Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 1815 W

DATED 3 July 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Examine: Pros: Revenue Dept recording with remarks Board's Pro: Submitting the fortnightly Narrative of the Bellary Dt for the period ending 30th April 1897 Court 6 E. III Encls.

[P.W. 25. 5,000—30-11-96.]

3.7.97

Indexed.

BACK PAPERS.

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

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

Public Works (1897) Department

Pursuit No. 6096

Government (1897) of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 23-6- } 1897.
Regd. }

Enclosures

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G.O., No. 433, 4th June 1897.

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Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording, with remarks, Board's Proceedings submitting to Government — of the Bellary district for the period ending 30th April 1897.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 17th May 1897, No. 375 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Bellary district during the period ending 30th April 1897 :—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and water-supply.—During the fortnight there has been rain in every taluk except Adóni. The amounts are noted in the margin and the totals for April are compared with the average of 25 years and the fall of last year. In parts of Alúr and in Hospet, Hadagalli and Kúdligi taluks there were heavy falls which have given a much needed addition to the drinking-water supply in many villages, some of the *kuntas* or reservoirs having received enough for three months' consumption. The tanks of Mudenur and Hirehadagalli in the Hadagalli taluk have received over a month's supply and the Ujjuni tank in the Kúdligi taluk is reported to be full. There have been slight freshes in the Tungabhadra which will improve the supply for irrigation purposes in the river channels and the tanks fed by them. The rain, however, is of little use for the dry lands and in so far as it puts a stop to the digging of nuth grass it will tend to increase rather than diminish the numbers on relief works. The ploughing of the lighter soils will on the other hand give some employment.

Taluk.	During the fortnight.	Total in April 1897.	April 1896.	Average for April.
Adóni	..	0·42	0·30	0·64
Alúr	0·40	0·68	0·40	0·48
Bellary	0·04	0·07	0·34	0·59
Rayadrug	1·83	1·83	0·30	0·50
Hospet	2·25	2·25	..	0·59
Kúdligi	0·67	0·70	..	0·63
Harpanahalli ..	0·90	1·25	..	0·82
Hadagalli	1·88	2·60	..	0·91
Sandur	0·57	0·89	Not available.	

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops—Adóni Division.—Ploughing and the clearance of nuth grass continue. There are no standing crops except those under wells and river channels which are in good condition.

Bellary Division.—Ragi has been sown under wells in four villages of the Kanekal firka in the Rayadrug taluk. Ploughing is going on both in Bellary and Rayadrug. The crops under channels and wells are in good condition. The second crop under the Kanekal tank is fading in parts. Korra and second-crop paddy are being harvested in Rayadrug. The estimated average yield is As. 8.

Hospet Division.—In consequence of the recent rain-fall, ploughing has recommenced in parts of all the taluks of the division. Sugar-cane is being planted under the tanks in south of Harpanahalli and under river channels in Hospet. Fields are being manured in Harpanahalli and nuth grass is still being removed in the Hirehadagalli and Holagondi firkas of Hadagalli. Wet and garden crops are in good condition.

Sandur State.—Lands are being ploughed, cleared and manured for the next season. There are no standing crops except betel.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.

Adóni Division.—Fodder is scanty in Alúr but sufficient for about $2\frac{1}{2}$ months in Adóni. There is no pasture. The condition of stall-fed cattle is good, but that of others is deteriorating in Adóni and poor to bad in Alúr. There is some little cattle disease in Hulabedu and Tumbalabedu in Adóni taluk. Out of 400 head of cattle brought to Adóni market, 62 were purchased by agriculturists, 12 by butchers and the rest found no sale. It must be remembered that there is a regular weekly

cattle fair at Adóni in all seasons and it does not appear that either here or at Bellary valuable cattle are being sold for much below their proper value. Some of the sellers stated that they were selling owing to want of fodder, but others said that the animals they brought to the market were surplus cattle. They were in fair condition.

Bellary Division.—Fodder is becoming scanty except in wet villages. Pasture is very limited. Coarse hill grass and prickly-pear are being used. The condition of cattle is generally fair in Rayadrug, but in Bellary this description applies only to stall-fed animals.

Hospet Division.—Fodder is insufficient in the Kúdligi and Hospet taluks and in the Kadlabal and Holagondi firkas of Hadagalli. There is no pasture except along the Tungabhadra channels in Hospet. The condition of cattle is generally good but they are deteriorating in parts of Hospet and Hadagalli.

Sandur State.—Fodder and pasture are obtained with some difficulty. The condition of cattle is generally good.

General remarks on the previous subjects.

On the whole the position has been appreciably improved by the recent rain, which has removed or mitigated the difficulty experienced in getting drinking-water. That difficulty continues, however, in many places and wells are being cleared or deepened and waterholes are being sunk. The Divisional Officer of Adóni has been particularly energetic in this good work which is being undertaken partly with local funds and partly as village relief works, while all wells near the large relief works are being attended to by the officers in charge. The fodder problem, however, remains unsolved. In Adóni, Rayadrug and the western taluks the cattle may be able to exist until the new pasture comes up, but in Alúr and parts of Bellary and Hospet, the outlook for the poor animals is a gloomy one. The ryots of Alúr lost many of their stock from cattle disease last summer and this probably accounts for the absence of deaths from starvation up to the present. I do not think that they would consent to send their cattle to distant grazing grounds and the experiment in importing fodder made in 1892 was not a success. Fodder is still to be bought though prices are going up and the grant of loans for its purchase will do some good. I have accordingly directed the special Tahsildar and the Tahsildar of Adóni to give precedence to applications for such loans. There are many pending disposal in Alúr and a considerable number in Adóni.

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 30th April 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		White cholam.		Yellow cholam.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
Adóni	9·13	9·13	11·55	11·55	12·63	12·90	17·20	17·73	Prices show a slight tendency to fall. This is due to the rainfall in parts of the district which has produced a more hopeful feeling as to the future; and the receipt of supplies from outside.
Alúr	8·10	8·10	10·30	10·30	11·33	11·33	..	..	
Bellary	8·64	8·64	10·82	11·33	12·36	13·39	16·49	16·49	
Rayadrug	9·72	9·72	12·36	12·58	13·39	13·91	14·55	14·55	
Hospet	8·64	8·64	11·33	11·33	12·36	13·39	14·55	15·52	
Kúdligi	7·56	8·10	..	..	12·36	12·36	13·58	13·58	
Harpanahalli ..	9·72	9·72	..	..	13·39	13·39	15·52	15·52	
Hadagalli	9·72	9·72	..	..	12·88	13·39	..	..	
Sandur	9·45	9·45	..	..	13·04	13·39	16·80	17·00	
Average ..	8·96	9·02	11·27	11·41	12·64	13·05	15·52	15·77	

Activity of trade.—Private trade is active. During the week ending 24th April 1897, the imports of grain by rail amounted to 8,986 maunds and the exports to

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Activity of trade.—Private trade is active. During the week ending 24th April 1897, the imports of grain by rail amounted to 8,986 maunds and the exports to

2,921 maunds; for the previous week, the figures were 7,947 maunds and 3,196 maunds, respectively. There was thus a net receipt in the fortnight of 10,800 maunds as compared with the 38,000 maunds in the preceding fortnight.

This reaction was natural, for such large imports were obviously in excess of immediate requirements. They have had the good effect of lowering prices in Bellary.

Condition of the people.

On Works.—The condition of the relief workers continues to be generally good. Thin folk and persons of poor physique are of course found. In many cases these are old people or enquiry shows that they have been suffering from fever; but some cases are inexplicable. This morning, for example, I saw on the Adóni—Alúr road a woman whose condition struck me as poor. On inquiry, I found that she had been on the works for three months. Her husband had left her, and, of her family of three children, one was earning an adult's and another a child's wage in the mother's gang, while the third child was an infant of about two years of age who might have been fed at the kitchen if the mother chose to take it there, and it was fed there for some time. Yet all except this infant were thin and poor. In some cases, the existence of dependants accounts for the want of condition, but with the organisation of village relief this cause will be removed. I may here mention that the condition of the people on the Darogi work who were found to have persons depending on them seemed to me to have distinctly improved when I inspected the work on the 25th April. In the kitchen on this work an infant showing signs of marked emaciation was found. There had, however, been no want of food, but the mother said the child had suffered continuously from fever and wasted away to its present condition. At Adóni kitchen, which is under the control of the Municipal Council, I found a Madiga girl painfully thin, with arms and legs like sticks. Inquiry showed that she had just recovered from an attack of measles. So also in other cases, inquiry usually showed an unfavourable medical history as the cause of the loss of flesh and condition, and, having regard to the excellent condition of the great mass of workers, I have no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that they get enough to eat; more we do not profess to give.

In Villages.—The condition of the people in villages is also generally good. Now that grain doles have been ordered and works have been opened in all suitable centres, there is no room for anxiety in that direction. Mr. Lloyd writes from Rayadrug that the labouring classes can get from 2 to 3 annas a day there, while if they are paid in kind they receive from 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ measures of grain. Mr. Spencer thinks that the works in his division will probably suffice till the season improves. The cutting of sugarcane and the manufacture of sugar at Siruguppa and other places is nearly over and a number of the labouring classes at and about Tekkalakota in the Bellary taluk are reported to be in need of employment in consequence. The Divisional Officer promises to submit proposals for giving them relief in a day or two and he is touring in that part of the taluk. The Divisional Officers have been specially asked to report on the condition of weavers in the Bellary and Hospet divisions. The Head Assistant Collector states that their condition remains unchanged, in other words that they do not require relief.

Sickness and mortality.—There is slight small-pox in all the four taluks of Hospet division, and in Bellary fever and guinea-worm are prevalent. Many cases of the latter are noticed among the relief workers. No cases of death from starvation have been reported. The number of deaths during March is only 1,386 against an average of 1,529.

Remarks.—The heat has been very great during the fortnight and to sit breaking stones on a treeless road from 7-30 to 12 and from 2 to 6 must necessitate a great strain on the health even of natives of the country. It has been the practice to give mats for shade when there are no trees, but this has now been forbidden (B.P., dated 3rd April 1897, No. 273). In the case at least of nursing mothers, I consider that some protection from the sun is necessary and the Hon'ble Mr. Crole suggested that they should be formed into gangs by themselves and allowed to work in sheds. I propose to give this plan a trial on one work and extend it if necessary. The work-shed can be used for the accommodation at night of some of those who sleep on the works.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Adóni	19,122	20,306
Alúr	23,879	3 ,394
Bellary	5,437	6,294
Hospet	3,892	5,101
Kudligi	235	794
Hadagallí	1,596	1,814
Total ...	54,161	64,703

The number on relief works has increased by over 10,000, and of the additional numbers over 7,000 are found in the Alúr taluk. The increase is found on all works in that taluk; no new work has been opened during the fortnight, but the Holalagondi work was opened only on the last day of the preceding fortnight and the numbers on this have gone up rapidly. The population of the Alúr taluk is 88,000 and the number on relief works is 30,394, while 2,527 are in receipt of gratuitous relief. But all of these do not belong to the taluk; many come from Adóni to the Harivanam, Kammaracheda and Aspari works, from Bellary to the Holalagondi and Halaharivi works and from Pattikonda to the Aspari and Chippagiri works, while a few individuals from Gooty are found on the last-mentioned work. For the whole district the total number on relief works already exceeds my estimate and it is sure to rise still higher, for I have been obliged to order the opening of works near Yemmiganúru and Kotekallu in the Adóni taluk and near Itigi in the Hadagalli taluk, and additional works will, in all probability, be wanted near Bellary town and in the neighbourhood of Tekkolakota in the Bellary taluk. These works would not be necessary but for the unwillingness of the people to go far from their homes; and when once a work is opened the numbers on it are swollen by many who are not in real need of relief. In this connection, I would quote the following from a report on the opening of the Kowtalam work by the Tahsildar of Adóni, an experienced officer who did excellent work in the famine of 1892:—

"Kowtalum has contributed nearly 70 per cent. of the workers (on Kowtalum-Kupgal road work). The village officers and others assured me that about half of this number consists of persons who have means which should enable them to live without Government aid for some time. The work being close to Kowtalum all of them have flocked to it. A wage procurable all through the month and for all the members of the family is too great a temptation for them to resist."

