Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 25336

DATED 15 September 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Rammie & Ros: Revenue Dept recording
Board's Ros: submitting the for Twelfth
Narrative of the Godaveri Dt for the
period ending 15th Sept 1897 Comm'd to
S.E.I. Rail

[P.W. 24.
5,000—30-11-96.]

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Public works (1897) department

Current No: 8985

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. 7-9- } 1897.
Regd. 7-9.

Enclosures -

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G.O., No. 730, 30th August 1897.

No. 25-53/97-1 Sept 97

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Communicated to the S.S.I circle.

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15/9/97

AUGUST.

Fortnightly Narrative.

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

D.L.S. to S.S. 11/3/9

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 568, dated 14th August 1897 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Special Assistant Agent's division, Gódávari district, during the period ending 15th of July 1897 :—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and Water-supply.—

	Rainfall during the period in inches.	Expected rainfall in inches.
Bhadráchalam taluk	0·30 (2nd & 7th)	1·40
Chódavaramu division	3·0	5·22
Yellavaram division	1·16	0·78
Polavaram division ...	No statement has been received. The Deputy Tahsildar has been asked to explain the omission.	

Water is sufficient for drinking purposes throughout. In Yellavaram division, the tanks have received a certain supply. But nowhere is water as yet sufficient for irrigation purposes. The rainfall is deficient in Bhadráchalam and more was urgently needed, when I left the taluk on 12th. I hear that a good fall of rain has since occurred.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.

Bhadráchalam Taluk.—The standing crops paddy, gingelly, maize and hill cholam are fair but are in want of rain. The occasional showers and the frequent cloudiness during the fortnight have been keeping them alive. Ploughing is going on for the purpose of sowing the remaining crops, and if rain comes soon, the safety of dry crops should be assured. At the end of this fortnight, the position was very critical, but has since improved. *Polavaram Division*—Statement not received. The Deputy Tahsildar has been called on for explanation. *Chódavaramu Division.*—The ryots are busy with their ploughs and cattle. Gingelly, ganti and chama are flourishing in places where there has been rain. In other places they are not promising. From the quantity of rain received I think it may be presumed that the crops will not be a failure. *Yellavaram Division.*—Owing to the rains which have been falling throughout the division in this fortnight, millet, gingelly and chama are reviving. Ganti is being transplanted. Seed-beds of paddy in Chamagedda and Gurtedu muttas are flourishing. In other places paddy is being sown for seed-beds. Dry paddy is being broad cast. Ryots are ploughing lands for sowing cholam. The state of affairs in this division now affords very little cause for anxiety.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle—Bhadráchalam.—Fodder is not procurable but pasture is available for cattle and their condition is improving and is now fairly good. *Polavaram Division.*—The Deputy Tahsildar has not sent in his statement. His explanation has been called for. *Chódavaramu Division.*—Fodder is not available. Pasture insufficient in the riverside villages where the people are taking special care of their ploughing cattle and milch-cows, leaving the rest of their herds to pick up what they can. The condition of the latter even is not bad. Koyas and Reddis have also allowed their cattle to stray in the jungles and live there as best as they can. Their condition too seems satisfactory. *Yellavaram Division.*—Fodder not procurable. Pasture available but not sufficient. Cattle diseases, such as dysentery, &c., are still prevailing in some villages. As the tanks here have received a

certain supply, pasture must improve and ought, by now, to be sufficient. In fact now the pasture appears to me sufficient in the parts I have been in and the cattle are in fair condition.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—The rainfall in Bhadráchalam taluk and in the riverside villages of Chódavaramu division is scanty and the condition of standing crops is not quite satisfactory. In Yellavaram division and in the interior of Chódavaramu division where there has been some good rain, the prospects, as to dry crops, are favourable. The river Gódávari has received no new freshes in this fortnight. The Sabari, however, came down on the night of the 11th and thus caused a slight fresh in the Gódávari. There was rain round Kunavaram, and there, as well as at Pulusumamidi, the crops looked favourable. Mr. Woodhouse also reports that they are good at Abhicharla. At Bhadráchalam and Dummagudem unfortunately the fall of rain on this date was very slight.

