden crops under wells and channels are in fair condition. *Sundúr state.*—Ploughing nearly finished, and fields being manured. There are no standing crops except betel.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.

Adóni division.—Fodder is scanty in Alúr and is estimated to last for about two and half months in Adóni. There is practically no pasture. In Adóni the condition of stall-fed cattle is good and that of others fair. The condition of the cattle of the poorer ryots in Alúr is reported to be growing from bad to worse. Five hundred and fifty head of cattle were brought to the Adóni market for sale during the fortnight. Of these 30 were bought by butchers for prices ranging from Rs. 4 to Rs. 8, and 78 by agriculturists for Rs. 10 to Rs. 25, the rest found no purchasers. It is reported that 30 cattle died at Hibbatam and Peddahotur, apparently from cattle disease, but this is not stated. Inquiries are being made. *Bellary division.*—Very little pasture. Fodder is scanty, except in wet villages. Hill grass and prickly-pear are being used. White cholam which has already withered is being removed for use as fodder. The condition of other than stall-fed cattle is reported to be bad. *Hospet division.*—Pasture is practically unobtainable. Fodder is insufficient except in Harpanahalli and Hire Hadagalli, firka of Hadagalli taluk. Cattle are generally in fair condition though some are getting emaciated in Hospet and suffering from want of fodder in Hadagalli. *Sundúr state.*—The supply of fodder and pasture is sufficient and the condition of cattle good.

General remarks.—Water-supply is diminishing in many villages. I have just applied through the Board for the sanction of Government to the utilization of surplus pound funds for the improvement of drinking-water wells. Steps are being taken to improve by means of famine labour the wells situated in villages adjoining relief-works. To supplement the water-supply in Sundúr, wells are being cleared out and deepened and water-holes are being dug in the bed of the Narivanka. The condition of cattle continues to be fair in Adóni and in the unaffected tracts, where there is a fair amount of fodder. It is deteriorating in Alúr and Bellary; and in the neighbourhood of Daroji and Gudiganur, I found the stock looking worse than in any part of the district I have yet visited. Over 1,000 head of cattle from adjacent taluks are grazing in the Sundúr Amani forest on payment of As. 4 per head. Every endeavour is being made to encourage the taking of loans for the purchase of fodder in tracts where the condition of the cattle is reported to be bad. If inquiries show that fodder cannot be obtained at a reasonable prices, the question of preparing prickly-pear as a famine relief-work will be considered.

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 of March 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		White cholam.		Yellow cholam.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	
Adóni	9·67	9·67	12·90	12 90	13·70	13 97	17·20	17·20	Except in Harpanahalli and Sundúr the prices are almost stationary. The fluctuations in the above two places have not been explained.
Alúr	8·64	8·64	11·85	11·85	12·88	12 88	..	..	
Bellary	9·18	9·18	11·33	11·33	13·39	13·39	16 49	16·49	
Rayádrug	9·72	9·72	13·39	13·39	14·42	14 42	14·55	15·52	
Hospet	8·60	8·10	13·30	13·30	14·40	14 40	16·10	16·50	
Kúdligi	8·64	8·64	..	..	13·91	13·91	15·52	15·52	
Harpanahalli ..	9·18	9·45	..	..	14·94	14·42	18·43	17·46	
Hadagalli	9·72	9·72	..	..	14 42	14·42	..	..	
Sundúr	8·60	9·45	..	..	15·60	13·10	19·90	15·90	
Average ..	9·10	9·17	12·55	12·55	14·18	13·88	16·87	16·37	

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

have to be seen from the following figures the imports continue to exceed the is to be feared that in parts of the district stocks are running short. ports during the last week represent the food of about 9,500 (95,000) people eek at 1¼lb. per head :—

Station.	Imports during week ending			Exports during week ending		
	27th Feb. 1897.	6th Mar. 1897.	13th Mar. 1897.	27th Feb. 1897.	6th Mar. 1897.	13th Mar. 1897.
	I. MDS.	I. MDS.	I. MDS.	I. MDS.	I. MDS.	I. MDS.
Hospet	198	38	1,250	11	238	649
Bellary	7,035	3,987	8,055	570	287	110
Virapur	..	..	..	..	29	..
Aspari	34	8	..	303	..	8
Adoni	929	3,129	1,742	..	364	77
Kosgi	318	..	..	..	..	3
Total ..	8,514	7,162	11,047	884	918	847

Condition of the People.

(1) *On works.*—Generally good.

(2) *In villages.*—Generally good. The sugarcane-crushing along the Tungabhadra is giving employment to many and also to their cattle. It is reported that the

people in the Hansi firka of the Kúdligi taluk, in the south-east of the Hospet taluk, and in Holagundi and the neighbouring villages of the Alúr taluk feel the want of employment. The Divisionl Officers concerned have been called on to submit definite proposals for test works in those parts. The condition of weavers remains unaltered in Hospet division. A statement showing the statistics of jail population is attached. They do not show that crime has increased in consequence of the distress.

Statement showing the admissions of convicted prisoners in the District Jail, Bellary, for the fortnight ending 14th March 1897, as compared with those for corresponding periods during the three previous years—1894, 1895 and 1896 :—

Date.	Convicts.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	
1st to 14th March 1894	45	2	47
Do. 1895	40	2	42
Do. 1896	34	1	35
Do. 1897	38	4	42

(3) *Sickness and mortality.*—There were 29 cases of small-pox with two deaths in Hadagalli. There were no deaths from starvation.

Public health is generally good.

(4) *Remarks.*—One Agricultural Inspector and two Stock Inspectors have been deputed for this district for employment as Circle Inspectors. The Agricultural Inspector has arrived and he has been deputed to Alúr taluk to prosecute enquiries in the villages from which the labourers come to the Chippagiri works. The two Stock Inspectors have not yet arrived. During the fortnight, I have inspected the relief works at Moka, Paramadivanahalli, Gadiganur and Daroji and I have visited the villages in the neighbourhood. At Daroji I found the people in worse condition than on any other work I have seen—clothed in rags, dirty in their persons and poor in physique. Yet they usually do their task and only one gang had been fined recently ; and on the 13th, they all deserted the work, thus forfeiting a day's wage and the pay for the rest-day, to attend a car festival. I found some of the children eating the fruit of the prickly-pear, and though there was an ostentation about this which showed that much of it was for my benefit, I found that this fruit was being eaten daily. Inquiries addressed to the women as to the whereabouts of their husbands usually elicit the reply that they were too old to come to the work or were ill with fever, and that their children, in answer to similar questions about their fathers, said they were herding the cattle, or had gone as cart-drivers or had emigrated to the Dharmavar country.

But whatever the truth may be, I fear that these workers are sharing their wage with dependants at home and I am having inquires made into the matter. At Gadiganur, only 7 miles away, the workers were in much better condition, and at the other two works mentioned above, the people had a cheerful expression and were evidently quite content with their lot. In the villages I have come across no cases of emaciation, and I should still describe the condition of the people as good. On all works I find old women, and sometimes old men who are not fit for work, but I cannot, as a rule, induce them to go to a kitchen, and no other form of relief is permissible. The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund will, I hope, be utilized for meeting such cases as these.

I offer the above remarks upon the condition of the people with some hesitation as, in the review of my penultimate report, the Board in criticising my views stated that long famine experience or a medical training is necessary before an officer can pronounce with certainty as to the condition of workers. I have neither of these qualifications, but I do claim to have some power of observation and some knowledge of the people of Southern India and I have used these to the best of my poor ability.

Measures of Relief.

(1) *On works.*—In what taluks open, and comparison of numbers—

Taluks.	Number employed.		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Adóni	10,073	11,603	Gradual increase due to diminished demand for labour for agricultural operations.
Alúr	18,200	19,749	
Bellary	3,266	4,015	
Hospet	2,230	2,377	
Hadagalli	746	1,150	
Total ..	34,515	38,894	

(2) *Gratuitous Relief.*—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

Taluks.	Numbers relieved			
	At kitchens.		Weavers.	
	Last fortnight.	This. fortnight.	Last. fortnight.	This. fortnight.
Adóni	827	834	751	729
Alúr	892	904	..	..
Bellary	203	111	..	..
Hospet	333	310	..	..
Hadagalli	17	24	..	..
Total ..	2,272	2,183	751	729

(3) *Private charity.*—There were 172 kitchen inmates in Bellary public kitchen against 280 at the end of the last fortnight. The committee has to-day asked me to take over the kitchen. The Komati lady, Paramma, continues to feed daily about 300 paupers, chiefly children. A meeting in connection with the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund was held at Bellary and committees were formed. Estimates of the requirements of this district were also sent to the Madras Committee.