Gratuitous Relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

Taluks.	Number relieved							
	At kitchens.				In poor-houses.		In villages.	
	Dependants.		Others.					
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Adóni	1,355	2,141	145	369	..	..	..	201
Alúr	1,547	1,691	403	536	..	..	..	300
Bellary	356	469	145	221	..	..	..	..
Hospet	351	362	18	31	..	..	..	..
Kudligi	42	152	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hadagalli	57	65	10	14	..	..	..	..
Total ..	3,708	4,880	721	1,171	..	..	..	501

Taluks.	Number of villages in which relief was given.		Weavers' relief.			
			Number of persons relieved.		Number of cloths manufactured.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	In the period.	Up to date.
Adóni	..	1	848	1,820	1,149	9,913
Alúr	..	16	..	..	..	..

Note.—Special measures of relief for weavers was started at Yemmiganúru in Adóni taluk and the increase is mainly due to it, the number relieved there being 964.

The numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief will also rise rapidly, now that the distribution of grain doles has been sanctioned. Prior to the receipt of the recent orders, arrangements had been made by the Committee and Sub-Committees of the Indian Famine charitable Relief Fund to undertake relief in villages, and it is only in Alúr and Adóni that the giving of grain doles has yet been started. Our arrangements, however, are now completed and we shall take over all, or nearly all, of those receiving money doles from the fund. The establishment of central kitchen too is being steadily pushed on. In addition to those already existing such kitchens have been ordered to be opened at Kotekallu and Peddakadaburu in Adóni taluk, at Molagavalli in Alúr taluk and at Kurugodu and Yemmiganúru in Bellary taluk, while additional kitchens have also been sanctioned on some of the relief works. Lastly, operations in aid of weavers will probably be necessary at Bellary and possibly at Kosgi also.

Private charity.—Paramma continues to feed about 200 paupers, mostly children, in Bellary town.

The Committees of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund have been actively at work. In Adóni 644 persons were relieved, in Bellary town about 1,000 and in Hospet 210. The number relieved in Alúr is not stated. The Tahsildar of Adóni distributed 251 cloths purchased out of this fund. In several of the kitchens notably those at Moka and Adóni, charitable ladies and others have supplemented the prescribed ration with gifts of vegetables.

General remarks.—The most important event of the fortnight was the receipt of the Board's Proceedings communicating G.O., No. 216, Revenue, dated 30th March 1897. A circular directing the introduction of the new policy was promptly issued, but I find that it has not yet reached the hands of officers in charge of works and I am addressing the Executive Engineer as to the cause of the delay. The concession now ordered will materially reduce the task, and inasmuch as the task was generally being performed in this district, the effect of the reduction will probably be that the majority of our gangs will earn the A class wage by doing extra work. I say that this will probably be the effect, but if the workers prefer idleness it will be very difficult to enforce discipline.

2. I have, during the fortnight, addressed the Board on the subject of the relative positions of Public Works and Revenue officers. The order of Government quoted above necessitated a change in the functions of the Divisional Officers and I was glad of the opportunity of discussing the question with the Honorable Mr. Crole, at the suggestion I submitted a statement of our difficulties and requirements.

3. Considerable difficulty has been met with in obtaining suitable material for the post of paymasters and it has not been possible to comply in all cases with the order that only men in the permanent establishment should be employed. Thanks to the assistance received from the Collector of Kistna and to some extent from the Collectors of Nellore and North Arcot, some improvement has been effected, but there are still several paymasters who do not fulfil the condition specified above. Where personal security has been taken and as jamabandi is completed in some cases can be spared. ...e taluk gumastas

Owing to the insufficiency of paymasters on some of the large works which extend over a great length of road and to the delay that takes place in furnishing paymasters with the extracts from nominal rolls, there has occasionally been unpunctuality in making pavments. I trust however that the instructions that I have issued during the past fortnight will prevent such delays in future. They have not been of frequent occurrence in the past, for I believe that all officers engaged in relief operations are fully aware that the hardship caused thereby to the relief worker is very great.

Crime.—The Police returns show that there has been a marked increase of offences against property during the months of November to March inclusive.

Offences.	Average of 3 years.	1896-97.
Dacoity	11	7
Robbery	6	14
High-way robbery	3	4
House-breaking	69	93
Ordinary theft	124	160
Cattle theft	19	36

The Inspector-General of Police was asked some time ago to sanction an addition to the district force, but he declined to do so. The request was repeated in March, but I have not yet heard the result. I have now asked the Superintendent to make another requisition.

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

Talukas.	Other purposes.				Total.				Number wells.	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
	1		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Adóni	82	6,290	552	57,810	125	10,080	89	6,820	625	74,466	1	3
Alúr	1,006	1,03,380	1,167	1,85,690	1,165	1,25,360	1,022	1,05,565	1,226	2,06,290	..	16
Bellary	358	35,025	884	1,26,915	425	37,632	417	38,889	1,313	1,42,656	..	7
Rayadrug	166	21,325	141	23,940	201	28,500	199	24,913	202	41,415	..	28
Hospet	9	650	19	2,400	40	5,000	16	1,350	40	6,810	..	7
Kúdligi	..	..	3	450	1	160	..	..	11	1,900	..	..
Harpanahalli	30	3,730	9	1,025	39	4,755	30	3,730	10	1,275	..	..
Hadagalli	33	4,640	189	30,530	36	5,090	35	4,740	225	39,730	..	..
Total	1,683	1,75,040	2,964	4,29,060	2,032	2,16,577	1,808	1,85,997	3,652	5,14,542	1	61

Talukas.	Cattle and seed-grain.				Total.					
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.	
Adóni	..	..	..	..	94	3,070	..	..	..	..	237	12,305
Alúr	..	..	..	..	22	2,496	76	3,886	..	..	464	† 27,709
Bellary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,652	36	1,817	..	16,323
Rayadrug	..	..	..	..	5	360	3	210	..	1,662	25	1,330
Hospet	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	1,700
Kúdligi	..	..	..	..	..	..	42	1,370	41	1,350	58	1,623
Harpanahalli	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	150	3	150	35	2,000
Hadagalli	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	706	15	646	76	3,249
Total	..	..	..	..	121	5,926	141	7,974	95	5,635	927	65,239

† Revised figures.

Talukas.	Purchase of fodder.											
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29				
	Rs.											
Adóni	..	..	..	..	143	9,235	..	..				
Alúr	76	3,886	36	1,817	442	25,213	..	..				
Bellary	..	1,652	..	1,652	..	15,3 3	..	..				
Rayadrug	3	210	..	..	20	970	..	..				
Hospet	..	..	..	..	32	1,700	..	..				
Kúdligi	42	1,370	41	1,350	58	1,623	..	..				
Harpanahalli	3	150	3	150	35	2,000	..	..				
Hadagalli	17	706	15	646	76	3,249	..	..				
Total	141	7,974	95	5,615	806	59,313	..	..				

* Not available.

Remarks—*Loans.*—During the fortnight no progress whatever has been shown by the Tahsildars of Hospet, Kúdligi and Harpanahalli, and the Special Tahsildars of Bellary and Alúr have disbursed Rs. 20,364 and Rs. 16,105, respectively. It is to be observed that the latter had his staff complete with four copyists and two clerks while the former had only one clerk. Without any additional help the Tahsildar of Rayadrug has disbursed Rs. 8,798, while the Tahsildar of Hadagalli has disbursed only Rs. 531, although he has been given a Special Revenue Inspector for takavi work. As already stated, the showers that have now commenced will put a stop to the removal of nuth grass and I do not therefore ask for any more Special Tahsildars at present.

Inspections of the District Officers—Taluks and places visited.

By the Collector.—Paramadevanhalli, Moka, Daroji and Adóni relief works together with the kitchens attached to them.

Deputy Collector, Adóni division.—Kowtalam, Kosgi, Ramapuram, Kachapuram, Harivanam, Baravi, Kammarchedu, Manekurti, Kowtalam-Kuppagal, Halni-Kosgi and Adóni section of Adóni-Madhavaram, Adóni-Siruguppa and Alúr-Adóni road works and the kitchens at Kowtalam, Halvi, Adóni, Harivanam, Kammarchedu and Manikurti.

Head-quarters Deputy Collector.—Sangankal, Kappagal, Sirivaram, Marur, Asundi, Godihal Somasamudram, Kolur, Bylur, Sindigiri, Caroor, Sanvasapur, Paramadevanahalli, Siruguppa and Moka road works with the kitchens thereon.

Mr. Lloyd in charge of Rayadrug taluk.—Rayadrug and Malyam.

Head Assistant Collector.—Daroji, Gadiganur, Antapur, Hospet and Kampli and the relief works in the first three places.

Resolution—No. 375, dated 17th May 1897.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. During the fortnight under report there were heavy local showers, which materially improved the supplies of drinking-water, but were otherwise of but little use, tending mainly to put a stop to the clearance of *nuth* grass. There are no standing crops, except under irrigation. These on the whole are doing well, except under the Kanekal tank. A small area has been harvested with a moderate outturn. Agricultural operations are nowhere brisk, but the showers have encouraged the ryots in parts, where the soils are lighter, to plough their fields.

3. Pasture is practically non-existent, and fodder, though generally available, is very dear. The condition of the stall-fed cattle is good, but others are deteriorating. As stated by the Collector, the experiment of importing fodder in 1892 was not a success, but the matter is now once more under consideration by the Board and Government. The Board has directed the throwing open of the large reserves in Kurnool, and the admission, free of charge, of organised droves from a distance as far as the capabilities of the forests will permit. The Board notes with approval the Collector's action with regard to applications for loans for the purchase of fodder. If, as the Board hopes, it is found to be possible to lay down fodder for sale at normal prices, the concession should be made widely known and ryots encouraged in every way to take loans for the purchase of the same.

4. Prices show a tendency to fall, though they are firm in the majority of stations, except in the case of yellow cholam. The following statement shows the present position of prices :—

	Seers per rupee.	
	Rice.	Cholam (mixed).
Normal rate	13·2	30·0
Warning „	10·6	22·5
Scarcity „	7·9	15·0
Current „	9 0	12·2
April 1892	8·9	15 3
April 1877	8·7	8·3

Private trade was active, but the imports show a considerable falling off as compared with the figures of the previous fortnight, which were exceptionally high.

5. The condition of the people is reported to be generally good, even where it has been found that workers were sharing their wages with dependants. Cases of emaciation were to be seen, but, on inquiry, it has been found that the individuals have been in ill-health for some time past. During the fortnight the numbers on works increased by 20 per cent, though all the provisions of G.O., No. 216 of 1897, had not been brought into force. The Board notes that the Collector proposes to open more works so as to supply employment to those requiring it in the neighbourhood of their homes. The concession that the Collector proposes to make in favour of nursing mothers is approved. The numbers on gratuitous relief are still below the mark, but it is hoped that arrangements have been made by this time to take over the relief of those who have been supported at the expense of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

6. The cause of the delay in communicating the new policy to officers in charge of works should be reported.

7. The Collector's letter requesting instructions as to the relative positions of Public Works and Revenue officers was submitted, with remarks, for the orders of Government, in B.P. No. 327, dated 1st May 1897.

8. The difficulties in the way of obtaining men for the posts of Paymaster and also of Circle Inspector are well known to the Board, but they are much lighter in Bellary than elsewhere. Government is being addressed on the subject. The Board has been authorized to draft men in from other districts for these purposes, and the Collector should report his requirements. When work is opened over great lengths of road, the Collector need not adhere to the Code minimum of one Paymaster for 3,200 coolies, which is the establishment "ordinarily" sanctioned.

9. The Tahsildar of Rayadrug and the Special Tahsildars of Bellary and Adóni have done good work during the fortnight in disposing of applications for loans. The other Tahsildars must be kept up to the mark, especially with regard to applications for loans for the purchase of fodder. The following table shows the progress made in the disposal of loan applications up to the week ending 1st May:—

Week ending.	In the week.	Up to the week.
	Rs.	Rs.
3rd April 1897	27,445	1,23,742
10th " "	19,820	1,43,562
17th " "	15,060	1,58,622
24th " "	27,013	1,85,635
1st May "	18,947	2,04,582

The total of applications outstanding is for nearly Rs. 5,80,000, and at the present rate of progress, more than six months would be required to dispose of them all.

10. The energy of the Divisional Officer of Adóni in the matter of improving sources of drinking-water supply is noted with approval.

11. As to shade on works, the Board's Proceedings quoted on the subject only lays down what the Code provides, and Government has also prohibited the erection of shade for workers. The Board's Proceedings quoted, however, details all alleviations of the conditions which the four walls of the Code allow of, and these should be availed of to the fullest extent.

