Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 1899W

DATED 15th July 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Famine. Pro: Rev: Dept recording with remark Boards Pro submitting the fortnightly - narrative of the Anantapur Dt for the period ending 15 May 1897, Com'd to S.E. IIIrd Circle

15.7.97

Indexed. 16/7

[P.W. 26. 5,000-—-11-96.]

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Public works (1897) department.
Current No: 6524

Government (1897) of Madras.

REVENUE.

No. 1787 W. of 2-7-97
1367 W. of 22-5-97
1162 W. of 5-5-97

Recd. 5. 7. } 1897.
Regd. 5. 7.

Enclosures

Spare copies 16.

G.O., No. 482, 21st June 1897.

No. 1899 W. of 15.7.97

JUNE.

Communicated to the S. S. III circle.
8/7/97

S. S. III circle No. 51.
2 copies to ...

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording, with remark, Board's Proceedings submitting to Government — of the Anantapur district for the period ending 15th May 1897.

o. L.S. 267/R 10/7

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 31st May 1897, No. 407:—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Anantapur district during the period ending 15th of May 1897:—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and water-supply.—Rain was registered at five stations during the fortnight:—

	INCHES.
Tadpatri	0·16
Gooty	1·80
Anantapur	1·58
Hindupur	·10
Madakasira	·60

The rain did little or no good. It has not even stimulated the growth of grass, nor has it affected the wells to any appreciable degree. The land has a thirst that will not be appeased by such a short drink as this. The aggregate fall up to the fortnight was ·93 against an expected fall of 1·78. The water-supply, even for domestic purposes, is insufficient in many parts of the district, notably in Tadpatri, Gooty, Dharmavaram, Penukonda and Madakasíra. The wells are drying up, and in fact, as far as the water famine goes, this year is said to beat even the "great famine". The sum of Rs. 3,000 granted from Provincial Funds was distributed and has been nearly all spent, and more is required. I have wired to Government to sanction the allotments applied for in B.'s P., dated 29th March 1897, No. 258, and am submitting an application for the specific allotments as directed by Government in its reply. The supply of water for irrigation is practically *nil*. Here and there a well or spring channel is to be found with enough water perhaps for the standing crops; but that is all.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—A little ploughing is being done on dry lands in expectation of early rains. There are no standing crops on these lands except cotton and castor, which are stunted in growth and not likely to yield. Late crops, such as cholam, korra and paddy under wells and nalas, are being harvested in parts of Tadpatri, Gooty, Anantapur and Madakasíra taluks with an outturn ranging from 8 to 12 annas. Paddy in Dharmavaram has also been harvested, outturn being bad to middling. Standing crops on wet lands, sugarcane, chillies, ragi and turmeric in a few isolated fields dependant an wells and springs in Hindupur and Madakasíra, are in a thriving condition. In the Gooty division paddy and korra are reported to be diseased.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture is *nil* everywhere, and hill grass and fodder are dear and procurable only with great difficulty. Prickly-pear and sonti roots in parts of Gooty and margosa leaves in parts of Hindupur are being used as fodder. Tilling cattle alone are fed with any care, and the rest are left to shift for themselves and are dying.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—The outlook is becoming more desperate than ever for the cattle. I have addressed the Collectors of Nellore, North Arcot and Kistna about the ruling prices of paddy straw in those districts, and have also asked the Traffic Managers, Madras Railway and Southern Mahratta Railway

lines, to quote reduced rates for the transport of straw. I have been just advised by the Board of the despatch of consignments of straw to Tadpatri, Gooty and Guntakal. I have taken steps to bring this to sale without delay and trust that this timely contribution may save many valuable lives.

To my remarks *supra* about water, I may add here that I have, in anticipation of sanction, permitted wells to be deepened at Provincial cost wherever absolutely necessary.

Food-supplies and the state of the markets.

Prices of principal food-grains at principal markets in the affected tracts, in seers of 80 tolas per rupee, for the period ending 15th May 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		Ragi.		Yellow cholam.		White cholam.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
Tadpatri	8·64	8·64	15·52	15·52	12·36	13·39	11·33	12·36	The prices are almost stationary.
Yadiki	8·10	8·10	14·55	15·52	12·36	12·36	..	..	
Gooty	8·64	8·64	16·20	16·76	12·36	12·64	11·84	11·84	
Uravakonda	9·45	9·45	17·85	17·85	..	..	12·60	12·60	
Anantapur	8·64	8·64	16·49	16·49	..	..	14·42	13·90	
Kalyandrug	10·80	10 80	17·46	17·46	16·48	16·48	13·39	13·39	
Dharmavaram	8·64	8·64	15·52	14·55	15·45	15·45	14·42	14·42	
Penukonda	9·72	9·72	19·40	18·43	..	..	16·48	14·42	
Hindupur	10·75	10·75	23·65	23·65	..	..	17·20	15·05	
Madakasira	10·80	10·80	21·34	21·34	..	..	..	..	
Average ..	9·41	9·41	17·79	17·62	13·80	14·00	13·96	13·49	

Activity of trade.—Dull in all taluks except Hindupur and Tadpatri. The imports were rice from Guntúr, Salem, &c., and cholam from Nellore and Venkatagiri:—

	MDS.
Imports	3,039
Exports	12,347

Condition of the People.

On works and in villages.—Mr. Crole says it is "undeniably low," but it seemed to me fairly good. Perhaps I came prepared for the worst. I paid particular attention to this point in my inspection and took notice of the arms and of the legs as far as I could, without indelicacy, as I consider these limbs to be highly indicative of the state of health in labourers. Though I did not find them in first class condition, they were not, as a rule, attenuated, and I see no reason why they should deteriorate under the improved conditions of wage and work. The famine children noticed by the Commissioner at Yadiki have improved very much. The worst case I saw was at Tadpatri, of a nursing mother and a child of 3 or 4 months without an ounce of flesh on its poor little body. The Hospital Assistant was looking after this case, and I have no doubt that it is improving. As a rule the condition of the people is far above starvation point, though there occur, of course, cases of emaciation. Emigration from Uravakonda in Gooty has been arrested by opening relief-works, and labourers who had gone to Mysore in search of work are returning home, driven back by want of work and an uncongenial climate.

Sickness and Mortality.—No deaths from starvation. Small-pox in parts of Penukonda, Dharmavaram and Madakasíra. There were 61 attacks in the latter taluks and 15 deaths. No figures are reported from Penukonda. I trust there will not be an outbreak on the works, for very many of the workers are not protected and our medical staff is very weak. I have succeeded in obtaining the services of two of the Plague Hospital Assistants at Guntakal. But the two others, who were promised to this district some ten days ago, have been apparently lost in transit or else captured on their way by the Collector of Cuddapah for his own district. It is only quite recently that an Assistant Surgeon has been sent to Anantapur. For want of him,

the District Surgeon has been kept in head-quarters. This paucity of medical officers is very strange and "*donne furieusement à penser.*"

Remarks.—"Loans" work and odd jobs, such as cutting Tangedu bark, removing nuth grass and the little harvest under wells, &c., have afforded up to now some scope for labour. Weavers are being relieved at their own trade in Tadpatri, and their number is 700. The Gooty scheme has been sanctioned and orders have been given for its immediate introduction, but no report has yet been received. Weavers in other parts have not yet come forward and asked for relief, but I understand that they will do so very shortly in Uravakonda.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Tadpatri taluk—			
1. Gudur	2 664	2,525	
2. Putlur	1,099	1,024	
3. Yadiki	1,383	2,287	
4. Kondapur	2,373	2,338	
5. Virapuram	341	1,469	
Total ..	7,860	9,643	
Gooty taluk—			
1. Paltur	1,245	1,481	In cases where figures of last Saturday have not yet been received, the previous Saturday attendance has been given. Complete information will be submitted with the season report.
2. Guntakal	776	1,113	
3. Karadikonda	1,108	1,692	
4. Rajapuram	..	1,013	
Total ..	3,129	5,299	
Anantapur taluk—			
1. Korrapaud	1,100	1,284	
2. Peravali	735	835	
3. Kandakur	..	701	
Total ..	1,835	2,820	
Dharmavaram taluk—			
1. Damajipalle-Nayampalle road near Dharmavaram	2,073	3,385	
2. Damajipalle-Nayampalle road near Potlamari.	186	782	
3. Ravalcheru	..	814	
Total ..	2,259	4,981	
Grand Total ..	15,083	22,743	

Gratuitous Relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise :—

Taluk.	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.
Tadpatri	328	346	152	207	..	..	..	134
Gooty	170	212	99	106	..	..	..	..
Anantapur	56	80	11	16	..	..	..	..
Dharmavaram	181	414	93	63	..	..	..	..
Penukonda	..	..	56	73	..	..	..	..
Total ..	735	1,052	411	454	..	..	..	134

Taluk.	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.
Tadpatri	..	..	136	700	811	902

Private charity.—The springs of private charity are rapidly drying up. My impression is that native charitableness is of a very facile kind. If the harvest has been fairly good, the beggar at the door receives his dole of grain, which is given ungrudgingly. But if the harvest has failed, even well-to-do people withhold their hand. "I have to buy rice myself," they say, "how should I give you any?" Alms in kind they give, but alms in money they will not give, except under pressure. This is, I take it, illustrated by the meagre collections in India, where the contributions to the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund bear a proportion of one in ten to the total collections.