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 July 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		Cholam.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
Bhadráchalam	9	9	12	12	..	..	
Kachavaram	9	9	14	14	..	..	
Waddigudem	9	9	14	14	..	..	
Chódavaramu	8	8	12	12	12	12	There were two market days during the fortnight. Their average prices are shown.
Devipatnam	9½	8	13	13 & 12	..	13 & 12	
Addatigala	9	8½	13	12	13	12	The prices at Yelleswaram shandy have been a bit better and numbers of the people in the Yellavaram division go there to buy grain.
Jaddangi	9	8	13	12	13	12	

Activity of trade.—Private trade in rice and dry staple food-grains is moderate. No imports or exports by sea or train. Sufficient quantity of rice has been imported from Rajahmundry to Bhadráchalam taluk.

The consumption of the grain from the Government depôts supplied with money from the Famine Relief Fund has increased largely. The increase is rather difficult to account for, but is probably due to the depôts becoming better known and to advances being made more freely by the Komaties owing to the fall of rain.

Condition of the People.

On works.—The relief workers on the Gangole tank near Dummagudem are in good condition. Their number has risen to 1,953 and is still enormously increasing. This increase is attributed mainly to the little work that is being done by the labourers owing to laxity of supervision, the Assistant Engineer in charge of the works with his scanty and incompetent staff of officers under him being unable to exercise due supervision and check. The result is that B wage is given to many who do not do a stroke of work and naturally the works are popular. The works have since been reported to have been stopped for this reason. Gratuitous relief is given to the really deserving workers. This will be further reported on in the next fortnightly narrative. The ordinary road works in Chódavaramu and Yellavaram divisions have been taken on contract by people from the plains.

In villages.—Cholam and ragi are being sold by Government at different centres in Bhadráchalam taluk at normal rates to Koyas and Panchamas. The old and infirm are being given gratuitous relief. Others are partly living on jungle roots, leaves, &c., and partly on grain occasionally purchased. In Chódavaramu a grain depôt has lately been opened and cholam and ragi are being sold there to the hill people at cheaper rates than at the local markets. Here and in Yellavaram division, the bulk of the people are living on jungle roots, vegetable *curries*, *ambalies* of tamarind seeds and jeelugu stems, toddy, &c. The people in the rented villages of Yellavaram division cut timber and take it for sale to plain villages. The rainfall during this fortnight has enabled the hill people to dig out roots from the soil which had hitherto been too hard. Amongst those on gratuitous relief at Dummagudem only a few were really emaciated. Mr. Coleridge reports that there are many in his range and he has been ordered to put them all on gratuitous relief.

Sickness and mortality.—No deaths from starvation. Cholera has abated in Bhadráchalam taluk to a great extent but still breaks out from time to time. No epidemics nor other sorts of sickness are reported anywhere except fevers which are indigenous to the climate. Cholera has again broken out in Polavaram but I do not know to what extent, as the Deputy Tahsildar has not reported, and I only made a hurried journey from Polavaram to Jangareddigudem and back.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluk.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Bhadráchalam taluk—			
At Dummagudem	399	1,953	The increase in the number is accounted for under "Condition of the people—on works."

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.
Bhadráchalam	..	..	..	..	..	..	353	531

The increase is due to failure of the rains and may be expected to continue until the early crops are harvested.

Taluks.	Number of villages in which relief was given.		Number of relief workers' children and infirm dependants receiving money doles.		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Bhadráchalam	59	83	312	2,078	The increase is naturally consequent on the increase in the number of relief workers.

Private charity.—The sale of food grains at normal rates to Koyas and Panchamas at depôts opened with the funds supplied by the Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committee, Madras, is going on on a large scale. A depôt has lately been ordered to be started at Chódavaramu. I do not really think that there is much distress there. But the Deputy Tahsildar reports that the Koyas are making an outcry about the dearness of grain and certainly the Komaties are selling at a very dear rate.

