Public Works Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

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G.O., No. 459, 14th June 1897.

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JUNE.

1897 D. No. C

To

The S.E. I Circle

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording, with remarks, Board's Proceedings submitting to Government — of the Ganjám 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 21st May 1897, No. 387 :—

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

State of the country.

Rainfall and water-supply—

	District rainfall.	
	Actual rainfall.	Expected rainfall.
	INCHES.	INCHES.
In the fortnight	·05	·42
Up to the fortnight from April	1·16	·85

There has been no rainfall during the fortnight except a slight shower of 11 cents in Parlákimedi, 5 cents in Russellkonda and 3 cents in Berhampur. Water-supply for drinking purposes is generally sufficient, except in a few villages, in the Goomsur division ; it is moderate in Chicacole division and insufficient elsewhere. Steps are being taken to sink pits or wells where water is most urgently required.

The amount spent on the improvement of water-supply during the fortnight is about Rs. 700.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—Ploughing operations are briskly carried on in the Goomsur division and moderately elsewhere. Early ragi is being sown in places in the Goomsur division and is in moderate condition. Late ragi is being harvested at places in the Head-quarters Deputy Collector's division ; but the outturn is poor.

The standing crops are early ragi, chillies, sugarcane and gingelly and they are reported to be in poor condition.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Fodder is sufficient and available throughout the district, except in a few places in the Chicacole division where it is generally scarce. Pasture is insufficient, except in the sub-division and parts of Goomsur, and it has dried up again in the places where it revived by the recent rains. The condition of cattle is generally good, except in Suradá and Tekkali taluks where cattle diseases exist.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—No improvement has taken place in the fortnight under report. In the Ganjám, Purushottapur and Sómpéta taluks there has been a rapid change for the worse. Scarcity of drinking-water is a matter of anxiety in many places, especially so far as cattle are concerned.

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 24th April 1897.

Stations.	Rice. End of last period. Raw.	Rice. End of last period. Boiled.	Rice. End of current period. Raw.	Rice. End of current period. Boiled.	Ragi. End of last period.	Ragi. End of current period.	Remarks.
Russellkonda	10·50	12·50	10·50	12·50	16·87	16·87	* The Deputy Tahsildar, Suradá, reports that 16·42 was wrongly quoted for 14·62. The Tekkali Deputy Tahsildar states that the fall in prices is due to supplies from other places and the Parlákimedi Deputy Tahsildar attributes the rise in ragi to be due to demand from other places. As regards the variations in prices at Chicacole the Tahsildar says "this morning the Magistrate and I went to the market to watch the sales and note down the prices. The prices thus ascertained are entered here." The reason for the marked fall in the price of rice and rise in that of ragi is not stated. The variations in prices at Suradá, Sompéta and Narasannapéta appear to be due to the quantities of supplies available in the market.
Suradá	10·10	12·25	10·17	11·37	* 16·42	14·62	
Aska	11·12	12·56	11·12	12·56	14·25	14·25	
Purushottapur	10·50	12·50	10·50	12·50	14·50	14·50	
Chatrapur	9·50	11·00	9·50	11·00	12 50	12·50	
Berhampur	10·50	12·00	10·50	12·00	15·19	15·19	
Ichchhápuram	9·50	10·00	9·50	10·00	14·40	14·40	
Sómpéta	10·72	11·81	10·72	11·81	15·52	14·51	
Parlákimedi	10·50	..	10·50	..	16·90	15·60	
Tekkali	10·10	11·68	10·25	12·00	16·00	16·27	
Narasannapét	10·87	..	10 50	..	16·90	16·90	
Chicacole	9·73	..	11·52	..	16·41	15·52	
Total ..	124·64	106·30	125·28	105·74	185·86	181·13	
Average ..	10·39	11·81	10·44	11·75	15·49	15·09	

Activity of trade.—Supplies are available at the rates quoted in the various marts ; but it is reported that the trade within the district is not active. The Goomsur Deputy Collector reports that 400 cartloads of paddy have been imported into his division from Nyaghar and the Head-quarters Deputy Collector reports that paddy is freely imported from Banpur and Puri. Exports and imports of food-grains by rail and sea are as follow :—

	Exports. MDS.	Imports. MDS.
By rail	10,075	2,048
By sea	7,561	447

Condition of the People.

On works.—The condition of the people on ordinary works and on test work at Chatrapur is generally good. There are a considerable number of weak persons at the Dayigam relief work.

In villages.—The condition of the people, particularly in the zemindari villages, except in Parlákimedi, is very bad. Relief is being given. The lower classes especially are showing signs of losing strength and becoming emaciated, though they decline to attend test works even on the more liberal terms now offered.

The following remittances have been received from emigrants to Burma through the Post offices noted :—

	Rs.
Naupada	3,000
Tekkali	332
Kotabommali	1,281
Jalmore	253
Total ...	4,866

&c.

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Ichchhápuram	9·50	10·00	9·50	10·00	14·40	14·40	
Sómpéta	10·72	11·81	10·72	11·81	15·52	14·51	
Parlákimedi	10·50	..	10·50	..	16·90	15·60	
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The following remittances have been received from emigrants to Burma through the Post offices noted :—

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Naupada	3,000
Tekkali	332
Kotabommali	1,281
Jalmore	253
Total ...	4,866

I am informed that many of the Burma emigrants are about to return as the supply of labour is now in excess of the demand and wages have fallen considerably in Rangoon.

Sickness and mortality.—No deaths from want of food have been reported. Fevers and small-pox are prevalent. Cholera was severe in Tekkali, but has now subsided, after draining the infected tanks.

Cholera deaths—

Goomsur Deputy Collector's Division	
Berhampur Division	5
Head-quarters Deputy Collector's Division	33
Chicacole Division	153
Total ...	191

Remarks.—The prevailing high prices tell heavily on the poor who have already disposed of all the reserves at their command. It is only in emaciated cases that grain doles are given and the people who raise no objection are fed at the kitchens. As people are gradually stinting themselves in their meals some more test works will be opened in the course of the next fortnight. Test works opened at Digupudi and Jinkibhadra attracted no labourers even on the liberal terms now offered. The coolies previously employed on test work at Jinkibhadra (near Sómpéta) refused to continue work under test conditions.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
1. Purushottapur	211	302	The figure represents the number employed on 23rd instant at Dayijgam relief work.
2. Do.	..	383	The figure represents the number employed at the test work at Atagada on 24th instant.
3. Ganjám	562	883	The figure represents the number employed at the hill quarry near Chatrapur on 24th instant.
4. Do.	..	160	The figure represents the number employed at the test work at Jomi near Rambha on the 24th instant.
			Test works at Atagada and Jomi have been opened during the fortnight.
			Test work at Digupudi and Jinkibhadra failed.
			The Atagada work will be converted into a relief work at once.
			The Raja of Parlákimedi is giving employment to 8,200 persons daily on fixed wages without task at 1½ anna per man, 1 anna per woman and 6 pies per child.
Toal ..	773	1,728	

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.
1. Bodogodo	..	..	20	27	..	..	7	26
2. Peddakimedi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	233
3. Berhampur	..	..	34	81	..	..	..	..
4. Sómpéta	..	..	76	128	..	..	304	1,503
5. Ichchhápuram	..	..	12	16	..	..	11	23
6. Ganjám	..	..	7	16	..	..	..	2,207
7. Purushottapur	..	..	47	110	..	..	35	495
8. Tekkali	..	..	448	561	..	..	35	84
9. Narasannapeta	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	39
10. Parlákimedi	..	..	92	102	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	736	1,041	..	..	410	4,610

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.
1. Bodogodo	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. Peddakimedi	..	51	..	..	..	..
3. Berhampur	..	..	..	..	..	..
4. Sómpéta	..	..	216	389	600	600
5. Ichchhápuram	3	..	..	..	..	..
6. Ganjám	..	75	..	..	..	..
7. Purushottapur	..	45	..	..	..	..
8. Tekkali	36	* 70	..	..	..	..
9. Narasannapeta	6	7	..	..	..	..
10. Parlákimedi	..	1	..	..	..	..
11. Aska	..	..	..	19	..	..

* Include 58 villages to which kitchen inmates belong.

Private charity.—There is no organized private charity at work ; but the zemindar of Kallikotta and Atagada estates continues to maintain a kitchen at Haradamali near Kallikotta and the total number fed thereat on the 24th instant is reported to be 89. The Goomsur Deputy Collector reports that some gentlemen at Aska and Russellkonda are giving a single meal to 50 and 20 beggars, respectively, in a day on the average, and the zemindar of Chinnakimedi feeds at his temples and mutts 25 persons on the average, having regard to caste prejudices. A private kitchen at Meliaputti does more harm than good. Out of some 70 persons only some three were fit recipients for relief. The rest were strong, lusty persons in good condition and well able to work.

General remarks.—Only one kitchen has been opened during the fortnight under report at Sorosingi in Purushottapur taluk. The Goomsur Deputy Collector reports that a kitchen will be opened at Suradá on the 1st proximo and that no necessity has as yet arisen to open kitchens at other places in his division.

Relief was given at Sómpéta to 389 weavers and at Aska to 19 of the same class.

The staff at Sómpéta requires strengthening by the addition of an assistant appraiser, and an enquiry shows that the weavers are kept waiting three days for test of their cloths, payment and receipt of thread. Results show that according to the experimental task table a family of two men and one woman earn slightly over 3 annas per diem. Inquiries are being made regarding their dependants. The majority of the weavers do not appear to be in uneasy circumstances, but prefer Government work at a low rate to nothing at all. The children seem for the most part in good condition and most of the men evidently have reserves. I anticipate a rush of weavers in the next fortnight.

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

Talukas.	Repair and construction of wells.						Other purposes.						Total.					
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs. 600		Rs. 1,15,785		Rs. 570		Rs. 600		Rs. 1,16,085		
Berhampur	..	..	..	..	2	300	3		1,181		6		3		1,183			
Goomsur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Chicacole	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Total ..	..	..	..	..	2	300	3	600	1,181	1,15,785	6	570	3	600	1,183	1,16,085		

Talukas.	Number of wells.	Purchase of fodder.				Cattle and seed grain.				Total.			
		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.
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
				Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs. 533		Rs. 360		Rs. 1,16,543
Berhampur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11		5		1,768	
Goomsur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	57	2,605	31	1,785	872	47,105
Chicacole	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	68	3,138	36	2,145	2,640	1,63,648

Talukas.	Total.					
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
	34	35	36	37	38	39
		Rs. 533		Rs. 360		Rs. 1,16,543
Berhampur	11		5		1,768	
Goomsur	57	2,605	31	1,785	872	47,105
Chicacole	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	68	3,138	36	2,145	2,640	1,63,648

Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and places visited.—The General Deputy Collector, Goomsur visited 21 villages, the Senior Assistant Collector 7 villages, the Head-quarters Deputy Collector 16 villages, and the Principal Assistant Collector 13 villages in their divisions. The Assistant Collector Mr. Ashe visited 26 villages in the Peddakimedi estate.

The Collector has visited the following places during the fortnight under report in company with the Famine Commissioner :—

Chatrapur (test work), Batrigummarada (ordinary work), Purushottapur (kitchen), Sorosingi, Kahuripalli, Bodo Mohiri, Daigam (relief work), Sómpéta (kitchen), Baruva (kitchen), Jhinkibhadra (quarry—ordinary work), Haripur, Kasebugga (kitchen), Podur, Chapra, Meliaputti (private kitchen), Parlákimedi (kitchen), Tekkali (kitchen), Kotabommali (kitchen) and Narasannapeta.

General Remarks.

The distress, especially in the northern part of the district (Kallikota and Atadaga zamindari) and in the neighbourhood of Sómpéta, has deepened into famine with alarming rapidity. Additional Circle Inspectors are being entertained as available, and gratuitous relief by grain doles is being given on a considerable scale, which will inevitably be still further enhanced in the immediate future. Sometime back I reported that signs of deterioration had been noticed amongst the lower classes; but now it seems that the ryots also have exhausted their supplies of grain and are in considerable distress.

The suddenness with which this change has taken place is not due to any want of watchfulness on the part of the district officers. Test-works have been opened time after time, without attracting labourers, and offers of kitchens have been rejected with scorn even by those who cannot strictly claim to have any caste prejudices.

To this difficulty is added the fact that the affected areas are almost entirely zemindari, and zemindari officials are useless. Owing to the absence of minor irrigation works, relief works have perforce to be restricted to the lines of roads. The Oriyas are fatalists, and take no steps whatever to help themselves, even when help is thrown within their reach. In some cases the men will work, but only when they have waited too long, and, even then, they will not allow their women, who are ordinarily employed in agricultural operations, to come to Government relief-works. Hence the necessity for gratuitous relief on a large scale; but before the gratuitous relief can be accorded, it is necessary that persons able to work, and who will not work, should first become hungry. The repeated failure of test-works is again a source of difficulty, for those who are in receipt of grain doles or of cooked food at kitchens, and who have revived sufficiently to perform light work, have no work ready to hand to which they can be sent, and hence have to be kept on in the receipt of relief. I have tried hard to break their prejudices, and in some few cases it may be possible that I have waited a little too long with the object of overcoming these foolish infatuations; but had I at once acknowledged the principle that Government is bound, at great expense and inconvenience to itself, to support able-bodied men able to work, but who, due to foolish prejudices, refused to work, we should have found ourselves in the difficult position of having to feed a large proportion of the population of nearly two taluks.