Indian Famine Charitable funds have been distributed to the amount of some Rs. 2,100, the balance of Rs. 600 has been reserved for the purchase of cloths for the workers, many of whom are in rags. I have just (17th) received intimation of a further allotment of Rs. 5,000.

General remarks.—I began these, last time, by remarking that there was no silver lining on our cloud. This fortnight, I must regretfully repeat the remark. There is some comfort about the increasing heat, and that is, that it presages a good monsoon. "What sir", said the Tadpatrites to the Deputy Collector who commented upon the scorching heat,—'what, sir, unless we get much more heat, we shall not get good rain' —and they were not at all pleased at the showers at the beginning of the month.

The numbers on the works are rising by leaps and bounds from 14,000 in the last fortnight to 20,000 in this one. The following new works have been started in this fortnight :—

Kummenamala ... ... Tadpatri taluk.
Nagasamudram, Yerrathimmarajacheru, Gooty, Anantapur. Gooty taluk.
Kandakur, Anantapur ... ... Anantapur taluk.
Ellakuntla tank ... ... Dharmavaram taluk.

Overseers, paymasters, &c., are slowly dribbling in : single spies, I regret to say, not in battalions.

I have, at last, started village relief. I have divided Tadpatri and Gooty into eight circles each and the central taluks into five each ; Revenue Inspectors are doing circle inspection work in addition to their other duties. Deputy Tahsildars and Stationary Sub-Magistrates have also been given circles, so arranged as to interfere as little as possible with their other work.

I have relieved the Divisional Officers of their routine work entirely now, as Government has appointed two Special Deputy Collectors to this district, viz., my Sheristadar, Rao Bahadur Arumagam Pillay, and M.R.Ry. K. Narasimham of Rámachandrápuram, whom I am glad to welcome to the rank of Deputy Collector again. I have transferred the Huzur Deputy Collector, Mr. Shanmuga Sundram Pillai, to the charge of the Head Assistant Collector's division and put Rao Bahadur Rustum Singh in charge of the famine work of the Huzur division, the Sheristadar doing the ordinary work of the same division. This step I considered advisable, as the Huzur Deputy Collector does not ride and I do not think it right that a Deputy Collector should loll in a sumptuous coach, while the Collector wears out his own, and his saddle leather on horseback.

I was informed at Rayalcheruvu by Mr. DeChazal that he could not get labourers for his tank work, because they preferred the relief work at Yadiki. This seemed extraordinary, and I made enquiries. The fact seems to be that the coolies do not care to go four miles to do very heavy earthwork under a contractor at annas 3 a day paid irregularly. They say they cannot afford to wait for their wages. Had the Public Works Department taken this work up as piece-work, it would have done a lot of good. Mr. Ross-Chisholm, of the Madras Railway, also told me that he found it hard to get odd jobs done now, as all the labourers are on the relief works. This shows, at all events, that we are paying the labourers a living wage at the least. And, of course, a family makes more on the relief work than a single man can make elsewhere.

Guntakal work is still peculiar in that there are no men to speak of at work on it. There is a large number of nursing mothers on this as on all the other works, and I have given orders that they shall be grouped in separate gangs and given an appropriate task. The overseers on one or two works objected that the women would prefer being grouped with their own people. But the women themselves have raised no objection to the new system, and apart from the relief that it gives to working gangs, it is, I think more pleasant for the women, who can sit and discuss family matters without the embarrassing presence of the 'mere male.' But I did not quite know what to do with a *nursing father* I discovered at Korrapaud.

There have been too many complaints of delays in payment, and I have repeatedly drawn Mr. Romilly's attention to them. He is doing all he can, but the overseers are a poor lot, and cannot get their nominal rolls ready in time. I have no doubt that they will improve with practice and a little judicious curtailment of their salaries.

There was a strike on the Korrapaud work in consequence of the action of the Local Fund Engineer. He seems to have struck two head-coolies (with his "weak hand" as he puts it) and to have kicked a third—or, as he says, "I merely applied my foot to his posterior, for at the time he was in a stooping posture." These three men induced the workers to consider that they had been insulted as a body, vicariously kicked in fact, and to go on strike. The affair only lasted a day and all grew quiet again. The Local Fund Engineer handed over charge to the Public Works Department very shortly afterwards.

A cacoethic scribe in the *Hindu* newspaper wrote a complaint about the hardship inflicted on nursing mothers who have to carry their hammers all the way to their homes. A few well-directed enquiries would have shown him that the workers *prefer* to take away the tools to which they have grown accustomed. The same scribe also brought to light the grave harm that was being done to a child of less than seven who was at work with her parents. The work, this child was doing, was about as hard as making mud pies at home. She ought, of course, to have been in the kitchen, but it is very difficult to keep them off the work. They love to think they are 'grown up' and "helping mamma."

On hearing from Government that Mr. Cotton was on his way to try and recruit coolies for Ceylon, I wrote to him to ask what the pay and conditions were. Unhappily the recruiter-general laid his hand on him and stopped his work. I made enquiries, however, and find that no labourers from Tadpatri or Gooty will go, with the exception of two Muhammadans.

Kalyandrug is, I think, safe for the present. The Tahsildar's enquiries show that the people will not work for famine wage as, indeed, many women refuse to do here in Anantapur.

I append Mr. MacMichael's remarks about Amarapuram, Madakasira taluk. I have reminded him about the Budili firka but have not heard from him yet. I am going there myself shortly. I am informed, however, that the crop of petitions from that quarter is the outcome of the action of a man who offered to obtain remission for the ryots if they would pay him Rs. 40. The money was paid, but no remission was obtained, and the ryots then asked for the return of their money. It was inconvenient for this man to return it, so he sent petitions complaining of the season, bad harvest, want of work, &c.

Extract from Head Assistant Collector's remarks about Amarapuram firka.

* * * * *

During the fortnight I have toured in Amarapuram firka of Madakasira taluk. I do not think there is any necessity at present to open any relief work for at least one or two months to come. Most of the Panchamas and other working classes are just now getting some work in supplying Tangedu bark to contractors, and they get a wage of 2 to 3 annas per head. I went to the Panchamas' houses in every village to find out whether any of them were stinting themselves, and found most of them had enough to eat. Here and there they had less than they would have in ordinary seasons. In Hemavaty village there were two or three destitute old and infirm people unable to earn any livelihood. I shall arrange to have money or grain dole granted to them from the funds of Indian Charitable Relief Fund Committee. In Phalaram, the Panchamas say they want work and will work at famine wages. As a well is required for them their statement can be tested by having the work done at famine rates. Everywhere it is water particularly that they require. The Tahsildar is being directed to have wells dug and deepened where necessary without any delay. In some villages the cattle are very badly off for water, but hitherto there has not been much mortality among them in Amarapuram firka. On the whole, I think, Amarapuram firka is distinctly in a better condition than the Budili firka of Hindupur taluk. If, however, the south-west monsoon proves a total or partial failure, works will certainly be necessary.

