Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 2240 W

17th

DATED Hamilton 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Jamaica; Pros; Revenue Dept reporting with remarks Board's Pros; Enclosing Ho for trienl yr — Estimate of the Expenditure for the period ending 15th June 1897

Contd to D.E. Hall

D.C. 1718

[P.W. 25. 5,000—30-11-96.]

ed. 18/8

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 Number: 762

Government {1897} of Madras.

M 1993 w d 23-7-97

REVENUE.

6826

Recd. 2-8. } 1897. *Enclosures* —

Regd. 2-8. } *Spare copies* 16

G.O., No. 590, 19th July 1897.

No. 2240 W. d 17-8-97

Communicated to the Supt Engr I Circle

6/8/97

JULY.

S.S. I Circle with 5 spare copies to do 17/8/97

B/

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording, with remarks, Board's Proceedings submitting to Government — of the Ganjám district for the period ending 15th June 1897.

O.L.S 351

A9/8

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 30th June 1897, No. 479 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Ganjam district during the period ending 15th June 1897 :—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and water-supply.—

District rainfall.	Actual rainfall.	Expected rainfall.
	INCHES.	INCHES.
In the fortnight	·56	2·59
Up to the fortnight from April	3·07	5·18

There has been rainfall in the district during the last two days of the fortnight. The south-west monsoon seems to have broken. The rain registered at the Collector's head-quarters on the 13th, 15th and 16th was 1·04, 1·31 and 1·70 inches, respectively. Water-supply for drinking purposes was quite insufficient and much anxiety for drinking-water was felt during the fortnight, except in some parts of Goomsur and Chicacole taluks, until this rain fell. The amount spent for improvement of drinking-water supply during the fortnight was Rs. 1,812. The recent rainfall has materially improved the state of the country in this respect.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—Ploughing, manuring and sowing is in progress throughout the district. In Goomsur taluk the recently sown seeds have already sprouted. The standing crops are: light paddy, ragi, gingelly, chillies and sugar-cane. Ragi under river channels in Narasannapeta, gingelly and sugar-cane in Goomsur taluk are reported to be thriving. Elsewhere the condition of crops is poor. Light paddy and ragi were harvested in Berhampur taluk; the outturn was reported to be bad.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Fodder is available, but getting scarce and dear in some parts. Pasture has revived, and will be procurable in plenty during the next week.

Condition of cattle is generally good, but cattle-diseases exist in some parts of the Goomsur and Berhampur taluks and also in some villages of Parlákimedi taluk. The anxiety about drinking-water for cattle has abated owing to the recent rainfall.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—The recent rains will be found very useful for the few standing crops which are at present thriving.

Food-Supplies and the State of the Markets.

Prices of principal food-grain at principal markets in the affected tracts, in seers of 80 tolas per rupee, for the period ending 12th of June 1897.

Stations.	Rice.				Ragi.		Corresponding prices of 1889.		Remarks.
	End of last period.		End of current period.		End of last period.	End of current period.	Rice.	Ragi.	
	Raw.	Boiled.	Raw.	Boiled.					
Russellkonda	10·50	12·50	10·50	12·00	13·13	12·19	9·00	15·00	The fall in the price of rice at Purushottapur is due to imports from Nyaghar. The rise in the price of rice and ragi in all other stations is due to want of supply in the local markets.
Suradá	10·17	11·37	10·17	10·50	13·00	11·37	10·00	14·25	
Aska	11·12	12·56	10·20	10·88	12·83	11·03	9·75	16·36	
Purushottapur ..	10·00	12·50	10·50	12·50	13·00	11·50	12·00	18·50	
Chatrapur	9·00	12·50	8·50	10·50	Not available	10·50	11·00	18·00	
Berhampur	10·00	11·50	9·00	11·00	11·05	10·20	10·00	17·50	
Ichchhápuram ..	9·25	10·00	9·00	9·00	10·80	9·90	9·50	18·00	
Sómpéta	9·48	..	9·07	..	10·12	9·45	11·20	18·40	
Parlákimedi	10·12	..	8·62	..	12·35	10·40	11·25	19·50	
Tekkali	10·40	12·00	9·30	..	11·60	11·40	11·50	18·75	
Narasannapéta ..	9·75	..	9·37	..	12·35	11·70	12·50	20·00	
Chicacole	9·56	..	8·71	..	13·31	10·65	10·50	19·00	
Total ..	119·35	94·93	112·94	76·38	133·54	130·29	128·20	213·26	
Average ..	9·95	11·87	9·41	10·91	12·14	10·86	10·68	17·77	

Activity of trade.—Trade within the district is reported to be not active. The Goomsur Deputy Collector reports that about 700 cart-loads of paddy have been imported into his division from Nyaghar. The Head-quarter Deputy Collector reports that imports from Orissa still continue, though not in large quantities.

Exports from Chicacole, Narsannapéta and Parlákimedi to Vizianagram and other places still continue.

Exports and imports of food-grains by rail and sea are as follow :—

	Exports.	Imports.
	MDS.	MDS.
By rail	1,187	5,852
By sea	1,021	1,000

Condition of the People.

On works.—The condition of people on works is generally good; about 15 per cent. may be considered weakly either through want of food or old age. Cholera has, however, broken out on several of the works, notably at Daigam, which has been almost deserted.

In villages.—The condition of people in the Senior Assistant and Head-quarter Deputy Collector's divisions is bad, but the several relief and test works opened during the fortnight have given them relief. The classes that are most affected by the pinch of distress are the professional beggars and the labouring classes (poorer ryots). Kapu Savaras of the Parlákimedi Maliahs are reported to be in an emaciated condition. They do not like to leave their villages for kitchens. They are being given grain-doles where practicable. The following remittances are reported from emigrants to Burma through the Post offices noted below :—

	Rs.
Kotabommali	912
Tekkali	494
Kasibugga	4,980
Jalmur	93
Total ...	6,479

Sickness and mortality.—No deaths from starvation have been reported. Fever, small-pox and cholera are generally prevalent. Cholera is severe throughout the district.

Cholera deaths—

	No.
Goomsur division	
Head-quarters Deputy Collector's division	130
Berhampur division	379
Chicacole division	708
	307
Total ...	1,524

Remarks.—The following kitchens and works have been opened during the fortnight :—

Kitchens.

1. Aska.
2. Sabuliya.
3. Patrapuram.

Works.

1. Railway quarry work at Ichchhápuram.
2. Krishnasagaram tank, Ichchhápuram.
3. Purushottapur quarry, Ichchhápuram taluk.
4. Lakshmipati tank, } Ganjám taluk.
5. Konchana, }
6. Pothara, }
7. Sabuliya, }
8. Ampuram, } Sómpéta taluk.
9. Jinkibhadra, }
10. Mogilkottur, }
11. Tumba tank, }
12. Haripuram, }
13. Kota Bommali railway quarry, } Tekkali taluk.
14. Ura tank, }
15. Kavita Agraharam, }
16. Jalmur, Narasanuapéta taluk. }
17. Hinjili No. 7 distributary, Purushottapur taluk.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed Last fortnight.	Number employed This fortnight.	Remarks.
Purushottapur taluk.			
1. Boirani	749	*	* Not reported.
2. Daigam	975	159	Relief work.
3. Mukundapur	2,003	1,941	Do.
4. Sorasingi	1,120	737	Do.
5. Atagada	591	832	Do.
6. Hingili (*a*)	596	916	
Total ..	6,034	4,585	
Ganjám taluk.			
7. Johomi	534	527	Relief wrok.
8. Santoshapur	627	843	Test work.
9. Chatrapur (Pilli tank) ..	2,045	1,596	Relief work.
10. Nungoor	125	431	Test work.
11. Bhatukumarada ..	352	1,045	Do.
12. Sabuliya	..	82	Do.
13. Chatrapur (Lakshmipati tank).	..	777	Relief work.
14. Pothara	..	743	Test work.
15. Kanchana	..	575	Do.
Total ..	3,683	6,619	
Berhampur taluk.			
16. Rushikulya surplus channel.	1,510	2,526	Relief work.

Taluks.	Number employed Last fortnight.	Number employed This fortnight.	Remarks.
Tekkali taluk.			
17. Patta Mahadevi tank ..	268	293	Test work.
18. Kota Bommali	..	302	Relief work.
19. Ura tank at Tekkali ..	..	277	Test work.
Total ..	268	872	
Ichchhápuram taluk.			
20. Rudra hill quarry ..	7,376	3,394	Relief work.
21. Quarry work at Ichchhápuram.	..	2,320	Do.
22. Krishnasagaram tank ..	..	172	* Do.
23. Purushottapur quarry work.	..	1,216	Test work.
Total ..	7,376	7,102	
Sómpéta taluk.			
24. Ampuram	..	791	Test work.
25. Jinkibhadra	..	409	Do.
26. Mogili Kottura ..	..	1,369	Do.
27. Tumba	..	141	Do.
Total ..	..	2,710	
Narasannapéta.			
28. Jalmur	..	495	Test work.
Total ..	18,871	24,909	
	+ 6,038 = 32 per cent.		

(*a*) The local fund quarry opened as a test work was closed on the morning of the 12th instant and No. 7 distributary of the Rushikulya canal was started as a relief work by the Public Works Department on the same morning.