I have endeavoured to combat the prejudices in regard to kitchens in every possible way. I have proposed separate kitchens for each caste presided over by cooks of their own caste selected by themselves from their fellow-villagers. I have offered the distribution of food at the village temple where cooked food is customarily bought and sold, but, except in the case of the Bavuri kitchen at Sorosingi, without success. I believe that many of the people are really not directly opposed to eating at a kitchen to which their own caste alone are admitted, but they are under the powers of the heads of their castes who threaten to excommunicate them. Even some of the Brahmin cooks have left their posts, under threat of excommunication if they continued to serve in a Government kitchen, and they require extra rate of pay as a solace to their injured feelings. My difficulties do not end here. Even when grain doles are sanctioned, the zamindari village officials refuse assistance. No panchayatdars

come forward to show an interest in their fellow-men and see that they get the doles prescribed; the village shopkeeper, indifferent to gain, declines to weigh out the doles because of the extra trouble involved in weighing instead of measuring the same. The village heads decline to purchase grain with Government advance and store it for the distribution of doles. There are then but two alternatives, when conditions such as these exist: (1) To establish Government depôts for the storage and distribution of these doles, and (2) the grant of money doles. The former involves extra expense in the matter of establishment besides opening a door for fraud, while the grant of money doles is objectionable. It will, however, I fear, be absolutely necessary, if life is to be saved, that money doles should be granted in the remoter villages: though personally opposed to the system, the conviction is being forced upon me as to the necessity for its adoption. An instance in point is the case of the Savarahs in the Tumba Mutah, Sómpéta taluk. We cannot start a depôt in the hills without great expense. No merchant will do so, nor can the supplies be locally obtained. In fact I have, subject to the sanction of Government, authorized Mr. Willimott, who is proceeding to that part on tour, to grant money doles in emergent cases, if the difficulty of distributing grain doles proves insuperable. But at other places, too, the village shopkeeper who now conducts the supply may strike at any moment. I have dealt with the position at the length, so that the Board and Government may be in full possession of the difficulties with which I have to contend and that they may be in a position promptly to dispose of such references as I may, in the future, find it necessary to make on the various points raised.

Resolution—dated 21st May 1897, No. 387.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. There was no improvement in the fortnight under report, and in the Ganjám, Purushottapur and Sómpéta taluks there was a rapid change for the worse. The tract round Ichchhápur has since become affected. The supply of drinking-water is running short, but steps were being taken to improve the supply as far as possible. Agricultural operations were not brisk, except in Goomsur, which is outside the affected area. Harvests and the prospects of the standing crops were poor.

3. Fodder was generally available, but pasture, which had improved with the previous rains, began to fail again. Cattle, however, did not exhibit any signs of deterioration, though in many places it was difficult to find water for them.

4. Prices were generally fairly stationary, though the price of ragi tended to rise somewhat in the south. Their position is shown in the accompanying statement:—

	Number of measures per rupee.	
	Rice.	Ragi.
Standard rate	17·0	30·0
Warning „	13·6	22·5
Scarcity „	10·2	15·0
Current „	10·4	15·1
April 1889	11·4	18·8
April 1878	8·7	13·0

Trade within the district was not active, and it is curious to note that the reported exports considerably exceeded imports.

5. The condition of people on works was generally good, but in villages, especially in some of the zamindari villages, very bad. The main cause of this deterioration is the persistent obstinacy of the people who prefer to starve to accepting Government relief otherwise than in the form of doles. This obstinacy, however, began to give way during the fortnight under the pinch of distress. Since the close of the month the numbers on relief works have swollen rapidly, and are likely to rise still more. The latest forecast from the Collector is 15,000 on works. The scale on which

gratuitous relief is being given is, as usual in Ganjám, far larger than elsewhere, and will, the Collector reports, be inevitably still further enhanced in the near future. The numbers on gratuitous relief at the end of the fortnight were 5,701, while only 1,728 persons attended relief works. The Board has, before now, alluded to the exceptional difficulties with which the administration of relief is beset in Ganjám, and is confident that Mr. Taylor, well backed by his officers, is doing all that can be done. Under the peculiar circumstances of the district, the Collector's action in sanctioning the grant of money-doles is approved, but he must remember that the concession is to be used with a sparing hand, and only in places where other forms of relief are found impracticable. The general restriction imposed by section 84 of the Famine Code, which was insisted on in G.O., No. 67, Revenue, dated 3rd February 1897, has been modified by paragraph 6 of G.O., No. 216, Revenue, dated 30th March 1897. The case of the weavers is not considered critical, though they are ready enough to accept the relief offered them. The Collector should see that such delays as are reported at Sómpéta do not recur; if the officers of the depôt are incompetent, they should be replaced by others who can do the work required of them; but if it is found that the work they have to do is clearly beyond their powers, the establishment should be increased without hesitation in anticipation of sanction. All these delays tell seriously against the workers.

6. Applications for loans are but slowly disposed of, only Rs. 2,745 having been disbursed, while applications involving over 2½ lakhs are pending. It is hoped that, with the extra staff lately sanctioned for this work, better progress will be shown.

7. The Board has little to add to the "general remarks" of the Collector, for which Government was already prepared. The Commissioner can testify, from general inspection, to the reality of the difficulties which the Collector has to face. The total on relief of all kinds according to the latest return is 27,709. Of these only 6,228 were on relief and test works. This will shortly swell to 15,000. The number of weavers relieved was 1,872, and the rest were on gratuitous relief of one kind or another. The tracts chiefly affected were the tracts in the Uriya country comprised in the Atagada and Kallikota zamindaris, and a tract sporadically affected reaching southwards from the Rushikulya line along the coast as far down as Narasannapeta with more seriously affected centres at Sómpéta and Tekkali. These, with the Uriya tract first mentioned, which is the worst of all, and whose inhabitants are most difficult to deal with, are the chief points calling for attention. The Collector has not exaggerated the physical condition of the Uriya resident of the northern tract, where cases recalling the earlier months of 1877 can be seen, and his difficulties are complicated by the presence of cholera and small-pox. The former was ripe at Tekkali, where 200 fatal cases occurred; but the Collector took the disease by the throat wherever it showed itself, and stamped it out by draining off suspected water sources. It has recently broken out in the Collector's own camp—four of his servants and personal establishment having been attacked, and one having died. Small-pox continues to rage, the apathy of the people to this disease facilitating its spread. During the Commissioner's tour loathsome cases had to be removed both from works and kitchens. The Collector himself has been attacked with chicken-pox, but continues indefatigable, though physically very much under par. He is ably seconded by all his Civilian officers and by two Deputy Collectors. He is asking for extra establishment. Another difficulty with which the Collector has to grapple is the supply of Relief Circle Inspectors, who cannot be recruited in sufficient numbers amongst educated Uriyas, and without a knowledge of Uriya, efficient administration is impossible. Of ten pensioners selected by the Collector, most refuse, and the others threw up the appointments when they saw the nature of the work and the surroundings in which they had to do it. It is a matter which Government might consider whether enough has been done to stimulate the study of Uriya. It is very desirable that there should always be a reserve of officers who know Uriya on which Government could draw. These officers might be of the Police, and Salt and Abkári Departments, and Deputy Collector's grade, as well as Indian Civilians. At present, and for some time to come the Uriya country will be an administrative crux in famine times; but the opening of the railway and

the spread of education are wedges which will in time effect much in dissipating prejudices and in inculcating common sense.

As shown above, the prices of both the staple grains are much higher than in 1889, and, though the numbers on relief may appear large, they are nothing to the 90,000 on gratuitous relief in 1889. In that year relief was too long deferred, and had to be largely granted in a demoralizing form. Government may rely on the present Collector to see that the granting of relief shall be as little demoralizing as is possible, in a tract whose inhabitants are backward, superstitious and prejudiced to a degree not dreamt of further truth.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 459, Revenue, dated 14th June 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The extra establishment referred to in paragraph 7 of the Board's Proceedings has already been sanctioned. The remarks in this paragraph regarding the necessity for having a reserve of officers with a knowledge of Uriya and for stimulating the study of this language will be considered in the Public and Educational Departments.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. Md. Pahilvan.

80 Copies.

Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 1868 W

DATED 12 July 1897

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Famine; Prov: Revenue Dept^t recording with remarks Board's Proc: Submitting the fortnightly narrative of the famine Dept^t for the period ending 30th April 1897, Comp^d. & S.E. I Circle

[P.W. 20. 5,000—30-11-96.]

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Fortnightly Narrative.

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

0.2.5.263
17/7

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 21st May 1897, No. 387 :—

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

State of the country.

Rainfall and water-supply—

	District rainfall.	
	Actual rainfall.	Expected rainfall.
	INCHES.	INCHES.
In the fortnight	·05	·42
Up to the fortnight from April	1·16	·85

There has been no rainfall during the fortnight except a slight shower of 11 cents in Parlákimedi, 5 cents in Russellkonda and 3 cents in Berhampur. Water-supply is insufficient for irrigation purposes. Water-supply for drinking purposes is generally sufficient, except in a few villages, in the Goomsur division ; it is moderate in Chicacole division and insufficient elsewhere. Steps are being taken to sink pits or wells where water is most urgently required.

The amount spent on the improvement of water-supply during the fortnight is about Rs. 700.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—Ploughing operations are briskly carried on in the Goomsur division and moderately elsewhere. Early ragi is being sown in places in the Goomsur division and is in moderate condition. Late ragi is being harvested at places in the Head-quarters Deputy Collector's division ; but the outturn is poor.

The standing crops are early ragi, chillies, sugarcane and gingelly and they are reported to be in poor condition.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Fodder is sufficient and available throughout the district, except in a few places in the Chicacole division where it is generally scarce. Pasture is insufficient, except in the sub-division and parts of Goomsur, and it has dried up again in the places where it revived by the recent rains. The condition of cattle is generally good, except in Suradá and Tekkali taluks where cattle diseases exist.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—No improvement has taken place in the fortnight under report. In the Ganjám, Purushottapur and Sómpéta taluks there has been a rapid change for the worse. Scarcity of drinking-water is a matter of anxiety in many places, especially so far as cattle are concerned.

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 24th April 1897.

Stations.	Rice.				Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last period.		End of current period.		End of last period.	End of current period.	
	Raw.	Boiled.	Raw.	Boiled.			
Russellkonda	10·50	12·50	10·50	12·50	16·87	16·87	* The Deputy Tahsildar, Surada, reports that 16·42 was wrongly quoted for 14·62. The Tekkali Deputy Tahsildar states that the fall in prices is due to supplies from other places and the Parlákimedi Deputy Tahsildar attributes the rise in ragi to be due to demand from other places. As regards the variations in prices at Chicacole the Tahsildar says "this morning the Magistrate and I went to the market to watch the sales and note down the prices. The prices thus ascertained are entered here." The reason for the marked fall in the price of rice and rise in that of ragi is not stated. The variations in prices at Suradá, Sompéta and Narasannapéta appear to be due to the quantities of supplies available in the market.
Suradá	10·10	12·25	10·17	11·37	* 16·42	14·62	
Aska	11·12	12·56	11·12	12·56	14·25	14·25	
Purushottapur	10·50	12·50	10·50	12·50	14·50	14·50	
Chatrapur	9·50	11·00	9·50	11·00	12 50	12·50	
Berhampur	10·50	12·00	10·50	12 00	15·19	15·19	
Ichchhápuram	9·50	10·00	9·50	10·00	14·40	14·40	
Sómpéta	10·72	11·81	10·72	11·81	15·52	14·51	
Parlákimedi	10·50	..	10·50	..	16·90	15·60	
Tekkali	10·10	11·68	10·25	12·00	16·00	16·27	
Narasannapét	10·87	..	10 50	..	16·90	16·90	
Chicacole	9·73	..	11·52	..	16·41	15·52	
Total ..	124·64	106·30	125·28	105·74	185·86	181·13	
Average ..	10·39	11·81	10·44	11·75	15·49	15·09	

Activity of trade.—Supplies are available at the rates quoted in the various marts ; but it is reported that the trade within the district is not active. The Goomsur Deputy Collector reports that 400 cartloads of paddy have been imported into his division from Nyaghar and the Head-quarters Deputy Collector reports that paddy is freely imported from Banpur and Puri. Exports and imports of food-grains by rail and sea are as follow :—

	Exports. MDS.	Imports. MDS.
By rail	10,075	2,048
By sea	7,561	447

Condition of the People.

On works.—The condition of the people on ordinary works and on test work at Chatrapur is generally good. There are a considerable number of weak persons at the Dayigam relief work.

In villages.—The condition of the people, particularly in the zemindari villages, except in Parlákimedi, is very bad. Relief is being given. The lower classes especially are showing signs of losing strength and becoming emaciated, though they decline to attend test works even on the more liberal terms now offered.