(4) *Remarks.*—The new work started on the Gooty road has attracted between 600 and 700 workers. Of whom 250 come from the Bellary-Moka road work. The numbers on the Madhavaram work continue to rise rapidly and additional work will have to be opened in that neighbourhood. The Halvi work will be started to-day.

Inspections—Taluks and Places visited.

By the Collector.—Moka, Daroji, Gadigunur and Parumadevanahalli road works, Gonahalu, Pananahalli, Bisalahalli, Amarapuram, Joluduragi, Minahalli and Siddiganamola.

Deputy Collector, Adóni.—Ádóni Municipal road works, Ádóni-Madhavaram road work, Balasuldoddi tank work, Pedduthumbalam, Chinnathumbalam, Balasuldoddi, Malapalli, Sunkeswari, Sonlapalli, Sangarajamhalli, Pallepadu, Chintakunta and Kosgi.

Deputy Collector, Bellary Division.—Paramadevanahalli road work, Siruguppa road work and the kitchen ; Kolur, Bylur, Sindigiri, Sannaspur, Tekkalkota, Karilingunur, Siruguppa, Bagavadi, Chanakanur and Boggur.

Head Assistant Collector.—Dugganatti, Teligi, Chiristahalli, Anantanahalli, Machihalli and Harpanhalli.

General Remarks.—The Deputy Collector, Ádóni Division, has been asked to open a kitchen in Adóni town for the benefit of the indigent gosha females in Mahomedan quarters. The existing kitchens not being sufficient, one more kitchen has been ordered to be opened on each of the following works in Alúr taluk, viz., Chippagiri work, Halharvi work, Aspari work and Kammerchedu work The Executive Engineer has been directed to take charge of the Antapur, Vaddu and the Ballahunsi road works which were hitherto under the control of the Local Fund Engineer. The demand for employment will continue to grow and the numbers on works must increase, I fear.

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

Taluka.	Repair and construction of wells.								Other purposes.								Total.				Numbers of wells.	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Loans disbursed.		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.	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.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.			
Adóni	..	..	..	..	..	..	65	13,466	8,115	12	750	392	3,265	33	750	12	457	457	44,506	1	..	2
Alúr	..	..	..	..	..	..	75	24,090	57,465	376	42,635	1,581	58,065	526	43,235	378	1,656	1,656	2,54,000	..	4	
Bellary	..	..	..	..	..	..	45	10,225	6,875	47	6,470	1,156	7,400	65	5,995	52	1,201	1,201	1,63,725	..	..	
Rayadrug	..	..	..	..	..	..	62	15,350	3,900	12	650	111	6,050	52	2,100	17	163	163	36,100	..	5	
Hospet	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	4,860	..	..	..	35	1,830	3	125	1	61	61	6,690	..	1	
Kúdligi	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	3,050	..	..	..	1	25	..	..	..	19	19	3,075	..	..	
Harpanahalli	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	500	3,830	16	2,230	39	3,950	29	2,230	16	41	41	4,450	..	..	
Hadagalli	..	..	..	..	..	..	42	9,150	3,335	9	1,800	218	33,910	20	1,800	9	260	260	43,060	..	..	
	Total ..		33	3,975	13	1,700	325	80,691	78,520	472	54,536	3,633	4,75,315	658	56,235	485	3,858	3,858	5,56,006	1	12	

Taluka.	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.		Loans disbursed.	
	Number.	Amount.	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.		Rs.		Rs.		
Adóni	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alúr	40	2,047	36	1,787	167	10,049	..	..	..	..	2	1,600	63	3,832	..	..	169	11,849		
Bellary	10	* 310	10	310	388	13,928	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	310	52	3,782	388	13,928		
Rayadrug	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	400	..	..	16	310	3	400		
Hospet	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Kúdligi	31	1,306	18	489	86	3,569	..	..	..	..	..	..	31	1,305	18	480	86	3,569		
Harpanahalli	3	150	..	..	79	2,283	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	150	..	..	79	2,283		
Hadagalli	4	300	3	250	6	340	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	300	..	..	6	340		
	Total ..	88	4,113	67	2,827	791	32,919	..	..	..	5	2,000	101	5,897	83	4,532	796	35,119		

* The Deputy Collector not having given particulars for this amount last fortnight they were shown under "cattle and seed grain." He has since shown this amount under "purchase of fodder."
Hence the transfer of these figures from the former to the latter heading.

Remarks.—The number of applications pending in Alúr, Bellary and Adóni is very large. The progress made in Adóni is slow. The sanction of Government has not yet been accorded for the appointment of Special Tahsildars for loans, but, with the sanction of the Board, one special Tahsildar has been appointed for loans work in Alúr and it is hoped that the progress will now be better.

———

Read—also the following letter from C. G. SPENCER, Esq , Acting Head Assistant Collector, Bellary, to the Collector of Bellary, dated 1st March 1897, and endorsement thereon, dated 13th March 1897 :—

With reference to your endorsement, Dis. No. 734, dated 6th February 1897, on B.P., dated 1st February 1897, Mis. No. 752, requiring a report on the results of my tour in Hadagalli and Kúdligi taluks and in the Antapur valley of Hospet, I have the honour to state that I have already embodied in my fortnightly narrative most of the general facts of interest with regard to the condition of the people, cattle and crops observed in the villages visited by me, but at the risk of repetition I will now proceed to notice a few of the impressions I gathered from my inspections.

2. Leaving Hospet on the 6th January, I went first to Hadagalli taluk, as special reports were due about the relief works at Nárayanadevarakeri and Devagoundanahally. My predecessor, Mr. Lloyd, had already inspected over 25 per cent. of the affected villages in this taluk, so that I thought it best to push on as quickly as possible to Kúdligi taluk, whence reports had come of greater loss of crop and where less inspection had already been made. At the same time I did not omit to notice on my way the state of crops and the condition of the people in the villages along the main road between Bellahunsi and Hadagalli and between Hadagalli and Ittigi.

3. In Hospet taluk between Hospet and Nárayanadevarakeri, the whole country is a barren wilderness with hardly a green blade anywhere. As soon as the confines of Hadagalli taluk are entered, a change for the better is perceptible. At Marabbihal for instance, I found castor-oil plants in fair condition, horse-gram with a yield rather over 4 annas, and cholum and onions under wells doing well. Women were to be seen working in the fields at the horse-gram harvest for 2 annas cooly and men also had some employment of their own, for none of the inhabitants were attending the relief work progressing in their midst.

4. At Bellahunsi, 32 men, 9 women and 12 children applied to me for the opening of relief works for the benefit of that village and its hamlets and adjoining villages. They expressed their unwillingness to go three and a half miles and back every day to attend the Nárayanadevarakeri supply channel work, or to leave their houses if sheds were furnished for their habitation in the vicinity of the work. Two or 3 men of this village had a somewhat starved appearance, but I think they were professional beggars. On my special report, a test work was opened on the 2nd February at Bellahunsi and the numbers have risen from 40 to 220 in less than a fortnight.

5. Between Bellahunsi and Hampasagar I noticed some horse-gram with an outturn of 4 annas and some distinctly under 4 annas. Castor was between 4 and 6 annas. In a few fields it was very thin and must be estimated at less than 4 annas. A little dholl of about 4 annas outturn was growing, some under. About Tambrahalli some irrigated sugarcane was seen in very good condition. At Hampasagar, I found some hingari cholum doing well with an estimated yield of 8 annas and even over on ground moistened by flooding of the Tungabhadra. The people there seemed to be in average condition and the children well-fed and playing in the streets. It will be remembered that a relief work was here tried for a few days as an experiment in November and proved a failure.

6. Between Hampasagar and Hadagalli, the soil is poor and the country bare. Some big fields of ragi resulted in total failure or a yield of 2 annas. Some cholum was seen in similar condition and only useful for fodder, some having been grazed upon already. Some castor was about 4 annas. Some very short crops of horse-gram were visible. Near Huvinahadagalli, I saw some withered cotton widely sown.