* * * * *

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

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.						Other purposes.						Total.						Number of wells	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Tadpatri	22	3,750	19	2,175	78	24,015	21	2,015	17	1,610	95	20,955	43	5,765	36	3,785	173	44,970	1	18
Gooty	33	7,365	22	2,935	168	42,620	432	55,976	414	47,208	661	1,34,110	465	63,341	436	50,143	829	1,76,730	..	22
Anantapur	292	27,422	290	26,862	373	44,840	7	905	7	805	20	3,575	299	28,327	297	27,667	393	48,415	4	200
Kalyandrug	169	23,955	155	12,817	87	17,465	18	2,370	18	1,820	35	5,750	187	26,325	173	14,637	122	23,215	4	152
Dharmavaram	168	19,685	162	12,673	97	14,655	3	500	3	500	7	630	171	20,185	165	13,173	104	15,285	12	159
Penukonda	62	8,340	39	4,080	9	2,050	2	250	1	100	4	420	64	8,590	40	4,180	13	2,470	6	44
Hindupur	182	30,730	162	20,500	91	21,405	3	1,150	3	1,075	1	500	185	31,880	165	21,575	92	21,905	4	168
Madakasira	49	8,800	21	3,585	42	8,815	..	..	..	..	..	..	49	8,800	21	3,585	42	8,815	1	22
Total ..	977	1,30,047	870	85,627	945	1,75,865	486	63,166	463	53,118	823	1,65,940	1,463	1,93,213	1,333	1,38,745	1,768	3,41,805	32	785

Taluks.	Purchase of fodder.						Cattle and seed-grain.						Total.					
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Tadpatri	112	7,424	96	6,574	268	17,560	..	..	..	..	8	637	112	7,424	96	6,574	276	18,197
Gooty	20	1,290	20	1,290	322	19,585	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	1,290	20	1,290	322	19,585
Anantapur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kalyandrug	..	..	..	..	1	20	..	..	..	..	6	470	..	..	..	..	7	490
Dharmavaram	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	2,545	39	2,430	71	4,121	40	2,545	39	2,430	71	4,121
Penukonda	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	400	4	250	3	400	6	400	4	250	3	400
Hindupur	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	750	11	750	29	2,370	11	750	11	750	29	2,370
Madakasira	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1,075	..	..	20	2,710	7	1,075	..	..	20	2,710
Total ..	132	8,714	116	7,864	591	37,165	64	4,770	54	3,430	137	10,708	196	13,484	170	11,294	728	47,873

Inspections of the District Offices.

Taluks and Places visited.

Head Assistant Collector.

Dharmavaram taluk ... Dharmavaram.
Ravalcheru.
Venkatathimmapuram.
Dharmapur.
Potlamari.

Penukonda taluk ... Penukonda.

Hindúpur taluk ... Hindúpur.

Madakasira taluk ... Kalhunur.
Manur.
Chapelapolly.
Uppadapalli.
Bullasamudram.
Chikkaturpi.
Halukur.
Amarapur.
Hemavati.
Morebagul.
Phalaram.
Gudibanda.

Gooty Deputy Collector.

Gooty taluk ... Chetnapalli.
Thimmanoherla.
Guntakal.
Konakondla.
Vajrakarur.
Uravakonda.
Palnur.
Karakamukkala.
Malapuram.
Vidapanakal.
Virapuram.
Vanjanur.
Tadpatri.
Nandalapand.

Tadpatri taluk ... Rayalcheru.
Rayavarkatampalli.
Kannukuntlapalli.
Senegalagudur.
Peddapeta.
Yadiki.

Anantapur Head-quarter Deputy Collector.

Kandukúr taluk ... Kandukúr.
Mannila.
Mushtoor.
Chigacherla.
Korrapaud.
Sivapuram.
Bandamidapalli.
Peravali.
Nayanipalli.
Narpale.
Nadimidoddi.
Kesapalli.
Bondaledu.
Pappur.
Yekapadampalli.
Malayavantam.
Yerrapalli.

BAUK PAPERS.

9. By a "nursing father" the Collector, no doubt, means a widower with an infant. If he has no one to take care of the child, he can be put on gratuitous relief, under the latter part of section 62, Famine Code; but, if possible, the Collector should get the child a wet-nurse, under section 125.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 482, Revenue, dated 21st June 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The further allotment referred to in paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings has already been sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

for Ag. Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. Shaik Karim.

70 Copies.

Public Works Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 482, 21st June 1897.

No. 1899 W. of 15.7.97
Communicated to the
Supt. Engr. III Circle.
(Sd.) D. M. C.

JUNE.

To

The S. E. III Circle.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording, with remark, Board's Proceedings submitting to Government — of the Anantapur district for the period ending 15th May 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 31st May 1897, No. 407 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Anantapur district during the period ending 15th of May 1897 :—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply.—Rain was registered at five stations during the fortnight :—

	INCHES.
Tadpatri	0·16
Gooty	1·80
Anantapur	1·58
Hindupur	·10
Madakasira	·60

The rain did little or no good. It has not even stimulated the growth of grass, nor has it affected the wells to any appreciable degree. The land has a thirst that will not be appeased by such a short drink as this. The aggregate fall up to the fortnight was ·93 against an expected fall of 1·78. The water-supply, even for domestic purposes, is insufficient in many parts of the district, notably in Tadpatri, Gooty, Dharmavaram, Penukonda and Madakasíra. The wells are drying up, and in fact, as far as the water famine goes, this year is said to beat even the "great famine". The sum of Rs. 3,000 granted from Provincial Funds was distributed and has been nearly all spent, and more is required. I have wired to Government to sanction the allotments applied for in B.'s P., dated 29th March 1897, No. 258, and am submitting an application for the specific allotments as directed by Government in its reply. The supply of water for irrigation is practically *nil*. Here and there a well or spring channel is to be found with enough water perhaps for the standing crops ; but that is all.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—A little ploughing is being done on dry lands in expectation of early rains. There are no standing crops on these lands except cotton and castor, which are stunted in growth and not likely to yield. Late crops, such as cholam, korra and paddy under wells and nalas, are being harvested in parts of Tadpatri, Gooty, Anantapur and Madakasíra taluks with an outturn ranging from 8 to 12 annas. Paddy in Dharmavaram has also been harvested, outturn being bad to middling. Standing crops on wet lands, sugarcane, chillies, ragi and turmeric in a few isolated fields dependant an wells and springs in Hindupur and Madakasíra, are in a thriving condition. In the Gooty division paddy and korra are reported to be diseased.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture is *nil* everywhere, and hill grass and fodder are dear and procurable only with great difficulty. Prickly-pear and sonti roots in parts of Gooty and margosa leaves in parts of Hindupur are being used as fodder. Tilling cattle alone are fed with any care, and the rest are left to shift for themselves and are dying.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—The outlook is becoming more desperate than ever for the cattle. I have addressed the Collectors of Nellore, North Arcot and Kistna about the ruling prices of paddy straw in those districts, and have also asked the Traffic Managers, Madras Railway and Southern Mahratta Railway

lines, to quote reduced rates for the transport of straw. I have been just advised by the Board of the despatch of consignments of straw to Tadpatri, Gooty and Guntakal. I have taken steps to bring this to sale without delay and trust that this timely contribution may save many valuable lives.

To my remarks *supra* about water, I may add here that I have, in anticipation of sanction, permitted wells to be deepened at Provincial cost wherever absolutely necessary.

FOOD-SUPPLIES AND THE STATE OF THE MARKETS.

Prices of principal food-grains at principal markets in the affected tracts, in seers of 80 tolas per rupee, for the period ending 15th May 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		Ragi.		Yellow cholam.		White cholam.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
Tadpatri	8·64	8·64	15·52	15·52	12·36	13·39	11·38	12·36	The prices are almost stationary.
Yadiki	8·10	8·10	14·55	15·52	12·36	12·36	..	..	
Gooty	8·64	8·64	16·20	16·76	12·36	12·64	11·84	11·84	
Uravakonda	9·45	9·45	17·85	17·85	..	..	12·60	12·60	
Anantapur	8·64	8·64	16·49	16·49	..	..	14·42	13·90	
Kalyandrug	10·80	10 80	17·46	17·46	16·48	16·48	13·39	13·39	
Dharmavaram	8·64	8·64	15·52	14·55	15·45	15·45	14·42	14·42	
Penukonda	9·72	9·72	19 40	18·43	..	..	16·48	14·42	
Hindupur	10·75	10·75	23·65	23·65	..	..	17·20	15·05	
Madakasira	10·80	10·80	21·34	21·34	..	..	..	..	
Average ..	9·41	9·41	17·79	17·62	13·80	14·00	13·96	13·49	

Activity of trade.—Dull in all taluks except Hindupur and Tadpatri. The imports were rice from Guntúr, Salem, &c., and cholam from Nellore and Venkatagiri :—

	MDS.
Imports	3,039
Exports	12,347

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On works and in villages.—Mr. Crole says it is "undeniably low," but it seemed to me fairly good. Perhaps I came prepared for the worst. I paid particular attention to this point in my inspection and took notice of the arms and of the legs as far as I could, without indelicacy, as I consider these limbs to be highly indicative of the state of health in labourers. Though I did not find them in first class condition, they were not, as a rule, attenuated, and I see no reason why they should deteriorate under the improved conditions of wage and work. The famine children noticed by the Commissioner at Yadiki have improved very much. The worst case I saw was at Tadpatri, of a nursing mother and a child of 3 or 4 months without an ounce of flesh on its poor little body. The Hospital Assistant was looking after this case, and I have no doubt that it is improving. As a rule the condition of the people is far above starvation point, though there occur, of course, cases of emaciation. Emigration from Uravakonda in Gooty has been arrested by opening relief-works, and labourers who had gone to Mysore in search of work are returning home, driven back by want of work and an uncongenial climate.