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

Taluks.	Number relieved: At kitchens. Dependants. Last fortnight.	Dependants. This fortnight.	Others. Last fortnight.	Others. This fortnight.	In poor houses. Last fortnight.	In poor houses. This fortnight.	In villages. Last fortnight.	In villages. This fortnight.
Russellkonda	..	..	70	71	..	..	426	420
Suradá	..	..	82	87	..	..	..	128
Aska	..	..	..	101	..	..	83	5
Bodagada	..	..	59	72	..	..	108	141
Peddakimedi	..	..	30	41	..	..	839	1,702
Berhampur	..	..	195	255	..	..	7	..
Sómpéta	..	..	1,268	1,544	..	..	12,684	15,984
Ichchhápuram	..	8	69	108	..	..	3,018	4,457
Ganjám	..	..	6	7	..	..	1,711	1,589
Purushottapur	..	..	237	177	..	..	3,221	3,045
Tekkali	..	..	1,202	1,162	..	..	172	344
Narasannápeta	..	..	308	556	..	..	39	18
Parlákimedi	..	..	1,099	925	..	..	996	1,602
Chicacole	..	..	..	..	..	..	66	66
Total ..	..	8	4,625	5,106	..	..	23,370	29,501

Taluks.	Weavers relief. Number of villages in which relief was given Last fortnight.	Number of villages in which relief was given This fortnight.	Number of persons relieved Last fortnight.	Number of persons relieved This fortnight.	Number of cloths manufactured In the period.	Number of cloths manufactured Up to date.
Russellkonda	..	..	..	316	..	..
Suradá	..	..	..	..	..	..
Aska	..	..	129	170	1,002	1,841
Bodagada	..	..	..	..	..	..
Peddakimedi	..	..	..	..	..	..
Berhampur	..	..	..	44	..	..
Sómpéta	..	..	1,372	1,703	1,439	7,859
Ichchhápuram	..	144	..	..	..	..
Ganjám	184	166	148	167	683	683
Purushottapur	117	169	914	964	..	..
Tekkali	145	208	400	1,355	..	..
Narasannápeta	8	13	..	..	..	..
Parlákimedi	..	..	148	166	..	..
Chicacole	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	454	700	3,111	4,885	3,124	10,383

Private Charity.—There is no organized private charity at work. The zamindar of Kallikot and Atagada continues to feed 234 persons at the Haradamalai kitchen opened by him. The General Deputy Collector, Goomsur, reports that some gentlemen at Aska and Russellkonda continue to give a single meal to 50 daily. The zamindar of Chinnakimedi continues to feed at his temples and mutts 50 persons daily, having regard to caste prejudices. The proprietrix of Urlam has opened a kitchen at Devadi, 3 miles from Narasannapet, to feed the poor.

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

Taluks.	Other purposes. Total. Applications accepted. Number.	Applications accepted. Amount.	Loans disbursed. Number.	Loans disbursed. Amount.	Applications pending. Number.	Applications pending. Amount.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Berhampur ..	..	..	3	Rs. 270	2	Rs. 1,46,600
Chicacole ..	..	..	3	600	4	410
Goomsur ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	6	870	6	1,47,010

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells. Applications accepted. Number.	Applications accepted. Amount.	Loans disbursed. Number.	Loans disbursed. Amount.	Applications pending. Number.	Applications pending. Amount.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Berhampur ..	..	..	..	..	2	Rs. 300
Chicacole ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Goomsur ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	..	..	2	300

Taluks.	Number of wells. Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.	Purchase of fodder. Applications accepted. Number.	Applications accepted. Amount.	Loans disbursed. Number.	Loans disbursed. Amount.	Applications pending. Number.	Applications pending. Amount.
1	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Berhampur ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicacole ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Goomsur ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Taluks.	Cattle and seed grain. Applications accepted. Number.	Applications accepted. Amount.	Loans disbursed. Number.	Loans disbursed. Amount.	Applications pending. Number.	Applications pending. Amount.
1	28	29	30	31	32	33
Berhampur ..	33	Rs. 1,445	9	Rs. 385	2,232	Rs. 1,41,523
Chicacole ..	..	..	11	285	58	2,428
Goomsur ..	132	5,486	45	2,440	758	38,668
Total ..	165	6,931	65	3,110	3,048	1,82,619

Taluks.	Total. Applications accepted. Number.	Applications accepted. Amount.	Loans disbursed. Number.	Loans disbursed. Amount.	Applications pending. Number.	Applications pending. Amount.
1	34	35	36	37	38	39
Berhampur ..	33	Rs. 1,445	9	Rs. 385	2,232	Rs. 1,41,523
Chicacole ..	..	..	11	285	58	2,428
Goomsur ..	132	5,486	45	2,440	758	38,668
Total ..	165	6,931	65	3,110	3,048	1,82,619

Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and places visited.—The Principal Assistant Collector has been on tour throughout the fortnight; has visited twelve principal villages in Parlákimedi and other parts where distress is deepening owing to the high prices. The General Deputy Collector has visited 42 villages and the Head-quarters Deputy Collector 39 villages in their respective divisions.* I have visited the following places during the fortnight:—

1. Berhampur. *
2. Ichchhápur. * †
3. Sompet. † ‡
4. Kanchili.
5. Mogulkottur. †
6. Kinchebadra. †
7. Jalantrakota. *
8. Tumba. †
9. Jarada. *
10. Kolur *
11. Ampuram. †
12. Haripuram. * ‡
13. Mandasa. *

* Kitchen. † Relief work. ‡ Weavers' depot.

* Mr. Willmott, Senior Assistant Collector, was unable to tour through illness. Mr. Ashe, who was in charge of the current duties of that officer had to remain at head-quarters in consequence. I myself spent the fortnight on tour in that division.

General Remarks.

Owing to the arrival of Public Works Department subordinates who have been deputed for famine duty in this district, it has now been possible to open works throughout the Sompet taluk, and sufficient work is now, I think, available for all classes. Every work has attracted labour in considerable quantities. There have, however, been difficulties, tools have not always been supplied; it has been found difficult to procure competent paymasters, while in several cases persons appointed for that work have failed to join their posts. The paymaster (a pensioned Jamadar) at Daigam and Atagada left his post on the out-break of cholera, leaving coolies unpaid for eleven days. He took away his cash balance and accounts, thus causing further delay in payment.

The health and condition of the coolies generally has been good. I have gone through the gangs and found weakly C class gangs on all works visited. I find that the proportion of those who through old age, ill-health, or reduction of strength are not fit to do a full task, is about 15 per cent. Cholera has, however, broken out on some of the works; that at Daigam has been nearly deserted. There have also been isolated cases at the Konchana, Chatrapur, Chemmakhandi and Ichchhápuram works. Additional medical officers are urgently required. The District Medical Officer informs me that his indent for additional men cannot be complied with. I have at his request closed two Local Fund dispensaries and placed the men on special duty. At least six additional Medical subordinates are urgently required. Cholera has now a fair hold of the country; this was due to deficient water-supply in the past, and is certain to be aggravated in the immediate future by the rain washing long accumulated refuse into the various tanks.

I do not anticipate that there will be any material reduction in the number on works for the present. In fact the number may be expected to increase for the next three weeks until transplanting operations commence. I anticipate from 30,000 to 35,000 on works during the next fortnight.

Prices have again risen, that of ragi very sharply, till in some places it has reached almost to the level of rice. The rise in the sub-division has been particularly marked. Rice continues to be exported, but ragi is being imported from Vizianagram, Coconada and Bangalore.

The recent rain does not seem to have caused any reaction, and this cannot be looked for till the end of July. In many parts it is extremely difficult to obtain contractors to come forward for distribution of grain doles at fixed centres; for the present, however, doles are being distributed with fair regularity. The work could, however, have been carried out with much more economy, regularity and certainty, had my proposals to establish Government depôts met with the approval of the higher authorities. In some cases in Parlákimedi it was found necessary to grant money doles as no further grain was procurable. It is now, however, almost too late to start Government depôts even if the scheme were sanctioned.

I have during the fortnight examined a very large number of recipients of grain doles. With a few exceptions I find that the Circle Inspectors are using a proper discrimination and performing their duties satisfactorily. The condition of the Savaras of the Tumba agency is most pitiable. Some 50 per cent. of the total population of these villages are on gratuitous relief and they need it badly. They are accustomed in ordinary years from April to August to supplement their grain rations with jungle roots and fruits. This year the price of grain has been beyond their means; the mango crops failed, and the want of rain in eastern side of the ghauts has rendered the soil too hard to make it possible to trace or dig up the tubers. Many of these have now been on grain doles for two months, but are still emaciated. I made careful enquiries from the Karjees of each village, and they assured me that Government relief had been given in time and that no deaths had occurred for want of food in any village. It seemed to me that relief must have been given too late. These Savaras are fortunate in that there is no cholera or small-pox in their villages. I started two small tank works as relief works at Tumba for the Low country villages. It was not possible to provide regular famine relief works for the upland Savaras, as weakened men could not be expected to come 5, 8 or 10 miles down hill, work all day, and return to their villages at night; nothing would induce them to remain outside their villages at night. I accordingly gave advances to the Karjees for clearing the track from Tumba over Mahendragiri into the Parlákimedi agency. Each village agreed to remove the loose stones and cut the bushes along the track within the limits of their own village; I gave an advance of Rs. 10 per mile with a promise of Rs. 5 per mile in addition on completion of the work. The Karjees promised to employ their villagers on the work, and, being themselves Savaras, may be relied upon to see that the advance is properly distributed. They refused to purchase ragi with it, but said that they would purchase "solopo" (sago palm) flour, which would be much cheaper, and go a long way. I fear that the condition of the Savaras all along the eastern slopes of the ghâts is bad, but not so bad as in the case of Tumba, as some rain has fallen elsewhere. I saw some bad specimens from Mandasa zamindary. The condition of Kapa Savaras in Parlákimedi is reported to be bad. The recent rains will, however, enable the Savaras to dig up their favourite roots, and an early improvement in their condition may be looked for.