7. At Devagondanahally, I saw a field of 8 annas *mommoi* cotton irrigated from a private well. Some fields of cotton contained a two anna crop, some 4 annas and some above 4 annas. But as a first crop of a korra 4 annas or more in value is reported to have been harvested on some fields, the net result of the mixed crop is that no remission can be expected. Some 4 annas cholum had already been reaped and the straw had been used for fodder in this village. Some late-sown white cholum was a span high at my inspection, but dependent on dew which has been scanty in this season.

8. In Holalgundi firka, I found a tract of high-level black cotton soil between Holalgundi and Ittigi that has practically yielded nothing this year. Much of it had been left waste, the rest has yielded a crop under 2 annas, and the whole deserves remission except in one or two fields where a four-anna yellow cholum crop is said to have been harvested early. There is a similar tract of black cotton soil between Uttangi and Ittigi. On the north side of Holalgundi village, crops on the red soils fared better, the average being about four to six, castor best. The average for the whole village may be a four-anna crop. Cotton about Holalgundi was a six-anna crop, but in a few fields only 2 annas. Yellow cholum already reaped produced little more than fodder, though the Revenue Inspector says there was enough grain in it to make it a four-anna crop. Dholl only yielded 2 annas. The Wodders of this village petitioned for remission of seigniorage on burnt stone taken from the reserve for sale and the matter is still under correspondence.

9. The outturn in Uttangi village averaged 4 to 6 annas for the whole village. The Revenue Inspector estimated it at 8 annas. Different officers may easily held different opinions regarding the outturn of a crop and it is, of course, particularly difficult for me to make a certain estimate of the average yield of any village when I was not in the district at the time of the harvest of the first cholum crop, but from the little I have seen and from a comparison of the outturn of crops in Kudligi taluk where a fair valuation has been made, I am strongly inclined to think that the average outturn of villages in the Hadagalli taluk has been generally overestimated by at least 2 annas, not sufficient account having been taken of the large areas in some villages unavoidably left waste by no neglect of the ryots, by which the total average should properly be reduced.

10. Thus, in the wide tract of black-cotton soil between Ittigi and Tonna and Morigeri, it is difficult to ascertain the value of the cholum crop already reaped on some fields, but now there is no crop anywhere above 2 annas. Cotton where standing in one or two places at the time of my inspection was below 2 annas, but generally the fields were all waste and the average deserves remission, unless the first cholum crop was above 2 annas.

11. Proceeding to Kudligi taluk, I chose a line by which I could see about four or five villages every day, at the same time taking care to rather avoid the beaten track as Mr. Lloyd had already in December inspected a few villages in each firka that lie on the main lines of communication. In this way I succeeded in seeing 41 affected villages, including hamlets and parent villages, in the space of ten days, chiefly in Hanasi and Chorenoor firkas where the loss of crop has been most extensive. Wherever I went I made detailed notes of everything I observed as regards crops, state of drinking water-supply and need for relief works, intending them to serve both as a check on the Tahsildar's proposals for remission and as some guidance to the jamabandi officer. As you have, I understand, arranged to conduct the jamabandi of this taluk, I now enclose these notes for your perusal and this done, I think that little remains to be said as to the results of my inspection beyond one or two general facts that I will proceed to notice.

12. First as to loss of crop, there can be no doubt that the failure in this taluk has been very extensive and severe in degree. Though before inclined to doubt whether the reports received on the subject did not represent rather an extensive view of the real state of things, I came to the conclusion that the Revenue Inspectors' estimates confirmed by the Tahsildar's opinion fairly appreciated the worth of the produce of the villages in their ranges. Standing crops were, of course, few and far between in the month of January. A fair amount of castor and little cotton remained

in Hanasi firka, besides sugarcane and garden crops under wells. In Choranur range there were even fewer dry crops left, but I made careful enquiries in the village about the yield, examining specimens of each sort of straw from the rick yards and the size of the cholum stalks in the fields.

13. Secondly, as to the need for relief works, I noticed that there was practically no demand for it. In fact, it was not till I reached the north-east corner of the taluk that any people came forward to suggest the opening of works. At Bandri, Nidugurti and Mallapuram a number of ryots petitioned for relief works, but they all wanted works to be opened in their own villages and expressed their unwillingness to go to any distance for work. A certain number of the poorer people in each village had, for some time, been deriving a not very certain or remunerative livelihood by cutting and conveying grass from the Sandur and other hills for cooly. This employment was then diminishing and has by this time quite come to an end.

The reason why the people who are out of employment are unwilling to resort to relief works situated at a distance from their homes was discovered to be that in this part of the district as well as most of Hospet taluk, the ryots have not yet begun to sell their cattle. The stock of fodder in Kúdligi taluk, supplemented by hill grass, varies from one month's to three months' supply. With this the ryots hope, not without difficulty, to tide over the bad time coming until the rains become due without selling their cattle and thus to be in a better position to take advantage of a more fortunate season.

14. It may, at first sight, seem strange that there is no great demand for relief works in a taluk where the loss of crops has been so extensive. The probable explanation appears to me is that in Kúdligi the villages are mostly small and the land is cultivated by the ryots that own it. Consequently, there is no large cooly-population to be thrown out of employment immediately that agricultural operations come to a standstill. There are also more date topes and pasture land interspersed between the cultivated area, and thus a source of employment in tending sheep and cattle and other sundry occupations is afforded. The opinion that I formed at the time was that no relief works would be needed in Kúdligi taluk till March and then only in the north-east corner of the taluk.

15. Lastly, one of the most serious features of the present distress is the failing of the drinking-water supply. In Kúdligi, which is essentially a dry taluk, it came to my notice that in several villages, notably Dhupadahally, Kandagal, Morabahalli, Ammankeri, Appayyanahalli, Muttazanahalli, Yerrainahally, Hirekeriyaginahally, Mallapuram and Kondapuram, much difficulty was being felt owing to the supply of drinking-water going out or becoming so scanty that people were standing waiting for hours before they could fill a few cocoanut shells. At Seliappenahally the well commenced in a previous famine year requires to be revetted and the stones now have been lying for a long while ready near the pool proposed to be revetted. The Hospet Taluk Board has no funds available to spend under the head of water-supply. At the same time as it is absolutely necessary to alleviate real distress caused by want of drinking-water in cases where the ryots are unable to help themselves, I have called for estimates and intend to apply for a special allotment to meet the need as soon as the amount required for the purpose can be approximately estimated.

16. I visited the Antapur valley from Daroji on February 6th and inspected the test work of clearing prickly-pear on the Avinamadugu supply channel. The country is much overgrown with prickly-pear, and the soil is generally poor and stony. Two or three villages, such as, Rajapur and Ubbalagandi lying near the Sandur hills, as also Tumati, had comparatively good crops, and even elsewhere the loss of crop is to some extent mitigated by fair cultivation under wells.

On my way to Antapur I passed through the villages of Torngal, Sultanpur and Yerrabanahalli; on the 7th I rode out to the villages of Avinamadugu and Vitlapuram and made enquiries into the condition of the people and the most suitable form of relief. I returned to Gadiganur by way of Kodalu and Vaddu. Almost everywhere the people seemed to be out of employment and ready to come on relief works; and the reality of the existence of distress was evidenced by the fact that men came

forward as soon as the prickly-pear work was opened, and by the steady increase of numbers on the road work subsequently opened on the 8th February. Only at first women would not attempt the prickly-pear clearance work as it was unsuited for them, especially so for children and nursing mothers. It is, however, the most useful work that can be undertaken in a place where the prickly-pear has spread so far as to become a pest, provided that the clearance is effectual and lasting.

I found it to be true that the people were living on the fruit of the plant—a fact which the Tahsildar regards as a sure sign of distress. The cattle about Torngal appeared to be rather emaciated, and I found the carcase of a bull that had died on the road between Kadalu and Vaddu. But elsewhere they are in fair condition and are being supported, to some extent, on the grass that the people have hitherto been employed in collecting from the hills.

Estimates are being prepared for the deepening of several wells in this valley in villages where the Tahsildar reports that the drinking-water is failing. The people are still in good bodily condition, and the relief work was started in time before the scarcity had begun to tell upon their health. In fact, the only complaint of the famine coolies was that they could not be paid more than the famine wage on days when they turned out an extra quantity of work.

Endorsement by H. A. STUART, Esq., Acting Collector of Bellary, dated 13th March 1897, Dis. No. 1395.

Submitted to the Board of Revenue with reference to B.P., dated 1st February 1897, Mis. No. 752.

2. Regarding the defective water-supply referred to by the Head Assistant Collector, every attempt is being made on the Local Fund side to improve the situation.