Sickness and Mortality.—No deaths from starvation. Small-pox in parts of Penukonda, Dharmavaram and Madakasíra. There were 61 attacks in the latter taluks and 15 deaths. No figures are reported from Penukonda. I trust there will not be an outbreak on the works, for very many of the workers are not protected and our medical staff is very weak. I have succeeded in obtaining the services of two of the Plague Hospital Assistants at Guntakal. But the two others, who were promised to this district some ten days ago, have been apparently lost in transit else captured on their way by the Collector of Cuddapah for his own district. is only quite recently that an Assistant Surgeon has been sent to Anantapur. or want of him,

the District Surgeon has been kept in head-quarters. This paucity of medical officers is very strange and "*donne furieusement à penser.*"

Remarks.—"Loans" work and odd jobs, such as cutting Tangedu bark, removing nuth grass and the little harvest under wells, &c., have afforded up to now some scope for labour. Weavers are being relieved at their own trade in Tadpatri, and their number is 700. The Gooty scheme has been sanctioned and orders have been given for its immediate introduction, but no report has yet been received. Weavers in other parts have not yet come forward and asked for relief, but I understand that they will do so very shortly in Uravakonda.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Tadpatri taluk—			In cases where figures of last Saturday have not yet been received, the previous Saturday attendance has been given. Complete information will be submitted with the season report.
1. Gudur	2 664	2,525	
2. Putlur	1,099	1,024	
3. Yadiki	1,383	2,287	
4. Kondapur	2,373	2,338	
5. Virapuram	341	1,469	
Total ..	7,860	9,643	
Gooty taluk—			
1. Paltur	1,245	1,481	
2. Guntakal	776	1,113	
3. Karadikonda	1,108	1,692	
4. Rajapuram	..	1,013	
Total ..	3,129	5,299	
Anantapur taluk—			
1. Korrapaud	1,100	1,284	
2. Peravali	735	835	
3. Kandakur	..	701	
Total ..	1,835	2,820	
Dharmavaram taluk—			
1. Damajipalle-Nayampalle road near Dharmavaram	2,073	3,385	
2. Damajipalle-Nayampalle road neer Potlamari.	186	782	
3. Ravalcheru	..	814	
Total ..	2,259	4,981	
Grand Total ..	15,083	22,743	

Gratuitous Relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise :—

Taluk.	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.
Tadpatri	328	346	152	207	..	..	..	..
Gooty	170	212	99	106	..	..	..	134
Anantapur	56	80	11	16	..	..	..	..
Dharmavaram	181	414	93	63	..	..	..	..
Penukonda	..	..	56	73	..	..	..	..
Total ..	735	1,052	411	454	..	..	..	134

Taluk.	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.
Tadpatri	..	..	136	700	811	902

Private charity.—The springs of private charity are rapidly drying up. My impression is that native charitableness is of a very facile kind. If the harvest has been fairly good, the beggar at the door receives his dole of grain, which is given ungrudgingly. But if the harvest has failed, even well-to-do people withhold their hand. "I have to buy rice myself," they say, "how should I give you any?" Alms in kind they give, but alms in money they will not give, except under pressure. This is, I take it, illustrated by the meagre collections in India, where the contributions to the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund bear a proportion of one in ten to the total collections.

Indian Famine Charitable funds have been distributed to the amount of some Rs. 2,100, the balance of Rs. 600 has been reserved for the purchase of cloths for the workers, many of whom are in rags. I have just (17th) received intimation of a further allotment of Rs. 5,000.

General remarks.—I began these, last time, by remarking that there was no silver lining on our cloud. This fortnight, I must regretfully repeat the remark. There is some comfort about the increasing heat, and that is, that it presages a good monsoon. "What sir", said the Tadpatrites to the Deputy Collector who commented upon the scorching heat,—'what, sir, unless we get much more heat, we shall not get good rain' —and they were not at all pleased at the showers at the beginning of the month.

The numbers on the works are rising by leaps and bounds from 14,000 in the last fortnight to 20,000 in this one. The following new works have been started in this fortnight :—

Kummenamala	Tadpatri taluk.
Nagasamudram, Yerrathimmarajacheru, Gooty, Anantapur.	Gooty taluk.
Kandakur, Anantapur	Anantapur taluk.
Ellakuntla tank	Dharmavaram taluk.

Overseers, paymasters, &c., are slowly dribbling in : single spies, I regret to say, not in battalions.

I have, at last, started village relief. I have divided Tadpatri and Gooty into eight circles each and the central taluks into five each ; Revenue Inspectors are doing circle inspection work in addition to their other duties. Deputy Tahsildars and Stationary Sub-Magistrates have also been given circles, so arranged as to interfere as little as possible with their other work.

I have relieved the Divisional Officers of their routine work entirely now, as Government has appointed two Special Deputy Collectors to this district, viz., my Sheristadar, Rao Bahadur Arumagam Pillay, and M.R.Ry. K. Narasimham of Rámachandrápuram, whom I am glad to welcome to the rank of Deputy Collector again. I have transferred the Huzur Deputy Collector, Mr. Shanmuga Sundram Pillai, to the charge of the Head Assistant Collector's division and put Rao Bahadur Rustum Singh in charge of the famine work of the Huzur division, the Sheristadar doing the ordinary work of the same division. This step I considered advisable, as the Huzur Deputy Collector does not ride and I do not think it right that a Deputy Collector should loll in a sumptuous coach, while the Collector wears out his own, and his saddle leather on horseback.

I was informed at Rayalcheruvu by Mr. DeChazal that he could not get labourers for his tank work, because they preferred the relief work at Yadiki. This seemed extraordinary, and I made enquiries. The fact seems to be that the coolies do not care to go four miles to do very heavy earthwork under a contractor at annas 3 a day paid irregularly. They say they cannot afford to wait for their wages. Had the Public Works Department taken this work up as piece-work, it would have done a lot of good. Mr. Ross-Chisholm, of the Madras Railway, also told me that he found it hard to get odd jobs done now, as all the labourers are on the relief works. This shows, at all events, that we are paying the labourers a living wage at the least. And, of course, a family makes more on the relief work than a single man can make elsewhere.

Guntakal work is still peculiar in that there are no men to speak of at work on it. There is a large number of nursing mothers on this as on all the other works, and I have given orders that they shall be grouped in separate gangs and given an appropriate task. The overseers on one or two works objected that the women would prefer being grouped with their own people. But the women themselves have raised no objection to the new system, and apart from the relief that it gives to working gangs, it is, I think more pleasant for the women, who can sit and discuss family matters without the embarrassing presence of the 'mere male.' But I did not quite know what to do with a *nursing father* I discovered at Korrapaud.

There have been too many complaints of delays in payment, and I have repeatedly drawn Mr. Romilly's attention to them. He is doing all he can, but the overseers are a poor lot, and cannot get their nominal rolls ready in time. I have no doubt that they will improve with practice and a little judicious curtailment of their salaries.

There was a strike on the Korrapaud work in consequence of the action of the Local Fund Engineer. He seems to have struck two head-coolies (with his "weak hand" as he puts it) and to have kicked a third—or, as he says, "I merely applied my foot to his posterior, for at the time he was in a stooping posture." These three men induced the workers to consider that they had been insulted as a body, vicariously kicked in fact, and to go on strike. The affair only lasted a day and all grew quiet again. The Local Fund Engineer handed over charge to the Public Works Department very shortly afterwards.

A cacoethic scribe in the *Hindu* newspaper wrote a complaint about the hardship inflicted on nursing mothers who have to carry their hammers all the way to their homes. A few well-directed enquiries would have shown him that the workers *prefer* to take away the tools to which they have grown accustomed. The same scribe also brought to light the grave harm that was being done to a child of less than seven who was at work with her parents. The work, this child was doing, was about as hard as making mud pies at home. She ought, of course, to have been in the kitchen, but it is very difficult to keep them off the work. They love to think they are 'grown up' and "helping mamma."

On hearing from Government that Mr. Cotton was on his way to try and recruit coolies for Ceylon, I wrote to him to ask what the pay and conditions were. Unhappily the recruiter-general laid his hand on him and stopped his work. I made enquiries, however, and find that no labourers from Tadpatri or Gooty will go, with the exception of two Muhammadans.

Kalyandrug is, I think, safe for the present. The Tahsildar's enquiries show that the people will not work for famine wage as, indeed, many women refuse to do here in Anantapur.