The following remittances have been received from emigrants to Burma through the Post offices noted :—

	Rs.
Naupada	3,000
Tekkali	332
Kotabommali	1,281
Jalmore	253
Total ...	4,866

I am informed that many of the Burma emigrants are about to return as the supply of labour is now in excess of the demand and wages have fallen considerably in Rangoon.

Sickness and mortality.—No deaths from want of food have been reported. Fevers and small-pox are prevalent. Cholera was severe in Tekkali, but has now subsided, after draining the infected tanks.

Cholera deaths—

Goomsur Deputy Collector's Division	
Berhampur Division	5
Head-quarters Deputy Collector's Division	33
Chicacole Division	153
Total ...	191

Remarks.—The prevailing high prices tell heavily on the poor who have already disposed of all the reserves at their command. It is only in emaciated cases that grain doles are given and the people who raise no objection are fed at the kitchens. As people are gradually stinting themselves in their meals some more test works will be opened in the course of the next fortnight. Test works opened at Digupudi and Jinkibhadra attracted no labourers even on the liberal terms now offered. The coolies previously employed on test work at Jinkibhadra (near Sómpéta) refused to continue work under test conditions.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
1. Purushottapur	211	302	The figure represents the number employed on 23rd instant at Dayijgam relief work.
2. Do.	..	383	The figure represents the number employed at the test work at Atagada on 24th instant.
3. Ganjám	562	883	The figure represents the number employed at the hill quarry near Chatrapur on 24th instant.
4. Do.	..	160	The figure represents the number employed at the test work at Jomi near Rambha on the 24th instant.
			Test works at Atagada and Jomi have been opened during the fortnight.
			Test work at Digupudi and Jinkibhadra failed.
			The Atagada work will be converted into a relief work at once.
			The Raja of Parlákimedi is giving employment to 8,200 persons daily on fixed wages without task at 1½ anna per man, 1 anna per woman and 6 pies per child.
Toal ..	773	1,728	

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.
1. Bodogodo	..	..	20	27	..	..	7	26
2. Peddakimedi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	233
3. Berhampur	..	..	34	81	..	..	..	..
4. Sómpéta	..	..	76	128	..	..	304	1,503
5. Ichchhápuram	..	..	12	16	..	..	11	23
6. Ganjám	..	..	7	16	..	..	..	2,207
7. Purushottapur	..	..	47	110	..	..	35	495
8. Tekkali	..	..	448	561	..	..	35	84
9. Narasannapeta	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	39
10. Parlákimedi	..	..	92	102	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	736	1,041	..	..	410	4,610

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.
1. Bodogodo	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. Peddakimedi	..	51	..	..	..	..
3. Berhampur	..	..	..	..	..	..
4. Sómpéta	..	..	216	389	600	600
5. Ichchhápuram	3	..	..	..	..	..
6. Ganjám	..	75	..	..	..	..
7. Purushottapur	..	45	..	..	..	..
8. Tekkali	36	* 70	..	..	..	..
9. Narasannapeta	6	7	..	..	..	..
10. Parlákimedi	..	1	..	..	..	..
11. Aska	..	..	..	19	..	..

* Include 58 villages to which kitchen inmates belong.

Private charity.—There is no organized private charity at work ; but the zemindar of Kallikotta and Atagada estates continues to maintain a kitchen at Haradamali near Kallikotta and the total number fed thereat on the 24th instant is reported to be 89. The Goomsur Deputy Collector reports that some gentlemen at Aska and Russellkonda are giving a single meal to 50 and 20 beggars, respectively, in a day on the average, and the zemindar of Chinnakimedi feeds at his temples and mutts 25 persons on the average, having regard to caste prejudices. A private kitchen at Meliaputti does more harm than good. Out of some 70 persons only some three were fit recipients for relief. The rest were strong, lusty persons in good condition and well able to work.

General remarks.—Only one kitchen has been opened during the fortnight under report at Sorosingi in Purushottapur taluk. The Goomsur Deputy Collector reports that a kitchen will be opened at Suradá on the 1st proximo and that no necessity has as yet arisen to open kitchens at other places in his division.

Relief was given at Sómpéta to 389 weavers and at Aska to 19 of the same class.

The staff at Sómpéta requires strengthening by the addition of an assistant appraiser, and an enquiry shows that the weavers are kept waiting three days for test of their cloths, payment and receipt of thread. Results show that according to the experimental task table a family of two men and one woman earn slightly over 3 annas per diem. Inquiries are being made regarding their dependants. The majority of the weavers do not appear to be in uneasy circumstances, but prefer Government work at a low rate to nothing at all. The children seem for the most part in good condition and most of the men evidently have reserves. I anticipate a rush of weavers in the next fortnight.

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.					
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Berhampur	..	..	..	..	2	300	6	570	3	600	1,181	1,15,785	6	570	3	600	1,183	1,16,085
Goomsur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicacole	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	..	..	2	300	6	570	3	600	1,181	1,15,785	6	570	3	600	1,183	1,16,085

Taluks.	Number of wells.		Purchase of fodder.						Cattle and seed grain.						Total.					
	Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.	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.
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
										Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Berhampur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	533	5	360	1,768	1,16,543	11	533	5	360	1,768	1,16,543
Goomsur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	57	2,605	31	1,785	872	47,105	57	2,605	31	1,785	872	47,105
Chicacole	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	68	3,138	36	2,145	2,640	1,63,648	68	3,138	36	2,145	2,640	1,63,648

Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and places visited.—The General Deputy Collector, Goomsur visited 21 villages, the Senior Assistant Collector 7 villages, the Head-quarters Deputy Collector 16 villages, and the Principal Assistant Collector 13 villages in their divisions. The Assistant Collector Mr. Ashe visited 26 villages in the Peddakimedi estate.

The Collector has visited the following places during the fortnight under report in company with the Famine Commissioner :—

Chatrapur (test work), Batrigummarada (ordinary work), Purushottapur (kitchen), Sorosingi, Kahuripalli, Bodo Mohiri, Daigam (relief work), Sómpéta (kitchen), Baruva (kitchen), Jhinkibhadra (quarry—ordinary work), Haripur, Kasebugga (kitchen), Podur, Chapra, Meliaputti (private kitchen), Parlákimedi (kitchen), Tekkali (kitchen), Kotabommali (kitchen) and Narasannapeta.

General Remarks.

The distress, especially in the northern part of the district (Kallikota and Atadaga zamindari) and in the neighbourhood of Sómpéta, has deepened into famine with alarming rapidity. Additional Circle Inspectors are being entertained as available, and gratuitous relief by grain doles is being given on a considerable scale, which will inevitably be still further enhanced in the immediate future. Sometime back I reported that signs of deterioration had been noticed amongst the lower classes; but now it seems that the ryots also have exhausted their supplies of grain and are in considerable distress.

The suddenness with which this change has taken place is not due to any want of watchfulness on the part of the district officers. Test-works have been opened time after time, without attracting labourers, and offers of kitchens have been rejected with scorn even by those who cannot strictly claim to have any caste prejudices.

To this difficulty is added the fact that the affected areas are almost entirely zemindari, and zemindari officials are useless. Owing to the absence of minor irrigation works, relief works have perforce to be restricted to the lines of roads. The Oriyas are fatalists, and take no steps whatever to help themselves, even when help is thrown within their reach. In some cases the men will work, but only when they have waited too long, and, even then, they will not allow their women, who are ordinarily employed in agricultural operations, to come to Government relief-works. Hence the necessity for gratuitous relief on a large scale; but before the gratuitous relief can be accorded, it is necessary that persons able to work, and who will not work, should first become hungry. The repeated failure of test-works is again a source of difficulty, for those who are in receipt of grain doles or of cooked food at kitchens, and who have revived sufficiently to perform light work, have no work ready to hand to which they can be sent, and hence have to be kept on in the receipt of relief. I have tried hard to break their prejudices, and in some few cases it may be possible that I have waited a little too long with the object of overcoming these foolish infatuations; but had I at once acknowledged the principle that Government is bound, at great expense and inconvenience to itself, to support able-bodied men able to work, but who, due to foolish prejudices, refused to work, we should have found ourselves in the difficult position of having to feed a large proportion of the population of nearly two taluks.

I have endeavoured to combat the prejudices in regard to kitchens in every possible way. I have proposed separate kitchens for each caste presided over by cooks of their own caste selected by themselves from their fellow-villagers. I have offered the distribution of food at the village temple where cooked food is customarily bought and sold, but, except in the case of the Bavuri kitchen at Sorosingi, without success. I believe that many of the people are really not directly opposed to eating at a kitchen to which their own caste alone are admitted, but they are under the powers of the heads of their castes who threaten to excommunicate them. Even some of the Brahmin cooks have left their posts, under threat of excommunication if they continued to serve in a Government kitchen, and they require extra rate of pay as a solace to their injured feelings. My difficulties do not end here. Even when grain doles are sanctioned, the zamindari village officials refuse assistance. No panchayatdars

come forward to show an interest in their fellow-men and see that they get the doles prescribed; the village shopkeeper, indifferent to gain, declines to weigh out the doles because of the extra trouble involved in weighing instead of measuring the same. The village heads decline to purchase grain with Government advance and store it for the distribution of doles. There are then but two alternatives, when conditions such as these exist: (1) To establish Government depôts for the storage and distribution of these doles, and (2) the grant of money doles. The former involves extra expense in the matter of establishment besides opening a door for fraud, while the grant of money doles is objectionable. It will, however, I fear, be absolutely necessary, if life is to be saved, that money doles should be granted in the remoter villages: though personally opposed to the system, the conviction is being forced upon me as to the necessity for its adoption. An instance in point is the case of the Savarahs in the Tumba Mutah, Sómpéta taluk. We cannot start a depôt in the hills without great expense. No merchant will do so, nor can the supplies be locally obtained. In fact I have, subject to the sanction of Government, authorized Mr. Willimott, who is proceeding to that part on tour, to grant money doles in emergent cases, if the difficulty of distributing grain doles proves insuperable. But at other places, too, the village shopkeeper who now conducts the supply may strike at any moment. I have dealt with the position at the length, so that the Board and Government may be in full possession of the difficulties with which I have to contend and that they may be in a position promptly to dispose of such references as I may, in the future, find it necessary to make on the various points raised.

Resolution—dated 21st May 1897, No. 387.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. There was no improvement in the fortnight under report, and in the Ganjám, Purushottapur and Sómpéta taluks there was a rapid change for the worse. The tract round Ichchhápur has since become affected. The supply of drinking-water is running short, but steps were being taken to improve the supply as far as possible. Agricultural operations were not brisk, except in Goomsur, which is outside the affected area. Harvests and the prospects of the standing crops were poor.

3. Fodder was generally available, but pasture, which had improved with the previous rains, began to fail again. Cattle, however, did not exhibit any signs of deterioration, though in many places it was difficult to find water for them.

4. Prices were generally fairly stationary, though the price of ragi tended to rise somewhat in the south. Their position is shown in the accompanying statement:—

	Number of measures per rupee.	
	Rice.	Ragi.
Standard rate	17·0	30·0
Warning „	13·6	22·5
Scarcity „	10·2	15·0
Current „	10·4	15·1
April 1889	11·4	18·8
April 1878	8·7	13·0

Trade within the district was not active, and it is curious to note that the reported exports considerably exceeded imports.

5. The condition of people on works was generally good, but in villages, especially in some of the zamindari villages, very bad. The main cause of this deterioration is the persistent obstinacy of the people who prefer to starve to accepting Government relief otherwise than in the form of doles. This obstinacy, however, began to give way during the fortnight under the pinch of distress. Since the close of the month the numbers on relief works have swollen rapidly, and are likely to rise still more. The latest forecast from the Collector is 15,000 on works. The scale on which

gratuitous relief is being given is, as usual in Ganjám, far larger than elsewhere, and will, the Collector reports, be inevitably still further enhanced in the near future. The numbers on gratuitous relief at the end of the fortnight were 5,701, while only 1,728 persons attended relief works. The Board has, before now, alluded to the exceptional difficulties with which the administration of relief is beset in Ganjám, and is confident that Mr. Taylor, well backed by his officers, is doing all that can be done. Under the peculiar circumstances of the district, the Collector's action in sanctioning the grant of money-doles is approved, but he must remember that the concession is to be used with a sparing hand, and only in places where other forms of relief are found impracticable. The general restriction imposed by section 84 of the Famine Code, which was insisted on in G.O., No. 67, Revenue, dated 3rd February 1897, has been modified by paragraph 6 of G.O., No. 216, Revenue, dated 30th March 1897. The case of the weavers is not considered critical, though they are ready enough to accept the relief offered them. The Collector should see that such delays as are reported at Sómpéta do not recur; if the officers of the depôt are incompetent, they should be replaced by others who can do the work required of them; but if it is found that the work they have to do is clearly beyond their powers, the establishment should be increased without hesitation in anticipation of sanction. All these delays tell seriously against the workers.

6. Applications for loans are but slowly disposed of, only Rs. 2,745 having been disbursed, while applications involving over 2½ lakhs are pending. It is hoped that, with the extra staff lately sanctioned for this work, better progress will be shown.