3. As regards payment of extra wages for extra work, I find that Mr. Campbell, acting under paragraph 29 of Appendix VI of the Famine Code, laid down an elaborate scale for the calculation of the increments, a copy of which was sent to the Board with endorsement, Dis. No. 16, dated 2nd January 1897. I doubt, however, whether the grant of these fractional differences was intended by the framers of the Code, who seem to have contemplated the raising of the class only. In practice, extra wages are seldom if ever earned.

Resolution—dated 27th March 1897, No. 254.

The papers read above, containing the fortnightly narrative of the Collector of Bellary for the period ending 15th March 1897, and a special report by the Head Assistant Collector on the condition of the people in his division, will be submitted for the information of Government.

2. The condition of the district is naturally deteriorating. Water-supplies for drinking purposes are diminishing, and steps are being taken for the improvement of wells in villages near relief-works by means of famine labour; as regards other wells, the Collector has addressed the Land Revenue Department as to whether the surplus pound funds could be utilized for improving them. If Local funds are exhausted the Collector should apply confidently and without delay for a grant from Provincial funds. Both people and cattle must have water. The condition of the standing crops is reported to be generally fair, but, except in a few favoured localities under wells and channels, the outturn has been poor to middling. The late sown cholam has withered and is being cut for fodder. The loss of crops in Kúdligi is said to be "very extensive and severe in degree", while large areas in Hadagalli and Hospet have been left waste owing to no neglect on the part of the ryots.

3. There is practically no pasture, and fodder is scanty. Endeavours are being made to encourage the taking of loans for the purchase of fodder; and where fodder cannot be had at reasonable prices, it is proposed to prepare, by famine labour, prickly-pear for use as fodder. The Board requests to be informed whether any action will be taken by Government on the proposal of the Sanitary Commissioner to import compressed fodder from Burma—*vide* B.P., dated 15th March 1897, No. 230. The condition of cattle is deteriorating and hundreds of them are being brought to market for sale, but very few find purchasers. In Kúdligi, however, the ryots have not yet begun to sell their cattle.

4. Prices are almost stationary, except in Sandúr, where there was a sharp rise during the fortnight, the cause of which is not explained. The trade is reported to be active but it is feared that, in parts of the district, stocks are running short.

5. The condition of the people is reported to be generally good. The affected area is gradually increasing in extent and proposals for the opening of additional works are being matured. A large number of persons in the Head Assistant's division are reported to be in want of employment but unwilling to go out of their villages for work. Ryots in these villages should, wherever possible, be induced to take out loans for agricultural improvements, which will afford employment to the labouring population near their homes. The numbers on works have increased by more than 4,000 during the fortnight, but the number of kitchen inmates, instead of increasing proportionately, has fallen off. It is remarkable that the decrease has occurred not only in some of the kitchens attached to relief-works but also in the public kitchen maintained by private charity at Bellary. It is very likely that the relief-workers are, as the Collector fears, sharing their wage with dependants at home. Now that Circle Inspectors have been appointed, it is hoped that thorough enquiries will be made into all cases deserving of gratuitous relief and strenuous efforts made to overcome the prejudices of the people to send their non-working children and infirm dependants to kitchens. The Collector has ordered the opening of more kitchens on works, and a special one for the benefit of the indigent gosha females in Adóni town. When the enquiries that are being made in the villages from which the relief-workers come are completed, it will be found necessary to open central kitchens for groups of villages. Permission to open such kitchens has been given by Government in its order communicated with B.P., dated 5th March 1897, No. 195.

6. The question of paying extra wages for work done in excess of the task is under the consideration of the Board. Payment may not be made beyond the rate for A gangs, but there does not seem to be any objection to making this on Mr. Campbell's plan by a fractional rise; fines are inflicted on the same plan, and the argument should cut both ways. In no case, however, can the A wage be exceeded.

7. Sanction has been accorded by Government for the entertainment of special Tahsildars to expedite the disposal of loans applications pending in the district—*vide* G.O. communicated with B.P., dated 19th March 1897, No. 2077.

8. The Collector should not submit any more jail statistics. These are now obtained from the Inspector General of Prisons.

9. With reference to paragraphs 7 and 10 of Mr. Spencer's letter, the Collector should refer him to paragraph 2 of B.P., dated 3rd February 1897, No. 94, and to the B.Ps. quoted therein.

10. The cases referred to by the Collector in the second paragraph "(4) Remarks," under the heading "condition of the people" as suitable for relief by the Indian Famine Charitable Relief fund should not be put on the lists of that Fund. Properly they should go to a kitchen or starve; but as the latter alternative is out of the question, the only thing to be done is to leave them on the works and give them light tasks. "Betty Higgins" was not an imaginary character, or peculiar to England: the problem of poor persons who will rather work to the last than "come on the parish" is one which is constantly coming before Relief officers in all districts. In fact there is no answer more complete, to those who fear that gratuitous relief in kitchens is likely to be abused, than the extreme difficulty of getting people into the

kitchens at all. There are two blind men and a nursing mother with twin babies of about five months old on the work at Yadiki. All three should be in the kitchen, but nothing will induce them to go. The spirit is a good one. More success is to be hoped from the children and the destitutes in villages, and special attention should be given to the kitchens in Bellary taluk which are almost empty. The Board is aware that the Deputy Collector, M.R.Ry. T. Rama Rao, has not been remiss in the matter, and that he should have failed shows how very deeprooted the objection to kitchens is. It is worth noting that the Telugu seems to be much more difficult to deal with in this matter than the Tamil.

11. With reference to the last paragraph of the Collector's narrative under the heading "condition of the people," the Board would observe that he is, of course, perfectly capable of judging of the condition of workers who are in good health or unmistakably bad health. It is where the workers are, so to speak, "on the turn" that a difficulty arises in deciding on their condition. It is here that famine experience and medical training come in so useful. There is no Royal Road to the knowledge required; but there is one hint which the Collector will find useful:—For ordinary inspections the morning is a very good time; but, when the object in view is to test the physical condition of the people, the proper time to inspect is the evening, when the day's work is nearly done. Then the workers who are in poor condition will show signs of exhaustion which are not visible in the morning.

12. The two reports herewith recorded are very interesting, and show many traces of personal interest and investigation. It must relieve Mr. Stuart of much anxiety to have so conscientious an officer in charge of the Hospet division.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 299, Revenue, dated 5th May 1897.

Miscellaneous.

The proposal of the Sanitary Commissioner to import compressed fodder will be dealt with separately.

2. The instructions issued in paragraph 6 are approved.

3. In regard to the failure of the drinking water supply referred to in paragraph 15 of the Head Assistant Collector's report, the Government is of opinion that famine labour, either by task work or by piece work or on ordinary contract, at low rates, might be usefully directed to the improvement of village water supply in the Kúdligi taluk and elsewhere. The Board has already been called upon to consider this proposal and propose a scheme (*vide* G.O., No. 272, dated 27th April 1897).

(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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G.O., No. 299, 5th May 1897.

No. 1477 W dt 31.5.97.
Communicated to the
Supdg. Engr. III Circle

MAY.

fdg D.no.c
W

To
The S.E. III Circle

Fortnightly Narrative.

Stating, with reference to the remarks of the Board of Revenue on the — of the Bellary district, for the period ending 15th March 1897, that the proposal of the Sanitary Commissioner to import compressed fodder from Burma will be dealt with separately and that famine labour might be usefully directed to the improvement of village water-supply and approving the Board's instructions in the matter of payment of extra wages for work done in excess of the task.

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. 254 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly narrative of the Bellary district for the fortnight ending 15th March 1897 :—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and water-supply.—There has been no rain during the fortnight excepting in a few villages. Water-supply for drinking purposes is generally sufficient in Adóni, Rayadrug, Bellary, Hospet and Harpanahalli taluks ; elsewhere it is becoming scarce. The Tungabhadra and Hagari channels and the tanks fed by them contain an adequate supply for irrigation purposes. The other larger irrigation sources are either dry or contain an insufficient supply. Wells contain a moderate supply.

Agricultural operation and condition of standing crops.