The General Deputy Collector writes reassuringly regarding the condition of Goomsur. Cholera and small-pox are still rife in parts of that division, but the general condition of the people is not giving cause for anxiety; prices are fairly stationary, and lower than elsewhere in the district, while agricultural operations are progressing favourably.

———

Resolution—dated 30th June 1897, No. 479.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall during the fortnight was very short, being only half an inch as against an expected fall of two-and-a-half inches. At the close of the period under report there was a fair fall in parts, which the Collector took for the monsoon. No rain has been reported during the past few days, and it seems that the fall was due rather to a cyclone in the Bay, than to a genuine burst of the monsoon. Difficulties about drinking-water still continued to be felt, and steps were taken to improve the supplies; but the rainfall at the end of the fortnight improved matters considerably. The older crops were in poor condition, but the early sowings were thriving. Anxiety for cattle has been greatly relieved: for, though fodder was scarce and dear in parts, drinking-water tanks were replenished and pasture was reviving.

3. Prices rose considerably, owing to the short supply in the markets. The supply of ragi in the district is especially deficient, and the Collector has applied for permission either to import it himself, or to give advances to stimulate its importation. Orders on the subject were passed in G.O., No. 3150, dated 23rd June 1897.

The following figures show the comparative position of prices:—

Rate.	Measures for a rupee. Rice.	Ragi
Normal	17·0	30·0
Warning	13·6	22·5
Scarcity	10·2	15·0
Current	10·2	10·9
June 1889	10·3	15·9
,, 1878	8·8	12·1

Ragi is now 11 per cent. dearer than in 1878, when the highest price ever recorded was reached. The Collector should insist on regular returns of prices for his fortnightly report. The average for rice given by him is vitiated by the absence of figures for several taluks in which prices rule high.

4. The condition of the people on works was generally good, though about 15 per cent. were considered weakly, either through privation or old age. The condition of the people in villages in the affected area was bad, but 17 works were provided for them during the fortnight, and it is hoped that these will give considerable relief. Cholera was severe throughout the district; but, in spite of several of the works being attacked, and consequently nearly deserted, the numbers on works rose by 6,000 or 32 per cent. The District Medical and Sanitary officer has reported to the Collector that the Surgeon-General is unable to send more medical subordinates to the district, and the Collector has therefore closed two dispensaries and placed the hospital assistants on famine duty. Considering the distressed condition of the district and the virulence of the outbreak, it might be advisable to withdraw men from unaffected districts, such as the non-agency portion of Gódávari, for temporary service in Ganjám. The numbers on gratuitous relief rose from 28 to 34½ thousands, or by about 25 per cent. The numbers in Sómpétá taluk showed a considerable increase in spite of the opening of four test works; it is hoped that some of those now on gratuitous relief may be shortly drafted to these works. The Collector anticipates a further rise of numbers on works up to the beginning or middle of July, even if the monsoon is favourable, which at the present moment appears doubtful.

5. The entries in the column "Number of villages in which relief was given" under the head of gratuitous relief, is unintelligible, as it does not correspond at all with the column showing "Number relieved in villages." It should be prepared with more care.

6. Loans have been disbursed as follows:—

	Rs.
Up to end of week ending—	
June 5th	18,875
Do 12th	19,770
Do. 19th	21,974

Progress is slow and applications for over 3¼ lakhs remain to be disposed of.

7. In continuation of paragraph 10 of B.P., dated 8th June 1897, No. 422, the attention of Government is drawn to the conduct of the pensioned jemadar, paymaster at Daigam, who deserted his post, taking his accounts and money with him, when cholera broke out. The Famine Commissioner can only reiterate his opinion that, as a rule, the pensioned sepoy is a failure in Civil employ.

(A 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. 590, Revenue, dated 19th July 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The Government has already passed orders on the proposals in paragraph 10 of the Board's Proceedings referred to in paragraph 7. If military pensioners have proved a failure the Famine Commissioner should discourage their employment in connection with relief works.

(True Extract.)

for Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Famine Commissioner.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Public Department.
„ the Local and Municipal Department.
„ the Accountant-General.
„ the Deputy Adjutant-General, Madras Command.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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No. 4 of 1897
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Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

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G.O., No. 590, 19th July 1897.

No 2240 M, 07 17-8-97

Rdr thereon

JULY. Communicated to S.E. I Circle.

(Sd) A Mac.

S.E. I Circle.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording, with remarks, Board's Proceedings submitting to Government — of the Ganjám district for the period ending 15th June 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 30th June 1897, No. 479:—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Ganjam district during the period ending 15th June 1897:—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and water-supply.—

District rainfall.

	Actual rainfall.	Expected rainfall.
	INCHES.	INCHES.
In the fortnight		
Up to the fortnight from April	·56	2·59
	3·07	5·18

There has been rainfall in the district during the last two days of the fortnight. The south-west monsoon seems to have broken. The rain registered at the Collector's head-quarters on the 13th, 15th and 16th was 1·04, 1·31 and 1·70 inches, respectively. Water-supply for drinking purposes was quite insufficient and much anxiety for drinking-water was felt during the fortnight, except in some parts of Goomsur and Chicacole taluks, until this rain fell. The amount spent for improvement of drinking-water supply during the fortnight was Rs. 1,812. The recent rainfall has materially improved the state of the country in this respect.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—Ploughing, manuring and sowing is in progress throughout the district. In Goomsur taluk the recently sown seeds have already sprouted. The standing crops are: light paddy, ragi, gingelly, chillies and sugar-cane. Ragi under river channels in Narasannapeta, gingelly and sugar-cane in Goomsur taluk are reported to be thriving. Elsewhere the condition of crops is poor. Light paddy and ragi were harvested in Berhampur taluk; the outturn was reported to be bad.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Fodder is available, but getting scarce and dear in some parts. Pasture has revived, and will be procurable in plenty during the next week.

Condition of cattle is generally good, but cattle-diseases exist in some parts of the Goomsur and Berhampur taluks and also in some villages of Parlákimedi taluk. The anxiety about drinking-water for cattle has abated owing to the recent rainfall.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—The recent rains will be found very useful for the few standing crops which are at present thriving.

Food-Supplies and the State of the Markets.

Prices of principal food-grain at principal markets in the affected tracts, in seers of 80 tolas per rupee, for the period ending 12th of June 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.	Corresponding prices of 1889. Rice.	Corresponding prices of 1889. Ragi.	Remarks.
Russellkonda	10·50	12·50	10·50	12·00	13·13	12·19	9·00	15·00	The fall in the price of rice at Purushottapur is due to imports from Nyaghar. The rise in the price of rice and ragi in all other stations is due to want of supply in the local markets.
Suradá	10·17	11·37	10·17	10·50	13·00	11·37	10·00	14·25	
Aska	11·12	12·56	10·20	10·88	12·83	11·03	9·75	16·36	
Purushottapur ..	10·00	12·50	10·50	12·50	13·00	11·50	12·00	18·50	
Chatrapur	9·00	12·50	8·50	10·50	Not available	10·50	11·00	18·00	
Berhampur	10·00	11·50	9·00	11·00	11·05	10·20	10·00	17·50	
Ichchhápuram ..	9·25	10 00	9·00	9·00	10·80	9·90	9·50	18·00	
Sómpéta	9·48	..	9·07	..	10·12	9·45	11·20	18·40	
Parlákimedi	10·12	..	8·62	..	12·35	10·40	11·25	19·50	
Tekkali	10·40	12·00	9·30	..	11·60	11·40	11·50	18·75	
Narasannapéta ..	9·75	..	9·37	..	12·35	11·70	12·50	20·00	
Chicacole	9·56	..	8·71	..	13·31	10·65	10·50	19·00	
Total ..	119·35	94·93	112·94	76·38	133·54	130·29	128·20	213 26	
Average ..	9·95	11·87	9·41	10·91	12·14	10·86	10·68	17·77	

Activity of trade.—Trade within the district is reported to be not active. The Goomsur Deputy Collector reports that about 700 cart-loads of paddy have been imported into his division from Nyaghar. The Head-quarter Deputy Collector reports that imports from Orissa still continue, though not in large quantities.

Exports from Chicacole, Narsannapéta and Parlákimedi to Vizianagram and other places still continue.

Exports and imports of food-grains by rail and sea are as follow:—

	Exports. MDS.	Imports. MDS.
By rail	1,187	5,852
By sea	1,021	1,000

Condition of the People.

On works.—The condition of people on works is generally good; about 15 per cent. may be considered weakly either through want of food or old age. Cholera has, however, broken out on several of the works, notably at Daigam, which has been almost deserted.