I append Mr. MacMichael's remarks about Amarapuram, Madakasira taluk. I have reminded him about the Budili firka but have not heard from him yet. I am going there myself shortly. I am informed, however, that the crop of petitions from that quarter is the outcome of the action of a man who offered to obtain remission for the ryots if they would pay him Rs. 40. The money was paid, but no remission was obtained, and the ryots then asked for the return of their money. It was inconvenient for this man to return it, so he sent petitions complaining of the season, bad harvest, want of work, &c.

Extract from Head Assistant Collector's remarks about Amarapuram firka.

* * * * *

During the fortnight I have toured in Amarapuram firka of Madakasíra taluk. I do not think there is any necessity at present to open any relief work for at least one or two months to come. Most of the Panchamas and other working classes are just now getting some work in supplying Tangedu bark to contractors, and they get a wage of 2 to 3 annas per head. I went to the Panchamas' houses in every village to find out whether any of them were stinting themselves, and found most of them had enough to eat. Here and there they had less than they would have in ordinary seasons. In Hemavaty village there were two or three destitute old and infirm people unable to earn any livelihood. I shall arrange to have money or grain dole granted to them from the funds of Indian Charitable Relief Fund Committee. In Phalaram, the Panchamas say they want work and will work at famine wages. As a well is required for them their statement can be tested by having the work done at famine rates. Everywhere it is water particularly that they require. The Tahsildar is being directed to have wells dug and deepened where necessary without any delay. In some villages the cattle are very badly off for water, but hitherto there has not been much mortality among them in Amarapuram firka. On the whole, I think, Amarapuram firka is distinctly in a better condition than the Budili firka of Hindupur taluk. If, however, the south-west monsoon proves a total or partial failure, works will certainly be necessary.

* * * * *

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

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.						Other purposes.						Total.						Number of wells	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Tadpatri	22	3,750	19	2,175	78	24,015	21	2,015	17	1,610	95	20,955	43	5,765	36	3,785	173	44,970	1	18
Gooty	33	7,365	22	2,935	168	42,620	432	55,976	414	47,208	661	1,34,110	465	63,341	436	50,143	829	1,76,730	..	22
Anantapur	292	27,422	290	26,862	373	44,840	7	905	7	805	20	3,575	299	28,327	297	27,667	393	48,415	4	200
Kalyandrug	169	23,955	155	12,817	87	17,465	18	2,370	18	1,820	35	5,750	187	26,325	173	14,637	122	23,215	4	152
Dharmavaram	168	19,685	162	12,673	97	14,655	3	500	3	500	7	630	171	20,185	165	13,173	104	15,285	12	159
Penukonda	62	8,340	39	4,080	9	2,050	2	250	1	100	4	420	64	8,590	40	4,180	13	2,470	6	44
Hindupur	182	30,730	162	20,500	91	21,405	3	1,150	3	1,075	1	500	185	31,880	165	21,575	92	21,905	4	168
Madakasira	49	8,800	21	3,585	42	8,815	..	..	..	..	..	..	49	8,800	21	3,585	42	8,815	1	22
Total ..	977	1,30,047	870	85,627	945	1,75,865	486	63,166	463	53,118	823	1,65,940	1,463	1,93,213	1,333	1,38,745	1,768	3,41,805	32	785

Taluks.	Purchase of fodder.						Cattle and seed-grain.						Total.					
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Tadpatri	112	7,424	96	6,574	268	17,560	..	..	..	..	8	637	112	7,424	96	6,574	276	18,197
Gooty	20	1,290	20	1,290	322	19,585	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	1,290	20	1,290	322	19,585
Anantapur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kalyandrug	..	..	..	..	1	20	..	..	..	..	6	470	..	..	..	..	7	490
Dharmavaram	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	2,545	39	2,430	71	4,121	40	2,545	39	2,430	71	4,121
Penukonda	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	400	4	250	3	400	6	400	4	250	3	400
Hindupur	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	750	11	750	29	2,370	11	750	11	750	29	2,370
Madakasira	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1,075	..	..	20	2,710	7	1,075	..	..	20	2,710
Total ..	132	8,714	116	7,864	591	37,165	64	4,770	54	3,430	137	10,708	196	13,484	170	11,294	728	47,873

Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and Places visited.

Head Assistant Collector.

Dharmavaram taluk ... ...
- Dharmavaram.
- Ravaleheru.
- Venkatathimmapuram.
- Dharmapur.
- Potlamari.

Penukonda taluk ... ... Penukonda.

Hindúpur taluk ... ...
- Hindúpur.
- Kallumur.
- Manur.
- Chapelapally.
- Uppadapalli.
- Bullasamudram.

Madakasira taluk ... ...
- Chikkaturpi.
- Halukur.
- Amarapur.
- Hemavati.
- Morebagul.
- Phalaram.
- Gudibanda.

Gooty Deputy Collector.

Gooty taluk ... ...
- Chetnapalli.
- Thimmanecherla.
- Guntakal.
- Konakondla.
- Vajrakarur.
- Uravakonda.
- Paltur.
- Karakamukkala.
- Malapuram.
- Vidapanakal.

Tadpatri taluk ... ...
- Virapuram.
- Vanjanur.
- Tadpatri.
- Nandalapaud.
- Rayalecheru.
- Rayavarkatampalli.
- Kannukuntlapalli.
- Senegalagudur.
- Peddapeta.
- Yadiki.

Anantapur Head-quarter Deputy Collector.

Kandukúr taluk ... ...
- Kandukúr.
- Mannila.
- Mushtoor.
- Chigacherla.
- Korrapaud.
- Sivapuram.
- Bandamidapalli.
- Peravali.
- Nayanipalli.
- Narpala.
- Nadimidoddi.
- Kesapalli.
- Bondaladu.
- Pappur.
- Yekapadampalli.
- Malayavantam.
- Yerrapalli.

Collector.

Gooty taluk ... ... { Gooty. Tadpatri. Ravalcheru. Vanganur. Senegalagudur. Kondapuram. Virupuram. Rayalcheru. Guntakal. Dharmavaram. Ravalcheru. Guttur. Potlamari. Korrapaud.

and various villages on the way to these works, the names of which escape me.

Resolution—dated 31st May 1897, No. 407.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall during the fortnight was of but little service. The supplies of drinking-water are drying up. Rupees 3,000 allotted from Provincial funds to improve sources have been all spent; the Collector's application for a further allotment was submitted to Government in B.P., Mis. No. 3638, dated 22nd May 1897. The Collector's action in deepening wells at Provincial cost, wherever absolutely necessary in anticipation of sanction, is approved.

3. Pasture is *nil*; fodder is dear and procurable only with great difficulty; and the poorer classes of cattle are in desperate straits. Reserves have been thrown open to free grazing, and 55 tons of paddy-straw have been despatched to Tadpatri for sale on the conditions specified in B.P., No. 376, dated 18th May 1897. The consignments have met with a fairly ready sale.

The figures of sales up to date are:—

Date.	Quantity sold.
	LB.
18th May 1897	6,000
20th „ „	8,000
21st „ „	17,500
22nd „ „	6,000
23rd „ „	16,700
24th „ „	9,000
25th „ „	6,900
26th „ „	13,900
27th „ „	13,400
Total ...	97,400

4. Prices were more or less steady, though there was a smart rise in ragi, at Dharmavaram and Penukonda, and in white cholam at Penukonda and Hindupur.

The local variations are very considerable, and justify the Collector's statement that trade is generally dull. That cholam should be fourteen measures on the average in Anantapur, and twenty-six measures in Trichinopoly, does not say much for the organisation of private trade. It is curious to note that though trade is said to be active in Tadpatri and Hindupur, the former reports the highest, and the latter the lowest, prices in the district. The present position of prices is shown in the subjoined statement:—

Rate.	Seers of 80 tolas per rupee.		
	Rice.	Ragi.	Cholam (mixed).
Standard	13·2	32·0	30·0
Warning	10·6	24·0	22·5
Scarcity	7·9	16·0	15·0
Current	9·4	17·7	13·7
May 1892	8·9	16·4	16·1
May 1877	7·2	8·0	7·9

5. The Collector takes a more favourable view of the condition of the people than the Hon'ble Mr. Crole. The numbers on relief increased during the fortnight by 50 per cent., but even these figures do not afford a true criterion of the distress, owing to the insufficient number of works opened by reason of the want of overseers. Those who are on works are evidently fairly satisfied with their lot, for they prefer the constant employment, though on a low wage, with payments at fairly regular short intervals, to casual jobs at higher rates under other employers. With reference to the Proceedings of Government, Mis. No. 2628, dated 22nd May 1897, a copy of which has been sent to the Collector, Mr. Shipley will ascertain from Mr. Chisholm what was the nature of the work for which he wanted, and was unable to obtain, coolies; how many and what kind of coolies he wanted; how far was the spot from the nearest relief work; what were the wages offered, and, having obtained this information, Mr. Shipley should ascertain whether any persons regularly working for the railway are on the relief works in the locality indicated by Mr. Chisholm. If there are any such coolies on the relief works, it should be reported why they prefer to go there instead of working under Mr. Chisholm. This reference should be treated as urgent. Mr. MacMichael's proposal to feed Hemavati paupers at the expense of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund is not approved, as this is not a legitimate use of such funds. If relief is necessary, Government is responsible for administering it. The want of medical subordinates is again referred to by the Collector, and the Famine Commissioner shares in the anxiety he feels for the health of the workers.