Adóni division.—The digging of nuth grass and ploughing operations are going on. The condition of standing cotton is fair in Adóni and bad in Alúr. White cholam has withered in many places. In Adóni the castor is fair and garden crops are good. *Bellary division.*—Cotton and horse-gram harvested with an average yield of As. 4, and dhol As. 6. Cotton-picking continues in some places. In Siruguppa and other villages commanded by the Tungabhadra channels, sugar-cane is being cut. White cholam sown after the November rains has withered and is being cut for fodder. Oil-seeds are in fair condition and cotton moderate, while the crops under wells and channels are in good condition. *Hospet division.*—Sugar-cane harvest is proceeding in riverside villages of Hospet taluk. Cotton and castor are being harvested in Harpanahalli, the yield being bad to middling. Cotton and sugar-cane in Hadagalli yielded As. 2 to 6. Garden crops under wells and channels are in fair condition. *Sundúr state.*—Ploughing nearly finished, and fields being manured. There are no standing crops except betel.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.

Adóni division.—Fodder is scanty in Alúr and is estimated to last for about two and half months in Adóni. There is practically no pasture. In Adóni the condition of stall-fed cattle is good and that of others fair. The condition of the cattle of the poorer ryots in Alúr is reported to be growing from bad to worse. Five hundred and fifty head of cattle were brought to the Adóni market for sale during the fortnight. Of these 30 were bought by butchers for prices ranging from Rs. 4 to Rs. 8, and 78 by agriculturists for Rs. 10 to Rs. 25, the rest found no purchasers. It is reported that 30 cattle died at Hibbatam and Peddahotur, apparently from cattle disease, but this is not stated. Inquiries are being made. *Bellary division.*—Very little pasture. Fodder is scanty, except in wet villages. Hill grass and prickly-pear are being used. White cholam which has already withered is being removed for use as fodder. The condition of other than stall-fed cattle is reported to be bad. *Hospet division.*—Pasture is practically unobtainable. Fodder is insufficient except in Harpanahalli and Hire Hadagalli, firka of Hadagalli taluk. Cattle are generally in fair condition though some are getting emaciated in Hospet and suffering from want of fodder in Hadagalli. *Sundúr state.*—The supply of fodder and pasture is sufficient and the condition of cattle good.

General remarks.—Water-supply is diminishing in many villages. I have just applied through the Board for the sanction of Government to the utilization of surplus pound funds for the improvement of drinking-water wells. Steps are being taken to improve by means of famine labour the wells situated in villages adjoining relief-works. To supplement the water-supply in Sundúr, wells are being cleared out and deepened and water-holes are being dug in the bed of the Narivanka. The condition of cattle continues to be fair in Adóni and in the unaffected tracts, where there is a fair amount of fodder. It is deteriorating in Alúr and Bellary; and in the neighbourhood of Daroji and Gudiganur, I found the stock looking worse than in any part of the district I have yet visited. Over 1,000 head of cattle from adjacent taluks are grazing in the Sundúr Amani forest on payment of As. 4 per head. Every endeavour is being made to encourage the taking of loans for the purchase of fodder in tracts where the condition of the cattle is reported to be bad. If inquiries show that fodder cannot be obtained at a reasonable prices, the question of preparing prickly-pear as a famine relief-work will be considered.

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 of March 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		White cholam.		Yellow cholam.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	
Adóni	9·67	9·67	12·90	12·90	13·70	13·97	17·20	17·20	Except in Harpanahalli and Sundúr the prices are almost stationary. The fluctuations in the above two places have not been explained.
Alúr	8·64	8·64	11·85	11·85	12·88	12·88	..	..	
Bellary	9·18	9·18	11·33	11·33	13·39	13·39	16·49	16·49	
Rayádrug	9·72	9·72	13·39	13·39	14·42	14·42	14·55	15·52	
Hospet	8·60	8·10	13·30	13·30	14·40	14·40	16·10	16·50	
Kúdligi	8·64	8·64	..	..	13·91	13·91	15·52	15·52	
Harpanahalli ..	9·18	9·45	..	..	14·94	14·42	18·43	17·46	
Hadagalli	9·72	9·72	..	..	14·42	14·42	..	..	
Sundúr	8·60	9·45	..	..	15·60	13·10	19·90	15·90	
Average ..	9·10	9·17	12·55	12·55	14·18	13·88	16·87	16·37	

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

As will be seen from the following figures the imports continue to exceed the exports and it is to be feared that in parts of the district stocks are running short. The net imports during the last week represent the food of about 9,500 (95,000) people for a week at $1\frac{1}{4}$lb. per head :—

Station.	Imports during week ending			Exports during week ending		
	27th Feb. 1897.	6th Mar. 1897.	13th Mar. 1897.	27th Feb. 1897.	6th Mar. 1897.	13th Mar. 1897.
	L. MDS.	L. MDS.	L. MDS.	L. MDS.	L. MDS.	L. MDS.
Hospet	198	38	1,250	11	238	649
Bellary	7,035	3,987	8,055	570	287	110
Virapur	..	..	..	..	29	..
Aspari	34	8	..	303	..	8
Adoni	929	3,129	1,742	..	364	77
Kosgi	318	..	..	..	..	3
Total ..	8,514	7,162	11,047	884	918	847

Condition of the People.

(1) *On works.*—Generally good.

(2) *In villages.*—Generally good. The sugarcane-crushing along the Tungabhadra is giving employment to many and also to their cattle. It is reported that the

people in the Hansi firka of the Kúdligi taluk, in the south-east of the Hospet taluk, and in Holagundi and the neighbouring villages of the Alúr taluk feel the want of employment. The Divisionl Officers concerned have been called on to submit definite proposals for test works in those parts. The condition of weavers remains unaltered in Hospet division. A statement showing the statistics of jail population is attached. They do not show that crime has increased in consequence of the distress.

Statement showing the admissions of convicted prisoners in the District Jail, Bellary, for the fortnight ending 14th March 1897, as compared with those for corresponding periods during the three previous years—1894, 1895 and 1896 :—

Date.	Convicts.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	
1st to 14th March 1894	45	2	47
Do. 1895	40	2	42
Do. 1896	34	1	35
Do. 1897	38	4	42

(3) *Sickness and mortality.*—There were 29 cases of small-pox with two deaths in Hadagalli. There were no deaths from starvation.

Public health is generally good.

(4) *Remarks.*—One Agricultural Inspector and two Stock Inspectors have been deputed for this district for employment as Circle Inspectors. The Agricultural Inspector has arrived and he has been deputed to Alúr taluk to prosecute enquiries in the villages from which the labourers come to the Chippagiri works. The two Stock Inspectors have not yet arrived. During the fortnight, I have inspected the relief works at Moka, Paramadivanahalli, Gadiganur and Daroji and I have visited the villages in the neighbourhood. At Daroji I found the people in worse condition than on any other work I have seen—clothed in rags, dirty in their persons and poor in physique. Yet they usually do their task and only one gang had been fined recently; and on the 13th, they all deserted the work, thus forfeiting a day's wage and the pay for the rest-day, to attend a car festival. I found some of the children eating the fruit of the prickly-pear, and though there was an ostentation about this which showed that much of it was for my benefit, I found that this fruit was being eaten daily. Inquiries addressed to the women as to the whereabouts of their husbands usually met with the reply that they were too old to come to the work or were ill with fever; but the children, in answer to similar questions about their fathers, said they were minding the cattle, or had gone as cart-drivers or had emigrated to the Dharmavar country.

But whatever the truth may be, I fear that these workers are sharing their wage with dependants at home and I am having inquires made into the matter. At Gadiganur, only 7 miles away, the workers were in much better condition, and at the other two works mentioned above, the people had a cheerful expression and were evidently quite content with their lot. In the villages I have come across no cases of emaciation, and I should still describe the condition of the people as good. On all works I find old women, and sometimes old men who are not fit for work, but I cannot, as a rule, induce them to go to a kitchen, and no other form of relief is permissible. The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund will, I hope, be utilized for meeting such cases as these.

I offer the above remarks upon the condition of the people with some hesitation as, in the review of my penultimate report, the Board in criticising my views stated that long famine experience or a medical training is necessary before an officer can pronounce with certainty as to the condition of workers. I have neither of these qualifications, but I do claim to have some power of observation and some knowledge of the people of Southern India and I have used these to the best of my poor ability.

Measures of Relief.