In villages.—The condition of people in the Senior Assistant and Head-quarter Deputy Collector's divisions is bad, but the several relief and test works opened during the fortnight have given them relief. The classes that are most affected by the pinch of distress are the professional beggars and the labouring classes (poorer ryots). Kapu Savaras of the Parlákimedi Maliahs are reported to be in an emaciated condition. They do not like to leave their villages for kitchens. They are being given grain-doles where practicable. The following remittances are reported from emigrants to Burma through the Post offices noted below:—

	Rs.
Kotabommali	912
Tekkali	494
Kasibugga	4,980
Jalmur	93
Total ...	6,479

Sickness and mortality.—No deaths from starvation have been reported. Fever, small-pox and cholera are generally prevalent. Cholera is severe throughout the district.

Cholera deaths—

	No.
Goomsur division	130
Head-quarters Deputy Collector's division	379
Berhampur division	708
Chicacole division	307
Total ...	1,524

Remarks.—The following kitchens and works have been opened during the fortnight:—

Kitchens.

1. Aska.
2. Sabuliya.
3. Patrapuram.

Works.

1. Railway quarry work at Ichchhápuram.
2. Krishnasagaram tank, Ichchhápuram.
3. Purushottapur quarry, Ichchhápuram taluk.
4. Lakshmipati tank, } Ganjám taluk.
5. Konchana, }
6. Pothara, }
7. Sabuliya, }
8. Ampuram, } Sómpéta taluk.
9. Jinkibhadra, }
10. Mogilkottur, }
11. Tumba tank, }
12. Haripuram, }
13. Kota Bommali railway quarry, } Tekkali taluk.
14. Ura tank, }
15. Kavita Agraharam, }
16. Jalmur, Narasannapéta taluk.
17. Hinjili No. 7 distributary, Purushottapur taluk.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed Last fortnight.	Number employed This fortnight.	Remarks.
Purushottapur taluk.			
1. Boirani	749	*	*Not reported.
2. Daigam	975	159	Relief work.
3. Mukundapur	2,003	1,941	Do.
4. Sorasingi	1,120	737	Do.
5. Atagada	591	832	Do.
6. Hingili (*a*)	596	916	
Total ..	6,034	4,585	
Ganjám taluk.			
7. Johomi	534	527	Relief wrok.
8. Santoshapur	627	843	Test work.
9. Chatrapur (Pilli tank) ..	2,045	1,596	Relief work.
10. Nungoor	125	431	Test work.
11. Bhatukumarada ..	352	1,045	Do.
12. Sabuliya	..	82	Do.
13. Chatrapur (Lahshmipati tank).	..	777	Relief work.
14. Pothara	..	743	Test work.
15. Kanchana	..	675	Do.
Total ..	3,683	6,619	
Berhampur taluk.			
16. Rushikulya surplus channel.	1,510	2,526	Relief work.
Tekkali taluk.			
17. Patta Mahadevi tank ..	268	293	Test work.
18. Kota Bommali	..	302	Relief work.
19. Ura tank at Tekkali ..	..	277	Test work.
Total ..	268	872	
Ichchhápuram taluk.			
20. Rudra hill quarry ..	7,376	3,394	Relief work.
21. Quarry work at Ichchhápuram.	..	2,320	Do.
22. Krishnasagaram tank ..	..	172	Do.
23. Purushottapur quarry work.	..	1,216	Test work.
Total ..	7,376	7,102	
Sómpéta taluk.			
24. Ampuram	..	791	Test work.
25. Jinkibhadra	..	409	Do.
26. Mogili Kotturu	..	1,369	Do.
27. Tumba	..	141	Do.
Total ..	..	2,710	
Narasannapéta.			
28. Jalmur	..	495	Test work.
Total ..	18,871	24,909	
	+ 6,038 = 32 per cent.		

(*a*) The local fund quarry opened as a test work was closed on the morning of the 12th instant and No. 7 distributary of the Rushikulya canal was started as a relief work by the Public Works Department on the same morning.

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

Taluks.	Number relieved: At kitchens: Dependants. Last fortnight.	Dependants. This fortnight.	Others. Last fortnight.	Others. This fortnight.	In poor houses. Last fortnight.	In poor houses. This fortnight.	In villages. Last fortnight.	In villages. This fortnight.
Russellkonda	..	..	70	71	..	..		
Suradá	..	..	82	87	..	..	426	420
Aska	..	..	..	101	..	..	..	128
Bodagada	..	..	59	72	..	..	83	5
Peddakimedi	..	..	30	41	..	..	108	141
Berhampur	..	..	195	255	..	..	839	1,702
Sómpéta	..	..	1,268	1,544	..	..	7	..
Ichchhápuram	..	8	69	108	..	..	12,684	15,984
Ganjám	..	..	6	7	..	..	3,018	4,457
Purushottapur	..	..	237	177	..	..	1,711	1,589
Tekkali	..	..	1,202	1,162	..	..	3,221	3,045
Narasannápeta	..	..	308	556	..	..	172	344
Parlákimedi	..	..	1,099	925	..	..	39	18
Chicacole	..	..	..	..	..	..	996	1,602
	..	..	..	..	..	..	66	66
Total ..	..	8	4,625	5,106	..	..	23,370	29,501

Taluks.	Weavers relief: Number of villages in which relief was given: Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Number of persons relieved: Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Number of cloths manufactured: In the period.	Up to date.
Russellkonda	..	..	..	316	..	..
Suradá	..	..	..	..	..	..
Aska	..	..	129	170	1,002	1,841
Bodagada	..	..	..	..	..	..
Peddakimedi	..	..	..	..	..	..
Berhampur	..	..	..	44	..	..
Sómpéta	..	..	1,372	1,703	1,439	7,859
Ichchhápuram	..	144	..	..	..	..
Ganjám	184	166	148	167	683	683
Purushottapur	117	169	914	964	..	..
Tekkali	145	208	400	1,355	..	..
Narasannápeta	8	13	..	..	..	..
Parlákimedi	..	..	148	166	..	..
Chicacole	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	454	700	3,111	4,885	3,124	10,383

Private Charity.—There is no organized private charity at work. The zamindar of Kallikot and Atagada continues to feed 234 persons at the Haradamalai kitchen opened by him. The General Deputy Collector, Goomsur, reports that some gentlemen at Aska and Russellkonda continue to give a single meal to 50 daily. The zamindar of Chinnakimedi continues to feed at his temples and mutts 90 persons daily, having regard to caste prejudices. The proprietrix of Urlam has opened a kitchen at Devadi, 3 miles from Narasannapet, to feed the poor.

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

Taluks.	Other purposes.				Total.			
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs. 1,46,300				Rs. 270		Rs. 1,46,600
Berhampur	..	..	3	270	1,459		..	..	3		1,461	
Chicacole	..	..	3	600	4	410	..	..	3	600	4	410
Goomsur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	..	..	6	870	1,463	1,46,710	..	..	6	870	1,465	1,47,010

Cattle and seed grain.

Taluks.	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs. 1,41,523		Rs. 1,445		Rs. 385		Rs. 1,41,523
Berhampur	33	1,445	9	385	2,232		33		9		2,232	
Chicacole	..	..	11	285	58	2,428	..	..	11	285	58	2,428
Goomsur	132	5,486	45	2,440	758	38,668	132	5,486	45	2,440	758	38,668
Total	165	6,931	65	3,110	3,048	1,82,619	165	6,931	65	3,110	3,048	1,82,619

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.						Purchase of fodder.					
	Number of wells.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.	
	Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
								Rs. 300						
Berhampur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicacole	..	..	..	..	..	..	2		..	..	..	..	..	..
Goomsur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	300	..	..	..	..	..	..

Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and places visited.—The Principal Assistant Collector has been on tour throughout the fortnight; has visited twelve principal villages in Parlákimedi and other parts where distress is deepening owing to the high prices. The General Deputy Collector has visited 42 villages and the Head-quarters Deputy Collector 39 villages in their respective divisions.* I have visited the following places during the fortnight:—

1. Berhampur. *
2. Ichchhápur. * †
3. Sompet. † ‡
4. Kanchili.
5. Mogulkottur. †
6. Kinchebadra. †
7. Jalantrakota. *
8. Tumba. †
9. Jarada. *
10. Kolur *
11. Ampuram. †
12. Haripuram. * ‡
13. Mandasa. *

* Kitchen. † Relief work. ‡ Weavers' depot.

* Mr. Willmott, Senior Assistant Collector, was unable to tour through illness. Mr. Ashe, who was in charge of the current duties of that officer had to remain at head-quarters in consequence. I myself spent the fortnight on tour in that division.

General Remarks.

Owing to the arrival of Public Works Department subordinates who have been deputed for famine duty in this district, it has now been possible to open works throughout the Sompet taluk, and sufficient work is now, I think, available for all classes. Every work has attracted labour in considerable quantities. There have, however, been difficulties, tools have not always been supplied; it has been found difficult to procure competent paymasters, while in several cases persons appointed for that work have failed to join their posts. The paymaster (a pensioned Jamadar) at Daigam and Atagada left his post on the out-break of cholera, leaving coolies unpaid for eleven days. He took away his cash balance and accounts, thus causing further delay in payment.