6. The Collector's posting of officers is approved, with reference to G.O., No. 316 of 1897.

7. The action of the Local Fund Engineer at Korrupadu is regrettable, and it is hoped that there will be no recurrence of such treatment; but it is possible that Mr. Deighton received serious provocation, and there are some idle and shirking head coolies who would provoke a hot-tempered man to forget himself.

8. The figures of loans transactions do not, apparently, include all disbursements up to 15th May. The weekly progress, as reported elsewhere, is—

Amount disbursed.	Up to the end of the week ending.
RS.	
1,08,144	May 1st.
1,09,072	„ 8th.
1,55,948	„ 15th.

It is satisfactory to note that good work was done in the last week of the fortnight, but applications for nearly four lakhs still remain to be disposed of.

9. By a "nursing father" the Collector, no doubt, means a widower with an infant. If he has no one to take care of the child, he can be put on gratuitous relief, under the latter part of section 62, Famine Code; but, if possible, the Collector should get the child a wet-nurse, under section 125.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

ORDER—No. 482, Revenue, dated 21st June 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The further allotment referred to in paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings has already been sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. Shaik Karim.

70 Copies.

Public Works Department.

Government (1897) of Madras.

REVENUE.

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

G.O., No. 482, 21st June 1897.

No. 1899 W. 15-7-9[?]
Communicated to the
Supdg. Engr. III circle
(Sd) D. M. C.
[?]

JUNE.

To The S. E. III circle.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording, with remark, Board's Proceedings submitting to Government — of the Anantapur district for the period ending 15th May 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 31st May 1897, No. 407 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Anantapur district during the period ending 15th of May 1897 :—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply.—Rain was registered at five stations during the fortnight :—

	INCHES.
Tadpatri	0·16
Gooty	1·80
Anantapur	1·58
Hindupur	·10
Madakasíra	·60

The rain did little or no good. It has not even stimulated the growth of grass, nor has it affected the wells to any appreciable degree. The land has a thirst that will not be appeased by such a short drink as this. The aggregate fall up to the fortnight was ·93 against an expected fall of 1·78. The water-supply, even for domestic purposes, is insufficient in many parts of the district, notably in Tadpatri, Gooty, Dharmavaram, Penukonda and Madakasíra. The wells are drying up, and in fact, as far as the water famine goes, this year is said to beat even the "great famine". The sum of Rs. 3,000 granted from Provincial Funds was distributed and has been nearly all spent, and more is required. I have wired to Government to sanction the allotments applied for in B.'s P., dated 29th March 1897, No. 258, and am submitting an application for the specific allotments as directed by Government in its reply. The supply of water for irrigation is practically *nil*. Here and there a well or spring channel is to be found with enough water perhaps for the standing crops ; but that is all.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—A little ploughing is being done on dry lands in expectation of early rains. There are no standing crops on these lands except cotton and castor, which are stunted in growth and not likely to yield. Late crops, such as cholam, korra and paddy under wells and nalas, are being harvested in parts of Tadpatri, Gooty, Anantapur and Madakasíra taluks with an outturn ranging from 8 to 12 annas. Paddy in Dharmavaram has also been harvested, outturn being bad to middling. Standing crops on wet lands, sugarcane, chillies, ragi and turmeric in a few isolated fields dependant an wells and springs in Hindupur and Madakasíra, are in a thriving condition. In the Gooty division paddy and korra are reported to be diseased.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture is *nil* everywhere, and hill grass and fodder are dear and procurable only with great difficulty. Prickly-pear and sonti roots in parts of Gooty and margosa leaves in parts of Hindupur are being used as fodder. Tilling cattle alone are fed with any care, and the rest are left to shift for themselves and are dying.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—The outlook is becoming more desperate than ever for the cattle. I have addressed the Collectors of Nellore, North Arcot and Kistna about the ruling prices of paddy straw in those districts, and have also asked the Traffic Managers, Madras Railway and Southern Mahratta Railway

lines, to quote reduced rates for the transport of straw. I have been just advised by the Board of the despatch of consignments of straw to Tadpatri, Gooty and Guntakal. I have taken steps to bring this to sale without delay and trust that this timely contribution may save many valuable lives.

To my remarks *supra* about water, I may add here that I have, in anticipation of sanction, permitted wells to be deepened at Provincial cost wherever absolutely necessary.

FOOD-SUPPLIES AND THE STATE OF THE MARKETS.

Prices of principal food-grains at principal markets in the affected tracts, in seers of 80 tolas per rupee, for the period ending 15th May 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		Ragi.		Yellow cholam.		White cholam.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
Tadpatri	8·64	8·64	15·52	15·52	12·36	13·39	11·33	12·36	The prices are almost stationary.
Yadiki	8·10	8·10	14·55	15·52	12·36	12·36	..	..	
Gooty	8·64	8·64	16·20	16·76	12·36	12·64	11·84	11·84	
Uravakonda	9·45	9·45	17·85	17·85	..	..	12·60	12·60	
Anantapur	8·64	8·64	16·49	16·49	..	..	14·42	13·90	
Kalyandrug	10·80	10 80	17·46	17·46	16·48	16·48	13·39	13·39	
Dharmavaram	8·64	8·64	15·52	14·55	15·45	15·45	14·42	14·42	
Penukonda	9·72	9·72	19·40	18·43	..	..	16·48	14·42	
Hindupur	10·75	10·75	23·65	23·65	..	..	17·20	15·05	
Madakasíra	10·80	10·80	21·34	21·34	..	..	..	..	
Average ..	9·41	9·41	17·79	17·62	13·80	14·00	13·96	13·49	

Activity of trade.—Dull in all taluks except Hindupur and Tadpatri. The imports were rice from Guntúr, Salem, &c., and cholam from Nellore and Venkatagiri :—

	MDS.
Imports	3,039
Exports	12,347

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On works and in villages.—Mr. Crole says it is "undeniably low," but it seemed to me fairly good. Perhaps I came prepared for the worst. I paid particular attention to this point in my inspection and took notice of the arms and of the legs as far as I could, without indelicacy, as I consider these limbs to be highly indicative of the state of health in labourers. Though I did not find them in first class condition, they were not, as a rule, attenuated, and I see no reason why they should deteriorate under the improved conditions of wage and work. The famine children noticed by the Commissioner at Yadiki have improved very much. The worst case I saw was at Tadpatri, of a nursing mother and a child of 3 or 4 months without an ounce of flesh on its poor little body. The Hospital Assistant was looking after this case, and I have no doubt that it is improving. As a rule the condition of the people is far above starvation point, though there occur, of course, cases of emaciation. Emigration from Uravakonda in Gooty has been arrested by opening relief-works, and labourers who had gone to Mysore in search of work are returning home, driven back by want of work and an uncongenial climate.

Sickness and Mortality.—No deaths from starvation. Small-pox in parts of Penukonda, Dharmavaram and Madakasíra. There were 61 attacks in the latter taluks and 15 deaths. No figures are reported from Penukonda. I trust there will not be an outbreak on the works, for very many of the workers are not protected and our medical staff is very weak. I have succeeded in obtaining the services of two of the Plague Hospital Assistants at Guntakal. But the two others, who were promised to this district some ten days ago, have been apparently lost in transit or else captured on their way by the Collector of Cuddapah for his own district. It is only quite recently that an Assistant Surgeon has been sent to Anantapur. For want of him,

the District Surgeon has been kept in head-quarters. This paucity of medical officers is very strange and "*donne furieusement à penser.*"