General Remarks.—This report deals with the state of things up to the 10th instant. Owing to a sudden change in my plans owing to the disturbances in Polavaram which necessitated a rapid march of nearly 100 miles, my tappal has been reaching me eight or ten days after despatch and consequently this report has been delayed until to-day (23rd) when the Yellavaram Deputy Tahsildar's report reached me. On the 5th instant, a gang of Koyas in Polavaram division looted the village of Bayyanagudem and between then and the 10th instant several other villages were looted. The chief object was grain, but after the Panchamas joined in, jewellery was also looted. Dacoities were also reported from Yellavaram division in connection with which 69 persons were arrested. On receiving the report from Polavaram I went straight down from Pulusumamidi, where I was, to Jangareddigudem, 84 miles, but found on my arrival that the Agent and Superintendent of Police had done all that was necessary and that all disturbances seemed to be over. I accordingly started for Yellavaram under the orders of the Agent and cannot therefore say how far the looting was due to acute distress. I had seen no reason to fear such a rising during my tour in the division from 8th to 18th June, and in fact at Buttayagudem, almost the centre of the disturbed country, the headmen had told me that the people could pull through without assistance if the south-west monsoon did not fail.

When I left Bhadráchalam, the condition was critical as no good rain had fallen since 17th June 1897. However on the 10th and 11th good rain fell in places and further rain has since been reported. The increased number on relief works is not I think a sign of acute distress but is due to the fact becoming generally known that a B wage could be obtained without working for it. The system of gratuitous relief to people who have no means of livelihood and the sale of grain at cheap rates will now, I think, be sufficient measures of relief until the early crops are harvested. Until then no change can be made.

Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and places visited—Bhadráchalam taluk.—Kunavaram, Ratsagompalli, Gaviridevipet, Raynipet, Bhadráchalam, Dummagudem and return to Kunavaram and Pulusumamidi.

Advances of loans.—Nil.

Endorsement by V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Gódávari, dated 29th July 1897.

Forwarded. As regards Bhadráchalam, the season is now, I am informed, much more favourable, they having recently had over 5 inches of rain in a week at Dummagudem and copious rain generally throughout the taluk which has, I understand, come in time to save the paddy seedlings and the dry crops in most instances, although cases of lands having to be re-sown are reported by the Assistant Collector in the Marrigudem and Rekkapalli ranges. It is to be hoped now that the season will continue favourable. At least one thing is certain and that is, that the country has at last received a thorough soaking, so that a break in the rain now even for a fortnight or three weeks would probably not do immediate harm. In the Bhadráchalam range Mr. Woodhouse reports that the crops are in excellent condition and that he has closed the relief works owing to the scandalous waste of money that was going on—the workers although in excellent condition as a rule only turning out one-seventh of the prescribed task owing to the fact that the majority were doing no work at all owing to want of supervision. As regards this a separate communication has been sent to the Commissioner.

2. In the Marrigudem and Rekkapalli ranges Mr. Coleridge reports that the condition of the people appears to him to be deteriorating and has suggested the starting of works. I have vetoed this because works are no boon as they will only drag the people away from their own cultivation which requires all their attention and because there are no officers available to supervise them, and experience at Dummagudem shows that, if work is to be given, it must be on contract paid for by the piece and, I am sure, any work of the sort would never be completed and so prove a waste of money pure and simple. He has been instructed, instead, to be as liberal as he thinks necessary in the grant of gratuitous relief, as this form of relief will be more appreciated than real work by the people. Everywhere it is reported that the grain depôts carried on by means of an allotment from the Charitable fund are being increasingly run upon. As funds are nearly exhausted, I have asked the Charitable Committee for a further allotment, to enable me to continue these till the middle of September when the early crops should be harvested, but should the Charitable Fund Committee refuse further aid on the ground that such general measures of relief lie outside its functions, I solicit permission and funds to continue the same at the cost of Government. I have observed a letter in the "Madras Mail" to the effect that the concession of purchasing cholam at 16 seers per rupee should be allowed to all castes without distinction in Bhadráchalam and not, as at present, limited to Koyas, Reddis and Panchamas. The limit has been imposed for two reasons—first, because it would require far more funds to do this and also because the other castes reside in the river-side villages which, as a rule, everywhere had excellent crops. If the villagers have sold their grain, they have done so at excellent prices and can afford to buy elsewhere and where they have not, they must be hoarding for better prices still and I want to force them to sell. If we open the depôts to them, they will keep their own hoards and get their supplies from the depôt, as the famine scare is still strong. In the village of Waddigudem alone there are, I am certain, scores of putties of cholam but I have not yet heard that they are selling it or that they have as yet even opened their pits. The recent *heavy* rain should have made them do this and if it has, a fall in the local price will not, I think, be long in setting in, now that prospects generally are much brighter. Of course general rules cause hardship and I have accordingly informed Mr. Coleridge and Mr. Woodhouse that grain may be sold in small quantities at a time to members of other castes (not more than four seers) when the depôt-keepers are satisfied that they do not hold land in river-side villlages and that they are really poor.