The health and condition of the coolies generally has been good. I have gone through the gangs and found weakly C class gangs on all works visited. I find that the proportion of those who through old age, ill-health, or reduction of strength are not fit to do a full task, is about 15 per cent. Cholera has, however, broken out on some of the works; that at Daigam has been nearly deserted. There have also been isolated cases at the Konchana, Chatrapur, Chemmakhandi and Ichchhápuram works. Additional medical officers are urgently required. The District Medical Officer informs me that his indent for additional men cannot be complied with. I have at his request closed two Local Fund dispensaries and placed the men on special duty. At least six additional Medical subordinates are urgently required. Cholera has now a fair hold of the country; this was due to deficient water-supply in the past, and is certain to be aggravated in the immediate future by the rain washing long accumulated refuse into the various tanks.

I do not anticipate that there will be any material reduction in the number on works for the present. In fact the number may be expected to increase for the next three weeks until transplanting operations commence. I anticipate from 30,000 to 35,000 on works during the next fortnight.

Prices have again risen, that of ragi very sharply, till in some places it has reached almost to the level of rice. The rise in the sub-division has been particularly marked. Rice continues to be exported, but ragi is being imported from Vizianagram, Coconada and Bangalore.

The recent rain does not seem to have caused any reaction, and this cannot be looked for till the end of July. In many parts it is extremely difficult to obtain contractors to come forward for distribution of grain doles at fixed centres; for the present, however, doles are being distributed with fair regularity. The work could, however, have been carried out with much more economy, regularity and certainty, had my proposals to establish Government depôts met with the approval of the higher authorities. In some cases in Parlákimedi it was found necessary to grant money doles as no further grain was procurable. It is now, however, almost too late to start Government depôts even if the scheme were sanctioned.

I have during the fortnight examined a very large number of recipients of grain doles. With a few exceptions I find that the Circle Inspectors are using a proper discrimination and performing their duties satisfactorily. The condition of the Savaras of the Tumba agency is most pitiable. Some 50 per cent. of the total population of these villages are on gratuitous relief and they need it badly. They are accustomed in ordinary years from April to August to supplement their grain rations with jungle roots and fruits. This year the price of grain has been beyond their means; the mango crops failed, and the want of rain in eastern side of the ghauts has rendered the soil too hard to make it possible to trace or dig up the tubers. Many of these have now been on grain doles for two months, but are still emaciated. I made careful enquiries from the Karjees of each village, and they assured me that Government relief had been given in time and that no deaths had occurred for want of food in any village. It seemed to me that relief must have been given too late. These Savaras are fortunate in that there is no cholera or small-pox in their villages. I started two small tank works as relief works at Tumba for the Low country villages. It was not possible to provide regular famine relief works for the upland Savaras, as weakened men could not be expected to come 5, 8 or 10 miles down hill, work all day, and return to their villages at night; nothing would induce them to remain outside their villages at night. I accordingly gave advances to the Karjees for clearing the track from Tumba over Mahendragiri into the Parlákimedi agency. Each village agreed to remove the loose stones and cut the bushes along the track within the limits of their own village; I gave an advance of Rs. 10 per mile with a promise of Rs. 5 per mile in addition on completion of the work. The Karjees promised to employ their villagers on the work, and, being themselves Savaras, may be relied upon to see that the advance is properly distributed. They refused to purchase ragi with it, but said that they would purchase "solopo" (sago palm) flour, which would be much cheaper, and go a long way. I fear that the condition of the Savaras all along the eastern slopes of the ghâts is bad, but not so bad as in the case of Tumba, as some rain has fallen elsewhere. I saw some bad specimens from Mandasa zamindary. The condition of Kapa Savaras in Parlákimedi is reported to be bad. The recent rains will, however, enable the Savaras to dig up their favourite roots, and an early improvement in their condition may be looked for.

The General Deputy Collector writes reassuringly regarding the condition of Goomsur. Cholera and small-pox are still rife in parts of that division, but the general condition of the people is not giving cause for anxiety; prices are fairly stationary, and lower than elsewhere in the district, while agricultural operations are progressing favourably.

Resolution—dated 30th June 1897, No. 479.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall during the fortnight was very short, being only half an inch as against an expected fall of two-and-a-half inches. At the close of the period under report there was a fair fall in parts, which the Collector took for the monsoon. No rain has been reported during the past few days, and it seems that the fall was due rather to a cyclone in the Bay, than to a genuine burst of the monsoon. Difficulties about drinking-water still continued to be felt, and steps were taken to improve the supplies; but the rainfall at the end of the fortnight improved matters considerably. The older crops were in poor condition, but the early sowings were thriving. Anxiety for cattle has been greatly relieved: for, though fodder was scarce and dear in parts, drinking-water tanks were replenished and pasture was reviving.

3. Prices rose considerably, owing to the short supply in the markets. The supply of ragi in the district is especially deficient, and the Collector has applied for permission either to import it himself, or to give advances to stimulate its importation. Orders on the subject were passed in G.O., No. 3150, dated 23rd June 1897.

The following figures show the comparative position of prices:—

Rate.	Measures for a rupee. Rice.	Ragi.
Normal	17·0	30·0
Warning	13·6	22·5
Scarcity	10·2	15·0
Current	10·2	10·9
June 1889	10·3	15·9
„ 1878	8·8	12·1

Ragi is now 11 per cent. dearer than in 1878, when the highest price ever recorded was reached. The Collector should insist on regular returns of prices for his fortnightly report. The average for rice given by him is vitiated by the absence of figures for several taluks in which prices rule high.

4. The condition of the people on works was generally good, though about 15 per cent. were considered weakly, either through privation or old age. The condition of the people in villages in the affected area was bad, but 17 works were provided for them during the fortnight, and it is hoped that these will give considerable relief. Cholera was severe throughout the district; but, in spite of several of the works being attacked, and consequently nearly deserted, the numbers on works rose by 6,000 or 32 per cent. The District Medical and Sanitary officer has reported to the Collector that the Surgeon-General is unable to send more medical subordinates to the district, and the Collector has therefore closed two dispensaries and placed the hospital assistants on famine duty. Considering the distressed condition of the district and the virulence of the outbreak, it might be advisable to withdraw men from unaffected districts, such as the non-agency portion of Gódávari, for temporary service in Ganjám. The numbers on gratuitous relief rose from 28 to 34½ thousands, or by about 25 per cent. The numbers in Sómpétá taluk showed a considerable increase in spite of the opening of four test works; it is hoped that some of those now on gratuitous relief may be shortly drafted to these works. The Collector anticipates a further rise of numbers on works up to the beginning or middle of July, even if the monsoon is favourable, which at the present moment appears doubtful.

5. The entries in the column "Number of villages in which relief was given" under the head of gratuitous relief, is unintelligible, as it does not correspond at all with the column showing "Number relieved in villages." It should be prepared with more care.

6. Loans have been disbursed as follows:—

Up to end of week ending—	Rs.
June 5th	18,875
Do 12th	19,770
Do. 19th	21,974

Progress is slow and applications for over 3¼ lakhs remain to be disposed of.

7. In continuation of paragraph 10 of B.P., dated 8th June 1897, No. 422, the attention of Government is drawn to the conduct of the pensioned jemadar, paymaster at Daigam, who deserted his post, taking his accounts and money with him, when cholera broke out. The Famine Commissioner can only reiterate his opinion that, as a rule, the pensioned sepoy is a failure in Civil employ.

(A 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. 590, Revenue, dated 19th July 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The Government has already passed orders on the proposals in paragraph 10 of the Board's Proceedings referred to in paragraph 7. If military pensioners have proved a failure the Famine Commissioner should discourage their employment in connection with relief works.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Public Department.
„ the Local and Municipal Department.
„ the Accountant-General.
„ the Deputy Adjutant-General, Madras Command.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

100 Copies.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Read the following.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

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

G.O., No. 590, 19th July 1897.

JULY.

Order thereon
communicated to Bd.
I bivelle.
(sd) D.M.C.

Lt. I bivelle.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording, with remarks, Board's Proceedings submitting to Government — of the Ganjám district for the period ending 15th June 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 30th June 1897, No. 479:—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Ganjam district during the period ending 15th June 1897:—

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Rainfall and water-supply.—

District rainfall.

	Actual rainfall.	Expected rainfall.
	INCHES.	INCHES.
In the fortnight	·56	2·59
Up to the fortnight from April	3·07	5·18

There has been rainfall in the district during the last two days of the fortnight. The south-west monsoon seems to have broken. The rain registered at the Collector's head-quarters on the 13th, 15th and 16th was 1·04, 1·31 and 1·70 inches, respectively. Water-supply for drinking purposes was quite insufficient and much anxiety for drinking-water was felt during the fortnight, except in some parts of Goomsur and Chicacole taluks, until this rain fell. The amount spent for improvement of drinking-water supply during the fortnight was Rs. 1,812. The recent rainfall has materially improved the state of the country in this respect.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—Ploughing, manuring and sowing is in progress throughout the district. In Goomsur taluk the recently sown seeds have already sprouted. The standing crops are: light paddy, ragi, gingelly, chillies and sugar-cane. Ragi under river channels in Narasannapeta, gingelly and sugar-cane in Goomsur taluk are reported to be thriving. Elsewhere the condition of crops is poor. Light paddy and ragi were harvested in Berhampur taluk; the outturn was reported to be bad.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Fodder is available, but getting scarce and dear in some parts. Pasture has revived, and will be procurable in plenty during the next week.