(True Copy 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. 433, Revenue, dated 4th June 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. With reference to the Collector's remarks at page 4 of the narrative the Famine Commissioner will be informed that, though the construction of sheds for labourers to work in is, as a rule, unnecessary, there is no objection to supplying them with date or other mat-screens when working in the sun.

(True Extract.)

for Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Famine Commissioner.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Local and Municipal Department.
" the Financial Department.
" the Accountant-General.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

80 Copies

Public Works Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. Enclosures

Regd. } Spare copies

G.O., No. 433, 4th June 1897.

No. 1815 W dy 3.7.97
Communicated to the
Supt & Engr III circle.

JUNE.

fdg D dn e
W.

To
The S.E. III circle

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording, with remarks, Board's Proceedings submitting to Government — of the Bellary district for the period ending 30th April 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 17th May 1897, No. 375 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Bellary district during the period ending 30th April 1897 :—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and water-supply.—During the fortnight there has been rain in every taluk except Adóni. The amounts are noted in the margin and the totals for April are compared with the average of 25 years and the fall of last year. In parts of Alúr and in Hospet, Hadagalli and Kúdligi taluks there were heavy falls which have given a much needed addition to the drinking-water supply in many villages, some of the *kuntas* or reservoirs having received enough for three months' consumption. The tanks of Mudenur and Hirehadagalli in the Hadagalli taluk have received over a month's supply and the Ujjuni tank in the Kúdligi taluk is reported to be full. There have been slight freshes in the Tungabhadra which will improve the supply for irrigation purposes in the river channels and the tanks fed by them. The rain, however, is of little use for the dry lands and in so far as it puts a stop to the digging of nuth grass it will tend to increase rather than diminish the numbers on relief works. The ploughing of the lighter soils will on the other hand give some employment.

Taluk.	During the fortnight.	Total in April 1897.	April 1896.	Average for April.
Adóni	..	0·42	0·30	0·64
Alúr	0·40	0·68	0·40	0·48
Bellary	0·04	0·07	0·34	0·59
Rayadrug	1·83	1·83	0·30	0·50
Hospet	2·25	2·25	..	0·59
Kúdligi	0·67	0·70	..	0·63
Harpanahalli ..	0·90	1·25	..	0·82
Hadagalli	1·88	2·60	..	0·91
Sandur	0·57	0·89	Not available.	

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops—Adóni Division.—Ploughing and the clearance of nuth grass continue. There are no standing crops except those under wells and river channels which are in good condition.

Bellary Division.—Ragi has been sown under wells in four villages of the Kanekal firka in the Rayadrug taluk. Ploughing is going on both in Bellary and Rayadrug. The crops under channels and wells are in good condition. The second crop under the Kanekal tank is fading in parts. Korra and second-crop paddy are being harvested in Rayadrug. The estimated average yield is As. 8.

Hospet Division.—In consequence of the recent rain-fall, ploughing has recommenced in parts of all the taluks of the division. Sugar-cane is being planted under the tanks in south of Harpanahalli and under river channels in Hospet. Fields are being manured in Harpanahalli and nuth grass is still being removed in the Hirehadagalli and Holagondi firkas of Hadagalli. Wet and garden crops are in good condition.

Sandur State.—Lands are being ploughed, cleared and manured for the next season. There are no standing crops except betel.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.

Adóni Division.—Fodder is scanty in Alúr but sufficient for about 2½ months in Adóni. There is no pasture. The condition of stall-fed cattle is good, but that of others is deteriorating in Adóni and poor to bad in Alúr. There is some little cattle disease in Hulabedu and Tumbalabedu in Adóni taluk. Out of 400 head of cattle brought to Adóni market, 62 were purchased by agriculturists, 12 by butchers and the rest found no sale. It must be remembered that there is a regular weekly

cattle fair at Adóni in all seasons and it does not appear that either here or at Bellary valuable cattle are being sold for much below their proper value. Some of the sellers stated that they were selling owing to want of fodder, but others said that the animals they brought to the market were surplus cattle. They were in fair condition.

Bellary Division.—Fodder is becoming scanty except in wet villages. Pasture is very limited. Coarse hill grass and prickly-pear are being used. The condition of cattle is generally fair in Rayadrug, but in Bellary this description applies only to stall-fed animals.

Hospet Division.—Fodder is insufficient in the Kúdligi and Hospet taluks and in the Kadlabal and Holagondi firkas of Hadagalli. There is no pasture except along the Tungabhadra channels in Hospet. The condition of cattle is generally good but they are deteriorating in parts of Hospet and Hadagalli.

Sandur State.—Fodder and pasture are obtained with some difficulty. The condition of cattle is generally good.

General remarks on the previous subjects.

On the whole the position has been appreciably improved by the recent rain, which has removed or mitigated the difficulty experienced in getting drinking-water. That difficulty continues, however, in many places and wells are being cleared or deepened and waterholes are being sunk. The Divisional Officer of Adóni has been particularly energetic in this good work which is being undertaken partly with local funds and partly as village relief works, while all wells near the large relief works are being attended to by the officers in charge. The fodder problem, however, remains unsolved. In Adóni, Rayadrug and the western taluks the cattle may be able to exist until the new pasture comes up, but in Alúr and parts of Bellary and Hospet, the outlook for the poor animals is a gloomy one. The ryots of Alúr lost many of their stock from cattle disease last summer and this probably accounts for the absence of deaths from starvation up to the present. I do not think that they would consent to send their cattle to distant grazing grounds and the experiment in importing fodder made in 1892 was not a success. Fodder is still to be bought though prices are going up and the grant of loans for its purchase will do some good. I have accordingly directed the special Tahsildar and the Tahsildar of Adóni to give precedence to applications for such loans. There are many pending disposal in Alúr and a considerable number in Adóni.

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 30th April 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		White cholam.		Yellow cholam.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
Adóni	9·13	9·13	11·55	11·55	12·63	12·90	17·20	17·73	Prices show a slight tendency to fall. This is due to the rainfall in parts of the district which has produced a more hopeful feeling as to the future; and the receipt of supplies from outside.
Alúr	8·10	8·10	10·30	10·30	11·33	11·33	..	..	
Bellary	8 64	8·64	10·82	11·33	12·36	13·39	16·49	16·49	
Rayadrug	9·72	9·72	12·36	12·58	13·39	13·91	14·55	14·55	
Hospet	8·64	8·64	11·33	11·33	12·36	13·39	14·55	15·52	
Kúdligi	7·56	8·10	..	..	12·36	12·36	13·58	13·58	
Harpanahalli ..	9·72	9·72	..	..	13·39	13·39	15·52	15·52	
Hadagalli	9·72	9·72	..	..	12·88	13·39	..	..	
Sandur	9·45	9·45	..	..	13·04	13·39	16·80	17·00	
Average ..	8·96	9·02	11·27	11·41	12·64	13·05	15·52	15·77	

Activity of trade.—Private trade is active. During the week ending 24th April 1897, the imports of grain by rail amounted to 8,986 maunds and the exports to

2,921 maunds; for the previous week, the figures were 7,947 maunds and 3,196 maunds, respectively. There was thus a net receipt in the fortnight of 10,800 maunds as compared with the 38,000 maunds in the preceding fortnight.

This reaction was natural, for such large imports were obviously in excess of immediate requirements. They have had the good effect of lowering prices in Bellary.

Condition of the people.

On Works.—The condition of the relief workers continues to be generally good. Thin folk and persons of poor physique are of course found. In many cases these are old people or enquiry shows that they have been suffering from fever; but some cases are inexplicable. This morning, for example, I saw on the Adóni—Alúr road a woman whose condition struck me as poor. On inquiry, I found that she had been on the works for three months. Her husband had left her, and, of her family of three children, one was earning an adult's and another a child's wage in the mother's gang, while the third child was an infant of about two years of age who might have been fed at the kitchen if the mother chose to take it there, and it was fed there for some time. Yet all except this infant were thin and poor. In some cases, the existence of dependants accounts for the want of condition, but with the organisation of village relief this cause will be removed. I may here mention that the condition of the people on the Darogi work who were found to have persons depending on them seemed to me to have distinctly improved when I inspected the work on the 25th April. In the kitchen on this work an infant showing signs of marked emaciation was found. There had, however, been no want of food, but the mother said the child had suffered continuously from fever and wasted away to its present condition. At Adóni kitchen, which is under the control of the Municipal Council, I found a Madiga girl painfully thin, with arms and legs like sticks. Inquiry showed that she had just recovered from an attack of measles. So also in other cases, inquiry usually showed an unfavourable medical history as the cause of the loss of flesh and condition, and, having regard to the excellent condition of the great mass of workers, I have no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that they get enough to eat; more we do not profess to give.

In Villages.—The condition of the people in villages is also generally good. Now that grain doles have been ordered and works have been opened in all suitable centres, there is no room for anxiety in that direction. Mr. Lloyd writes from Rayadrug that the labouring classes can get from 2 to 3 annas a day there, while if they are paid in kind they receive from 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ measures of grain. Mr. Spencer thinks that the works in his division will probably suffice till the season improves. The cutting of sugarcane and the manufacture of sugar at Siruguppa and other places is nearly over and a number of the labouring classes at and about Tekkalakota in the Bellary taluk are reported to be in need of employment in consequence. The Divisional Officer promises to submit proposals for giving them relief in a day or two and he is touring in that part of the taluk. The Divisional Officers have been specially asked to report on the condition of weavers in the Bellary and Hospet divisions. The Head Assistant Collector states that their condition remains unchanged, in other words that they do not require relief.

Sickness and mortality.—There is slight small-pox in all the four taluks of Hospet division, and in Bellary fever and guinea-worm are prevalent. Many cases of the latter are noticed among the relief workers. No cases of death from starvation have been reported. The number of deaths during March is only 1,386 against an average of 1,529.

Remarks.—The heat has been very great during the fortnight and to sit breaking stones on a treeless road from 7–30 to 12 and from 2 to 6 must necessitate a great strain on the health even of natives of the country. It has been the practice to give mats for shade when there are no trees, but this has now been forbidden (B.P., dated 3rd April 1897, No. 273). In the case at least of nursing mothers, I consider that some protection from the sun is necessary and the Hon'ble Mr. Crole suggested that they should be formed into gangs by themselves and allowed to work in sheds. I propose to give this plan a trial on one work and extend it if necessary. The work-shed can be used for the accommodation at night of some of those who sleep on the works.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Adóni	19,122	20,306
Alúr	23,879	3 ,394
Bellary	5,437	6,294
Hospet	3,892	5,101
Kudligi	235	794
Hadagallí	1,596	1,814
Total ...	54,161	64,703

The number on relief works has increased by over 10,000, and of the additional numbers over 7,000 are found in the Alúr taluk. The increase is found on all works in that taluk; no new work has been opened during the fortnight, but the Holalagondi work was opened only on the last day of the preceding fortnight and the numbers on this have gone up rapidly. The population of the Alúr taluk is 88,000 and the number on relief works is 30,394, while 2,527 are in receipt of gratuitous relief. But all of these do not belong to the taluk; many come from Adóni to the Harivanam, Kammaracheda and Aspari works, from Bellary to the Holalagondi and Halaharivi works and from Pattikonda to the Aspari and Chippagiri works, while a few individuals from Gooty are found on the last-mentioned work. For the whole district the total number on relief works already exceeds my estimate and it is sure to rise still higher, for I have been obliged to order the opening of works near Yemmiganúru and Kotekallu in the Adóni taluk and near Itigi in the Hadagalli taluk, and additional works will, in all probability, be wanted near Bellary town and in the neighbourhood of Tekkolakota in the Bellary taluk. These works would not be necessary but for the unwillingness of the people to go far from their homes; and when once a work is opened the numbers on it are swollen by many who are not in real need of relief. In this connection, I would quote the following from a report on the opening of the Kowtalam work by the Tahsildar of Adóni, an experienced officer who did excellent work in the famine of 1892:—

"Kowtalum has contributed nearly 70 per cent. of the workers (on Kowtalum-Kupgal road work). The village officers and others assured me that about half of this number consists of persons who have means which should enable them to live without Government aid for some time. The work being close to Kowtalum all of them have flocked to it. A wage procurable all through the month and for all the members of the family is too great a temptation for them to resist."

Gratuitous Relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

Taluks.	Number relieved							
	At kitchens.				In poor-houses.		In villages.	
	Dependants.		Others.					
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Adóni	1,355	2,141	145	369	..	..	..	201
Alúr	1,547	1,691	403	536	..	..	..	300
Bellary	356	469	145	221	..	..	..	..
Hospet	351	362	18	31	..	..	..	..
Kudligi	42	152	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hadagalli	57	65	10	14	..	..	..	..
Total ..	3,708	4,880	721	1,171	..	..	..	501

Taluks.	Number of villages in which relief was given.		Weavers' relief.			
			Number of persons relieved.		Number of cloths manufactured.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	In the period.	Up to date.
Adóni	..	1	848	1,820	1,149	9,913
Alúr	..	16	..	..	..	..