(1) *On works.*—In what taluks open, and comparison of numbers—

Taluks.	Number employed.		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Adóni	10,073	11,603	Gradual increase due to diminished demand for labour for agricultural operations.
Alúr	18,200	19,749	
Bellary	3,266	4,015	
Hospet	2,230	2,377	
Hadagalli	746	1,150	
Total ..	34,515	38,894	

(2) *Gratuitous Relief.*—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

Taluks.	Numbers relieved			
	At kitchens.		Weavers.	
	Last fortnight.	This. fortnight.	Last. fortnight.	This. fortnight.
Adóni	827	834	751	729
Alúr	892	904	..	..
Bellary	203	111	..	..
Hospet	333	310	..	..
Hadagalli	17	24	..	..
Total ..	2,272	2,183	751	729

(3) *Private charity.*—There were 172 kitchen inmates in Bellary public kitchen against 280 at the end of the last fortnight. The committee has to-day asked me to take over the kitchen. The Komati lady, Paramma, continues to feed daily about 300 paupers, chiefly children. A meeting in connection with the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund was held at Bellary and committees were formed. Estimates of the requirements of this district were also sent to the Madras Committee.

(4) *Remarks.*—The new work started on the Gooty road has attracted between 600 and 700 workers. Of whom 250 come from the Bellary-Moka road work. The numbers on the Madhavaram work continue to rise rapidly and additional work will have to be opened in that neighbourhood. The Halvi work will be started to-day.

Inspections—Taluks and Places visited.

By the Collector.—Moka, Daroji, Gadigunur and Parumadevanahalli road works, Gonahalu, Bananahalli, Bisalahalli, Amarapuram, Joluduragi, Minahalli and Siddiganamola.

Deputy Collector, Adóni.—Ádóni Municipal road works, Ádóni-Madhavaram road work, Balasuldoddi tank work, Pedduthumbalam, Chinnathumbalam, Balasuldoddi, Malapalli, Sunkeswari, Sonlapalli, Sangarajamhalli, Pallepadu, Chintakunta and Kosgi.

Deputy Collector, Bellary Division.—Paramadevanahalli road work, Siruguppa road work and the kitchen; Kolur, Bylur, Sindigiri, Sannaspur, Tekkalkota, Karilingunur, Siruguppa, Bagavadi, Chanakanur and Boggur.

Head Assistant Collector.—Dugganatti, Teligi, Chiristahalli, Anantanahalli, Machihalli and Harpanhalli.

General Remarks.—The Deputy Collector, Ádóni Division, has been asked to open a kitchen in Adóni town for the benefit of the indigent gosha females in Mahomedan quarters. The existing kitchens not being sufficient, one more kitchen has been ordered to be opened on each of the following works in Alúr taluk, viz., Chippagiri work, Halharvi work, Aspari work and Kammerchedu work The Executive Engineer has been directed to take charge of the Antapur, Vaddu and the Ballahunsi road works which were hitherto under the control of the Local Fund Engineer. The demand for employment will continue to grow and the numbers on works must increase, I fear.

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

Taluks.	Other purposes.												Total.				Numbers of wells.	
	Repair and construction of wells.																	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Adóni	1	150	..	..	65	13,466	32	3,115	12	750	457	44,506	33	3,265	12	750	1	..
Alúr ..	2	600	2	600	75	24,090	524	57,465	376	42,635	1,656	2,54,000	626	58,065	378	43,235	..	4
Bellary	5	625	5	625	46	10,225	60	6,875	47	5,470	1,201	1,63,725	65	7,400	62	6,995	..	5
Rayadrug	22	2,150	5	450	52	15,360	30	3,900	12	650	163	36,100	52	6,050	17	2,100	..	1
Hospet	3	650	1	125	26	4,860	..	..	..	..	61	6,690	3	550	1	125	..	..
Kódligi	..	..	..	..	18	3,050	..	..	..	..	19	3,075	..	..	..	..	..	..
Harpanahalli	..	..	..	..	2	500	29	3,830	16	2,230	41	4,450	29	3,830	16	2,230	..	..
Hadagalli ..	..	..	..	..	42	9,150	20	3,335	9	1,800	260	43,000	20	3,335	9	1,800	..	..
Total ..	33	3,975	13	1,700	325	80,691	695	78,520	472	54,535	3,858	5,56,006	688	82,495	485	56,235	1	12

Taluks.	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.
1	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
	Rs.			Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Adóni	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alúr ..	..	..	..	..	36	1,767	13	10,049	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bellary	40	2,047	10	310	10	310	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rayadrug	10	* 310	..	..	..	..	167	13,928	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hospet	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kódligi	..	..	..	..	18	480	86	3,569	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Harpanahalli	31	1,305	..	..	3	150	79	2,283	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hadagalli ..	3	150	..	..	6	250	6	340	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	4	300	..	..	65	2,760	65	2,760	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	88	4,112	67	2,527	791	32,919	13	1,785	..	..	169	11,849	5	2,200	101	5,897	83	4,822
											388	13,928	2	400	..	..	..	..
											3	400	3	400	..	..	..	..
											86	3,569	..	..	..	..	..	..
											79	2,283	..	..	..	..	..	..
											6	340	..	..	..	..	..	..
											65	2,760	..	..	..	..	..	..
											796	35,119	10	3,000	101	5,897	83	4,822

Taluks.	Purchase of fodder.												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.
1	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
	Rs.			Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Adóni	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alúr ..	..	..	..	..	36	1,767	13	10,049	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bellary	40	2,047	10	310	10	310	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rayadrug	10	* 310	..	..	..	..	167	13,928	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hospet	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kódligi	..	..	..	..	18	480	86	3,569	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Harpanahalli	31	1,305	..	..	3	150	79	2,283	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hadagalli ..	3	150	..	..	6	250	6	340	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	4	300	..	..	65	2,760	65	2,760	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	88	4,112	67	2,527	791	32,919	13	1,785	..	..	169	11,849	5	2,200	101	5,897	83	4,822
											388	13,928	2	400	..	..	..	..
											3	400	3	400	..	..	..	..
											86	3,569	..	..	..	..	..	..
											79	2,283	..	..	..	..	..	..
											6	340	..	..	..	..	..	..
											65	2,760	..	..	..	..	..	..
											796	35,119	10	3,000	101	5,897	83	4,822

* The Deputy Collector not having given particulars for this amount last fortnight they were shown under "cattle and seed grain." He has since shown this amount under "purchase of fodder." Hence the transfer of these figures from the former to the latter heading.

Remarks.—The number of applications pending in Alúr, Bellary and Adóni is very large. The progress made in Adóni is slow. The sanction of Government has not yet been accorded for the appointment of Special Tahsildars for loans, but, with the sanction of the Board, one special Tahsildar has been appointed for loans work in Alúr and it is hoped that the progress will now be better.

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Read—also the following letter from C. G. SPENCER, Esq, Acting Head Assistant Collector, Bellary, to the Collector of Bellary, dated 1st March 1897, and endorsement thereon, dated 13th March 1897 :—

With reference to your endorsement, Dis. No. 734, dated 6th February 1897, on B.P., dated 1st February 1897, Mis. No. 752, requiring a report on the results of my tour in Hadagalli and Kúdligi taluks and in the Antapur valley of Hospet, I have the honour to state that I have already embodied in my fortnightly narrative most of the general facts of interest with regard to the condition of the people, cattle and crops observed in the villages visited by me, but at the risk of repetition I will now proceed to notice a few of the impressions I gathered from my inspections.

2. Leaving Hospet on the 6th January, I went first to Hadagalli taluk, as special reports were due about the relief works at Nárayanadevarakeri and Devagondanahally. My predecessor, Mr. Lloyd, had already inspected over 25 per cent. of the affected villages in this taluk, so that I thought it best to push on as quickly as possible to Kúdligi taluk, whence reports had come of greater loss of crop and where less inspection had already been made. At the same time I did not omit to notice on my way the state of crops and the condition of the people in the villages along the main road between Bellahunsi and Hadagalli and between Hadagalli and Ittigi.

3. In Hospet taluk between Hospet and Nárayanadevarakeri, the whole country is a barren wilderness with hardly a green blade anywhere. As soon as the confines of Hadagalli taluk are entered, a change for the better is perceptible. At Marabbihal for instance, I found castor-oil plants in fair condition, horse-gram with a yield rather over 4 annas, and cholum and onions under wells doing well. Women were to be seen working in the fields at the horse-gram harvest for 2 annas cooly and men also had some employment of their own, for none of the inhabitants were attending the relief work progressing in their midst.