Condition of cattle is generally good, but cattle-diseases exist in some parts of the Goomsur and Berhampur taluks and also in some villages of Parlákimedi taluk. The anxiety about drinking-water for cattle has abated owing to the recent rainfall.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—The recent rains will be found very useful for the few standing crops which are at present thriving.

Food-Supplies and the State of the Markets.

Prices of principal food-grain at principal markets in the affected tracts, in seers of 80 tolas per rupee, for the period ending 12th of June 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.	Corresponding prices of 1889. Rice.	Corresponding prices of 1889. Ragi.	Remarks.
Russellkonda	10·50	12·50	10·50	12·00	13·13	12·19	9·00	15·00	The fall in the price of rice at Purushottapur is due to imports from Nyaghar. The rise in the price of rice and ragi in all other stations is due to want of supply in the local markets.
Suradá	10·17	11·37	10·17	10·50	13·00	11·57	10·00	14·25	
Aska	11·12	12·56	10·20	10·88	12·83	11·03	9·75	16·36	
Purushottapur ..	10·00	12·50	10·50	12·50	13·00	11·50	12·00	18·50	
Chatrapur	9·00	12·50	8·50	10·50	Not available	10·50	11·00	18·00	
Berhampur	10·00	11·50	9·00	11·00	11·05	10·20	10·00	17·50	
Ichchhápuram ..	9·25	10·00	9·00	9·00	10·80	9·90	9·50	18·00	
Sómpéta	9·48	..	9·07	..	10·12	9·45	11·20	18·40	
Parlákimedi	10·12	..	8·62	..	12·35	10·40	11·25	19·50	
Tekkali	10·40	12·00	9·30	..	11·60	11·40	11·50	18·75	
Narasannapéta ..	9·75	..	9·37	..	12·35	11·70	12·50	20·00	
Chicacole	9·56	..	8·71	..	13·31	10·65	10·50	19·00	
Total ..	119·35	94·93	112·94	76·38	133·54	130·29	128·20	213·26	
Average ..	9·95	11·87	9·41	10·91	12·14	10·86	10·68	17·77	

Activity of trade.—Trade within the district is reported to be not active. The Goomsur Deputy Collector reports that about 700 cart-loads of paddy have been imported into his division from Nyaghar. The Head-quarter Deputy Collector reports that imports from Orissa still continue, though not in large quantities.

Exports from Chicacole, Narsannapéta and Parlákimedi to Vizianagram and other places still continue.

Exports and imports of food-grains by rail and sea are as follow:—

	Exports. MDS.	Imports. MDS.
By rail	1,187	5,852
By sea	1,021	1,000

Condition of the People.

On works.—The condition of people on works is generally good; about 15 per cent. may be considered weakly either through want of food or old age. Cholera has, however, broken out on several of the works, notably at Daigam, which has been almost deserted.

In villages.—The condition of people in the Senior Assistant and Head-quarter Deputy Collector's divisions is bad, but the several relief and test works opened during the fortnight have given them relief. The classes that are most affected by the pinch of distress are the professional beggars and the labouring classes (poorer ryots). Kapu Savaras of the Parlákimedi Maliahs are reported to be in an emaciated condition. They do not like to leave their villages for kitchens. They are being given grain-doles where practicable. The following remittances are reported from emigrants to Burma through the Post offices noted below:—

	Rs.
Kotabommali	912
Tekkali	494
Kasibugga	4,980
Jalmur	93
Total ...	6,479

Sickness and mortality.—No deaths from starvation have been reported. Fever, small-pox and cholera are generally prevalent. Cholera is severe throughout the district.

Cholera deaths—

	No.
Goomsur division	
Head-quarters Deputy Collector's division	130
Berhampur division	379
Chicacole division	708
	307
Total ...	1,524

Remarks.—The following kitchens and works have been opened during the fortnight:—

Kitchens.

1. Aska.
2. Sabuliya.
3. Patrapuram.

Works.

1. Railway quarry work at Ichchhápuram.
2. Krishnasagaram tank, Ichchhápuram.
3. Purushottapur quarry, Ichchhápuram taluk.
4. Lakshmipati tank,
5. Konchana,
6. Pothara,
7. Sabuliya, } Ganjám taluk.
8. Ampuram,
9. Jinkibhadra,
10. Mogilkottur,
11. Tumba tank,
12. Haripuram, } Sómpéta taluk.
13. Kota Bommali railway quarry,
14. Ura tank,
15. Kavita Agraharam, } Tekkali taluk.
16. Jalmur, Narasannapéta taluk.
17. Hinjili No. 7 distributary, Purushottapur taluk.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed Last fortnight.	Number employed This fortnight.	Remarks.
Purushottapur taluk.			
1. Boirani	749	*	*Not reported.
2. Daigam	975	159	Relief work.
3. Mukundapur	2,003	1,941	Do.
4. Sorasingi	1,120	737	Do.
5. Atagada			
6. Hingili (a)			
Total ..			
Ganjám taluk.			
7. Johomi	534	527	Relief wrok.
8. Santoshapur	627	843	Test work.
9. Chatrapur (Pilli tank) ..	2,045	1,596	Relief work.
10. Nungoor	125	431	Test work.
11. Bhatukumarada ..	352	1,045	Do.
12. Sabuliya	..	82	Do.
13. Chatrapur (Lakshmipati tank).	..	777	Relief work.
14. Pothara	..	743	Test work.
15. Kanchana	..	575	Do.
Total ..	3,683	6,619	
Berhampur taluk.			
16. Rushikulya surplus channel.	1,510	2,526	Relief work.

Taluks.	Number employed Last fortnight.	Number employed This fortnight.	Remarks.
Tekkali taluk.			
17. Patta Mahadevi tank ..	268	293	Test work.
18. Kota Bo... li ..	..	302	Relief work.
... li ..	..	277	Test work.
... al ..	268	872	
...ram taluk.			
20. Rudra hill quarry ..	7,376	3,394	Relief work.
21. Quarry work at Ichchhápuram.	..	2,320	Do.
22. Krishnasagaram tank ..	..	172	Do.
23. Purushottapur quarry work.	..	1,216	Test work.
Total ..	7,376	7,102	
Sómpéta taluk.			
24. Ampuram	..	791	Test work.
25. Jinkibhadra	..	409	Do.
26. Mogili Kottura ..	..	1,369	Do.
27. Tumba	..	141	Do.
Total ..	..	2,710	
Narasannapéta.			
28. Jalmur	..	495	Test work.
Total ..	18,871	24,909	
		+ 6,038 or 32 per cent.	

(a) The local fund quarry opened as a test work was closed on the morning of the 12th instant and No. 7 distributary of the Rushikulya canal was started as a relief work by the Public Works Department on the same morning.

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

Taluks.	Number relieved: At kitchens. Dependants. Last fortnight.	Dependants. This fortnight.	Others. Last fortnight.	Others. This fortnight.	In poor houses. Last fortnight.	In poor houses. This fortnight.	In villages. Last fortnight.	In villages. This fortnight.
Russellkonda	..	..	70	71	..	..	426	420
Suradá	..	..	82	87	..	..	..	128
Aska	..	..	..	101	..	..	83	5
Bodagada	..	..	59	72	..	..	108	141
Peddakimedi	..	..	30	41	..	..	839	1,702
Berhampur	..	..	195	255	..	..	7	..
Sómpéta	..	..	1,268	1,544	..	..	12,684	15,084
Ichchhápuram	..	..	69	108	..	..	3,018	4,457
Ganjám	..	..	6	7	..	..	1,711	1,589
Purushottapur	..	..	237	177	..	..	3,221	3,045
Tekkali	..	..	1,202	1,162	..	..	172	344
Narasannápeta	..	..	308	556	..	..	39	18
Parlákimedi	..	..	1,099	925	..	..	996	1,602
Chicacole	..	..	..	..	..	..	66	66
Total ..	..	8	4,625	5,106	..	..	23,370	29,501

Taluks.	Weavers relief. Number of villages in which relief was given Last fortnight.	Number of villages in which relief was given This fortnight.	Number of persons relieved Last fortnight.	Number of persons relieved This fortnight.	Number of cloths manufactured In the period.	Number of cloths manufactured Up to date.
Russellkonda	..	..	..	316	..	..
Suradá	..	..	..	..	..	..
Aska	..	..	..	129	170	1,002
Bodagada	..	..	..	..	..	1,841
Peddakimedi	..	..	..	..	..	..
Berhampur	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sómpéta	..	..	..	44	..	..
Ichchhápuram	..	..	..	1,372	1,703	1,439
Ganjám	..	..	144	..	..	7,859
Purushottapur	184	166	148	167	..	..
Tekkali	117	169	914	964	683	683
Narasannápeta	145	208	400	1,355	..	..
Parlákimedi	8	13	..	..	..	..
Chicacole	..	..	148	166	..	..
Total ..	454	700	3,111	4,885	3,124	10,383

Private Charity.—There is no organized private charity at work. The zamindar of Kallikot and Atagada continues to feed 234 persons at the Haradamalai kitchen opened by him. The General Deputy Collector, Goomsur, reports that some gentlemen at Aska and Russellkonda continue to give a single meal to 50 daily. The zamindar of Chinnakimedi continues to feed at his temples and mutts 90 persons daily, having regard to caste prejudices. The proprietrix of Urlam has opened a kitchen at Devadi, 3 miles from Narasannapet, to feed the poor.