7. The Board has little to add to the "general remarks" of the Collector, for which Government was already prepared. The Commissioner can testify, from general inspection, to the reality of the difficulties which the Collector has to face. The total on relief of all kinds according to the latest return is 27,709. Of these only 6,228 were on relief and test works. This will shortly swell to 15,000. The number of weavers relieved was 1,872, and the rest were on gratuitous relief of one kind or another. The tracts chiefly affected were the tracts in the Uriya country comprised in the Atagada and Kallikota zamindaris, and a tract sporadically affected reaching southwards from the Rushikulya line along the coast as far down as Narasannapeta with more seriously affected centres at Sómpéta and Tekkali. These, with the Uriya tract first mentioned, which is the worst of all, and whose inhabitants are most difficult to deal with, are the chief points calling for attention. The Collector has not exaggerated the physical condition of the Uriya resident of the northern tract, where cases recalling the earlier months of 1877 can be seen, and his difficulties are complicated by the presence of cholera and small-pox. The former was ripe at Tekkali, where 200 fatal cases occurred; but the Collector took the disease by the throat wherever it showed itself, and stamped it out by draining off suspected water sources. It has recently broken out in the Collector's own camp—four of his servants and personal establishment having been attacked, and one having died. Small-pox continues to rage, the apathy of the people to this disease facilitating its spread. During the Commissioner's tour loathsome cases had to be removed both from works and kitchens. The Collector himself has been attacked with chicken-pox, but continues indefatigable, though physically very much under par. He is ably seconded by all his Civilian officers and by two Deputy Collectors. He is asking for extra establishment. Another difficulty with which the Collector has to grapple is the supply of Relief Circle Inspectors, who cannot be recruited in sufficient numbers amongst educated Uriyas, and without a knowledge of Uriya, efficient administration is impossible. Of ten pensioners selected by the Collector, most refuse, and the others threw up the appointments when they saw the nature of the work and the surroundings in which they had to do it. It is a matter which Government might consider whether enough has been done to stimulate the study of Uriya. It is very desirable that there should always be a reserve of officers who know Uriya on which Government could draw. These officers might be of the Police, and Salt and Abkári Departments, and Deputy Collector's grade, as well as Indian Civilians. At present, and for some time to come the Uriya country will be an administrative crux in famine times; but the opening of the railway and

the spread of education are wedges which will in time effect much in dissipating prejudices and in inculcating common sense.

As shown above, the prices of both the staple grains are much higher than in 1889, and, though the numbers on relief may appear large, they are nothing to the 90,000 on gratuitous relief in 1889. In that year relief was too long deferred, and had to be largely granted in a demoralizing form. Government may rely on the present Collector to see that the granting of relief shall be as little demoralizing as is possible, in a tract whose inhabitants are backward, superstitious and prejudiced to a degree not dreamt of further truth.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 459, Revenue, dated 14th June 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The extra establishment referred to in paragraph 7 of the Board's Proceedings has already been sanctioned. The remarks in this paragraph regarding the necessity for having a reserve of officers with a knowledge of Uriya and for stimulating the study of this language will be considered in the Public and Educational Departments.

(True Extract.)

for Ag. Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. Md. Pahilvan.

80 Copies.

Public Works Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. Enclosures
Regd. } Spare copies

G.O., No. 459, 14th June 1897.

No 1848 & 1297

Communicated to the Supt. Engr. I Circle.

fdg D. dtd

JUNE.

To the S.E. I circle.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording, with remarks, Board's Proceedings submitting to Government — of the Ganjám 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 21st May 1897, No. 387 :—

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

State of the country.

Rainfall and water-supply—

	District rainfall.	
	Actual rainfall.	Expected rainfall.
	INCHES.	INCHES.
In the fortnight	·05	·42
Up to the fortnight from April	1·16	·85

There has been no rainfall during the fortnight except a slight shower of 11 cents in Parlákimedi, 5 cents in Russellkonda and 3 cents in Berhampur. Water-supply is insufficient for irrigation purposes. Water-supply for drinking purposes is generally sufficient, except in a few villages, in the Goomsur division ; it is moderate in Chicacole division and insufficient elsewhere. Steps are being taken to sink pits or wells where water is most urgently required.

The amount spent on the improvement of water-supply during the fortnight is about Rs. 700.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—Ploughing operations are briskly carried on in the Goomsur division and moderately elsewhere. Early ragi is being sown in places in the Goomsur division and is in moderate condition. Late ragi is being harvested at places in the Head-quarters Deputy Collector's division ; but the outturn is poor.

The standing crops are early ragi, chillies, sugarcane and gingelly and they are reported to be in poor condition.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Fodder is sufficient and available throughout the district, except in a few places in the Chicacole division where it is generally scarce. Pasture is insufficient, except in the sub-division and parts of Goomsur, and it has dried up again in the places where it revived by the recent rains. The condition of cattle is generally good, except in Suradá and Tekkali taluks where cattle diseases exist.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—No improvement has taken place in the fortnight under report. In the Ganjám, Purushottapur and Sómpéta taluks there has been a rapid change for the worse. Scarcity of drinking-water is a matter of anxiety in many places, especially so far as cattle are concerned.

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 24th April 1897.

Stations.	Rice.				Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last period.		End of current period.		End of last period.	End of current period.	
	Raw.	Boiled.	Raw.	Boiled.			
Russellkonda	10·50	12·50	10·50	12·50	16·87	16·87	* The Deputy Tahsildar, Surada, reports that 16·42 was wrongly quoted for 14·62. The Tekkali Deputy Tahsildar states that the fall in prices is due to supplies from other places and the Parlákimedi Deputy Tahsildar attributes the rise in ragi to be due to demand from other places. As regards the variations in prices at Chicacole the Tahsildar says "this morning the Magistrate and I went to the market to watch the sales and note down the prices. The prices thus ascertained are entered here." The reason for the marked fall in the price of rice and rise in that of ragi is not stated. The variations in prices at Suradá, Sompéta and Narasannapéta appear to be due to the quantities of supplies available in the market.
Suradá	10·10	12·25	10·17	11·37	* 16·42	14·62	
Aska	11·12	12·56	11·12	12·56	14·25	14·25	
Purushottapur	10·50	12·50	10·50	12·50	14·50	14·50	
Chatrapur	9·50	11·00	9·50	11·00	12·50	12·50	
Berhampur	10·50	12·00	10·50	12·00	15·19	15·19	
Ichchhápuram	9·50	10·00	9·50	10·00	14·40	14·40	
Sómpéta	10·72	11·81	10·72	11·81	15·52	14·51	
Parlákimedi	10·50	..	10·50	..	16·90	15·60	
Tekkali	10·10	11·68	10·25	12·00	16·00	16·27	
Narasannapét	10·87	..	10 50	..	16·90	16·90	
Chicacole	9·73	..	11·52	..	16·41	15·52	
Total ..	124·64	106·30	125·28	105·74	185·86	181·13	
Average ..	10·39	11·81	10·44	11·75	15·49	15·09	

Activity of trade.—Supplies are available at the rates quoted in the various marts ; but it is reported that the trade within the district is not active. The Goomsur Deputy Collector reports that 400 cartloads of paddy have been imported into his division from Nyaghar and the Head-quarters Deputy Collector reports that paddy is freely imported from Banpur and Puri. Exports and imports of food-grains by rail and sea are as follow :—

	Exports.	Imports.
	MDS.	MDS.
By rail	10,075	2,048
By sea	7,561	447

Condition of the People.

On works.—The condition of the people on ordinary works and on test work at Chatrapur is generally good. There are a considerable number of weak persons at the Dayigam relief work.

In villages.—The condition of the people, particularly in the zemindari villages, except in Parlákimedi, is very bad. Relief is being given. The lower classes especially are showing signs of losing strength and becoming emaciated, though they decline to attend test works even on the more liberal terms now offered.

The following remittances have been received from emigrants to Burma through the Post offices noted :—

	Rs.
Naupada	3,000
Tekkali	332
Kotabommali	1,281
Jalmore	253
Total ...	4,866

I am informed that many of the Burma emigrants are about to return as the supply of labour is now in excess of the demand and wages have fallen considerably in Rangoon.

Sickness and mortality.—No deaths from want of food have been reported. Fevers and small-pox are prevalent. Cholera was severe in Tekkali, but has now subsided, after draining the infected tanks.

Cholera deaths—

Goomsur Deputy Collector's Division	
Berhampur Division	5
Head-quarters Deputy Collector's Division	33
Chicacole Division	153
Total ...	191

Remarks.—The prevailing high prices tell heavily on the poor who have already disposed of all the reserves at their command. It is only in emaciated cases that grain doles are given and the people who raise no objection are fed at the kitchens. As people are gradually stinting themselves in their meals some more test works will be opened in the course of the next fortnight. Test works opened at Digupudi and Jinkibhadra attracted no labourers even on the liberal terms now offered. The coolies previously employed on test work at Jinkibhadra (near Sómpéta) refused to continue work under test conditions.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
1. Purushottapur	211	302	The figure represents the number employed on 23rd instant at Dayijgam relief work.
2. Do.	..	383	The figure represents the number employed at the test work at Atagada on 24th instant.
3. Ganjám	562	883	The figure represents the number employed at the hill quarry near Chatrapur on 24th instant.
4. Do.	..	160	The figure represents the number employed at the test work at Jomi near Rambha on the 24th instant.
			Test works at Atagada and Jomi have been opened during the fortnight.
			Test work at Digupudi and Jinkibhadra failed.
			The Atagada work will be converted into a relief work at once.
			The Raja of Parlákimedi is giving employment to 8,200 persons daily on fixed wages without task at 1½ anna per man, 1 anna per woman and 6 pies per child.
Toal ..	773	1,728	

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.
1. Bodogodo	..	..	20	27	..	..	7	26
2. Peddakimedi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	233
3. Berhampur	..	..	34	81	..	..	..	..
4. Sómpéta	..	..	76	128	..	..	304	1,503
5. Ichchhápuram	..	..	12	16	..	..	11	23
6. Ganjám	..	..	7	16	..	..	..	2,207
7. Purushottapur	..	..	47	110	..	..	35	495
8. Tekkali	..	..	448	561	..	..	35	84
9. Narasannapeta	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	39
10. Parlákimedi	..	..	92	102	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	736	1,041	..	..	410	4,610

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.
1. Bodogodo	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. Peddakimedi	..	51	..	..	..	..
3. Berhampur	..	..	..	..	..	..
4. Sómpéta	..	..	216	389	600	600
5. Ichchhápuram	3	..	..	..	..	..
6. Ganjám	..	75	..	..	..	..
7. Purushottapur	..	45	..	..	..	..
8. Tekkali	36	* 70	..	..	..	..
9. Narasannapeta	6	7	..	..	..	..
10. Parlákimedi	..	1	..	..	..	..
11. Aska	..	..	..	19	..	..

* Include 58 villages to which kitchen inmates belong.

Private charity.—There is no organized private charity at work ; but the zemindar of Kallikotta and Atagada estates continues to maintain a kitchen at Haradamali near Kallikotta and the total number fed thereat on the 24th instant is reported to be 89. The Goomsur Deputy Collector reports that some gentlemen at Aska and Russellkonda are giving a single meal to 50 and 20 beggars, respectively, in a day on the average, and the zemindar of Chinnakimedi feeds at his temples and mutts 25 persons on the average, having regard to caste prejudices. A private kitchen at Meliaputti does more harm than good. Out of some 70 persons only some three were fit recipients for relief. The rest were strong, lusty persons in good condition and well able to work.

General remarks.—Only one kitchen has been opened during the fortnight under report at Sorosingi in Purushottapur taluk. The Goomsur Deputy Collector reports that a kitchen will be opened at Suradá on the 1st proximo and that no necessity has as yet arisen to open kitchens at other places in his division.

Relief was given at Sómpéta to 389 weavers and at Aska to 19 of the same class.

The staff at Sómpéta requires strengthening by the addition of an assistant appraiser, and an enquiry shows that the weavers are kept waiting three days for test of their cloths, payment and receipt of thread. Results show that according to the experimental task table a family of two men and one woman earn slightly over 3 annas per diem. Inquiries are being made regarding their dependants. The majority of the weavers do not appear to be in uneasy circumstances, but prefer Government work at a low rate to nothing at all. The children seem for the most part in good condition and most of the men evidently have reserves. I anticipate a rush of weavers in the next fortnight.

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

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.								Purchase of fodder.								Other purposes.								Total.							
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Number of wells.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Berhampur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	300	..	..	..	..	6	570	3	600	1,183	1,16,085	6	570	3	600	1,183	1,16,085	..	..
Goomsur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicacole	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	..	..	2	300	..	..	..	..	2	300	..	..	..	..	6	570	3	600	1,183	1,16,085	6	570	3	600	1,183	1,16,085	..	..