Note.—Special measures of relief for weavers was started at Yemmiganúru in Adóni taluk and the increase is mainly due to it, the number relieved there being 964.

The numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief will also rise rapidly, now that the distribution of grain doles has been sanctioned. Prior to the receipt of the recent orders, arrangements had been made by the Committee and Sub-Committees of the Indian Famine charitable Relief Fund to undertake relief in villages, and it is only in Alúr and Adóni that the giving of grain doles has yet been started. Our arrangements, however, are now completed and we shall take over all, or nearly all, of those receiving money doles from the fund. The establishment of central kitchen too is being steadily pushed on. In addition to those already existing such kitchens have been ordered to be opened at Kotekallu and Peddakadaburu in Adóni taluk, at Molagavalli in Alúr taluk and at Kurugodu and Yemmiganúru in Bellary taluk, while additional kitchens have also been sanctioned on some of the relief works. Lastly, operations in aid of weavers will probably be necessary at Bellary and possibly at Kosgi also.

Private charity.—Paramma continues to feed about 200 paupers, mostly children, in Bellary town.

The Committees of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund have been actively at work. In Adóni 644 persons were relieved, in Bellary town about 1,000 and in Hospet 210. The number relieved in Alúr is not stated. The Tahsildar of Adóni distributed 251 cloths purchased out of this fund. In several of the kitchens notably those at Moka and Adóni, charitable ladies and others have supplemented the prescribed ration with gifts of vegetables.

General remarks.—The most important event of the fortnight was the receipt of the Board's Proceedings communicating G.O., No. 216, Revenue, dated 30th March 1897. A circular directing the introduction of the new policy was promptly issued, but I find that it has not yet reached the hands of officers in charge of works and I am addressing the Executive Engineer as to the cause of the delay. The concession now ordered will materially reduce the task, and inasmuch as the task was generally being performed in this district, the effect of the reduction will probably be that the majority of our gangs will earn the A class wage by doing extra work. I say that this will probably be the effect, but if the workers prefer idleness it will be very difficult to enforce discipline.

2. I have, during the fortnight, addressed the Board on the subject of the relative positions of Public Works and Revenue officers. The order of Government quoted above necessitated a change in the functions of the Divisional Officers and I was glad of the opportunity of discussing the question with the Honorable Mr. Crole, at whose suggestion I submitted a statement of our difficulties and requirements.

3. Considerable difficulty has been met with in obtaining suitable men for the post of paymasters and it has not been possible to comply in all cases with the order that only men in the permanent establishment should be employed. Thanks to the assistance received from the Collector of Kistna and to some extent from the Collectors of Nellore and North Arcot, some improvement has been effected, but there are still several paymasters who do not fulfil the condition specified above. In some cases personal security has been taken and as jamabandi is completed more taluk gumastas can be spared.

Owing to the insufficiency of paymasters on some of the large works which extend over a great length of road and to the delay that takes place in furnishing paymasters with the extracts from nominal rolls, there has occasionally been unpunctuality in making payments. I trust however that the instructions that I have issued during the past fortnight will prevent such delays in future. They have not been of frequent occurrence in the past, for I believe that all officers engaged in relief operations are fully aware that the hardship caused thereby to the relief worker is very great.

Crime.—The Police returns show that there has been a marked increase of offences against property during the months of November to March inclusive.

Offences.	Average of 3 years.	1896-97.
Dacoity	11	7
Robbery	6	14
High-way robbery	3	4
House-breaking	69	93
Ordinary theft	124	160
Cattle theft	19	36

The Inspector-General of Police was asked some time ago to sanction an addition to the district force, but he declined to do so. The request was repeated in March, but I have not yet heard the result. I have now asked the Superintendent to make another requisition.

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

Taluks.	Other purposes.										Repair and construction of wells.										Purchase of fodder.									
	Total.								Number wells.		Total.								Number wells.		Total.								Number wells.	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.			Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.			Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.		
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.					Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.					Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17			18	19	20	21						
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.						Rs.		Rs.		Rs.						Rs.		Rs.		Rs.				
Adóni	7	1,060	7	530	73	16,656	118	9,020			82	6,290	552	57,810	125	10,080	89	6,820	625	74,466	1		3							
Alúr	21	5,200	16	2,175	59	20,600	1,144	1,20,160			1,006	1,03,380	1,167	1,85,690	1,165	1,25,360	1,022	1,05,565	1,226	2,06,290	..		16							
Bellary	59	1,932	59	3,864	429	15,741	366	35,700			358	35,025	884	1,26,915	425	37,632	417	38,889	1,313	1,42,656	..		7							
Rayadrug	36	7,175	34	3,688	61	17,475	165	21,325			165	21,325	141	23,940	201	28,500	199	24,913	202	41,415	..		28							
Hospet	15	2,800	7	700	21	4,410	25	2,200			9	650	19	2,400	40	6,000	16	1,350	40	6,810	..		7							
Kúdligi	1	160	..	..	8	1,450	..	..			..	..	3	450	40	160	..	..	11	1,900	..		..							
Harpanahalli	..	..	..	..	1	250	39	4,755			30	3,730	9	1,025	39	4,765	30	3,730	10	1,275	..		..							
Hadagalli	2	200	2	100	36	8,900	34	4,890			33	4,640	189	30,530	36	5,000	35	4,740	225	39,730	..		..							
Total ..	141	18,527	125	10,957	688	85,482	1,901	1,98,050			1,683	1,75,040	2,964	4,29,060	2,032	2,16,577	1,808	1,86,097	3,652	5,14,542	1		61							

Taluks.	Cattle and seed-grain.								Total.								Applications pending.	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.				Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.							
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.			Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.					Number.	Amount.
1	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39							
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.												Rs.	
Adóni	..	..	..	..	94	3,070	..	..	..	76	3,886	..	36	1,817	..	..	237	12,805
Alúr	..	..	..	..	22	2,496	76	3,886	36	1,817	464	† 27,709						
Bellary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	*	15,323						
Rayadrug	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1,652	..	..	30	1,652	..	..	..	..	25	1,330
Hospet	..	..	..	..	5	360	..	210	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	1,700
Kúdligi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41	1,350	..	..	58	1,623
Harpanahalli	..	..	..	..	..	..	42	1,370	42	1,370	3	150	3	150	..	..	35	2,000
Hadagalli	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	150	3	150	15	706	15	646	..	..	76	3,249
Total ..	..	..	..	..	121	5,926	17	706	141	7,974	95	5,615	96	5,635	..	..	927	65,239

† Revised figures.

* Not available.

Remarks—*Loans.*—During the fortnight no progress whatever has been shown by the Tahsildars of Hospet, Kúdligi and Harpanahalli, and the Special Tahsildars of Bellary and Alúr have disbursed Rs. 20,364 and Rs. 16,105, respectively. It is to be observed that the latter had his staff complete with four copyists and two clerks while the former had only one clerk. Without any additional help the Tahsildar of Rayadrug has disbursed Rs. 8,798, while the Tahsildar of Hadagalli has disbursed only Rs. 531, although he has been given a Special Revenue Inspector for takavi work. As already stated, the showers that have now commenced will put a stop to the removal of nuth grass and I do not therefore ask for any more Special Tahsildars at present.

Inspections of the District Officers—Taluks and places visited.

By the Collector.—Paramadevanhalli, Moka, Daroji and Adóni relief works together with the kitchens attached to them.

Deputy Collector, Adóni division.—Kowtalam, Kosgi, Ramapuram, Kachapuram, Harivanam, Raravi, Kammarchedu, Manekurti, Kowtalam-Kuppagal, Halni-Kosgi and Adóni section of Adóni-Madhavaram, Adóni-Siruguppa and Alúr-Adóni road works and the kitchens at Kowtalam, Halvi, Adóni, Harivanam, Kammarchedu and Manikurti.

Head-quarters Deputy Collector.—Sangankal, Kappagal, Sirivaram, Marur, Asundi, Godihal Somasamudram, Kolur, Bylur, Sindigiri, Caroor, Sanvasapur, Paramadevanahalli, Siruguppa and Moka road works with the kitchens thereon.

Mr. Lloyd in charge of Rayadrug taluk.—Rayadrug and Malyam.

Head Assistant Collector.—Daroji, Gadiganur, Antapur, Hospet and Kampli and the relief works in the first three places.

Resolution—No. 375, dated 17th May 1897.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. During the fortnight under report there were heavy local showers, which materially improved the supplies of drinking-water, but were otherwise of but little use, tending mainly to put a stop to the clearance of *nuth* grass. There are no standing crops, except under irrigation. These on the whole are doing well, except under the Kanekal tank. A small area has been harvested with a moderate outturn. Agricultural operations are nowhere brisk, but the showers have encouraged the ryots in parts, where the soils are lighter, to plough their fields.

3. Pasture is practically non-existent, and fodder, though generally available, is very dear. The condition of the stall-fed cattle is good, but others are deteriorating. As stated by the Collector, the experiment of importing fodder in 1892 was not a success, but the matter is now once more under consideration by the Board and Government. The Board has directed the throwing open of the large reserves in Kurnool, and the admission, free of charge, of organised droves from a distance as far as the capabilities of the forests will permit. The Board notes with approval the Collector's action with regard to applications for loans for the purchase of fodder. If, as the Board hopes, it is found to be possible to lay down fodder for sale at normal prices, the concession should be made widely known and ryots encouraged in every way to take loans for the purchase of the same.

4. Prices show a tendency to fall, though they are firm in the majority of stations, except in the case of yellow cholam. The following statement shows the present position of prices :—

	Seers per rupee.	
	Rice.	Cholam (mixed).
Normal rate	13·2	30·0
Warning „	10·6	22·5
Scarcity „	7·9	15·0
Current „	9·0	12·2
April 1892	8·9	15·3
April 1877	8·7	8·3

Private trade was active, but the imports show a considerable falling off as compared with the figures of the previous fortnight, which were exceptionally high.

5. The condition of the people is reported to be generally good, even where it has been found that workers were sharing their wages with dependants. Cases of emaciation were to be seen, but, on inquiry, it has been found that the individuals have been in ill-health for some time past. During the fortnight the numbers on works increased by 20 per cent, though all the provisions of G.O., No. 216 of 1897, had not been brought into force. The Board notes that the Collector proposes to open more works so as to supply employment to those requiring it in the neighbourhood of their homes. The concession that the Collector proposes to make in favour of nursing mothers is approved. The numbers on gratuitous relief are still below the mark, but it is hoped that arrangements have been made by this time to take over the relief of those who have been supported at the expense of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

6. The cause of the delay in communicating the new policy to officers in charge of works should be reported.

7. The Collector's letter requesting instructions as to the relative positions of Public Works and Revenue officers was submitted, with remarks, for the orders of Government, in B.P. No. 327, dated 1st May 1897.

8. The difficulties in the way of obtaining men for the posts of Paymaster and also of Circle Inspector are well known to the Board, but they are much lighter in Bellary than elsewhere. Government is being addressed on the subject. The Board has been authorized to draft men in from other districts for these purposes, and the Collector should report his requirements. When work is opened over great lengths of road, the Collector need not adhere to the Code minimum of one Paymaster for 3,200 coolies, which is the establishment "ordinarily" sanctioned.

9. The Tahsildar of Rayadrug and the Special Tahsildars of Bellary and Adóni have done good work during the fortnight in disposing of applications for loans. The other Tahsildars must be kept up to the mark, especially with regard to applications for loans for the purchase of fodder. The following table shows the progress made in the disposal of loan applications up to the week ending 1st May:—

Week ending.	In the week.	Up to the week.
	Rs.	Rs.
3rd April 1897	27,445	1,23,742
10th „ „	19,820	1,43,562
17th „ „	15,060	1,58,622
24th „ „	27,013	1,85,635
1st May „	18,947	2,04,582

The total of applications outstanding is for nearly Rs. 5,80,000, and at the present rate of progress, more than six months would be required to dispose of them all.

10. The energy of the Divisional Officer of Adóni in the matter of improving sources of drinking-water supply is noted with approval.