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

Taluks.	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.
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19						
				Rs.		Rs.				Rs.		Rs.				Rs.		Rs.
Berhampur ..	..	..	3	270	1,459	1,46,300	..	..	3	270	1,461	1,46,600						
Chicacole ..	..	..	3	600	4	410	..	..	8	600	4	410						
Goomsur ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Total ..	..	..	6	870	1,463	1,46,710	..	..	6	870	1,465	1,47,010						

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.
	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39					
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.	
Berhampur ..	..	83	1,445	9	385	2,232	1,41,523	33	1,445	9	385	2,232	1,41,523					
Chicacole ..	..	..	..	11	285	58	2,428	..	..	11	285	58	2,428					
Goomsur ..	..	132	5,486	45	2,440	758	38,668	132	5,486	45	2,440	758	38,668					
Total ..	..	165	6,931	65	3,110	3,048	1,82,619	165	6,931	65	3,110	3,048	1,82,619					

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.						Purchase of fodder.						Number of wells.	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	22	23	24	25	26	20	21
							Rs.								
Berhampur ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	300	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicacole ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Goomsur ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	300	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

...stant and No. 7 distributary
...s Department on the same morning.

Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and places visited.—The Principal Assistant Collector has been on tour throughout the fortnight; has visited twelve principal villages in Parlákimedi and other parts where distress is deepening owing to the high prices. The General Deputy Collector has visited 42 villages and the Head-quarters Deputy Collector 39 villages in their respective divisions.* I have visited the following places during the fortnight:—

1. Berhampur. *
2. Ichchhápur. * †
3. Sompet. † ‡
4. Kanchili.
5. Mogulkottur. †
6. Kinchebadra. †
7. Jalantrakota. * †
8. Tumba. †
9. Jarada. *
10. Kolur *
11. Ampuram. †
12. Haripuram. * ‡
13. Mandasa. *

* Kitchen.

† Relief work.

‡ Weavers' depot.

* Mr. Willmott, Senior Assistant Collector, was unable to tour through illness. Mr. Ashe, who was in charge of the current duties of that officer had to remain at headquarters in consequence. I myself spent the fortnight on tour in that division.

General Remarks.

Owing to the arrival of Public Works Department subordinates who have been deputed for famine duty in this district, it has now been possible to open works throughout the Sompet taluk, and sufficient work is now, I think, available for all classes. Every work has attracted labour in considerable quantities. There have, however, been difficulties, tools have not always been supplied; it has been found difficult to procure competent paymasters, while in several cases persons appointed for that work have failed to join their posts. The paymaster (a pensioned Jamadar) at Daigam and Atagada left his post on the out-break of cholera, leaving coolies unpaid for eleven days. He took away his cash balance and accounts, thus causing further delay in payment.

The health and condition of the coolies generally has been good. I have gone through the gangs and found weakly C class gangs on all works visited. I find that the proportion of those who through old age, ill-health, or reduction of strength are not fit to do a full task, is about 15 per cent. Cholera has, however, broken out on some of the works; that at Daigam has been nearly deserted. There have also been isolated cases at the Konchana, Chatrapur, Chemmakhandi and Ichchhápuram works. Additional medical officers are urgently required. The District Medical Officer informs me that his indent for additional men cannot be complied with. I have at his request closed two Local Fund dispensaries and placed the men on special duty. At least six additional Medical subordinates are urgently required. Cholera has now a fair hold of the country; this was due to deficient water-supply in the past, and is certain to be aggravated in the immediate future by the rain washing long accumulated refuse into the various tanks.

I do not anticipate that there will be any material reduction in the number on works for the present. In fact the number may be expected to increase for the next three weeks until transplanting operations commence. I anticipate from 30,000 to 35,000 on works during the next fortnight.

Prices have again risen, that of ragi very sharply, till in some places it has reached almost to the level of rice. The rise in the sub-division has been particularly marked. Rice continues to be exported, but ragi is being imported from Vizianagram, Coconada and Bangalore.

The recent rain does not seem to have caused any reaction, and this cannot be looked for till the end of July. In many parts it is extremely difficult to obtain contractors to come forward for distribution of grain doles at fixed centres; for the present, however, doles are being distributed with fair regularity. The work could, however, have been carried out with much more economy, regularity and certainty, had my proposals to establish Government depôts met with the approval of the higher authorities. In some cases in Parlákimedi it was found necessary to grant money doles as no further grain was procurable. It is now, however, almost too late to start Government depôts even if the scheme were sanctioned.

I have during the fortnight examined a very large number of recipients of grain doles. With a few exceptions I find that the Circle Inspectors are using a proper discrimination and performing their duties satisfactorily. The condition of the Savaras of the Tumba agency is most pitiable. Some 50 per cent. of the total population of these villages are on gratuitous relief and they need it badly. They are accustomed in ordinary years from April to August to supplement their grain rations with jungle roots and fruits. This year the price of grain has been beyond their means; the mango crops failed, and the want of rain in eastern side of the ghauts has rendered the soil too hard to make it possible to trace or dig up the tubers. Many of these have now been on grain doles for two months, but are still emaciated. I made careful enquiries from the Karjees of each village, and they assured me that Government relief had been given in time and that no deaths had occurred for want of food in any village. It seemed to me that relief must have been given too late. These Savaras are fortunate in that there is no cholera or small-pox in their villages. I started two small tank works as relief works at Tumba for the Low country villages. It was not possible to provide regular famine relief works for the upland Savaras, as weakened men could not be expected to come 5, 8 or 10 miles down hill, work all day, and return to their villages at night; nothing would induce them to remain outside their villages at night. I accordingly gave advances to the Karjees for clearing the track from Tumba over Mahendragiri into the Parlákimedi agency. Each village agreed to remove the loose stones and cut the bushes along the track within the limits of their own village; I gave an advance of Rs. 10 per mile with a promise of Rs. 5 per mile in addition on completion of the work. The Karjees promised to employ their villagers on the work, and, being themselves Savaras, may be relied upon to see that the advance is properly distributed. They refused to purchase ragi with it, but said that they would purchase "solopo" (sago palm) flour, which would be much cheaper, and go a long way. I fear that the condition of the Savaras all along the eastern slopes of the ghâts is bad, but not so bad as in the case of Tumba, as some rain has fallen elsewhere. I saw some bad specimens from Mandasa zamindary. The condition of Kapa Savaras in Parlákimedi is reported to be bad. The recent rains will, however, enable the Savaras to dig up their favourite roots, and an early improvement in their condition may be looked for.

The General Deputy Collector writes reassuringly regarding the condition of Goomsur. Cholera and small-pox are still rife in parts of that division, but the general condition of the people is not giving cause for anxiety; prices are fairly stationary, and lower than elsewhere in the district, while agricultural operations are progressing favourably.

———

Resolution—dated 30th June 1897, No. 479.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall during the fortnight was very short, being only half an inch as against an expected fall of two-and-a-half inches. At the close of the period under report there was a fair fall in parts, which the Collector took for the monsoon. No rain has been reported during the past few days, and it seems that the fall was due rather to a cyclone in the Bay, than to a genuine burst of the monsoon. Difficulties about drinking-water still continued to be felt, and steps were taken to improve the supplies; but the rainfall at the end of the fortnight improved matters considerably. The older crops were in poor condition, but the early sowings were thriving. Anxiety for cattle has been greatly relieved: for, though fodder was scarce and dear in parts, drinking-water tanks were replenished and pasture was reviving.

3. Prices rose considerably, owing to the short supply in the markets. The supply of ragi in the district is especially deficient, and the Collector has applied for permission either to import it himself, or to give advances to stimulate its importation. Orders on the subject were passed in G.O., No. 3150, dated 23rd June 1897.

The following figures show the comparative position of prices:—

Rate.	Measures for a rupee. Rice.	Ragi.
Normal	17·0	30·0
Warning	13·6	22·5
Scarcity	10·2	15·0
Current	10·2	10·9
June 1889	10·3	15·9
„ 1878	8·8	12·1

Ragi is now 11 per cent. dearer than in 1878, when the highest price ever recorded was reached. The Collector should insist on regular returns of prices for his fortnightly report. The average for rice given by him is vitiated by the absence of figures for several taluks in which prices rule high.

4. The condition of the people on works was generally good, though about 15 per cent. were considered weakly, either through privation or old age. The condition of the people in villages in the affected area was bad, but 17 works were provided for them during the fortnight, and it is hoped that these will give considerable relief. Cholera was severe throughout the district; but, in spite of several of the works being attacked, and consequently nearly deserted, the numbers on works rose by 6,000 or 32 per cent. The District Medical and Sanitary officer has reported to the Collector that the Surgeon-General is unable to send more medical subordinates to the district, and the Collector has therefore closed two dispensaries and placed the hospital assistants on famine duty. Considering the distressed condition of the district and the virulence of the outbreak, it might be advisable to withdraw men from unaffected districts, such as the non-agency portion of Gódávari, for temporary service in Ganjám. The numbers on gratuitous relief rose from 28 to 34½ thousands, or by about 25 per cent. The numbers in Sómpétá taluk showed a considerable increase in spite of the opening of four test works; it is hoped that some of those now on gratuitous relief may be shortly drafted to these works. The Collector anticipates a further rise of numbers on works up to the beginning or middle of July, even if the monsoon is favourable, which at the present moment appears doubtful.