4. At Bellahunsi, 32 men, 9 women and 12 children applied to me for the opening of relief works for the benefit of that village and its hamlets and adjoining villages. They expressed their unwillingness to go three and a half miles and back every day to attend the Nárayanadevarakeri supply channel work, or to leave their houses if sheds were furnished for their habitation in the vicinity of the work. Two or 3 men of this village had a somewhat starved appearance, but I think they were professional beggars. On my special report, a test work was opened on the 2nd February at Bellahunsi and the numbers have risen from 40 to 220 in less than a fortnight.

5. Between Bellahunsi and Hampasagar I noticed some horse-gram with an outturn of 4 annas and some distinctly under 4 annas. Castor was between 4 and 6 annas. In a few fields it was very thin and must be estimated at less than 4 annas. A little dholl of about 4 annas outturn was growing, some under. About Tambrahalli some irrigated sugarcane was seen in very good condition. At Hampasagar, I found some hingari cholum doing well with an estimated yield of 8 annas and even over on ground moistened by flooding of the Tungabhadra. The people there seemed to be in average condition and the children well-fed and playing in the streets. It will be remembered that a relief work was here tried for a few days as an experiment in November and proved a failure.

6. Between Hampasagar and Hadagalli, the soil is poor and the country bare. Some big fields of ragi resulted in total failure or a yield of 2 annas. Some cholum was seen in similar condition and only useful for fodder, some having been grazed upon already. Some castor was about 4 annas. Some very short crops of horse-gram were visible. Near Huvinahadagalli, I saw some withered cotton widely sown.

7. At Devagondanahally, I saw a field of 8 annas *mommoi* cotton irrigated from a private well. Some fields of cotton contained a two anna crop, some 4 annas and some above 4 annas. But as a first crop of a korra 4 annas or more in value is reported to have been harvested on some fields, the net result of the mixed crop is that no remission can be expected. Some 4 annas cholum had already been reaped and the straw had been used for fodder in this village. Some late-sown white cholum was a span high at my inspection, but dependent on dew which has been scanty in this season.

8. In Holalgundi firka, I found a tract of high-level black cotton soil between Holalgundi and Ittigi that has practically yielded nothing this year. Much of it had been left waste, the rest has yielded a crop under 2 annas, and the whole deserves remission except in one or two fields where a four-anna yellow cholum crop is said to have been harvested early. There is a similar tract of black cotton soil between Uttangi and Ittigi. On the north side of Holalgundi village, crops on the red soils fared better, the average being about four to six, castor best. The average for the whole village may be a four-anna crop. Cotton about Holalgundi was a six-anna crop, but in a few fields only 2 annas. Yellow cholum already reaped produced little more than fodder, though the Revenue Inspector says there was enough grain in it to make it a four-anna crop. Dholl only yielded 2 annas. The Wodders of this village petitioned for remission of seigniorage on burnt stone taken from the reserve for sale and the matter is still under correspondence.

9. The outturn in Uttangi village averaged 4 to 6 annas for the whole village. The Revenue Inspector estimated it at 8 annas. Different officers may easily held different opinions regarding the outturn of a crop and it is, of course, particularly difficult for me to make a certain estimate of the average yield of any village when I was not in the district at the time of the harvest of the first cholum crop, but from the little I have seen and from a comparison of the outturn of crops in Kudligi taluk where a fair valuation has been made, I am strongly inclined to think that the average outturn of villages in the Hadagalli taluk has been generally overestimated by at least 2 annas, not sufficient account having been taken of the large areas in some villages unavoidably left waste by no neglect of the ryots, by which the total average should properly be reduced.

10. Thus, in the wide tract of black-cotton soil between Ittigi and Tonna and Morigeri, it is difficult to ascertain the value of the cholum crop already reaped on some fields, but now there is no crop anywhere above 2 annas. Cotton where standing in one or two places at the time of my inspection was below 2 annas, but generally the fields were all waste and the average deserves remission, unless the first cholum crop was above 2 annas.

11. Proceeding to Kudligi taluk, I chose a line by which I could see about four or five villages every day, at the same time taking care to rather avoid the beaten track as Mr. Lloyd had already in December inspected a few villages in each firka that lie on the main lines of communication. In this way I succeeded in seeing 41 affected villages, including hamlets and parent villages, in the space of ten days, chiefly in Hanasi and Chorenoor firkas where the loss of crop has been most extensive. Wherever I went I made detailed notes of everything I observed as regards crops, state of drinking water-supply and need for relief works, intending them to serve both as a check on the Tahsildar's proposals for remission and as some guidance to the jamabandi officer. As you have, I understand, arranged to conduct the jamabandi of this taluk, I now enclose these notes for your perusal and this done, I think that little remains to be said as to the results of my inspection beyond one or two general facts that I will proceed to notice.

12. First as to loss of crop, there can be no doubt that the failure in this taluk has been very extensive and severe in degree. Though before inclined to doubt whether the reports received on the subject did not represent rather an extensive view of the real state of things, I came to the conclusion that the Revenue Inspectors' estimates confirmed by the Tahsildar's opinion fairly appreciated the worth of the produce of the villages in their ranges. Standing crops were, of course, few and far between in the month of January. A fair amount of castor and little cotton remained

in Hanasi firka, besides sugarcane and garden crops under wells. In Choranur range there were even fewer dry crops left, but I made careful enquiries in the village about the yield, examining specimens of each sort of straw from the rick yards and the size of the cholum stalks in the fields.

13. Secondly, as to the need for relief works, I noticed that there was practically no demand for it. In fact, it was not till I reached the north-east corner of the taluk that any people came forward to suggest the opening of works. At Bandri, Nidugurti and Mallapuram a number of ryots petitioned for relief works, but they all wanted works to be opened in their own villages and expressed their unwillingness to go to any distance for work. A certain number of the poorer people in each village had, for some time, been deriving a not very certain or remunerative livelihood by cutting and conveying grass from the Sandur and other hills for cooly. This employment was then diminishing and has by this time quite come to an end.

The reason why the people who are out of employment are unwilling to resort to relief works situated at a distance from their homes was discovered to be that in this part of the district as well as most of Hospet taluk, the ryots have not yet begun to sell their cattle. The stock of fodder in Kúdligi taluk, supplemented by hill grass, varies from one month's to three months' supply. With this the ryots hope, not without difficulty, to tide over the bad time coming until the rains become due without selling their cattle and thus to be in a better position to take advantage of a more fortunate season.

14. It may, at first sight, seem strange that there is no great demand for relief works in a taluk where the loss of crops has been so extensive. The probable explanation appears to me is that in Kúdligi the villages are mostly small and the land is cultivated by the ryots that own it. Consequently, there is no large cooly-population to be thrown out of employment immediately that agricultural operations come to a standstill. There are also more date topes and pasture land interspersed between the cultivated area, and thus a source of employment in tending sheep and cattle and other sundry occupations is afforded. The opinion that I formed at the time was that no relief works would be needed in Kúdligi taluk till March and then only in the north-east corner of the taluk.

15. Lastly, one of the most serious features of the present distress is the failing of the drinking-water supply. In Kúdligi, which is essentially a dry taluk, it came to my notice that in several villages, notably Dhupadahally, Kandagal, Morabahalli, Ammankeri, Appayyanahalli, Muttazanahalli, Yerrainahally, Hirekeriyaginahally, Mallapuram and Kondapuram, much difficulty was being felt owing to the supply of drinking-water going out or becoming so scanty that people were standing waiting for hours before they could fill a few cocoanut shells. At Seliappenahally the well commenced in a previous famine year requires to be revetted and the stones now have been lying for a long while ready near the pool proposed to be revetted. The Hospet Taluk Board has no funds available to spend under the head of water-supply. At the same time as it is absolutely necessary to alleviate real distress caused by want of drinking-water in cases where the ryots are unable to help themselves, I have called for estimates and intend to apply for a special allotment to meet the need as soon as the amount required for the purpose can be approximately estimated.

16. I visited the Antapur valley from Daroji on February 6th and inspected the test work of clearing prickly-pear on the Avinamadugu supply channel. The country is much overgrown with prickly-pear, and the soil is generally poor and stony. Two or three villages, such as, Rajapur and Ubbalagandi lying near the Sandur hills, as also Tumati, had comparatively good crops, and even elsewhere the loss of crop is to some extent mitigated by fair cultivation under wells.