Remarks.—"Loans" work and odd jobs, such as cutting Tangedu bark, removing nuth grass and the little harvest under wells, &c., have afforded up to now some scope for labour. Weavers are being relieved at their own trade in Tadpatri, and their number is 700. The Gooty scheme has been sanctioned and orders have been given for its immediate introduction, but no report has yet been received. Weavers in other parts have not yet come forward and asked for relief, but I understand that they will do so very shortly in Uravakonda.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Tadpatri taluk—			
1. Gudur	2 664	2,525	In cases where figures of last Saturday have not yet been received, the previous Saturday attendance has been given. Complete information will be submitted with the season report.
2. Putlur	1,099	1,024	
3. Yadiki	1,383	2,287	
4. Kondapur	2,373	2,338	
5. Virapuram	341	1,469	
Total ..	7,860	9,643	
Gooty taluk—			
1. Paltur	1,245	1,481	
2. Guntakal	776	1,113	
3. Karadikonda	1,108	1,692	
4. Rajapuram	..	1,013	
Total ..	3,129	5,299	
Anantapur taluk—			
1. Korrapaud	1,100	1,284	
2. Peravali	735	835	
3. Kandakur	..	701	
Total ..	1,835	2,820	
Dharmavaram taluk—			
1. Damajipalle-Nayampalle road near Dharmavaram	2,073	3,385	
2. Damajipalle-Nayampalle road neer Potlamari.	186	782	
3. Ravalcheru	..	814	
Total ..	2,259	4,981	
Grand Total ..	15,083	22,743	

Gratuitous Relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise :—

Taluk.	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.
Tadpatri	328	346	152	207	..	..	..	..
Gooty	170	212	99	106	..	..	..	134
Anantapur	56	80	11	16	..	..	..	..
Dharmavaram	181	414	93	63	..	..	..	..
Penukonda	..	..	56	73	..	..	..	..
Total ..	735	1,052	411	454	..	..	..	134

Taluk.	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.
Tadpatri	..	..	136	700	811	902

Private charity.—The springs of private charity are rapidly drying up. My impression is that native charitableness is of a very facile kind. If the harvest has been fairly good, the beggar at the door receives his dole of grain, which is given ungrudgingly. But if the harvest has failed, even well-to-do people withhold their hand. "I have to buy rice myself," they say, "how should I give you any?" Alms in kind they give, but alms in money they will not give, except under pressure. This is, I take it, illustrated by the meagre collections in India, where the contributions to the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund bear a proportion of one in ten to the total collections.

Indian Famine Charitable funds have been distributed to the amount of some Rs. 2,400, the balance of Rs. 600 has been reserved for the purchase of cloths for the workers, many of whom are in rags. I have just (17th) received intimation of a further allotment of Rs. 5,000.

General remarks.—I began these, last time, by remarking that there was no silver lining on our cloud. This fortnight, I must regretfully repeat the remark. There is some comfort about the increasing heat, and that is, that it presages a good monsoon. "What sir", said the Tadpatrites to the Deputy Collector who commented upon the scorching heat,—'what, sir, unless we get much more heat, we shall not get good rain' —and they were not at all pleased at the showers at the beginning of the month.

The numbers on the works are rising by leaps and bounds from 14,000 in the last fortnight to 20,000 in this one. The following new works have been started in this fortnight :—

Kummenamala ... ... Tadpatri taluk.
Nagasamudram, Yerrathimmarajacheru, Gooty, Anantapur. Gooty taluk.
Kandakur, Anantapur ... ... Anantapur taluk.
Ellakuntla tank ... ... Dharmavaram taluk.

Overseers, paymasters, &c., are slowly dribbling in : single spies, I regret to say, not in battalions.

I have, at last, started village relief. I have divided Tadpatri and Gooty into eight circles each and the central taluks into five each ; Revenue Inspectors are doing circle inspection work in addition to their other duties. Deputy Tahsildars and Stationary Sub-Magistrates have also been given circles, so arranged as to interfere as little as possible with their other work.

I have relieved the Divisional Officers of their routine work entirely now, as Government has appointed two Special Deputy Collectors to this district, viz., my Sheristadar, Rao Bahadur Arumagam Pillay, and M.R.Ry. K. Narasimham of Rámachandrápuram, whom I am glad to welcome to the rank of Deputy Collector again. I have transferred the Huzur Deputy Collector, Mr. Shanmuga Sundram Pillai, to the charge of the Head Assistant Collector's division and put Rao Bahadur Rustum Singh in charge of the famine work of the Huzur division, the Sheristadar doing the ordinary work of the same division. This step I considered advisable, as the Huzur Deputy Collector does not ride and I do not think it right that a Deputy Collector should loll in a sumptuous coach, while the Collector wears out his own, and his saddle leather on horseback.

I was informed at Rayalcheruvu by Mr. DeChazal that he could not get labour for his tank work, because they preferred the relief work at Yadiki. This seemed extraordinary, and I made enquiries. The fact seems to be that the coolies do not care to go four miles to do very heavy earthwork under a contractor at annas 2 day paid irregularly. They say they cannot afford to wait for their wages. Had Public Works Department taken this work up as piece-work, it would have done lot of good. Mr. Ross-Chisholm, of the Madras Railway, also told me that he found it hard to get odd jobs done now, as all the labourers are on the relief works. This shows, at all events, that we are paying the labourers a living wage at the least. And, of course, a family makes more on the relief work than a single man can make elsewhere.

Guntakal work is still peculiar in that there are no men to speak of at work on it. There is a large number of nursing mothers on this as on all the other works, and I have given orders that they shall be grouped in separate gangs and given an appropriate task. The overseers on one or two works objected that the women would prefer being grouped with their own people. But the women themselves have raised no objection to the new system, and apart from the relief that it gives to working gangs, it is, I think more pleasant for the women, who can sit and discuss family matters without the embarrassing presence of the 'mere male.' But I did not quite know what to do with a *nursing father* I discovered at Korrapaud.

There have been too many complaints of delays in payment, and I have repeatedly drawn Mr. Romilly's attention to them. He is doing all he can, but the overseers are a poor lot, and cannot get their nominal rolls ready in time. I have no doubt that they will improve with practice and a little judicious curtailment of their salaries.

There was a strike on the Korrapaud work in consequence of the action of the Local Fund Engineer. He seems to have struck two head-coolies (with his "weak hand" as he puts it) and to have kicked a third—or, as he says, "I merely applied my foot to his posterior, for at the time he was in a stooping posture." These three men induced the workers to consider that they had been insulted as a body, vicariously kicked in fact, and to go on strike. The affair only lasted a day and all grew quiet again. The Local Fund Engineer handed over charge to the Public Works Department very shortly afterwards.

A cacoethic scribe in the *Hindu* newspaper wrote a complaint about the hardship inflicted on nursing mothers who have to carry their hammers all the way to their homes. A few well-directed enquiries would have shown him that the workers *prefer* to take away the tools to which they have grown accustomed. The same scribe also brought to light the grave harm that was being done to a child of less than seven who was at work with her parents. The work, this child was doing, was about as hard as making mud pies at home. She ought, of course, to have been in the kitchen, but it is very difficult to keep them off the work. They love to think they are 'grown up' and "helping mamma."

On hearing from Government that Mr. Cotton was on his way to try and recruit coolies for Ceylon, I wrote to him to ask what the pay and conditions were. Unhappily the recruiter-general laid his hand on him and stopped his work. I made enquiries, however, and find that no labourers from Tadpatri or Gooty will go, with the exception of two Muhammadans.

Kalyandrug is, I think, safe for the present. The Tahsildar's enquiries show that the people will not work for famine wage as, indeed, many women refuse to do here in Anantapur.

I append Mr. MacMichael's remarks about Amarapuram, Madakasira taluk. I have reminded him about the Budili firka but have not heard from him yet. I am going there myself shortly. I am informed, however, that the crop of petitions from that quarter is the outcome of the action of a man who offered to obtain remission for the ryots if they would pay him Rs. 40. The money was paid, but no remission was obtained, and the ryots then asked for the return of their money. It was inconvenient for this man to return it, so he sent petitions complaining of the season, bad harvest, want of work, &c.

Extract from Head Assistant Collector's remarks about Amarapuram firka.

* * * * *

During the fortnight I have toured in Amarapuram firka of Madakasira taluk. I do not think there is any necessity at present to open any relief work for at least three or two months to come. Most of the Panchamas and other working classes are just now getting some work in supplying Tangedu bark to contractors, and they get a wage of 2 to 3 annas per head. I went to the Panchamas' houses in every village to find out whether any of them were stinting themselves, and found most of them had enough to eat. Here and there they had less than they would have in ordinary seasons. In Hemavaty village there were two or three destitute old and infirm people unable to earn any livelihood. I shall arrange to have money or grain dole granted to them from the funds of Indian Charitable Relief Fund Committee. In Phalaram, the Panchamas say they want work and will work at famine wages. As a well is required for them their statement can be tested by having the work done at famine rates. Everywhere it is water particularly that they require. The Tahsildar is being directed to have wells dug and deepened where necessary without any delay. In some villages the cattle are very badly off for water, but hitherto there has not been much mortality among them in Amarapuram firka. On the whole, I think, Amarapuram firka is distinctly in a better condition than the Budili firka of Hindupur taluk. If, however, the south-west monsoon proves a total or partial failure, works will certainly be necessary.