Taluks.	Cattle and seed grain.								Total.							
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
1	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39					
Berhampur	11	Rs. 533	5	Rs. 360	1,768	Rs. 1,16,543	11	Rs. 533	5	Rs. 360	1,768	Rs. 1,16,543						
Goomsur	57	2,605	31	1,785	872	47,105	57	2,605	31	1,785	872	47,105						
Chicacole	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Total ..	68	3,138	36	2,145	2,640	1,63,648	68	3,138	36	2,145	2,640	1,63,648						

Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and places visited.—The General Deputy Collector, Goomsur visited 21 villages, the Senior Assistant Collector 7 villages, the Head-quarters Deputy Collector 16 villages, and the Principal Assistant Collector 13 villages in their divisions. The Assistant Collector Mr. Ashe visited 26 villages in the Peddakimedi estate.

The Collector has visited the following places during the fortnight under report in company with the Famine Commissioner :—

Chatrapur (test work), Batrigummarada (ordinary work), Purushottapur (kitchen), Sorosingi, Kahuripalli, Bodo Mohiri, Daigam (relief work), Sómpéta (kitchen), Baruva (kitchen), Jhinkibhadra (quarry—ordinary work), Haripur, Kasebugga (kitchen), Podur, Chapra, Meliaputti (private kitchen), Parlákimedi (kitchen), Tekkali (kitchen), Kotabommali (kitchen) and Narasannapeta.

General Remarks.

The distress, especially in the northern part of the district (Kallikota and Atadaga zamindari) and in the neighbourhood of Sómpéta, has deepened into famine with alarming rapidity. Additional Circle Inspectors are being entertained as available, and gratuitous relief by grain doles is being given on a considerable scale, which will inevitably be still further enhanced in the immediate future. Sometime back I reported that signs of deterioration had been noticed amongst the lower classes; but now it seems that the ryots also have exhausted their supplies of grain and are in considerable distress.

The suddenness with which this change has taken place is not due to any want of watchfulness on the part of the district officers. Test-works have been opened time after time, without attracting labourers, and offers of kitchens have been rejected with scorn even by those who cannot strictly claim to have any caste prejudices.

To this difficulty is added the fact that the affected areas are almost entirely zemindari, and zemindari officials are useless. Owing to the absence of minor irrigation works, relief works have perforce to be restricted to the lines of roads. The Oriyas are fatalists, and take no steps whatever to help themselves, even when help is thrown within their reach. In some cases the men will work, but only when they have waited too long, and, even then, they will not allow their women, who are ordinarily employed in agricultural operations, to come to Government relief-works. Hence the necessity for gratuitous relief on a large scale; but before the gratuitous relief can be accorded, it is necessary that persons able to work, and who will not work, should first become hungry. The repeated failure of test-works is again a source of difficulty, for those who are in receipt of grain doles or of cooked food at kitchens, and who have revived sufficiently to perform light work, have no work ready to hand to which they can be sent, and hence have to be kept on in the receipt of relief. I have tried hard to break their prejudices, and in some few cases it may be possible that I have waited a little too long with the object of overcoming these foolish infatuations; but had I at once acknowledged the principle that Government is bound, at great expense and inconvenience to itself, to support able-bodied men able to work, but who, due to foolish prejudices, refused to work, we should have found ourselves in the difficult position of having to feed a large proportion of the population of nearly two taluks.

I have endeavoured to combat the prejudices in regard to kitchens in every possible way. I have proposed separate kitchens for each caste presided over by cooks of their own caste selected by themselves from their fellow-villagers. I have offered the distribution of food at the village temple where cooked food is customarily bought and sold, but, except in the case of the Bavuri kitchen at Sorosingi, without success. I believe that many of the people are really not directly opposed to eating at a kitchen to which their own caste alone are admitted, but they are under the powers of the heads of their castes who threaten to excommunicate them. Even some of the Brahmin cooks have left their posts, under threat of excommunication if they continued to serve in a Government kitchen, and they require extra rate of pay as a solace to their injured feelings. My difficulties do not end here. Even when grain doles are sanctioned, the zamindari village officials refuse assistance. No panchayatdars

come forward to show an interest in their fellow-men and see that they get the doles prescribed; the village shopkeeper, indifferent to gain, declines to weigh out the doles because of the extra trouble involved in weighing instead of measuring the same. The village heads decline to purchase grain with Government advance and store it for the distribution of doles. There are then but two alternatives, when conditions such as these exist: (1) To establish Government depôts for the storage and distribution of these doles, and (2) the grant of money doles. The former involves extra expense in the matter of establishment besides opening a door for fraud, while the grant of money doles is objectionable. It will, however, I fear, be absolutely necessary, if life is to be saved, that money doles should be granted in the remoter villages: though personally opposed to the system, the conviction is being forced upon me as to the necessity for its adoption. An instance in point is the case of the Savarahs in the Tumba Mutah, Sómpéta taluk. We cannot start a depôt in the hills without great expense. No merchant will do so, nor can the supplies be locally obtained. In fact I have, subject to the sanction of Government, authorized Mr. Willimott, who is proceeding to that part on tour, to grant money doles in emergent cases, if the difficulty of distributing grain doles proves insuperable. But at other places, too, the village shopkeeper who now conducts the supply may strike at any moment. I have dealt with the position at the length, so that the Board and Government may be in full possession of the difficulties with which I have to contend and that they may be in a position promptly to dispose of such references as I may, in the future, find it necessary to make on the various points raised.

Resolution—dated 21st May 1897, No. 387.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. There was no improvement in the fortnight under report, and in the Ganjám, Purushottapur and Sómpéta taluks there was a rapid change for the worse. The tract round Ichchhápur has since become affected. The supply of drinking-water is running short, but steps were being taken to improve the supply as far as possible. Agricultural operations were not brisk, except in Goomsur, which is outside the affected area. Harvests and the prospects of the standing crops were poor.

3. Fodder was generally available, but pasture, which had improved with the previous rains, began to fail again. Cattle, however, did not exhibit any signs of deterioration, though in many places it was difficult to find water for them.

4. Prices were generally fairly stationary, though the price of ragi tended to rise somewhat in the south. Their position is shown in the accompanying statement :—

	Number of measures per rupee.	
	Rice.	Ragi.
Standard rate	17·0	30·0
Warning „	13·6	22·5
Scarcity „	10·2	15·0
Current „	10·4	15·1
April 1889	11·4	18·8
April 1878	8·7	13·0

Trade within the district was not active, and it is curious to note that the reported exports considerably exceeded imports.

5. The condition of people on works was generally good, but in villages, especially in some of the zamindari villages, very bad. The main cause of this deterioration is the persistent obstinacy of the people who prefer to starve to accepting Government relief otherwise than in the form of doles. This obstinacy, however, began to give way during the fortnight under the pinch of distress. Since the close of the month the numbers on relief works have swollen rapidly, and are likely to rise still more. The latest forecast from the Collector is 15,000 on works. The scale on which

gratuitous relief is being given is, as usual in Ganjám, far larger than elsewhere, and will, the Collector reports, be inevitably still further enhanced in the near future. The numbers on gratuitous relief at the end of the fortnight were 5,701, while only 1,728 persons attended relief works. The Board has, before now, alluded to the exceptional difficulties with which the administration of relief is beset in Ganjám, and is confident that Mr. Taylor, well backed by his officers, is doing all that can be done. Under the peculiar circumstances of the district, the Collector's action in sanctioning the grant of money-doles is approved, but he must remember that the concession is to be used with a sparing hand, and only in places where other forms of relief are found impracticable. The general restriction imposed by section 84 of the Famine Code, which was insisted on in G.O., No. 67, Revenue, dated 3rd February 1897, has been modified by paragraph 6 of G.O., No. 216, Revenue, dated 30th March 1897. The case of the weavers is not considered critical, though they are ready enough to accept the relief offered them. The Collector should see that such delays as are reported at Sómpéta do not recur; if the officers of the depôt are incompetent, they should be replaced by others who can do the work required of them; but if it is found that the work they have to do is clearly beyond their powers, the establishment should be increased without hesitation in anticipation of sanction. All these delays tell seriously against the workers.

6. Applications for loans are but slowly disposed of, only Rs. 2,745 having been disbursed, while applications involving over 2½ lakhs are pending. It is hoped that, with the extra staff lately sanctioned for this work, better progress will be shown.

7. The Board has little to add to the "general remarks" of the Collector, for which Government was already prepared. The Commissioner can testify, from general inspection, to the reality of the difficulties which the Collector has to face. The total on relief of all kinds according to the latest return is 27,709. Of these only 6,228 were on relief and test works. This will shortly swell to 15,000. The number of weavers relieved was 1,872, and the rest were on gratuitous relief of one kind or another. The tracts chiefly affected were the tracts in the Uriya country comprised in the Atagada and Kallikota zamindaris, and a tract sporadically affected reaching southwards from the Rushikulya line along the coast as far down as Narasannapeta with more seriously affected centres at Sómpéta and Tekkali. These, with the Uriya tract first mentioned, which is the worst of all, and whose inhabitants are most difficult to deal with, are the chief points calling for attention. The Collector has not exaggerated the physical condition of the Uriya resident of the northern tract, where cases recalling the earlier months of 1877 can be seen, and his difficulties are complicated by the presence of cholera and small-pox. The former was ripe at Tekkali, where 200 fatal cases occurred; but the Collector took the disease by the throat wherever it showed itself, and stamped it out by draining off suspected water sources. It has recently broken out in the Collector's own camp—four of his servants and personal establishment having been attacked, and one having died. Small-pox continues to rage, the apathy of the people to this disease facilitating its spread. During the Commissioner's tour loathsome cases had to be removed both from works and kitchens. The Collector himself has been attacked with chicken-pox, but continues indefatigable, though physically very much under par. He is ably seconded by all his Civilian officers and by two Deputy Collectors. He is asking for extra establishment. Another difficulty with which the Collector has to grapple is the supply of Relief Circle Inspectors, who cannot be recruited in sufficient numbers amongst educated Uriyas, and without a knowledge of Uriya, efficient administration is impossible. Of ten pensioners selected by the Collector, most refuse, and the others threw up the appointments when they saw the nature of the work and the surroundings in which they had to do it. It is a matter which Government might consider whether enough has been done to stimulate the study of Uriya. It is very desirable that there should always be a reserve of officers who know Uriya on which Government could draw. These officers might be of the Police, and Salt and Abkári Departments, and Deputy Collector's grade, as well as Indian Civilians. At present, and for some time to come the Uriya country will be an administrative crux in famine times; but the opening of the railway and

the spread of education are wedges which will in time effect much in dissipating prejudices and in inculcating common sense.

As shown above, the prices of both the staple grains are much higher than in 1889, and, though the numbers on relief may appear large, they are nothing to the 90,000 on gratuitous relief in 1889. In that year relief was too long deferred, and had to be largely granted in a demoralizing form. Government may rely on the present Collector to see that the granting of relief shall be as little demoralizing as is possible, in a tract whose inhabitants are backward, superstitious and prejudiced to a degree not dreamt of further truth.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 459, Revenue, dated 14th June 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The extra establishment referred to in paragraph 7 of the Board's Proceedings has already been sanctioned. The remarks in this paragraph regarding the necessity for having a reserve of officers with a knowledge of Uriya and for stimulating the study of this language will be considered in the Public and Educational Departments.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. Md. Pahilvan.

80 Copies.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. } *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 459, 14th June 1897.

JUNE.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording, with remarks, Board's Proceedings submitting to Government — of the Ganjám 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 21st May 1897, No. 387 :—

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

State of the country.

Rainfall and water-supply—

	District rainfall.	
	Actual rainfall.	Expected rainfall.
	INCHES.	INCHES.
In the fortnight	·05	·42
Up to the fortnight from April	1·16	·85

There has been no rainfall during the fortnight except a slight shower of 11 cents in Parlákimedi, 5 cents in Russellkonda and 3 cents in Berhampur. Water-supply is insufficient for irrigation purposes. Water-supply for drinking purposes is generally sufficient, except in a few villages, in the Goomsur division; it is moderate in Chicacole division and insufficient elsewhere. Steps are being taken to sink pits or wells where water is most urgently required.

The amount spent on the improvement of water-supply during the fortnight is about Rs. 700.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—Ploughing operations are briskly carried on in the Goomsur division and moderately elsewhere. Early ragi is being sown in places in the Goomsur division and is in moderate condition. Late ragi is being harvested at places in the Head-quarters Deputy Collector's division; but the outturn is poor.

The standing crops are early ragi, chillies, sugarcane and gingelly and they are reported to be in poor condition.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Fodder is sufficient and available throughout the district, except in a few places in the Chicacole division where it is generally scarce. Pasture is insufficient, except in the sub-division and parts of Goomsur, and it has dried up again in the places where it revived by the recent rains. The condition of cattle is generally good, except in Suradá and Tekkali taluks where cattle diseases exist.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—No improvement has taken place in the fortnight under report. In the Ganjám, Purushottapur and Sómpéta taluks there has been a rapid change for the worse. Scarcity of drinking-water is a matter of anxiety in many places, especially so far as cattle are concerned.

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 24th April 1897.