As regards Yellavaram and Chódavaramu, I have nothing to add to the remarks of the Special Assistant who is now there. The opening of a grain depôt at Chódavaramu is news to me, as I had not been informed that this had been done though I gave orders that, if the Komatis attempted to force up prices to 10 seers per rupee, it should be done and I would ask for funds to sell on market days to Koyas and Reddis at 14 seers per rupee. How these hill people generally are to be relieved most effectually is a puzzling question. They won't work, as we know, even at wood-cutting outside their villages and it is not kindness to compel them to go to works. Every man is a cultivator and has his own work on which his livelihood next year depends. Gratuitous relief cannot be given satisfactorily also, for we must give it practically to all without inquiry, for emaciation is no test. A whole village will have things more or less in common and live as usual till the last grain in it is consumed and we have consequently men in first-rate condition who may be starving though they look the reverse and the whole village will go down together were the Koya a man to suffer quietly. He is not, however. Gratuitous relief to a few in a village, therefore won't answer. In some villages all may be starving, and in others only a few but all will expect the same treatment. For such people two means of relief seem advisable—one the sale of grain at fair prices, so that those who have or can get money can get its full equivalent in food and the other is not to attempt gratuitous relief save in exceptional and isolated cases but to advance grain to the headmen to be repaid in grain. The liability to repay will have some effect in restraining those, who don't really want relief, claiming it, and possibly make the people a little careful in their use of the grain. The last point is doubtful though, for, a debt

sits lightly on the conscience of a Koya and we may be sure he will regard repayment as a nuisance whenever it has to be made, unless it is demanded at harvest when a plenteous supply makes him reckless and careless. I would make it a condition that such loans are to be recovered by the headmen at harvest and repaid or their value, at current market prices, repaid within one month of harvest. In Polavaram all disturbances are at an end and they were only partly, if at all, due to want. Principally they were due to instigation and a desire for vengeance on the Komaties who, having got rich by cheating and deceiving the Koyas for years, this year when they wanted aid, withheld it. Certainly on this side of the frontier there is no emaciation to indicate want and the only persons, I have seen in what could be called indifferent condition, were a batch of persons from the Nizam's side arrested at Jeelugumille. They certainly looked worse than any of those caught on this side though they were not very bad and the doctor stated it was ridiculous to ask him to certify as to whether they could stand a flogging of five or seven strokes, as they could very well stand far more. About Jangareddigudem and Buttayagudem, where I have seen hundreds of men and women, they are in excellent condition and don't pretend when pressed that they went looting for want and they were the principal looters of all. They went because every one else was going—those who were well off and those who were not. Nor do these remarks apply only to the Koyas but also to the Panchamas. A finer set of Panchamas, as regards condition and physique, could nowhere be picked up in the delta, haphazard, than a lot of 18 from Buttayagudem caught by the District Superintendent on the warpath, and of the lot he fattest, and he really was fat, gave his profession as "begging." Gedda Krishnamma, the uncrowned king of the Koyas at Kannapuram, told me some of them were hard up and wanted assistance, but he could not give the name of a single village off hand, and said he would inquire and send me a list; of course, he wants to make out that the Koyas went out from want, because the Komaties all say he was at the bottom of the whole thing, and certainly there are strong grounds for suspecting him, as such a thing could hardly originate in his muttah, as it did, without his knowledge, and the fact that he afterwards got up a sham loot of one of his own houses only increases this suspicion. If they went out from want, it is certain they must have applied for assistance first to him, and he must, one feels certain, have got rid of the burden by directing their attention to the Komaties. Once started, of course, the mania for looting spread like wild fire, for as soon as it was reported that the Koyas were coming, in most villages every man, woman and child fled. In consequence we had 31 villages looted in six days and all looted but one in five days—Sunday to Friday. If relief is to be given, it should take the shape of advances through the muttahdars who must be held responsible for repayment.