5. The entries in the column "Number of villages in which relief was given" under the head of gratuitous relief, is unintelligible, as it does not correspond at all with the column showing "Number relieved in villages." It should be prepared with more care.

6. Loans have been disbursed as follows:—

	Rs.
Up to end of week ending—	
June 5th	18,875
Do. 12th	19,770
Do. 19th	21,974

Progress is slow and applications for over 3¼ lakhs remain to be disposed of.

7. In continuation of paragraph 10 of B.P., dated 8th June 1897, No. 422, the attention of Government is drawn to the conduct of the pensioned jemadar, paymaster at Daigam, who deserted his post, taking his accounts and money with him, when cholera broke out. The Famine Commissioner can only reiterate his opinion that, as a rule, the pensioned sepoy is a failure in Civil employ.

(A 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.

Total.

... the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 30th June 1897, No. 479:—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Ganjam district during the period ending 15th June 1897:—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and water-supply.—

District rainfall.	Actual rainfall.	Expected rainfall.
	INCHES.	INCHES.
In the fortnight	·56	2·59
Up to the fortnight from April	3·07	5·18

There has been rainfall in the district during the last two days of the fortnight. The south-west monsoon seems to have broken. The rain registered at the Collector's head-quarters on the 13th, 15th and 16th was 1·04, 1·31 and 1·70 inches, respectively. Water-supply for drinking purposes was quite insufficient and much anxiety for drinking-water was felt during the fortnight, except in some parts of Goomsur and Chicacole taluks, until this rain fell. The amount spent for improvement of drinking-water supply during the fortnight was Rs. 1,812. The recent rainfall has materially improved the state of the country in this respect.

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Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Fodder is available, but getting scarce and dear in some parts. Pasture has revived, and will be procurable in plenty during the next week.

Condition of cattle is generally good, but cattle-diseases exist in some parts of the Goomsur and Berhampur taluks and also in some villages of Parlákimedi taluk. The anxiety about drinking-water for cattle has abated owing to the recent rainfall.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—The recent rains will be found very useful for the few standing crops which are at present thriving.

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Prices of principal food-grain at principal markets in the affected tracts, in seers of 80 tolas per rupee, for the period ending 12th of June 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.	Corresponding prices of 1889. Rice.	Corresponding prices of 1889. Ragi.	Remarks.
Russellkonda	10·50	12·50	10·50	12·00	13·13	12·19	9·00	15·00	The fall in the price of rice at Purushottapur is due to imports from Nyaghar. The rise in the price of rice and ragi in all other stations is due to want of supply in the local markets.
Suradá	10·17	11·37	10·17	10·50	13·00	11·37	10·00	14·25	
Aska	11·12	12·56	10·20	10·88	12·83	11·03	9·75	16·36	
Purushottapur ..	10·00	12·50	10·50	12·50	13·00	11·50	12·00	18·50	
Chatrapur	9·00	12·50	8·50	10·56	Not available	10·50	11·00	18·00	
Berhampur	10·00	11·50	9·00	11·00	11·05	10·20	10·00	17·50	
Ichchhápuram ..	9·25	10 00	9·00	9·00	10·80	9·90	9·50	18·00	
Sómpéta	9·48	..	9·07	..	10·12	9·45	11·20	18·40	
Parlákimedi	10·12	..	8·62	..	12·35	10·40	11·25	19·50	
Tekkali	10·40	12·00	9·30	..	11·60	11·40	11·50	18·75	
Narasannapéta ..	9·75	..	9·37	..	12·35	11·70	12·50	20·00	
Chicacole	9·56	..	8·71	..	13·31	10·65	10·50	19·00	
Total ..	119·35	94·93	112·94	76·38	133·54	130·29	128·20	213·26	
Average ..	9·95	11·87	9·41	10·91	12·14	10·86	10·68	17·77	

Activity of trade.—Trade within the district is reported to be not active. The Goomsur Deputy Collector reports that about 700 cart-loads of paddy have been imported into his division from Nyaghar. The Head-quarter Deputy Collector reports that imports from Orissa still continue, though not in large quantities.

Exports from Chicacole, Narsannapéta and Parlákimedi to Vizianagram and other places still continue.

Exports and imports of food-grains by rail and sea are as follow:—

	Exports.	Imports.
	MDS.	MDS.
By rail	1,187	5,852
By sea	1,021	1,000

Condition of the People.

On works.—The condition of people on works is generally good; about 15 per cent. may be considered weakly either through want of food or old age. Cholera has, however, broken out on several of the works, notably at Daigam, which has been almost deserted.

In villages.—The condition of people in the Senior Assistant and Head-quarter Deputy Collector's divisions is bad, but the several relief and test works opened during the fortnight have given them relief. The classes that are most affected by the pinch of distress are the professional beggars and the labouring classes (poorer ryots). Kapu Savaras of the Parlákimedi Maliahs are reported to be in an emaciated condition. They do not like to leave their villages for kitchens. They are being given grain-doles where practicable. The following remittances are reported from emigrants to Burma through the Post offices noted below:—

	Rs.
Kotabommali	912
Tekkali	494
Kasibugga	4,980
Jalmur	93
Total ...	6,479

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

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.						Purchase of fodder.						Cattle and seed grain.						Other purposes.						Total.					
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Number of wells.	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.	Under construction or repairs.	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	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	8	9	10	11	12	13
						Rs. 300									33	1,445	9	385	2,232	1,41,523	33	1,445	9	385	2,232	1,41,523					1,459	1,46,300
Berhampur	..	..	..	..	2		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					58	2,428	..	..	11	285	58	2,428	..	..	3	270	4	410
Chicacole	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	285	758	38,668	132	5,486	45	2,440	758	38,668	..	..	3	600	4	410
Goomsur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45	2,440									..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	..	..	2	300	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	165	6,931	65	3,110	3,048	1,82,619	165	6,931	65	3,110	3,048	1,82,619	..	..	6	870	1,463	1,46,710

Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and places visited.—The Principal Assistant Collector has been on tour throughout the fortnight; has visited twelve principal villages in Parlákimedi and other parts where distress is deepening owing to the high prices. The General Deputy Collector has visited 42 villages and the Head-quarters Deputy Collector 39 villages in their respective divisions.* I have visited the following places during the fortnight:—

1. Berhampur. *
2. Ichchhápur. * †
3. Sompet. † ‡
4. Kanchili.
5. Mogulkottur. †
6. Kinchebadra. †
7. Jalantrakota. *
8. Tumba. †
9. Jarada. *
10. Kolur *
11. Ampuram. †
12. Haripuram. * ‡
13. Mandasa. *

* Kitchen. † Relief work. ‡ Weavers' [illegible].

* Mr. Willmott, Senior Assistant Collector, was unable to tour through illness. Mr. Ashe, who was in charge of the current duties of that officer had to remain at head-quarters in consequence. I myself spent the fortnight on tour in that division.

General Remarks.

Owing to the arrival of Public Works Department subordinates who have been deputed for famine duty in this district, it has now been possible to open works throughout the Sompet taluk, and sufficient work is now, I think, available for all classes. Every work has attracted labour in considerable quantities. There have, however, been difficulties, tools have not always been supplied; it has been found difficult to procure competent paymasters, while in several cases persons appointed for that work have failed to join their posts. The paymaster (a pensioned Jamadar) at Daiceta and Atagada left his post on the out-break of cholera, leaving coolies unpaid for [illegible] men days. He took away his cash balance and accounts, thus causing further delay in payment.

The health and condition of the coolies generally has been good. I have gone through the gangs and found weakly C class gangs on all works visited. I find that the proportion of those who through old age, ill-health, or reduction of strength are not fit to do a full task, is about 15 per cent. Cholera has, however, broken out on some of the works; that at Daigam has been nearly deserted. There have also been isolated cases at the Konchana, Chatrapur, Chemmakhandi and Ichchhápuram works. Additional medical officers are urgently required. The District Medical Officer informs me that his indent for additional men cannot be complied with. I have at his request closed two Local Fund dispensaries and placed the men on special duty. At least six additional Medical subordinates are urgently required. Cholera has now a fair hold of the country; this was due to deficient water-supply in the past, and is certain to be aggravated in the immediate future by the rain washing long accumulated refuse into the various tanks.

I do not anticipate that there will be any material reduction in the number on [illegible]. In fact the number may be expected to increase for the next [illegible]nting operations commence. I anticipate from 30,000 to [illegible] next fortnight.

[illegible] very sharply, till in some places it has [illegible]n the sub-division has been particularly [illegible]i is being imported from Vizianagram, [illegible]

[illegible] caused any reaction, and this cannot be [illegible]rts it is extremely difficult to obtain [illegible] of grain doles at fixed centres; for the [illegible] with fair regularity. The work could, [illegible]re economy, regularity and certainty, had [illegible]ots met with the approval of the higher [illegible]li it was found necessary to grant money [illegible] It is now, however, almost too late to start [illegible]re sanctioned.