11. As to shade on works, the Board's Proceedings quoted on the subject only lays down what the Code provides, and Government has also prohibited the erection of shade for workers. The Board's Proceedings quoted, however, details all alleviations of the conditions which the four walls of the Code allow of, and these should be availed of to the fullest extent.

(True Copy 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. 433, Revenue, dated 4th June 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. With reference to the Collector's remarks at page 4 of the narrative the Famine Commissioner will be informed that, though the construction of sheds for labourers to work in is, as a rule, unnecessary, there is no objection to supplying them with date or other mat-screens when working in the sun.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Local and Municipal Department.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Accountant-General.

Erd. Shaik Karim.

80 Copies.

Public Works Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. / Regd. } 1897. — Enclosures / Spare copies

G.O., No. 433, 4th June 1897.

No. 1875 W 8-7-97
Communicated to the
Supts Engr III circle.
Hdq Dte
W

JUNE.

To
The S. E. III circle.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording, with remarks, Board's Proceedings submitting to Government — of the Bellary district for the period ending 30th April 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 17th May 1897, No. 375 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Bellary district during the period ending 30th April 1897 : —

State of the Country.

Rainfall and water-supply.—During the fortnight there has been rain in every taluk except Adóni. The amounts are noted in the margin and the totals for April are compared with the average of 25 years and the fall of last year. In parts of Alúr and in Hospet, Hadagalli and Kúdligi taluks there were heavy falls which have given a much needed addition to the drinking-water supply in many villages, some of the *kuntas* or reservoirs having received enough for three months' consumption. The tanks of Mudenur and Hirehadagalli in the Hadagalli taluk have received over a month's supply and the Ujjuni tank in the Kúdligi taluk is reported to be full. There have been slight freshes in the Tungabhadra which will improve the supply for irrigation purposes in the river channels and the tanks fed by them. The rain, however, is of little use for the dry lands and in so far as it puts a stop to the digging of nuth grass it will tend to increase rather than diminish the numbers on relief works. The ploughing of the lighter soils will on the other hand give some employment.

Taluk.	During the fortnight.	Total in April 1897.	April 1896.	Average for April.
Adóni	..	0·42	0·30	0·64
Alúr	0·40	0·68	0·40	0·48
Bellary	0·04	0·07	0·34	0·59
Rayadrug	1·83	1·83	0·30	0·50
Hospet	2·25	2·25	..	0·59
Kúdligi	0·67	0·70	..	0·63
Harpanahalli ..	0·90	1·25	..	0·82
Hadagalli	1·88	2·60	..	0·91
Sandur	0·57	0·89	Not available.	

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops—Adóni Division.—Ploughing and the clearance of nuth grass continue. There are no standing crops except those under wells and river channels which are in good condition.

Bellary Division.—Ragi has been sown under wells in four villages of the Kanekal firka in the Rayadrug taluk. Ploughing is going on both in Bellary and Rayadrug. The crops under channels and wells are in good condition. The second crop under the Kanekal tank is fading in parts. Korra and second-crop paddy are being harvested in Rayadrug. The estimated average yield is As. 8.

Hospet Division.—In consequence of the recent rain-fall, ploughing has recommenced in parts of all the taluks of the division. Sugar-cane is being planted under the tanks in south of Harpanahalli and under river channels in Hospet. Fields are being manured in Harpanahalli and nuth grass is still being removed in the Hirehadagalli and Holagondi firkas of Hadagalli. Wet and garden crops are in good condition.

Sandur State.—Lands are being ploughed, cleared and manured for the next season. There are no standing crops except betel.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.

Adóni Division.—Fodder is scanty in Alúr but sufficient for about 2½ months in Adóni. There is no pasture. The condition of stall-fed cattle is good, but that of others is deteriorating in Adóni and poor to bad in Alúr. There is some little cattle disease in Hulabedu and Tumbalabedu in Adóni taluk. Out of 400 head of cattle brought to Adóni market, 62 were purchased by agriculturists, 12 by butchers and the rest found no sale. It must be remembered that there is a regular weekly

cattle fair at Adóni in all seasons and it does not appear that either here or at Bellary valuable cattle are being sold for much below their proper value. Some of the sellers stated that they were selling owing to want of fodder, but others said that the animals they brought to the market were surplus cattle. They were in fair condition.

Bellary Division.—Fodder is becoming scanty except in wet villages. Pasture is very limited. Coarse hill grass and prickly-pear are being used. The condition of cattle is generally fair in Rayadrug, but in Bellary this description applies only to stall-fed animals.

Hospet Division.—Fodder is insufficient in the Kúdligi and Hospet taluks and in the Kadlabal and Holagondi firkas of Hadagalli. There is no pasture except along the Tungabhadra channels in Hospet. The condition of cattle is generally good but they are deteriorating in parts of Hospet and Hadagalli.

Sandur State.—Fodder and pasture are obtained with some difficulty. The condition of cattle is generally good.

General remarks on the previous subjects.

On the whole the position has been appreciably improved by the recent rain, which has removed or mitigated the difficulty experienced in getting drinking-water. That difficulty continues, however, in many places and wells are being cleared or deepened and waterholes are being sunk. The Divisional Officer of Adóni has been particularly energetic in this good work which is being undertaken partly with local funds and partly as village relief works, while all wells near the large relief works are being attended to by the officers in charge. The fodder problem, however, remains unsolved. In Adóni, Rayadrug and the western taluks the cattle may be able to exist until the new pasture comes up, but in Alúr and parts of Bellary and Hospet, the outlook for the poor animals is a gloomy one. The ryots of Alúr lost many of their stock from cattle disease last summer and this probably accounts for the absence of deaths from starvation up to the present. I do not think that they would consent to send their cattle to distant grazing grounds and the experiment in importing fodder made in 1892 was not a success. Fodder is still to be bought though prices are going up and the grant of loans for its purchase will do some good. I have accordingly directed the special Tahsildar and the Tahsildar of Adóni to give precedence to applications for such loans. There are many pending disposal in Alúr and a considerable number in Adóni.

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 30th April 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		White cholam.		Yellow cholam.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
Adóni	9·13	9·13	11·55	11·55	12·63	12·90	17·20	17·73	Prices show a slight tendency to fall. This is due to the rainfall in parts of the district which has produced a more hopeful feeling as to the future ; and the receipt of supplies from outside.
Alúr	8·10	8·10	10·30	10·30	11·33	11·33	..	..	
Bellary	8·64	8·64	10·82	11·33	12·36	13·39	16·49	16·49	
Rayadrug	9·72	9·72	12·86	12·58	13·39	13·91	14·55	14·55	
Hospet	8·64	8·64	11·33	11·33	12·36	13·39	14·55	15·52	
Kúdligi	7·56	8·10	..	..	12·36	12·36	13·58	13·58	
Harpanahalli ..	9·72	9·72	..	..	13·39	13·39	15·52	15·52	
Hadagalli	9·72	9·72	..	..	12·88	13·39	..	..	
Sandur	9·45	9·45	..	..	13·04	13·39	16·80	17·00	
Average ..	8·96	9·02	11·27	11·41	12·64	13·05	15·52	15·77	

Activity of trade.—Private trade is active. During the week ending 24th April 1897, the imports of grain by rail amounted to 8,986 maunds and the exports to

2,921 maunds; for the previous week, the figures were 7,947 maunds and 3,196 maunds, respectively. There was thus a net receipt in the fortnight of 10,800 maunds as compared with the 38,000 maunds in the preceding fortnight.

This reaction was natural, for such large imports were obviously in excess of immediate requirements. They have had the good effect of lowering prices in Bellary.

Condition of the people.

On Works.—The condition of the relief workers continues to be generally good. Thin folk and persons of poor physique are of course found. In many cases these are old people or enquiry shows that they have been suffering from fever; but some cases are inexplicable. This morning, for example, I saw on the Adóni—Alúr road a woman whose condition struck me as poor. On inquiry, I found that she had been on the works for three months. Her husband had left her, and, of her family of three children, one was earning an adult's and another a child's wage in the mother's gang, while the third child was an infant of about two years of age who might have been fed at the kitchen if the mother chose to take it there, and it was fed there for some time. Yet all except this infant were thin and poor. In some cases, the existence of dependants accounts for the want of condition, but with the organisation of village relief this cause will be removed. I may here mention that the condition of the people on the Darogi work who were found to have persons depending on them seemed to me to have distinctly improved when I inspected the work on the 25th April. In the kitchen on this work an infant showing signs of marked emaciation was found. There had, however, been no want of food, but the mother said the child had suffered continuously from fever and wasted away to its present condition. At Adóni kitchen, which is under the control of the Municipal Council, I found a Madiga girl painfully thin, with arms and legs like sticks. Inquiry showed that she had just recovered from an attack of measles. So also in other cases, inquiry usually showed an unfavourable medical history as the cause of the loss of flesh and condition, and, having regard to the excellent condition of the great mass of workers, I have no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that they get enough to eat; more we do not profess to give.

In Villages.—The condition of the people in villages is also generally good. Now that grain doles have been ordered and works have been opened in all suitable centres, there is no room for anxiety in that direction. Mr. Lloyd writes from Rayadrug that the labouring classes can get from 2 to 3 annas a day there, while if they are paid in kind they receive from 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ measures of grain. Mr. Spencer thinks that the works in his division will probably suffice till the season improves. The cutting of sugarcane and the manufacture of sugar at Siruguppa and other places is nearly over and a number of the labouring classes at and about Tekkalakota in the Bellary taluk are reported to be in need of employment in consequence. The Divisional Officer promises to submit proposals for giving them relief in a day or two and he is touring in that part of the taluk. The Divisional Officers have been specially asked to report on the condition of weavers in the Bellary and Hospet divisions. The Head Assistant Collector states that their condition remains unchanged, in other words that they do not require relief.

Sickness and mortality.—There is slight small-pox in all the four taluks of Hospet division, and in Bellary fever and guinea-worm are prevalent. Many cases of the latter are noticed among the relief workers. No cases of death from starvation have been reported. The number of deaths during March is only 1,386 against an average of 1,529.

Remarks.—The heat has been very great during the fortnight and to sit breaking stones on a treeless road from 7-30 to 12 and from 2 to 6 must necessitate a great strain on the health even of natives of the country. It has been the practice to give mats for shade when there are no trees, but this has now been forbidden (B.P., dated 3rd April 1897, No. 273). In the case at least of nursing mothers, I consider that some protection from the sun is necessary and the Hon'ble Mr. Crole suggested that they should be formed into gangs by themselves and allowed to work in sheds. I propose to give this plan a trial on one work and extend it if necessary. The work-shed can be used for the accommodation at night of some of those who sleep on the works.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Adóni	19,122	20,306
Alúr	23,879	3 ,394
Bellary	5,437	6,294
Hospet	3,892	5,101
Kudligi	235	794
Hadagallí	1,596	1,814
Total ...	54,161	61,703

The number on relief works has increased by over 10,000, and of the additional numbers over 7,000 are found in the Alúr taluk. The increase is found on all works in that taluk; no new work has been opened during the fortnight, but the Holalagondi work was opened only on the last day of the preceding fortnight and the numbers on this have gone up rapidly. The population of the Alúr taluk is 88,000 and the number on relief works is 30,394, while 2,527 are in receipt of gratuitous relief. But all of these do not belong to the taluk; many come from Adóni to the Harivanam, Kammaracheda and Aspari works, from Bellary to the Holalagondi and Halaharivi works and from Pattikonda to the Aspari and Chippagiri works, while a few individuals from Gooty are found on the last-mentioned work. For the whole district the total number on relief works already exceeds my estimate and it is sure to rise still higher, for I have been obliged to order the opening of works near Yemmiganúru and Kotekallu in the Adóni taluk and near Itigi in the Hadagalli taluk, and additional works will, in all probability, be wanted near Bellary town and in the neighbourhood of Tekkolakota in the Bellary taluk. These works would not be necessary but for the unwillingness of the people to go far from their homes; and when once a work is opened the numbers on it are swollen by many who are not in real need of relief. In this connection, I would quote the following from a report on the opening of the Kowtalam work by the Tahsildar of Adóni, an experienced officer who did excellent work in the famine of 1892:—

"Kowtalum has contributed nearly 70 per cent. of the workers (on Kowtalum-Kupgal road work). The village officers and others assured me that about half of this number consists of persons who have means which should enable them to live without Government aid for some time. The work being close to Kowtalum all of them have flocked to it. A wage procurable all through the month and for all the members of the family is too great a temptation for them to resist."