Stations.	Rice.				Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last period.		End of current period.		End of last period.	End of current period.	
	Raw.	Boiled.	Raw.	Boiled.			
Russellkonda	10·50	12·50	10·50	12·50	16·87	16·87	* The Deputy Tahsildar, Surada, reports that 16·42 was wrongly quoted for 14·62. The Tekkali Deputy Tahsildar states that the fall in prices is due to supplies from other places and the Parlákimedi Deputy Tahsildar attributes the rise in ragi to be due to demand from other places. As regards the variations in prices at Chicacole the Tahsildar says "this morning the Magistrate and I went to the market to watch the sales and note down the prices. The prices thus ascertained are entered here." The reason for the marked fall in the price of rice and rise in that of ragi is not stated. The variations in prices at Suradá, Sompéta and Narasannapéta appear to be due to the quantities of supplies available in the market.
Suradá	10·10	12·25	10·17	11·37	* 16·42	14·62	
Aska	11·12	12·56	11·12	12·56	14·25	14·25	
Purushottapur	10·50	12·50	10·50	12·50	14·50	14·50	
Chatrapur	9·50	11·00	9·50	11·00	12·50	12·50	
Berhampur	10·50	12·00	10·50	12·00	15·19	15·19	
Ichchhápuram	9·50	10·00	9·50	10·00	14·40	14·40	
Sómpéta	10·72	11·81	10·72	11·81	15·52	14·51	
Parlákimedi	10·50	..	10·50	..	16·90	15·60	
Tekkali	10·10	11·68	10·25	12·00	16·00	16·27	
Narasannapét	10·87	..	10 50	..	16·90	16·90	
Chicacole	9·73	..	11·52	..	16·41	15·52	
Total ..	124·64	106·30	125·28	105·74	185·86	181·13	
Average ..	10·39	11·81	10·44	11·75	15·49	15·09	

Activity of trade.—Supplies are available at the rates quoted in the various marts; but it is reported that the trade within the district is not active. The Goomsur Deputy Collector reports that 400 cartloads of paddy have been imported into his division from Nyaghar and the Head-quarters Deputy Collector reports that paddy is freely imported from Banpur and Puri. Exports and imports of food-grains by rail and sea are as follow :—

	Exports. MDS.	Imports. MDS.
By rail	10,075	2,048
By sea	7,561	447

Condition of the People.

On works.—The condition of the people on ordinary works and on test work at Chatrapur is generally good. There are a considerable number of weak persons at the Dayigam relief work.

In villages.—The condition of the people, particularly in the zemindari villages, except in Parlákimedi, is very bad. Relief is being given. The lower classes especially are showing signs of losing strength and becoming emaciated, though they decline to attend test works even on the more liberal terms now offered.

The following remittances have been received from emigrants to Burma through the Post offices noted :—

	Rs.
Naupada	3,000
Tekkali	332
Kotabommali	1,281
Jalmore	253
Total ...	4,866

I am informed that many of the Burma emigrants are about to return as the supply of labour is now in excess of the demand and wages have fallen considerably in Rangoon.

Sickness and mortality.—No deaths from want of food have been reported. Fevers and small-pox are prevalent. Cholera was severe in Tekkali, but has now subsided, after draining the infected tanks.

Cholera deaths—

Goomsur Deputy Collector's Division	
Berhampur Division	5
Head-quarters Deputy Collector's Division	33
Chicacole Division	153
Total ...	191

Remarks.—The prevailing high prices tell heavily on the poor who have already disposed of all the reserves at their command. It is only in emaciated cases that grain doles are given and the people who raise no objection are fed at the kitchens. As people are gradually stinting themselves in their meals some more test works will be opened in the course of the next fortnight. Test works opened at Digupudi and Jinkibhadra attracted no labourers even on the liberal terms now offered. The coolies previously employed on test work at Jinkibhadra (near Sómpéta) refused to continue work under test conditions.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
1. Purushottapur	211	302	The figure represents the number employed on 23rd instant at Dayijgam relief work.
2. Do.	..	383	The figure represents the number employed at the test work at Atagada on 24th instant.
3. Ganjám	562	883	The figure represents the number employed at the hill quarry near Chatrapur on 24th instant.
4. Do.	..	160	The figure represents the number employed at the test work at Jomi near Rambha on the 24th instant.
			Test works at Atagada and Jomi have been opened during the fortnight.
			Test work at Digupudi and Jinkibhadra failed.
			The Atagada work will be converted into a relief work at once.
			The Raja of Parlákimedi is giving employment to 8,200 persons daily on fixed wages without task at 1½ anna per man, 1 anna per woman and 6 pies per child.
Toal ..	773	1,728	

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.
1. Bodogodo	..	..	20	27	..	..	7	26
2. Peddakimedi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	233
3. Berhampur	..	..	34	81	..	..	..	..
4. Sómpéta	..	..	76	128	..	..	304	1,503
5. Ichchhápuram	..	..	12	16	..	..	11	23
6. Ganjám	..	..	7	16	..	..	..	2,207
7. Purushottapur	..	..	47	110	..	..	35	495
8. Tekkali	..	..	448	561	..	..	35	84
9. Narasannapeta	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	39
10. Parlákimedi	..	..	92	102	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	736	1,041	..	..	410	4,610

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.
1. Bodogodo	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. Peddakimedi	..	51	..	..	..	..
3. Berhampur	..	..	..	..	..	..
4. Sómpéta	..	..	216	389	600	600
5. Ichchhápuram	3	..	..	..	..	..
6. Ganjám	..	75	..	..	..	..
7. Purushottapur	..	45	..	..	..	..
8. Tekkali	36	* 70	..	..	..	..
9. Narasannapeta	6	7	..	..	..	..
10. Parlákimedi	..	1	..	..	..	..
11. Aska	..	..	..	19	..	..

* Include 58 villages to which kitchen inmates belong.

Private charity.—There is no organized private charity at work ; but the zemindar of Kallikotta and Atagada estates continues to maintain a kitchen at Haradamali near Kallikotta and the total number fed thereat on the 24th instant is reported to be 89. The Goomsur Deputy Collector reports that some gentlemen at Aska and Russellkonda are giving a single meal to 50 and 20 beggars, respectively, in a day on the average, and the zemindar of Chinnakimedi feeds at his temples and mutts 25 persons on the average, having regard to caste prejudices. A private kitchen at Meliaputti does more harm than good. Out of some 70 persons only some three were fit recipients for relief. The rest were strong, lusty persons in good condition and well able to work.

General remarks.—Only one kitchen has been opened during the fortnight under report at Sorosingi in Purushottapur taluk. The Goomsur Deputy Collector reports that a kitchen will be opened at Suradá on the 1st proximo and that no necessity has as yet arisen to open kitchens at other places in his division.

Relief was given at Sómpéta to 389 weavers and at Aska to 19 of the same class.

The staff at Sompéta requires strengthening by the addition of an assistant appraiser, and an enquiry shows that the weavers are kept waiting three days for test of their cloths, payment and receipt of thread. Results show that according to the experimental task table a family of two men and one woman earn slightly over 3 annas per diem. Inquiries are being made regarding their dependants. The majority of the weavers do not appear to be in uneasy circumstances, but prefer Government work at a low rate to nothing at all. The children seem for the most part in good condition and most of the men evidently have reserves. I anticipate a rush of weavers in the next fortnight.

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

Taluks.	Rapair and construction of wells.						Other purposes.						Total.					
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Berhampur	..	..	..	..	2	300	6	570	3	600	1,181	1,15,785	6	570	3	600	1,183	1,16,085
Goomsur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicacole	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	..	..	2	300	6	570	3	600	1,181	1,15,785	6	570	3	600	1,183	1,16,085

Taluks.	Number of wells.		Purchase of fodder.						Cattle and seed grain.						Total.					
	Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.	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.
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
										Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Berhampur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	533	5	360	1,768	1,16,543	11	533	5	360	1,768	1,16,543
Goomsur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	57	2,605	31	1,785	872	47,105	57	2,605	31	1,785	872	47,105
Chicacole	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	68	3,138	36	2,145	2,640	1,63,648	68	3,138	36	2,145	2,640	1,63,648

Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and places visited.—The General Deputy Collector, Goomsur visited 21 villages, the Senior Assistant Collector 7 villages, the Head-quarters Deputy Collector 16 villages, and the Principal Assistant Collector 13 villages in their divisions. The Assistant Collector Mr. Ashe visited 26 villages in the Peddakimedi estate.

The Collector has visited the following places during the fortnight under report in company with the Famine Commissioner :—

Chatrapur (test work), Batrigummarada (ordinary work), Purushottapur (kitchen), Sorosingi, Kahuripalli, Bodo Mohiri, Daigam (relief work), Sómpéta (kitchen), Baruva (kitchen), Jhinkibhadra (quarry—ordinary work), Haripur, Kasebugga (kitchen), Podur, Chapra, Meliaputti (private kitchen), Parlákimedi (kitchen), Tekkali (kitchen), Kotabommali (kitchen) and Narasannapeta.

General Remarks.

The distress, especially in the northern part of the district (Kallikota and Atadaga zamindari) and in the neighbourhood of Sómpéta, has deepened into famine with alarming rapidity. Additional Circle Inspectors are being entertained as available, and gratuitous relief by grain doles is being given on a considerable scale, which will inevitably be still further enhanced in the immediate future. Sometime back I reported that signs of deterioration had been noticed amongst the lower classes; but now it seems that the ryots also have exhausted their supplies of grain and are in considerable distress.

The suddenness with which this change has taken place is not due to any want of watchfulness on the part of the district officers. Test-works have been opened time after time, without attracting labourers, and offers of kitchens have been rejected with scorn even by those who cannot strictly claim to have any caste prejudices.

To this difficulty is added the fact that the affected areas are almost entirely zemindari, and zemindari officials are useless. Owing to the absence of minor irrigation works, relief works have perforce to be restricted to the lines of roads. The Oriyas are fatalists, and take no steps whatever to help themselves, even when help is thrown within their reach. In some cases the men will work, but only when they have waited too long, and, even then, they will not allow their women, who are ordinarily employed in agricultural operations, to come to Government relief-works. Hence the necessity for gratuitous relief on a large scale; but before the gratuitous relief can be accorded, it is necessary that persons able to work, and who will not work, should first become hungry. The repeated failure of test-works is again a source of difficulty, for those who are in receipt of grain doles or of cooked food at kitchens, and who have revived sufficiently to perform light work, have no work ready to hand to which they can be sent, and hence have to be kept on in the receipt of relief. I have tried hard to break their prejudices, and in some few cases it may be possible that I have waited a little too long with the object of overcoming these foolish infatuations; but had I at once acknowledged the principle that Government is bound, at great expense and inconvenience to itself, to support able-bodied men able to work, but who, due to foolish prejudices, refused to work, we should have found ourselves in the difficult position of having to feed a large proportion of the population of nearly two taluks.

I have endeavoured to combat the prejudices in regard to kitchens in every possible way. I have proposed separate kitchens for each caste presided over by cooks of their own caste selected by themselves from their fellow-villagers. I have offered the distribution of food at the village temple where cooked food is customarily bought and sold, but, except in the case of the Bavuri kitchen at Sorosingi, without success. I believe that many of the people are really not directly opposed to eating at a kitchen to which their own caste alone are admitted, but they are under the powers of the heads of their castes who threaten to excommunicate them. Even some of the Brahmin cooks have left their posts, under threat of excommunication if they continued to serve in a Government kitchen, and they require extra rate of pay as a solace to their injured feelings. My difficulties do not end here. Even when grain doles are sanctioned, the zamindari village officials refuse assistance. No panchayatdars come forward to show an interest in their fellow-men and see that they get the doles prescribed; the village shopkeeper, indifferent to gain, declines to weigh out the doles because of the extra trouble involved in weighing instead of measuring the same. The village heads decline to purchase grain with Government advance and store it for the distribution of doles. There are then but two alternatives, when conditions such as these exist: (1) To establish Government depôts for the storage and distribution of these doles, and (2) the grant of money doles. The former involves extra expense in the matter of establishment besides opening a door for fraud, while the grant of money doles is objectionable. It will, however, I fear, be absolutely necessary, if life is to be saved, that money doles should be granted in the remoter villages: though personally opposed to the system, the conviction is being forced upon me as to the necessity for its adoption. An instance in point is the case of the Savarahs in the Tumba Mutah, Sómpéta taluk. We cannot start a depôt in the hills without great expense. No merchant will do so, nor can the supplies be locally obtained. In fact I have, subject to the sanction of Government, authorized Mr. Willimott, who is proceeding to that part on tour, to grant money doles in emergent cases, if the difficulty of distributing grain doles proves insuperable. But at other places, too, the village shopkeeper who now conducts the supply may strike at any moment. I have dealt with the position at the length, so that the Board and Government may be in full possession of the difficulties with which I have to contend and that they may be in a position promptly to dispose of such references as I may, in the future, find it necessary to make on the various points raised.

Resolution—dated 21st May 1897, No. 387.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. There was no improvement in the fortnight under report, and in the Ganjám, Purushottapur and Sómpéta taluks there was a rapid change for the worse. The tract round Ichchhápur has since become affected. The supply of drinking-water is running short, but steps were being taken to improve the supply as far as possible. Agricultural operations were not brisk, except in Goomsur, which is outside the affected area. Harvests and the prospects of the standing crops were poor.