* * * * *

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

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.						Other purposes.						Total.						Number of wells	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Tadpatri	22	3,750	19	2,175	78	24,015	21	2,015	17	1,610	95	20,955	43	5,765	36	3,785	173	44,970	1	18
Gooty	33	7,365	22	2,935	168	42,620	432	55,976	414	47,208	661	1,34,110	465	63,341	436	50,143	829	1,76,730	..	22
Anantapur	292	27,422	290	26,862	373	44,840	7	905	7	805	20	3,575	299	28,327	297	27,667	393	48,415	4	200
Kalyandrug	169	23,955	155	12,817	87	17,465	18	2,370	18	1,820	35	5,750	187	26,325	173	14,637	122	23,215	4	152
Dharmavaram	168	19,685	162	12,673	97	14,655	3	500	3	500	7	630	171	20,185	165	13,173	104	15,285	12	159
Penukonda	62	8,340	39	4,080	9	2,050	2	250	1	100	4	420	64	8,590	40	4,180	13	2,470	6	44
Hindupur	182	30,730	162	20,500	91	21,405	3	1,150	3	1,075	1	500	185	31,880	165	21,575	92	21,905	4	168
Madakasira	49	8,800	21	3,585	42	8,815	..	..	..	..	..	..	49	8,800	21	3,585	42	8,815	1	22
Total ..	977	1,30,047	870	85,627	945	1,75,865	486	63,166	463	53,118	823	1,65,940	1,463	1,93,213	1,333	1,38,745	1,768	3,41,805	32	785

Taluks.	Purchase of fodder.						Cattle and seed-grain.						Total.					
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Tadpatri	112	7,424	96	6,574	268	17,560	..	..	..	..	8	637	112	7,424	96	6,574	276	18,197
Gooty	20	1,290	20	1,290	322	19,585	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	1,290	20	1,290	322	19,585
Anantapur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kalyandrug	..	..	..	..	1	20	..	..	..	..	6	470	..	..	..	..	7	490
Dharmavaram	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	2,545	39	2,430	71	4,121	40	2,545	39	2,430	71	4,121
Penukonda	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	400	4	250	3	400	6	400	4	250	3	400
Hindupur	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	750	11	750	29	2,370	11	750	11	750	29	2,370
Madakasira	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1,075	..	..	20	2,710	7	1,075	..	..	20	2,710
Total ..	132	8,714	116	7,864	591	37,165	64	4,770	54	3,430	137	10,708	196	1,484	170	11,0		

Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and Places visited.

Head Assistant Collector.

Dharmavaram taluk ... ... Dharmavaram.
Ravalcheri.
Venkatathimmapuram.
Dharmapur.
Potlamari.

Penukonda taluk ... ... Penukonda.

Hindúpur taluk ... ... Hindúpur.
Kallumur.
Manur.
Chapelapally.
Uppadapalli.
Bullasamudram.

Madakasira taluk ... ... Chikkaturpi.
Halukur.
Amarapur.
Hemavati.
Morebagul.
Phalaram.
Gudibanda.

Gooty Deputy Collector.

Gooty taluk ... ... Chetnapailli.
Thimmanoherla.
Guntakal.
Konakondla.
Vajrakarur.
Uravakonda.
Paltur.
Karakamukkala.
Malapuram.
Vidapanakal.
Virapuram.
Vanjanur.
Tadpatri.
Nandalapaud.

Tadpatri taluk ... ... Rayaloheru.
Rayavarkatampalli.
Kannukuntlapalli.
Senegalagudur.
Peddapeta.
Yadiki.

Anantapur Head-quarter Deputy Collector.

Kandukúr taluk ... ... Kandukúr.
Mannila.
Mushtoor.
Chigacherla.
Korrapaud.
Sivapuram.
Bandamidapalli.
Peravali.
Nayanipalli.
Narpala.
Nadimidoddi.
Kesapalli.
Bondaledu.
Pappur.
Yekapadampalli.
Malayavantanu.
Yerrapalli.

Collector.

Gooty taluk ... ... { Gooty. Tadpatri. Ravalcheru. Vanganur. Senegalagudur. Kondapuram. Virupuram. Rayalcheru. Guntakal. Dharmavaram. Ravalcheru. Guttur. Potlamari. Korrapaud.

and various villages on the way to these works, the names of which escape me.

Resolution—dated 31st May 1897, No. 407.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall during the fortnight was of but little service. The supplies of drinking-water are drying up. Rupees 3,000 allotted from Provincial funds to improve sources have been all spent; the Collector's application for a further allotment was submitted to Government in B.P., Mis. No. 3638, dated 22nd May 1897. The Collector's action in deepening wells at Provincial cost, wherever absolutely necessary in anticipation of sanction, is approved.

3. Pasture is *nil*; fodder is dear and procurable only with great difficulty; and the poorer classes of cattle are in desperate straits. Reserves have been thrown open to free grazing, and 55 tons of paddy-straw have been despatched to Tadpatri for sale on the conditions specified in B.P., No. 376, dated 18th May 1897. The consignments have met with a fairly ready sale.

The figures of sales up to date are:—

Date.	Quantity sold. LB.
18th May 1897	6,000
20th „ „	8,000
21st „ „	17,500
22nd „ „	6,000
23rd „ „	16,700
24th „ „	9,000
25th „ „	6,900
26th „ „	13,900
27th „ „	13,400
Total ...	97,400

4. Prices were more or less steady, though there was a smart rise in ragi, at Dharmavaram and Penukonda, and in white cholam at Penukonda and Hindupur.

The local variations are very considerable, and justify the Collector's statement that trade is generally dull. That cholam should be fourteen measures on the average in Anantapur, and twenty-six measures in Trichinopoly, does not say much for the organisation of private trade. It is curious to note that though trade is said to be active in Tadpatri and Hindupur, the former reports the highest, and the latter the lowest, prices in the district. The present position of prices is shown in the subjoined statement:—

Rate.	Seers of 80 tolas per rupee. Rice.	Ragi.	Cholam (mixed).
Standard	13·2	32·0	30·0
Warning	10·6	24·0	22·5
Scarcity	7·9	16·0	15·0
Current	9·4	17·7	13·7
May 1892	8·9	16·4	16·1
May 1877	7·2	8·0	7·9

5. The Collector takes a more favourable view of the condition of the people than the Hon'ble Mr. Crole. The numbers on relief increased during the fortnight by 50 per cent., but even these figures do not afford a true criterion of the distress, owing to the insufficient number of works opened by reason of the want of overseers. Those who are on works are evidently fairly satisfied with their lot, for they prefer the constant employment, though on a low wage, with payments at fairly regular short intervals, to casual jobs at higher rates under other employers. With reference to the Proceedings of Government, Mis. No. 2628, dated 22nd May 1897, a copy of which has been sent to the Collector, Mr. Shipley will ascertain from Mr. Chisholm what was the nature of the work for which he wanted, and was unable to obtain, coolies; how many and what kind of coolies he wanted; how far was the spot from the nearest relief work; what were the wages offered, and, having obtained this information, Mr. Shipley should ascertain whether any persons regularly working for the railway are on the relief works in the locality indicated by Mr. Chisholm. If there are any such coolies on the relief works, it should be reported why they prefer to go there instead of working under Mr. Chisholm. This reference should be treated as urgent. Mr. MacMichael's proposal to feed Hemavati paupers at the expense of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund is not approved, as this is not a legitimate use of such funds. If relief is necessary, Government is responsible for administering it. The want of medical subordinates is again referred to by the Collector, and the Famine Commissioner shares in the anxiety he feels for the health of the workers.

6. The Collector's posting of officers is approved, with reference to G.O., No. 316 of 1897.

7. The action of the Local Fund Engineer at Korrupadu is regrettable, and it is hoped that there will be no recurrence of such treatment; but it is possible that Mr. Deighton received serious provocation, and there are some idle and shirking head coolies who would provoke a hot-tempered man to forget himself.

8. The figures of loans transactions do not, apparently, include all disbursements up to 15th May. The weekly progress, as reported elsewhere, is—

Amount disbursed. Rs.	Up to the end of the week ending.
1,08,144	May 1st.
1,09,072	„ 8th.
1,55,948	„ 15th.

It is satisfactory to note that good work was done in the last week of the fortnight, but applications for nearly four lakhs still remain to be disposed of.

9. By a "nursing father" the Collector, no doubt, means a widower with an infant. If he has no one to take care of the child, he can be put on gratuitous relief, under the latter part of section 62, Famine Code; but, if possible, the Collector should get the child a wet-nurse, under section 125.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 482, Revenue, dated 21st June 1897.

Miscellaneous. Recorded.

2. The further allotment referred to in paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings has already been sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. Shaik Karim.

70 Copies.