Gratuitous Relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

Taluks.	Number relieved							
	At kitchens.				In poor-houses.		In villages.	
	Dependants.		Others.					
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Adóni	1,355	2,141	145	369	..	..	..	201
Alúr	1,547	1,691	403	536	..	..	..	300
Bellary	356	469	145	221	..	..	..	..
Hospet	351	362	18	31	..	..	..	..
Kudligi	42	152	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hadagalli	57	65	10	14	..	..	..	..
Total ..	3,708	4,880	721	1,171	..	..	..	501

Taluks.	Number of villages in which relief was given.		Weavers' relief.			
			Number of persons relieved.		Number of cloths manufactured.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	In the period.	Up to date.
Adóni	..	1	848	1,820	1,149	9,913
Alúr	..	16	..	..	..	..

Note.—Special measures of relief for weavers was started at Yemmiganúru in Adóni taluk and the increase is mainly due to it, the number relieved there being 964.

The numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief will also rise rapidly, now that the distribution of grain doles has been sanctioned. Prior to the receipt of the recent orders, arrangements had been made by the Committee and Sub-Committees of the Indian Famine charitable Relief Fund to undertake relief in villages, and it is only in Alúr and Adóni that the giving of grain doles has yet been started. Our arrangements, however, are now completed and we shall take over all, or nearly all, of those receiving money doles from the fund. The establishment of central kitchen too is being steadily pushed on. In addition to those already existing such kitchens have been ordered to be opened at Kotekallu and Peddakadaburu in Adóni taluk, at Molagavalli in Alúr taluk and at Kurugodu and Yemmiganúru in Bellary taluk, while additional kitchens have also been sanctioned on some of the relief works. Lastly, operations in aid of weavers will probably be necessary at Bellary and possibly at Kosgi also.

Private charity.—Paramma continues to feed about 200 paupers, mostly children, in Bellary town.

The Committees of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund have been actively at work. In Adóni 644 persons were relieved, in Bellary town about 1,000 and in Hospet 210. The number relieved in Alúr is not stated. The Tahsildar of Adóni distributed 251 cloths purchased out of this fund. In several of the kitchens notably those at Moka and Adóni, charitable ladies and others have supplemented the prescribed ration with gifts of vegetables.

General remarks.—The most important event of the fortnight was the receipt of the Board's Proceedings communicating G.O., No. 216, Revenue, dated 30th March 1897. A circular directing the introduction of the new policy was promptly issued, but I find that it has not yet reached the hands of officers in charge of works and I am addressing the Executive Engineer as to the cause of the delay. The concession now ordered will materially reduce the task, and inasmuch as the task was generally being performed in this district, the effect of the reduction will probably be that the majority of our gangs will earn the A class wage by doing extra work. I say that this will probably be the effect, but if the workers prefer idleness it will be very difficult to enforce discipline.

2. I have, during the fortnight, addressed the Board on the subject of the relative positions of Public Works and Revenue officers. The order of Government quoted above necessitated a change in the functions of the Divisional Officers and I was glad of the opportunity of discussing the question with the Honorable Mr. Crole, at whose suggestion I submitted a statement of our difficulties and requirements.

3. Considerable difficulty has been met with in obtaining suitable men for the post of paymasters and it has not been possible to comply in all cases with the order that only men in the permanent establishment should be employed. Thanks to the assistance received from the Collector of Kistna and to some extent from the Collectors of Nellore and North Arcot, some improvement has been effected, but there are still several paymasters who do not fulfil the condition specified above. In some cases personal security has been taken and as jamabandi is completed more taluk gumastas can be spared.

Owing to the insufficiency of paymasters on some of the large works which extend over a great length of road and to the delay that takes place in furnishing paymasters with the extracts from nominal rolls, there has occasionally been unpunctuality in making payments. I trust however that the instructions that I have issued during the past fortnight will prevent such delays in future. They have not been of frequent occurrence in the past, for I believe that all officers engaged in relief operations are fully aware that the hardship caused thereby to the relief worker is very great.

Crime.—The Police returns show that there has been a marked increase of offences against property during the months of November to March inclusive.

Offences.	Average of 3 years.	1896-97.
Dacoity	11	7
Robbery	6	14
High-way robbery	3	4
House-breaking	69	93
Ordinary theft	124	160
Cattle theft	19	36

The Inspector-General of Police was asked some time ago to sanction an addition to the district force, but he declined to do so. The request was repeated in March, but I have not yet heard the result. I have now asked the Superintendent to make another requisition.

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

Taluks.	Other purposes.								Total.				Number wells.	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	20	21
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Adóni	7	1,060	7	530	73	16,656	118	9,020	82	6,290	552	57,810	1	3
Alúr	21	5,200	16	2,175	59	20,600	1,144	1,20,160	1,006	1,03,380	1,167	1,85,690	..	16
Bellary	59	1,932	59	8,884	429	15,741	366	35,700	358	35,025	884	1,26,915	..	7
Rayadrug	36	7,175	34	3,588	61	17,475	165	21,325	165	21,325	141	28,940	..	28
Hospet	15	2,800	7	700	21	4,410	25	2,200	9	650	19	2,400	..	7
Kúdligi	1	160	..	..	8	1,450	..	..	..	..	3	450	..	..
Harpanahalli	..	..	..	..	1	250	39	4,755	30	3,730	9	1,025	..	..
Hadagalli	2	200	2	100	36	8,900	34	4,890	33	4,640	189	30,280	..	..
Total ..	141	18,527	125	10,957	688	85,482	1, 91	1,98,050	1,633	1,75,040	2,964	4,29,060	1	61

Taluks.	Cattle and seed grain.								Total.				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.
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	38	39
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Adóni	..	..	..	..	143	9,285	..	..	..	..	94	3,070	237	12,305
Alúr	76	3,886	36	1,817	442	25,213	..	..	..	..	22	2,496	464	27,709
Bellary	..	1,652	..	1,652	..	16,3 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	*	15,328
Rayadrug	3	210	..	..	20	970	..	..	..	..	5	360	25	1,380
Hospet	..	..	..	..	32	1,700	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	1,700
Kúdligi	42	1,370	41	1,350	68	1,623	..	..	..	..	..	..	58	1,623
Harpanahalli	3	150	3	150	35	2,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	35	2,000
Hadagalli	17	706	15	646	76	3,249	..	..	..	..	..	..	76	3,249
Total ..	141	7,974	95	5,615	866	59,313	..	..	..	..	121	5,926	927	65,239

† Revised figures.

* Not available.

Remarks—*Loans.*—During the fortnight no progress whatever has been shown by the Tahsildars of Hospet, Kúdligi and Harpanahalli, and the Special Tahsildars of Bellary and Alúr have disbursed Rs. 20,364 and Rs. 16,105, respectively. It is to be observed that the latter had his staff complete with four copyists and two clerks while the former had only one clerk. Without any additional help the Tahsildar of Rayadrug has disbursed Rs. 8,798, while the Tahsildar of Hadagalli has disbursed only Rs. 531, although he has been given a Special Revenue Inspector for takavi work. As already stated, the showers that have now commenced will put a stop to the removal of nuth grass and I do not therefore ask for any more Special Tahsildars at present.

Inspections of the District Officers—Taluks and places visited.

By the Collector.—Paramadevanhalli, Moka, Daroji and Adóni relief works together with the kitchens attached to them.

Deputy Collector, Adóni division.—Kowtalam, Kosgi, Ramapuram, Kachapuram, Harivanam, Raravi, Kammarchedu, Manekurti, Kowtalam-Kuppagal, Halni-Kosgi and Adóni section of Adóni-Madhavaram, Adóni-Siruguppa and Alúr-Adóni road works and the kitchens at Kowtalam, Halvi, Adóni, Harivanam, Kammarchedu and Manikurti.

Head-quarters Deputy Collector.—Sangankal, Kappagal, Sirivaram, Marur, Asundi, Godihal Somasamudram, Kolur, Bylur, Sindigiri, Caroor, Sanvasapur, Paramadevanahalli, Siruguppa and Moka road works with the kitchens thereon.

Mr. Lloyd in charge of Rayadrug taluk.—Rayadrug and Malyam.

Head Assistant Collector.—Daroji, Gadiganur, Antapur, Hospet and Kampli and the relief works in the first three places.

Resolution—No. 375, dated 17th May 1897.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. During the fortnight under report there were heavy local showers, which materially improved the supplies of drinking-water, but were otherwise of but little use, tending mainly to put a stop to the clearance of *nuth* grass. There are no standing crops, except under irrigation. These on the whole are doing well, except under the Kanekal tank. A small area has been harvested with a moderate outturn. Agricultural operations are nowhere brisk, but the showers have encouraged the ryots in parts, where the soils are lighter, to plough their fields.

3. Pasture is practically non-existent, and fodder, though generally available, is very dear. The condition of the stall-fed cattle is good, but others are deteriorating. As stated by the Collector, the experiment of importing fodder in 1892 was not a success, but the matter is now once more under consideration by the Board and Government. The Board has directed the throwing open of the large reserves in Kurnool, and the admission, free of charge, of organised droves from a distance as far as the capabilities of the forests will permit. The Board notes with approval the Collector's action with regard to applications for loans for the purchase of fodder. If, as the Board hopes, it is found to be possible to lay down fodder for sale at normal prices, the concession should be made widely known and ryots encouraged in every way to take loans for the purchase of the same.

4. Prices show a tendency to fall, though they are firm in the majority of stations, except in the case of yellow cholam. The following statement shows the present position of prices :—

	Seers per rupee.	
	Rice.	Cholam (mixed).
Normal rate	13·2	30 0
Warning „	10·6	22·5
Scarcity „	7·9	15·0
Current „	9 0	12·2
April 1892	8·9	15 3
April 1877	8·7	8·3

Private trade was active, but the imports show a considerable falling off as compared with the figures of the previous fortnight, which were exceptionally high.

5. The condition of the people is reported to be generally good, even where it has been found that workers were sharing their wages with dependants. Cases of emaciation were to be seen, but, on inquiry, it has been found that the individuals have been in ill-health for some time past. During the fortnight the numbers on works increased by 20 per cent., though all the provisions of G.O., No. 216 of 1897, had not been brought into force. The Board notes that the Collector proposes to open more works so as to supply employment to those requiring it in the neighbourhood of their homes. The concession that the Collector proposes to make in favour of nursing mothers is approved. The numbers on gratuitous relief are still below the mark, but it is hoped that arrangements have been made by this time to take over the relief of those who have been supported at the expense of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

6. The cause of the delay in communicating the new policy to officers in charge of works should be reported.

7. The Collector's letter requesting instructions as to the relative positions of Public Works and Revenue officers was submitted, with remarks, for the orders of Government, in B.P. No. 327, dated 1st May 1897.

8. The difficulties in the way of obtaining men for the posts of Paymaster and also of Circle Inspector are well known to the Board, but they are much lighter in Bellary than elsewhere. Government is being addressed on the subject. The Board has been authorized to draft men in from other districts for these purposes, and the Collector should report his requirements. When work is opened over great lengths of road, the Collector need not adhere to the Code minimum of one Paymaster for 3,200 coolies, which is the establishment "ordinarily" sanctioned.

9. The Tahsildar of Rayadrug and the Special Tahsildars of Bellary and Adóni have done good work during the fortnight in disposing of applications for loans. The other Tahsildars must be kept up to the mark, especially with regard to applications for loans for the purchase of fodder. The following table shows the progress made in the disposal of loan applications up to the week ending 1st May :—

Week ending.	In the week.	Up to the week.
	Rs.	Rs.
3rd April 1897	27,445	1,23,742
10th „ „	19,820	1,43,562
17th „ „	15,060	1,58,622
24th „ „	27,013	1,85,635
1st May „	18,947	2,04,582

The total of applications outstanding is for nearly Rs. 5,80,000, and at the present rate of progress, more than six months would be required to dispose of them all.

10. The energy of the Divisional Officer of Adóni in the matter of improving sources of drinking-water supply is noted with approval.

11. As to shade on works, the Board's Proceedings quoted on the subject only lays down what the Code provides, and Government has also prohibited the erection of shade for workers. The Board's Proceedings quoted, however, details all alleviations of the conditions which the four walls of the Code allow of, and these should be availed of to the fullest extent.

(True Copy 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. 433, Revenue, dated 4th June 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. With reference to the Collector's remarks at page 4 of the narrative the Famine Commissioner will be informed that, though the construction of sheds for labourers to work in is, as a rule, unnecessary, there is no objection to supplying them with date or other mat-screens when working in the sun.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Local and Municipal Department.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Accountant-General.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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Rw. 6096/97

G.O., No. 433, 4th June 1897.