3. Fodder was generally available, but pasture, which had improved with the previous rains, began to fail again. Cattle, however, did not exhibit any signs of deterioration, though in many places it was difficult to find water for them.

4. Prices were generally fairly stationary, though the price of ragi tended to rise somewhat in the south. Their position is shown in the accompanying statement:—

	Number of measures per rupee.	
	Rice.	Ragi.
Standard rate	17·0	30·0
Warning „	13·6	22·5
Scarcity „	10·2	15·0
Current „	10·4	15·1
April 1889	11·4	18·8
April 1878	8·7	13·0

Trade within the district was not active, and it is curious to note that the reported exports considerably exceeded imports.

5. The condition of people on works was generally good, but in villages, especially in some of the zamindari villages, very bad. The main cause of this deterioration is the persistent obstinacy of the people who prefer to starve to accepting Government relief otherwise than in the form of doles. This obstinacy, however, began to give way during the fortnight under the pinch of distress. Since the close of the month the numbers on relief works have swollen rapidly, and are likely to rise still more. The latest forecast from the Collector is 15,000 on works. The scale on which

gratuitous relief is being given is, as usual in Ganjám, far larger than elsewhere, and will, the Collector reports, be inevitably still further enhanced in the near future. The numbers on gratuitous relief at the end of the fortnight were 5,701, while only 1,728 persons attended relief works. The Board has, before now, alluded to the exceptional difficulties with which the administration of relief is beset in Ganjám, and is confident that Mr. Taylor, well backed by his officers, is doing all that can be done. Under the peculiar circumstances of the district, the Collector's action in sanctioning the grant of money-doles is approved, but he must remember that the concession is to be used with a sparing hand, and only in places where other forms of relief are found impracticable. The general restriction imposed by section 84 of the Famine Code, which was insisted on in G.O., No. 67, Revenue, dated 3rd February 1897, has been modified by paragraph 6 of G.O., No. 216, Revenue, dated 30th March 1897. The case of the weavers is not considered critical, though they are ready enough to accept the relief offered them. The Collector should see that such delays as are reported at Sómpéta do not recur; if the officers of the depôt are incompetent, they should be replaced by others who can do the work required of them; but if it is found that the work they have to do is clearly beyond their powers, the establishment should be increased without hesitation in anticipation of sanction. All these delays tell seriously against the workers.

6. Applications for loans are but slowly disposed of, only Rs. 2,745 having been disbursed, while applications involving over $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs are pending. It is hoped that, with the extra staff lately sanctioned for this work, better progress will be shown.

7. The Board has little to add to the "general remarks" of the Collector, for which Government was already prepared. The Commissioner can testify, from general inspection, to the reality of the difficulties which the Collector has to face. The total on relief of all kinds according to the latest return is 27,709. Of these only 6,228 were on relief and test works. This will shortly swell to 15,000. The number of weavers relieved was 1,872, and the rest were on gratuitous relief of one kind or another. The tracts chiefly affected were the tracts in the Uriya country comprised in the Atagada and Kallikota zamindaris, and a tract sporadically affected reaching southwards from the Rushikulya line along the coast as far down as Narasannapeta with more seriously affected centres at Sómpéta and Tekkali. These, with the Uriya tract first mentioned, which is the worst of all, and whose inhabitants are most difficult to deal with, are the chief points calling for attention. The Collector has not exaggerated the physical condition of the Uriya resident of the northern tract, where cases recalling the earlier months of 1877 can be seen, and his difficulties are complicated by the presence of cholera and small-pox. The former was ripe at Tekkali, where 200 fatal cases occurred; but the Collector took the disease by the throat wherever it showed itself, and stamped it out by draining off suspected water sources. It has recently broken out in the Collector's own camp—four of his servants and personal establishment having been attacked, and one having died. Small-pox continues to rage, the apathy of the people to this disease facilitating its spread. During the Commissioner's tour loathsome cases had to be removed both from works and kitchens. The Collector himself has been attacked with chicken-pox, but continues indefatigable, though physically very much under par. He is ably seconded by all his Civilian officers and by two Deputy Collectors. He is asking for extra establishment. Another difficulty with which the Collector has to grapple is the supply of Relief Circle Inspectors, who cannot be recruited in sufficient numbers amongst educated Uriyas, and without a knowledge of Uriya, efficient administration is impossible. Of ten pensioners selected by the Collector, most refuse, and the others threw up the appointments when they saw the nature of the work and the surroundings in which they had to do it. It is a matter which Government might consider whether enough has been done to stimulate the study of Uriya. It is very desirable that there should always be a reserve of officers who know Uriya on which Government could draw. These officers might be of the Police, and Salt and Abkári Departments, and Deputy Collector's grade, as well as Indian Civilians. At present, and for some time to come the Uriya country will be an administrative crux in famine times; but the opening of the railway and

the spread of education are wedges which will in time effect much in dissipating prejudices and in inculcating common sense.

As shown above, the prices of both the staple grains are much higher than in 1889, and, though the numbers on relief may appear large, they are nothing to the 90,000 on gratuitous relief in 1889. In that year relief was too long deferred, and had to be largely granted in a demoralizing form. Government may rely on the present Collector to see that the granting of relief shall be as little demoralizing as is possible, in a tract whose inhabitants are backward, superstitious and prejudiced to a degree not dreamt of further truth.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 459, Revenue, dated 14th June 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The extra establishment referred to in paragraph 7 of the Board's Proceedings has already been sanctioned. The remarks in this paragraph regarding the necessity for having a reserve of officers with a knowledge of Uriya and for stimulating the study of this language will be considered in the Public and Educational Departments.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. Md. Pahilvan.

80 Copies.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 459, 14th June 1897.

JUNE.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording, with remarks, Board's Proceedings submitting to Government — of the Ganjám 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 21st May 1897, No. 387 :—

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

State of the country.

Rainfall and water-supply—

	District rainfall.	
	Actual rainfall.	Expected rainfall.
	INCHES.	INCHES.
In the fortnight	·05	·42
Up to the fortnight from April	1·16	·85

There has been no rainfall during the fortnight except a slight shower of 11 cents in Parlákimedi, 5 cents in Russellkonda and 3 cents in Berhampur. Water-supply is insufficient for irrigation purposes. Water-supply for drinking purposes is generally sufficient, except in a few villages, in the Goomsur division ; it is moderate in Chicacole division and insufficient elsewhere. Steps are being taken to sink pits or wells where water is most urgently required.

The amount spent on the improvement of water-supply during the fortnight is about Rs. 700.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—Ploughing operations are briskly carried on in the Goomsur division and moderately elsewhere. Early ragi is being sown in places in the Goomsur division and is in moderate condition. Late ragi is being harvested at places in the Head-quarters Deputy Collector's division ; but the outturn is poor.

The standing crops are early ragi, chillies, sugarcane and gingelly and they are reported to be in poor condition.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Fodder is sufficient and available throughout the district, except in a few places in the Chicacole division where it is generally scarce. Pasture is insufficient, except in the sub-division and parts of Goomsur, and it has dried up again in the places where it revived by the recent rains. The condition of cattle is generally good, except in Suradá and Tekkali taluks where cattle diseases exist.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—No improvement has taken place in the fortnight under report. In the Ganjám, Purushottapur and Sómpéta taluks there has been a rapid change for the worse. Scarcity of drinking-water is a matter of anxiety in many places, especially so far as cattle are concerned.

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 24th April 1897.

Stations.	Rice.				Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last period.		End of current period.		End of last period.	End of current period.	
	Raw.	Boiled.	Raw.	Boiled.			
Russellkonda	10·50	12·50	10·50	12·50	16·87	16·87	* The Deputy Tahsildar, Surada, reports that 16·42 was wrongly quoted for 14·62.
Suradá	10·10	12·25	10·17	11·37	* 16·42	14·62	The Tekkali Deputy Tahsildar states that the fall in prices is due to supplies from other places and the Parlákimedi Deputy Tahsildar attributes the rise in ragi to be due to demand from other places. As regards the variations in prices at Chicacole the Tahsildar says "this morning the Magistrate and I went to the market to watch the sales and note down the prices. The prices thus ascertained are entered here." The reason for the marked fall in the price of rice and rise in that of ragi is not stated. The variations in prices at Suradá, Sompéta and Narasannapéta appear to be due to the quantities of supplies available in the market.
Aska	11·12	12·56	11·12	12·56	14·25	14·25	
Purushottapur	10·50	12·50	10·50	12·50	14·50	14·50	
Chatrapur	9·50	11·00	9·50	11·00	12 50	12·50	
Berhampur	10·50	12·00	10·50	12·00	15·19	15·19	
Ichchhápuram	9·50	10·00	9·50	10·00	14·40	14·40	
Sómpéta	10·72	11·81	10·72	11·81	15·52	14·51	
Parlákimedi	10·50	..	10·50	..	16·90	15·60	
Tekkali	10·10	11·68	10·25	12·00	16·00	16·27	
Narasannapét	10·87	..	10 50	..	16·90	16·90	
Chicacole	9·73	..	11·52	..	16·41	15·52	
Total ..	124·64	106·30	125·28	105·74	185·86	181·13	
Average ..	10·39	11·81	10·44	11·75	15·49	15·09	

Activity of trade.—Supplies are available at the rates quoted in the various marts ; but it is reported that the trade within the district is not active. The Goomsur Deputy Collector reports that 400 cartloads of paddy have been imported into his division from Nyaghar and the Head-quarters Deputy Collector reports that paddy is freely imported from Banpur and Puri. Exports and imports of food-grains by rail and sea are as follow :—

	Exports. MDS.	Imports. MDS.
By rail	10,075	2,048
By sea	7,561	447

Condition of the People.

On works.—The condition of the people on ordinary works and on test work at Chatrapur is generally good. There are a considerable number of weak persons at the Dayigam relief work.

In villages.—The condition of the people, particularly in the zemindari villages, except in Parlákimedi, is very bad. Relief is being given. The lower classes especially are showing signs of losing strength and becoming emaciated, though they decline to attend test works even on the more liberal terms now offered.

The following remittances have been received from emigrants to Burma through the Post offices noted :—

	Rs.
Naupada	3,000
Tekkali	332
Kotabommali	1,281
Jalmore	253
Total ...	4,866

I am informed that many of the Burma emigrants are about to return as the supply of labour is now in excess of the demand and wages have fallen considerably in Rangoon.

Sickness and mortality.—No deaths from want of food have been reported. Fevers and small-pox are prevalent. Cholera was severe in Tekkali, but has now subsided, after draining the infected tanks.

Cholera deaths—

Goomsur Deputy Collector's Division	
Berhampur Division	5
Head-quarters Deputy Collector's Division	33
Chicacole Division	153
Total ...	191

Remarks.—The prevailing high prices tell heavily on the poor who have already disposed of all the reserves at their command. It is only in emaciated cases that grain doles are given and the people who raise no objection are fed at the kitchens. As people are gradually stinting themselves in their meals some more test works will be opened in the course of the next fortnight. Test works opened at Digupudi and Jinkibhadra attracted no labourers even on the liberal terms now offered. The coolies previously employed on test work at Jinkibhadra (near Sómpéta) refused to continue work under test conditions.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
1. Purushottapur	211	302	The figure represents the number employed on 23rd instant at Dayijgam relief work.
2. Do.	..	383	The figure represents the number employed at the test work at Atagada on 24th instant.
3. Ganjám	562	883	The figure represents the number employed at the hill quarry near Chatrapur on 24th instant.
4. Do.	..	160	The figure represents the number employed at the test work at Jomi near Rambha on the 24th instant.
			Test works at Atagada and Jomi have been opened during the fortnight.
			Test work at Digupudi and Jinkibhadra failed.
			The Atagada work will be converted into a relief work at once.
			The Raja of Parlákimedi is giving employment to 8,200 persons daily on fixed wages without task at 1½ anna per man, 1 anna per woman and 6 pies per child.
Toal ..	773	1,728	

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.
1. Bodogodo	..	..	20	27	..	..	7	26
2. Peddakimedi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	233
3. Berhampur	..	..	34	81	..	..	..	..
4. Sómpéta	..	..	76	128	..	..	304	1,503
5. Ichchhápuram	..	..	12	16	..	..	11	23
6. Ganjám	..	..	7	16	..	..	..	2,207
7. Purushottapur	..	..	47	110	..	..	35	495
8. Tekkali	..	..	448	561	..	..	35	84
9. Narasannapeta	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	39
10. Parlákimedi	..	..	92	102	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	736	1,041	..	..	410	4,610

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.
1. Bodogodo	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. Peddakimedi	..	..	..	..	..	..
3. Berhampur	..	..	216	389	600	600
4. Sómpéta	3	..	..	..	..	..
5. Ichchhápuram	..	75	..	..	..	..
6. Ganjám	..	45	..	..	..	..
7. Purushottapur	36	• 70	..	..	..	..
8. Tekkali	6	7	..	..	..	..
9. Narasannapeta	..	1	..	..	..	..
10. Parlákimedi	..	..	..	19	..	..
11. Aska	..	..	..	..	..	..

• Include 58 villages to which kitchen inmates belong.