On my way to Antapur I passed through the villages of Torngal, Sultanpur and Yerrabanahalli; on the 7th I rode out to the villages of Avinamadugu and Vitlapuram and made enquiries into the condition of the people and the most suitable form of relief. I returned to Gadiganur by way of Kodalu and Vaddu. Almost everywhere the people seemed to be out of employment and ready to come on relief works; and the reality of the existence of distress was evidenced by the fact that men came

forward as soon as the prickly-pear work was opened, and by the steady increase of numbers on the road work subsequently opened on the 8th February. Only at first women would not attempt the prickly-pear clearance work as it was unsuited for them, especially so for children and nursing mothers. It is, however, the most useful work that can be undertaken in a place where the prickly-pear has spread so far as to become a pest, provided that the clearance is effectual and lasting.

I found it to be true that the people were living on the fruit of the plant—a fact which the Tahsildar regards as a sure sign of distress. The cattle about Torngal appeared to be rather emaciated, and I found the carcase of a bull that had died on the road between Kadalu and Vaddu. But elsewhere they are in fair condition and are being supported, to some extent, on the grass that the people have hitherto been employed in collecting from the hills.

Estimates are being prepared for the deepening of several wells in this valley in villages where the Tahsildar reports that the drinking-water is failing. The people are still in good bodily condition, and the relief work was started in time before the scarcity had begun to tell upon their health. In fact, the only complaint of the famine coolies was that they could not be paid more than the famine wage on days when they turned out an extra quantity of work.

Endorsement by H. A. STUART, Esq., Acting Collector of Bellary, dated 13th March 1897, Dis. No. 1385.

Submitted to the Board of Revenue with reference to B.P., dated 1st February 1897, Mis. No. 752.

2. Regarding the defective water-supply referred to by the Head Assistant Collector, every attempt is being made on the Local Fund side to improve the situation.

3. As regards payment of extra wages for extra work, I find that Mr. Campbell, acting under paragraph 29 of Appendix VI of the Famine Code, laid down an elaborate scale for the calculation of the increments, a copy of which was sent to the Board with endorsement, Dis. No. 16, dated 2nd January 1897. I doubt, however, whether the grant of these fractional differences was intended by the framers of the Code, who seem to have contemplated the raising of the class only. In practice, extra wages are seldom if ever earned.

Resolution—dated 27th March 1897, No. 254.

The papers read above, containing the fortnightly narrative of the Collector of Bellary for the period ending 15th March 1897, and a special report by the Head Assistant Collector on the condition of the people in his division, will be submitted for the information of Government.

2. The condition of the district is naturally deteriorating. Water-supplies for drinking purposes are diminishing, and steps are being taken for the improvement of wells in villages near relief-works by means of famine labour; as regards other wells, the Collector has addressed the Land Revenue Department as to whether the surplus pound funds could be utilized for improving them. If Local funds are exhausted the Collector should apply confidently and without delay for a grant from Provincial funds. Both people and cattle must have water. The condition of the standing crops is reported to be generally fair, but, except in a few favoured localities under wells and channels, the outturn has been poor to middling. The late sown cholam has withered and is being cut for fodder. The loss of crops in Kúdligi is said to be "very extensive and severe in degree", while large areas in Hadagalli and Hospet have been left waste owing to no neglect on the part of the ryots.

3. There is practically no pasture, and fodder is scanty. Endeavours are being made to encourage the taking of loans for the purchase of fodder; and where fodder cannot be had at reasonable prices, it is proposed to prepare, by famine labour, prickly-pear for use as fodder. The Board requests to be informed whether any action will be taken by Government on the proposal of the Sanitary Commissioner to import compressed fodder from Burma—*vide* B.P., dated 15th March 1897, No. 230. The condition of cattle is deteriorating and hundreds of them are being brought to market for sale, but very few find purchasers. In Kúdligi, however, the ryots have not yet begun to sell their cattle.

4. Prices are almost stationary, except in Sandúr, where there was a sharp rise during the fortnight, the cause of which is not explained. The trade is reported to be active but it is feared that, in parts of the district, stocks are running short.

5. The condition of the people is reported to be generally good. The affected area is gradually increasing in extent and proposals for the opening of additional works are being matured. A large number of persons in the Head Assistant's division are reported to be in want of employment but unwilling to go out of their villages for work. Ryots in these villages should, wherever possible, be induced to take out loans for agricultural improvements, which will afford employment to the labouring population near their homes. The numbers on works have increased by more than 4,000 during the fortnight, but the number of kitchen inmates, instead of increasing proportionately, has fallen off. It is remarkable that the decrease has occurred not only in some of the kitchens attached to relief-works but also in the public kitchen maintained by private charity at Bellary. It is very likely that the relief-workers are, as the Collector fears, sharing their wage with dependants at home. Now that Circle Inspectors have been appointed, it is hoped that thorough enquiries will be made into all cases deserving of gratuitous relief and strenuous efforts made to overcome the prejudices of the people to send their non-working children and infirm dependants to kitchens. The Collector has ordered the opening of more kitchens on works, and a special one for the benefit of the indigent gosha females in Adóni town. When the enquiries that are being made in the villages from which the relief-workers come are completed, it will be found necessary to open central kitchens for groups of villages. Permission to open such kitchens has been given by Government in its order communicated with B.P., dated 5th March 1897, No. 195.

6. The question of paying extra wages for work done in excess of the task is under the consideration of the Board. Payment may not be made beyond the rate for A gangs, but there does not seem to be any objection to making this on Mr. Campbell's plan by a fractional rise; fines are inflicted on the same plan, and the argument should cut both ways. In no case, however, can the A wage be exceeded.

7. Sanction has been accorded by Government for the entertainment of special Tahsildars to expedite the disposal of loans applications pending in the district—*vide* G.O. communicated with B.P., dated 19th March 1897, No. 2077.

8. The Collector should not submit any more jail statistics. These are now obtained from the Inspector-General of Prisons.

9. With reference to paragraphs 7 and 10 of Mr. Spencer's letter, the Collector should refer him to paragraph 2 of B.P., dated 3rd February 1897, No. 94, and to the B.Ps. quoted therein.

10. The cases referred to by the Collector in the second paragraph "(4) Remarks," under the heading "condition of the people" as suitable for relief by the Indian Famine Charitable Relief fund should not be put on the lists of that Fund. Properly they should go to a kitchen or starve; but as the latter alternative is out of the question, the only thing to be done is to leave them on the works and give them light tasks. "Betty Higgins" was not an imaginary character, or peculiar to England: the problem of poor persons who will rather work to the last than "come on the parish" is one which is constantly coming before Relief officers in all districts. In fact there is no answer more complete, to those who fear that gratuitous relief in kitchens is likely to be abused, than the extreme difficulty of getting people into the

kitchens at all. There are two blind men and a nursing mother with twin babies of about five months old on the work at Yadiki. All three should be in the kitchen, but nothing will induce them to go. The spirit is a good one. More success is to be hoped from the children and the destitutes in villages, and special attention should be given to the kitchens in Bellary taluk which are almost empty. The Board is aware that the Deputy Collector, M.R.Ry. T. Rama Rao, has not been remiss in the matter, and that he should have failed shows how very deeprooted the objection to kitchens is. It is worth noting that the Telugu seems to be much more difficult to deal with in this matter than the Tamil.

11. With reference to the last paragraph of the Collector's narrative under the heading "condition of the people," the Board would observe that he is, of course, perfectly capable of judging of the condition of workers who are in good health or unmistakably bad health. It is where the workers are, so to speak, "on the turn" that a difficulty arises in deciding on their condition. It is here that famine experience and medical training come in so useful. There is no Royal Road to the knowledge required; but there is one hint which the Collector will find useful:—For ordinary inspections the morning is a very good time; but, when the object in view is to test the physical condition of the people, the proper time to inspect is the evening, when the day's work is nearly done. Then the workers who are in poor condition will show signs of exhaustion which are not visible in the morning.

12. The two reports herewith recorded are very interesting, and show many traces of personal interest and investigation. It must relieve Mr. Stuart of much anxiety to have so conscientious an officer in charge of the Hospet division.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 299, Revenue, dated 5th May 1897.

Miscellaneous.

The proposal of the Sanitary Commissioner to import compressed fodder will be dealt with separately.

2. The instructions issued in paragraph 6 are approved.

3. In regard to the failure of the drinking water supply referred to in paragraph 15 of the Head Assistant Collector's report, the Government is of opinion that famine labour, either by task work or by piece work or on ordinary contract, at low rates, might be usefully directed to the improvement of village water supply in the Kúdligi taluk and elsewhere. The Board has already been called upon to consider this proposal and propose a scheme (*vide* G.O., No. 272, dated 27th April 1897).

(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.

70 Copies.