JUNE.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording, with remarks, Board's Proceedings submitting to Government — of the Bellary district for the period ending 30th April 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 17th May 1897, No. 375 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Bellary district during the period ending 30th April 1897 :—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and water-supply.—During the fortnight there has been rain in every taluk except Adóni. The amounts are noted in the margin and the totals for April are compared with the average of 25 years and the fall of last year. In parts of Alúr and in Hospet, Hadagalli and Kúdligi taluks there were heavy falls which have given a much needed addition to the drinking-water supply in many villages, some of the *kuntas* or reservoirs having received enough for three months' consumption. The tanks of Mudenur and Hirehadagalli in the Hadagalli taluk have received over a month's supply and the Ujjuni tank in the Kúdligi taluk is reported to be full. There have been slight freshes in the Tungabhadra which will improve the supply for irrigation purposes in the river channels and the tanks fed by them. The rain, however, is of little use for the dry lands and in so far as it puts a stop to the digging of nuth grass it will tend to increase rather than diminish the numbers on relief works. The ploughing of the lighter soils will on the other hand give some employment.

Taluk.	During the fortnight.	Total in April 1897.	April 1896.	Average for April.
Adóni	..	0·42	0·30	0·64
Alúr	0·40	0·68	0·40	0·48
Bellary	0·04	0·07	0·34	0·59
Rayadrug	1·83	1·83	0·30	0·50
Hospet	2·25	2·25	..	0·59
Kúdligi	0 67	0·70	..	0·63
Harpanahalli ..	0·90	1·25	..	0·82
Hadagalli	1·88	2·60	..	0·91
Sandur	0·57	0·89	Not available.	

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops—Adóni Division.—Ploughing and the clearance of nuth grass continue. There are no standing crops except those under wells and river channels which are in good condition.

Bellary Division.—Ragi has been sown under wells in four villages of the Kanekal firka in the Rayadrug taluk. Ploughing is going on both in Bellary and Rayadrug. The crops under channels and wells are in good condition. The second crop under the Kanekal tank is fading in parts. Korra and second-crop paddy are being harvested in Rayadrug. The estimated average yield is As. 8.

Hospet Division.—In consequence of the recent rain-fall, ploughing has recommenced in parts of all the taluks of the division. Sugar-cane is being planted under the tanks in south of Harpanahalli and under river channels in Hospet. Fields are being manured in Harpanahalli and nuth grass is still being removed in the Hirehadagalli and Holagondi firkas of Hadagalli. Wet and garden crops are in good condition.

Sandur State.—Lands are being ploughed, cleared and manured for the next season. There are no standing crops except betel.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.

Adóni Division.—Fodder is scanty in Alúr but sufficient for about 2½ months in Adóni. There is no pasture. The condition of stall-fed cattle is good, but that of others is deteriorating in Adóni and poor to bad in Alúr. There is some little cattle disease in Hulabedu and Tumbalabedu in Adóni taluk. Out of 400 head of cattle brought to Adóni market, 62 were purchased by agriculturists, 12 by butchers and the rest found no sale. It must be remembered that there is a regular weekly

cattle fair at Adóni in all seasons and it does not appear that either here or at Bellary valuable cattle are being sold for much below their proper value. Some of the sellers stated that they were selling owing to want of fodder, but others said that the animals they brought to the market were surplus cattle. They were in fair condition.

Bellary Division.—Fodder is becoming scanty except in wet villages. Pasture is very limited. Coarse hill grass and prickly-pear are being used. The condition of cattle is generally fair in Rayadrug, but in Bellary this description applies only to stall-fed animals.

Hospet Division.—Fodder is insufficient in the Kúdligi and Hospet taluks and in the Kadlabal and Holagondi firkas of Hadagalli. There is no pasture except along the Tungabhadra channels in Hospet. The condition of cattle is generally good but they are deteriorating in parts of Hospet and Hadagalli.

Sandur State.—Fodder and pasture are obtained with some difficulty. The condition of cattle is generally good.

General remarks on the previous subjects.

On the whole the position has been appreciably improved by the recent rain, which has removed or mitigated the difficulty experienced in getting drinking-water. That difficulty continues, however, in many places and wells are being cleared or deepened and waterholes are being sunk. The Divisional Officer of Adóni has been particularly energetic in this good work which is being undertaken partly with local funds and partly as village relief works, while all wells near the large relief works are being attended to by the officers in charge. The fodder problem, however, remains unsolved. In Adóni, Rayadrug and the western taluks the cattle may be able to exist until the new pasture comes up, but in Alúr and parts of Bellary and Hospet, the outlook for the poor animals is a gloomy one. The ryots of Alúr lost many of their stock from cattle disease last summer and this probably accounts for the absence of deaths from starvation up to the present. I do not think that they would consent to send their cattle to distant grazing grounds and the experiment in importing fodder made in 1892 was not a success. Fodder is still to be bought though prices are going up and the grant of loans for its purchase will do some good. I have accordingly directed the special Tahsildar and the Tahsildar of Adóni to give precedence to applications for such loans. There are many pending disposal in Alúr and a considerable number in Adóni.

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 30th April 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		White cholam.		Yellow cholam.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
Adóni	9·13	9·13	11·55	11·55	12·63	12·90	17·20	17·73	Prices show a slight tendency to fall. This is due to the rainfall in parts of the district which has produced a more hopeful feeling as to the future; and the receipt of supplies from outside.
Alúr	8·10	8·10	10·30	10·30	11·33	11·33	..	..	
Bellary	8 64	8·64	10·82	11·33	12·36	13·39	16·49	16·49	
Rayadrug	9·72	9·72	12·36	12·58	13·39	13·91	14·55	14·55	
Hospet	8·64	8·64	11·33	11·33	12·36	13·39	14·55	15·52	
Kúdligi	7·56	8·10	..	..	12·36	12·36	13·58	13·58	
Harpanahalli ..	9·72	9·72	..	..	13·39	13·39	15·52	15·52	
Hadagalli	9·72	9·72	..	..	12·88	13·39	..	..	
Sandur	9·45	9·45	..	..	13·04	13·39	16·80	17·00	
Average ..	8·96	9·02	11·27	11·41	12·64	13·05	15·52	15·77	

Activity of trade.—Private trade is active. During the week ending 24th April 1897, the imports of grain by rail amounted to 8,986 maunds and the exports to

2,921 maunds; for the previous week, the figures were 7,947 maunds and 3,196 maunds, respectively. There was thus a net receipt in the fortnight of 10,800 maunds as compared with the 38,000 maunds in the preceding fortnight.

This reaction was natural, for such large imports were obviously in excess of immediate requirements. They have had the good effect of lowering prices in Bellary.

Condition of the people.

On Works.—The condition of the relief workers continues to be generally good. Thin folk and persons of poor physique are of course found. In many cases these are old people or enquiry shows that they have been suffering from fever; but some cases are inexplicable. This morning, for example, I saw on the Adóni—Alúr road a woman whose condition struck me as poor. On inquiry, I found that she had been on the works for three months. Her husband had left her, and, of her family of three children, one was earning an adult's and another a child's wage in the mother's gang, while the third child was an infant of about two years of age who might have been fed at the kitchen if the mother chose to take it there, and it was fed there for some time. Yet all except this infant were thin and poor. In some cases, the existence of dependants accounts for the want of condition, but with the organisation of village relief this cause will be removed. I may here mention that the condition of the people on the Darogi work who were found to have persons depending on them seemed to me to have distinctly improved when I inspected the work on the 25th April. In the kitchen on this work an infant showing signs of marked emaciation was found. There had, however, been no want of food, but the mother said the child had suffered continuously from fever and wasted away to its present condition. At Adóni kitchen, which is under the control of the Municipal Council, I found a Madiga girl painfully thin, with arms and legs like sticks. Inquiry showed that she had just recovered from an attack of measles. So also in other cases, inquiry usually showed an unfavourable medical history as the cause of the loss of flesh and condition, and, having regard to the excellent condition of the great mass of workers, I have no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that they get enough to eat; more we do not profess to give.

In Villages.—The condition of the people in villages is also generally good. Now that grain doles have been ordered and works have been opened in all suitable centres, there is no room for anxiety in that direction. Mr. Lloyd writes from Rayadrug that the labouring classes can get from 2 to 3 annas a day there, while if they are paid in kind they receive from 2 to 2½ measures of grain. Mr. Spencer thinks that the works in his division will probably suffice till the season improves. The cutting of sugarcane and the manufacture of sugar at Siruguppa and other places is nearly over and a number of the labouring classes at and about Tekkalakota in the Bellary taluk are reported to be in need of employment in consequence. The Divisional Officer promises to submit proposals for giving them relief in a day or two and he is touring in that part of the taluk. The Divisional Officers have been specially asked to report on the condition of weavers in the Bellary and Hospet divisions. The Head Assistant Collector states that their condition remains unchanged, in other words that they do not require relief.

Sickness and mortality.—There is slight small-pox in all the four taluks of Hospet division, and in Bellary fever and guinea-worm are prevalent. Many cases of the latter are noticed among the relief workers. No cases of death from starvation have been reported. The number of deaths during March is only 1,386 against an average of 1,529.

Remarks.—The heat has been very great during the fortnight and to sit breaking stones on a treeless road from 7-30 to 12 and from 2 to 6 must necessitate a great strain on the health even of natives of the country. It has been the practice to give mats for shade when there are no trees, but this has now been forbidden (B.P., dated 3rd April 1897, No. 273). In the case at least of nursing mothers, I consider that some protection from the sun is necessary and the Hon'ble Mr. Crole suggested that they should be formed into gangs by themselves and allowed to work in sheds. I propose to give this plan a trial on one work and extend it if necessary. The work-shed can be used for the accommodation at night of some of those who sleep on the works.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Adóni	19,122	20,306
Alúr	23,879	30,394
Bellary	5,437	6,294
Hospet	3,892	5,101
Kudligi	235	794
Hadagallí	1,596	1,814
Total ...	54,161	64,703

The number on relief works has increased by over 10,000, and of the additional numbers over 7,000 are found in the Alúr taluk. The increase is found on all works in that taluk; no new work has been opened during the fortnight, but the Holalagondi work was opened only on the last day of the preceding fortnight and the numbers on this have gone up rapidly. The population of the Alúr taluk is 88,000 and the number on relief works is 30,394, while 2,527 are in receipt of gratuitous relief. But all of these do not belong to the taluk; many come from Adóni to the Harivanam, Kammaracheda and Aspari works, from Bellary to the Holalagondi and Halaharivi works and from Pattikonda to the Aspari and Chippagiri works, while a few individuals from Gooty are found on the last-mentioned work. For the whole district the total number on relief works already exceeds my estimate and it is sure to rise still higher, for I have been obliged to order the opening of works near Yemmiganúru and Kotekallu in the Adóni taluk and near Itigi in the Hadagalli taluk, and additional works will, in all probability, be wanted near Bellary town and in the neighbourhood of Tekkolakota in the Bellary taluk. These works would not be necessary but for the unwillingness of the people to go far from their homes; and when once a work is opened the numbers on it are swollen by many who are not in real need of relief. In this connection, I would quote the following from a report on the opening of the Kowtalam work by the Tahsildar of Adóni, an experienced officer who did excellent work in the famine of 1892:—

"Kowtalum has contributed nearly 70 per cent. of the workers (on Kowtalum-Kupgal road work). The village officers and others assured me that about half of this number consists of persons who have means which should enable them to live without Government aid for some time. The work being close to Kowtalum all of them have flocked to it. A wage procurable all through the month and for all the members of the family is too great a temptation for them to resist."

Gratuitous Relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

Taluks.	Number relieved							
	At kitchens.				In poor-houses.		In villages.	
	Dependants.		Others.					
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Adóni	1,355	2,141	145	369	..	..	..	201
Alúr	1,547	1,691	403	536	..	..	..	300
Bellary	356	469	145	221	..	..	..	..
Hospet	351	362	18	31	..	..	..	..
Kudligi	42	152	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hadagalli	57	65	10	14	..	..	..	..
Total ..	3,708	4,880	721	1,171	..	..	..	501

Taluks.	Number of villages in which relief was given.		Weavers' relief.			
			Number of persons relieved.		Number of cloths manufactured.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	In the period.	Up to date.
Adóni	..	1	848	1,820	1,149	9,913
Alúr	..	16	..	..	..	..

Note.—Special measures of relief for weavers was started at Yemmiganúru in Adóni taluk and the increase is mainly due to it, the number relieved there being 964.

The numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief will also rise rapidly, now that the distribution of grain doles has been sanctioned. Prior to the receipt of the recent orders, arrangements had been made by the Committee and Sub-Committees of the Indian Famine charitable Relief Fund to undertake relief in villages, and it is only in Alúr and Adóni that the giving of grain doles has yet been started. Our arrangements, however, are now completed and we shall take over all, or nearly all, of those receiving money doles from the fund. The establishment of central kitchen too is being steadily pushed on. In addition to those already existing such kitchens have been ordered to be opened at Kotekallu and Peddakadaburu in Adóni taluk, at Molagavalli in Alúr taluk and at Kurugodu and Yemmiganúru in Bellary taluk, while additional kitchens have also been sanctioned on some of the relief works. Lastly, operations in aid of weavers will probably be necessary at Bellary and possibly at Kosgi also.

Private charity.—Paramma continues to feed about 200 paupers, mostly children, in Bellary town.

The Committees of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund have been actively at work. In Adóni 644 persons were relieved, in Bellary town about 1,000 and in Hospet 210. The number relieved in Alúr is not stated. The Tahsildar of Adóni distributed 251 cloths purchased out of this fund. In several of the kitchens notably those at Moka and Adóni, charitable ladies and others have supplemented the prescribed ration with gifts of vegetables.

General remarks.—The most important event of the fortnight was the receipt of the Board's Proceedings communicating G.O., No. 216, Revenue, dated 30th March 1897. A circular directing the introduction of the new policy was promptly issued, but I find that it has not yet reached the hands of officers in charge of works and I am addressing the Executive Engineer as to the cause of the delay. The concession now ordered will materially reduce the task, and inasmuch as the task was generally being performed in this district, the effect of the reduction will probably be that the majority of our gangs will earn the A class wage by doing extra work. I say that this will probably be the effect, but if the workers prefer idleness it will be very difficult to enforce discipline.

2. I have, during the fortnight, addressed the Board on the subject of the relative positions of Public Works and Revenue officers. The order of Government quoted above necessitated a change in the functions of the Divisional Officers and I was glad of the opportunity of discussing the question with the Honorable Mr. Crole, at whose suggestion I submitted a statement of our difficulties and requirements.

3. Considerable difficulty has been met with in obtaining suitable men for the post of paymasters and it has not been possible to comply in all cases with the order that only men in the permanent establishment should be employed. Thanks to the assistance received from the Collector of Kistna and to some extent from the Collectors of Nellore and North Arcot, some improvement has been effected, but there are still several paymasters who do not fulfil the condition specified above. In some cases personal security has been taken and as jamabandi is completed more taluk gumastas can be spared.

Owing to the insufficiency of paymasters on some of the large works which extend over a great length of road and to the delay that takes place in furnishing paymasters with the extracts from nominal rolls, there has occasionally been unpunctuality in making payments. I trust however that the instructions that I have issued during the past fortnight will prevent such delays in future. They have not been of frequent occurrence in the past, for I believe that all officers engaged in relief operations are fully aware that the hardship caused thereby to the relief worker is very great.

Crime.—The Police returns show that there has been a marked increase of offences against property during the months of November to March inclusive.

Offences.	Average of 3 years.	1896-97.
Dacoity	11	7
Robbery	6	14
High-way robbery	3	4
House-breaking	69	93
Ordinary theft	124	160
Cattle theft	19	36

The Inspector-General of Police was asked some time ago to sanction an addition to the district force, but he declined to do so. The request was repeated in March, but I have not yet heard the result. I have now asked the Superintendent to make another requisition.

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

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.								Other purposes.								Total.				Number 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	20	21
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.				Rs.		Rs.		Rs.				Rs.		Rs.		
Adóni	7	1,060	7	530	73	16,656			118	9,020	82	6,290	552	57,810			125	10,080	89	6,820	1	3
Alúr	21	5,200	16	2,175	59	20,600			1,144	1,20,160	1,006	1,03,380	1,167	1,85,690			1,166	1,25,360	1,022	1,05,555		16
Bellary	59	1,932	59	3,804	429	15,741			366	35,700	358	36,025	884	1,76,915			425	37,632	417	38,889		7
Rayadrug	36	7,175	34	3,588	61	17,475			165	21,325	165	21,325	141	23,940			201	28,500	199	24,918		28
Hospet	15	2,800	7	700	21	4,410			25	2,200	9	650	19	2,400			40	5,000	16	1,350		7
Kúdligi	1	160	..	..	8	1,450			..	..	..	..	3	450			1	160	..	..	..	..
Harpanahalli	..	..	..	..	1	250			39	4,755	30	3,730	9	1,025			39	4,765	30	3,730	..	..
Hadagalli	2	200	2	100	36	8,900			34	4,890	33	4,640	189	30,580			36	5,090	35	4,740	..	..
Total ..	141	18,527	125	10,957	688	85,482			1,891	1,98,050	1,683	1,76,040	2,964	4,29,060			2,032	2,16,577	1,808	1,85,597	1	61

Taluks.	Purchase of fodder.								Cattle and seed-grain.								Total.					
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.				Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.				Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.			Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.			Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
	22	23	24	25	26	27			28	29	30	31	32	33			34	35	36	37	38	39
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.				Rs.		Rs.		Rs.				Rs.		Rs.			Rs.
Adóni	..	..	..	..	143	9,285			..	..	..	..	94	3,070			..	..	..	..	237	12,305
Alúr	76	3,886	36	1,817	442	25,213			..	..	..	..	22	2,496			76	3,886	36	1,817	464	27,709
Bellary	.. 3	1,652	..	1,652	15,3·3				..	..	..	..	.. 5	360			.. 3	1,652	..	1,652	*	15,323
Rayadrug		210	..	..	20	970			..	..	..	..	..	..			..	210	..	..	25	1,330
Hospet		..	..	..	32	1,700			..	..	..	..	..	..			..	..	..	..	32	1,700
Kúdligi	42	1,370	41	1,350	58	1,623			..	..	..	..	..	..			42	1,370	41	1,350	58	1,623
Harpanahalli	3	150	3	150	35	2,000			..	..	..	..	..	..			3	150	3	150	35	2,000
Hadagalli	17	706	15	646	76	3,249			..	..	..	..	..	..			17	706	15	646	76	3,249
Total ..	141	7,974	95	5,615	806	59,313			..	..	..	..	..	..			141	7,974	95	5,615	927	65,239

* Not available. † Revised figures.

Remarks—*Loans.*—During the fortnight no progress whatever has been shown by the Tahsildars of Hospet, Kúdligi and Harpanahalli, and the Special Tahsildars of Bellary and Alúr have disbursed Rs. 20,364 and Rs. 16,105, respectively. It is to be observed that the latter had his staff complete with four copyists and two clerks while the former had only one clerk. Without any additional help the Tahsildar of Rayadrug has disbursed Rs. 8,798, while the Tahsildar of Hadagalli has disbursed only Rs. 531, although he has been given a Special Revenue Inspector for takavi work. As already stated, the showers that have now commenced will put a stop to the removal of nuth grass and I do not therefore ask for any more Special Tahsildars at present.

Inspections of the District Officers—Taluks and places visited.

By the Collector.—Paramadevanhalli, Moka, Daroji and Adóni relief works together with the kitchens attached to them.

Deputy Collector, Adóni division.—Kowtalam, Kosgi, Ramapuram, Kachapuram, Harivanam, Raravi, Kammarchedu, Manekurti, Kowtalam-Kuppagal, Halni-Kosgi and Adóni section of Adóni-Madhavaram, Adóni-Siruguppa and Alúr-Adóni road works and the kitchens at Kowtalam, Halvi, Adóni, Harivanam, Kammarchedu and Manikurti.

Head-quarters Deputy Collector.—Sangankal, Kappagal, Sirivaram, Marur, Asundi, Godihal Somasamudram, Kolur, Bylur, Sindigiri, Caroor, Sanvasapur, Paramadevanahalli, Siruguppa and Moka road works with the kitchens thereon.

Mr. Lloyd in charge of Rayadrug taluk.—Rayadrug and Malyam.

Head Assistant Collector.—Daroji, Gadiganur, Antapur, Hospet and Kampli and the relief works in the first three places.

Resolution—No. 375, dated 17th May 1897.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. During the fortnight under report there were heavy local showers, which materially improved the supplies of drinking-water, but were otherwise of but little use, tending mainly to put a stop to the clearance of *nuth* grass. There are no standing crops, except under irrigation. These on the whole are doing well, except under the Kanekal tank. A small area has been harvested with a moderate outturn. Agricultural operations are nowhere brisk, but the showers have encouraged the ryots in parts, where the soils are lighter, to plough their fields.

3. Pasture is practically non-existent, and fodder, though generally available, is very dear. The condition of the stall-fed cattle is good, but others are deteriorating. As stated by the Collector, the experiment of importing fodder in 1892 was not a success, but the matter is now once more under consideration by the Board and Government. The Board has directed the throwing open of the large reserves in Kurnool, and the admission, free of charge, of organised droves from a distance as far as the capabilities of the forests will permit. The Board notes with approval the Collector's action with regard to applications for loans for the purchase of fodder. If, as the Board hopes, it is found to be possible to lay down fodder for sale at normal prices, the concession should be made widely known and ryots encouraged in every way to take loans for the purchase of the same.

4. Prices show a tendency to fall, though they are firm in the majority of stations, except in the case of yellow cholam. The following statement shows the present position of prices :—

	Seers per rupee.	
	Rice.	Cholam (mixed).
Normal rate	13·2	30·0
Warning „	10·6	22·5
Scarcity „	7·9	15·0
Current „	9·0	12·2
April 1892	8·9	15·3
April 1877	8·7	8·3

Private trade was active, but the imports show a considerable falling off as compared with the figures of the previous fortnight, which were exceptionally high.

5. The condition of the people is reported to be generally good, even where it has been found that workers were sharing their wages with dependants. Cases of emaciation were to be seen, but, on inquiry, it has been found that the individuals have been in ill-health for some time past. During the fortnight the numbers on works increased by 20 per cent, though all the provisions of G.O., No. 216 of 1897, had not been brought into force. The Board notes that the Collector proposes to open more works so as to supply employment to those requiring it in the neighbourhood of their homes. The concession that the Collector proposes to make in favour of nursing mothers is approved. The numbers on gratuitous relief are still below the mark, but it is hoped that arrangements have been made by this time to take over the relief of those who have been supported at the expense of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

6. The cause of the delay in communicating the new policy to officers in charge of works should be reported.

7. The Collector's letter requesting instructions as to the relative positions of Public Works and Revenue officers was submitted, with remarks, for the orders of Government, in B.P. No. 327, dated 1st May 1897.

8. The difficulties in the way of obtaining men for the posts of Paymaster and also of Circle Inspector are well known to the Board, but they are much lighter in Bellary than elsewhere. Government is being addressed on the subject. The Board has been authorized to draft men in from other districts for these purposes, and the Collector should report his requirements. When work is opened over great lengths of road, the Collector need not adhere to the Code minimum of one Paymaster for 3,200 coolies, which is the establishment "ordinarily" sanctioned.

9. The Tahsildar of Rayadrug and the Special Tahsildars of Bellary and Adóni have done good work during the fortnight in disposing of applications for loans. The other Tahsildars must be kept up to the mark, especially with regard to applications for loans for the purchase of fodder. The following table shows the progress made in the disposal of loan applications up to the week ending 1st May:—

Week ending.	In the week.	Up to the week.
	Rs.	Rs.
3rd April 1897	27,445	1,23,742
10th „ „	19,820	1,43,562
17th „ „	15,060	1,58,622
24th „ „	27,013	1,85,635
1st May „	18,947	2,04,582

The total of applications outstanding is for nearly Rs. 5,80,000, and at the present rate of progress, more than six months would be required to dispose of them all.

10. The energy of the Divisional Officer of Adóni in the matter of improving sources of drinking-water supply is noted with approval.

11. As to shade on works, the Board's Proceedings quoted on the subject only lays down what the Code provides, and Government has also prohibited the erection of shade for workers. The Board's Proceedings quoted, however, details all alleviations of the conditions which the four walls of the Code allow of, and these should be availed of to the fullest extent.

(True Copy 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. 433, Revenue, dated 4th June 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. With reference to the Collector's remarks at page 4 of the narrative the Famine Commissioner will be informed that, though the construction of sheds for labourers to work in is, as a rule, unnecessary, there is no objection to supplying them with date or other mat-screens when working in the sun.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Local and Municipal Department.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Accountant-General.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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