Private charity.—There is no organized private charity at work ; but the zemindar of Kallikotta and Atagada estates continues to maintain a kitchen at Haradamali near Kallikotta and the total number fed thereat on the 24th instant is reported to be 89. The Goomsur Deputy Collector reports that some gentlemen at Aska and Russellkonda are giving a single meal to 50 and 20 beggars, respectively, in a day on the average, and the zemindar of Chinnakimedi feeds at his temples and mutts 25 persons on the average, having regard to caste prejudices. A private kitchen at Meliaputti does more harm than good. Out of some 70 persons only some three were fit recipients for relief. The rest were strong, lusty persons in good condition and well able to work.

General remarks.—Only one kitchen has been opened during the fortnight under report at Sorosingi in Purushottapur taluk. The Goomsur Deputy Collector reports that a kitchen will be opened at Suradá on the 1st proximo and that no necessity has as yet arisen to open kitchens at other places in his division.

Relief was given at Sómpéta to 389 weavers and at Aska to 19 of the same class.

The staff at Sómpéta requires strengthening by the addition of an assistant appraiser, and an enquiry shows that the weavers are kept waiting three days for test of their cloths, payment and receipt of thread. Results show that according to the experimental task table a family of two men and one woman earn slightly over 3 annas per diem. Inquiries are being made regarding their dependants. The majority of the weavers do not appear to be in uneasy circumstances, but prefer Government work at a low rate to nothing at all. The children seem for the most part in good condition and most of the men evidently have reserves. I anticipate a rush of weavers in the next fortnight.

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

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.						Purchase of fodder.						Other purposes.						Total.					
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		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.	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						
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Berhampur	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	300	3	300	2	300	6	570	3	600	1,181	1,15,785	12	1,170	6	900	3	1,16,085
Goomsur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicacole	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	300	3	300	2	300	6	570	3	600	1,181	1,15,785	12	1,170	6	900	3	1,16,085

Taluks.	Number of wells.	Cattle and seed grain.						Total.					
		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.	
				Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
	20	21	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.	
Berhampur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	533	5	360	1,768	1,16,543	11	533	5	360	1,768	1,16,543
Goomsur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	57	2,605	31	1,785	872	47,105	57	2,605	31	1,785	872	47,105
Chicacole	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	68	3,138	36	2,145	2,640	1,63,648	68	3,138	36	2,145	2,640	1,63,648

Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and places visited.—The General Deputy Collector, Goomsur visited 21 villages, the Senior Assistant Collector 7 villages, the Head-quarters Deputy Collector 16 villages, and the Principal Assistant Collector 13 villages in their divisions. The Assistant Collector Mr. Ashe visited 26 villages in the Peddakimedi estate.

The Collector has visited the following places during the fortnight under report in company with the Famine Commissioner :—

Chatrapur (test work), Batrigummarada (ordinary work), Purushottapur (kitchen), Sorosingi, Kahuripalli, Bodo Mohiri, Daigam (relief work), Sómpéta (kitchen), Baruva (kitchen), Jhinkibhadra (quarry—ordinary work), Haripur, Kasebugga (kitchen), Podur, Chapra, Meliaputti (private kitchen), Parlákimedi (kitchen), Tekkali (kitchen), Kotabommali (kitchen) and Narasannapeta.

General Remarks.

The distress, especially in the northern part of the district (Kallikota and Atadaga zamindari) and in the neighbourhood of Sómpéta, has deepened into famine with alarming rapidity. Additional Circle Inspectors are being entertained as available, and gratuitous relief by grain doles is being given on a considerable scale, which will inevitably be still further enhanced in the immediate future. Sometime back I reported that signs of deterioration had been noticed amongst the lower classes; but now it seems that the ryots also have exhausted their supplies of grain and are in considerable distress.

The suddenness with which this change has taken place is not due to any want of watchfulness on the part of the district officers. Test-works have been opened time after time, without attracting labourers, and offers of kitchens have been rejected with scorn even by those who cannot strictly claim to have any caste prejudices.

To this difficulty is added the fact that the affected areas are almost entirely zemindari, and zemindari officials are useless. Owing to the absence of minor irrigation works, relief works have perforce to be restricted to the lines of roads. The Oriyas are fatalists, and take no steps whatever to help themselves, even when help is thrown within their reach. In some cases the men will work, but only when they have waited too long, and, even then, they will not allow their women, who are ordinarily employed in agricultural operations, to come to Government relief-works. Hence the necessity for gratuitous relief on a large scale; but before the gratuitous relief can be accorded, it is necessary that persons able to work, and who will not work, should first become hungry. The repeated failure of test-works is again a source of difficulty, for those who are in receipt of grain doles or of cooked food at kitchens, and who have revived sufficiently to perform light work, have no work ready to hand to which they can be sent, and hence have to be kept on in the receipt of relief. I have tried hard to break their prejudices, and in some few cases it may be possible that I have waited a little too long with the object of overcoming these foolish infatuations; but had I at once acknowledged the principle that Government is bound, at great expense and inconvenience to itself, to support able-bodied men able to work, but who, due to foolish prejudices, refused to work, we should have found ourselves in the difficult position of having to feed a large proportion of the population of nearly two taluks.

I have endeavoured to combat the prejudices in regard to kitchens in every possible way. I have proposed separate kitchens for each caste presided over by cooks of their own caste selected by themselves from their fellow-villagers. I have offered the distribution of food at the village temple where cooked food is customarily bought and sold, but, except in the case of the Bavuri kitchen at Sorosingi, without success. I believe that many of the people are really not directly opposed to eating at a kitchen to which their own caste alone are admitted, but they are under the powers of the heads of their castes who threaten to excommunicate them. Even some of the Brahmin cooks have left their posts, under threat of excommunication if they continued to serve in a Government kitchen, and they require extra rate of pay as a solace to their injured feelings. My difficulties do not end here. Even when grain doles are sanctioned, the zamindari village officials refuse assistance. No panchayatdars come forward to show an interest in their fellow-men and see that they get the doles prescribed; the village shopkeeper, indifferent to gain, declines to weigh out the doles because of the extra trouble involved in weighing instead of measuring the same. The village heads decline to purchase grain with Government advance and store it for the distribution of doles. There are then but two alternatives, when conditions such as these exist: (1) To establish Government depôts for the storage and distribution of these doles, and (2) the grant of money doles. The former involves extra expense in the matter of establishment besides opening a door for fraud, while the grant of money doles is objectionable. It will, however, I fear, be absolutely necessary, if life is to be saved, that money doles should be granted in the remoter villages: though personally opposed to the system, the conviction is being forced upon me as to the necessity for its adoption. An instance in point is the case of the Savarahs in the Tumba Mutah, Sómpéta taluk. We cannot start a depôt in the hills without great expense. No merchant will do so, nor can the supplies be locally obtained. In fact I have, subject to the sanction of Government, authorized Mr. Willimott, who is proceeding to that part on tour, to grant money doles in emergent cases, if the difficulty of distributing grain doles proves insuperable. But at other places, too, the village shopkeeper who now conducts the supply may strike at any moment. I have dealt with the position at the length, so that the Board and Government may be in full possession of the difficulties with which I have to contend and that they may be in a position promptly to dispose of such references as I may, in the future, find it necessary to make on the various points raised.

Resolution—dated 21st May 1897, No. 387.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. There was no improvement in the fortnight under report, and in the Ganjám, Purushottapur and Sómpéta taluks there was a rapid change for the worse. The tract round Ichchhápur has since become affected. The supply of drinking-water is running short, but steps were being taken to improve the supply as far as possible. Agricultural operations were not brisk, except in Goomsur, which is outside the affected area. Harvests and the prospects of the standing crops were poor.

3. Fodder was generally available, but pasture, which had improved with the previous rains, began to fail again. Cattle, however, did not exhibit any signs of deterioration, though in many places it was difficult to find water for them.

4. Prices were generally fairly stationary, though the price of ragi tended to rise somewhat in the south. Their position is shown in the accompanying statement :—

	Number of measures per rupee.	
	Rice.	Ragi.
Standard rate	17·0	30·0
Warning „	13·6	22·5
Scarcity „	10·2	15·0
Current „	10·4	15·1
April 1889	11·4	18·8
April 1878	8·7	13·0

Trade within the district was not active, and it is curious to note that the reported exports considerably exceeded imports.

5. The condition of people on works was generally good, but in villages, especially in some of the zamindari villages, very bad. The main cause of this deterioration is the persistent obstinacy of the people who prefer to starve to accepting Government relief otherwise than in the form of doles. This obstinacy, however, began to give way during the fortnight under the pinch of distress. Since the close of the month the numbers on relief works have swollen rapidly, and are likely to rise still more. The latest forecast from the Collector is 15,000 on works. The scale on which

gratuitous relief is being given is, as usual in Ganjám, far larger than elsewhere, and will, the Collector reports, be inevitably still further enhanced in the near future. The numbers on gratuitous relief at the end of the fortnight were 5,701, while only 1,728 persons attended relief works. The Board has, before now, alluded to the exceptional difficulties with which the administration of relief is beset in Ganjám, and is confident that Mr. Taylor, well backed by his officers, is doing all that can be done. Under the peculiar circumstances of the district, the Collector's action in sanctioning the grant of money-doles is approved, but he must remember that the concession is to be used with a sparing hand, and only in places where other forms of relief are found impracticable. The general restriction imposed by section 84 of the Famine Code, which was insisted on in G.O., No. 67, Revenue, dated 3rd February 1897, has been modified by paragraph 6 of G.O., No. 216, Revenue, dated 30th March 1897. The case of the weavers is not considered critical, though they are ready enough to accept the relief offered them. The Collector should see that such delays as are reported at Sómpéta do not recur; if the officers of the depôt are incompetent, they should be replaced by others who can do the work required of them; but if it is found that the work they have to do is clearly beyond their powers, the establishment should be increased without hesitation in anticipation of sanction. All these delays tell seriously against the workers.

6. Applications for loans are but slowly disposed of, only Rs. 2,745 having been disbursed, while applications involving over 2½ lakhs are pending. It is hoped that, with the extra staff lately sanctioned for this work, better progress will be shown.

7. The Board has little to add to the "general remarks" of the Collector, for which Government was already prepared. The Commissioner can testify, from general inspection, to the reality of the difficulties which the Collector has to face. The total on relief of all kinds according to the latest return is 27,709. Of these only 6,228 were on relief and test works. This will shortly swell to 15,000. The number of weavers relieved was 1,872, and the rest were on gratuitous relief of one kind or another. The tracts chiefly affected were the tracts in the Uriya country comprised in the Atagada and Kallikota zamindaris, and a tract sporadically affected reaching southwards from the Rushikulya line along the coast as far down as Narasannapeta with more seriously affected centres at Sómpéta and Tekkali. These, with the Uriya tract first mentioned, which is the worst of all, and whose inhabitants are most difficult to deal with, are the chief points calling for attention. The Collector has not exaggerated the physical condition of the Uriya resident of the northern tract, where cases recalling the earlier months of 1877 can be seen, and his difficulties are complicated by the presence of cholera and small-pox. The former was ripe at Tekkali, where 200 fatal cases occurred; but the Collector took the disease by the throat wherever it showed itself, and stamped it out by draining off suspected water sources. It has recently broken out in the Collector's own camp—four of his servants and personal establishment having been attacked, and one having died. Small-pox continues to rage, the apathy of the people to this disease facilitating its spread. During the Commissioner's tour loathsome cases had to be removed both from works and kitchens. The Collector himself has been attacked with chicken-pox, but continues indefatigable, though physically very much under par. He is ably seconded by all his Civilian officers and by two Deputy Collectors. He is asking for extra establishment. Another difficulty with which the Collector has to grapple is the supply of Relief Circle Inspectors, who cannot be recruited in sufficient numbers amongst educated Uriyas, and without a knowledge of Uriya, efficient administration is impossible. Of ten pensioners selected by the Collector, most refuse, and the others threw up the appointments when they saw the nature of the work and the surroundings in which they had to do it. It is a matter which Government might consider whether enough has been done to stimulate the study of Uriya. It is very desirable that there should always be a reserve of officers who know Uriya on which Government could draw. These officers might be of the Police, and Salt and Abkári Departments, and Deputy Collector's grade, as well as Indian Civilians. At present, and for some time to come the Uriya country will be an administrative crux in famine times; but the opening of the railway and

the spread of education are wedges which will in time effect much in dissipating prejudices and in inculcating common sense.

As shown above, the prices of both the staple grains are much higher than in 1889, and, though the numbers on relief may appear large, they are nothing to the 90,000 on gratuitous relief in 1889. In that year relief was too long deferred, and had to be largely granted in a demoralizing form. Government may rely on the present Collector to see that the granting of relief shall be as little demoralizing as is possible, in a tract whose inhabitants are backward, superstitious and prejudiced to a degree not dreamt of further truth.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 459, Revenue, dated 14th June 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The extra establishment referred to in paragraph 7 of the Board's Proceedings has already been sanctioned. The remarks in this paragraph regarding the necessity for having a reserve of officers with a knowledge of Uriya and for stimulating the study of this language will be considered in the Public and Educational Departments.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. Md. Pahilvan.

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