As regards the rest of the district, I have to report that all Divisional officers were ordered to open test relief works when it was seen the monsoon was unduly late, but they have nowhere attracted labour, except in the Kottapalli range of Rajahmundry and at Cocanada where a few Turpus have attended a work. This last, however, is hardly a fair test, as I find the workers are being paid far more than the wages they are entitled to under the Famine Code in lieu of payments for dependants which are not made. A man gets As. 2 and a woman As. 1–6, so that a man and his wife can earn As. 3–6 a day which is a high wage. If they have children who can work, of course, they get more, as all children alike get 9 pies a day. Even with these rates there are only about 180 on the work, who are mostly natives of Vizagapatam and Ganjám, though a few old Cocanada people, like worn out punkah-pullers, &c., are also to be found among them. When a man is too old to pull a punkah, he can't do much work, but of course he has no objection to do what he can for As. 2.

3. As regards Rajahmundry, I have not received particulars from the Deputy Collector as to what wages he is paying and on what prices they have been fixed nor also information as to tasks. I have called for this and leave for Rajahmundry the day after to-morrow to see how things are going on. As things stand, the Kottapalli range must, however, be considered an affected tract, as four small test works opened in it have all attracted labourers and the total working is now reported to be about

1,000 and increasing. In conclusion, I have to complain that the Rs. 20,000 I asked for on the 4th instant has not yet been received, though I have twice telegraphed about it. I am spending money because it is reported to be absolutely necessary, however, and will recoup if my present allotment is exceeded when the money is received.

Resolution—No. 568, dated 14th August 1897.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall in the fortnight under report was below the average, but there has been a good fall since, which has materially improved the condition and prospects of the district.

3. The questions discussed by the Collector have been disposed of in separate Proceedings.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 730, Revenue, dated 30th August 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

for Ag. Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. Shaik Karim.

80 Copies.

P.W.D.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. } *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 730, 30th August 1897.

No. 2553 W2 15 Sept 97

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I Circle.

AUGUST. (sd) D.H. 13/9

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In villages.—Cholam and ragi are being sold by Government at different centres in Bhadráchalam taluk at normal rates to Koyas and Panchamas. The old and infirm are being given gratuitous relief. Others are partly living on jungle roots, leaves, &c., and partly on grain occasionally purchased. In Chódavaramu a grain depôt has lately been opened and cholam and ragi are being sold there to the hill people at cheaper rates than at the local markets. Here and in Yellavaram division, the bulk of the people are living on jungle roots, vegetable *curries*, *ambalies* of tamarind seeds and jeelugu stems, toddy, &c. The people in the rented villages of Yellavaram division cut timber and take it for sale to plain villages. The rainfall during this fortnight has enabled the hill people to dig out roots from the soil which had hitherto been too hard. Amongst those on gratuitous relief at Dummagudem only a few were really emaciated. Mr. Coleridge reports that there are many in his range and he has been ordered to put them all on gratuitous relief.

Sickness and mortality.—No deaths from starvation. Cholera has abated in Bhadráchalam taluk to a great extent but still breaks out from time to time. No epidemics nor other sorts of sickness are reported anywhere except fevers which are indigenous to the climate. Cholera has again broken out in Polavaram but I do not know to what extent, as the Deputy Tahsildar has not reported, and I only made a hurried journey from Polavaram to Jangareddigudem and back.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluk.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Bhadráchalam taluk— At Dummagudem	399	1,953	The increase in the number is accounted for under "Condition of the people—on works."

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.
Bhadráchalam	..	..	..	..	..	..	353	531

The increase is due to failure of the rains and may be expected to continue until the early crops are harvested.

Taluks.	Number of villages in which relief was given.		Number of relief workers' children and infirm dependants receiving money doles.		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Bhadráchalam	59	83	312	2,078	The increase is naturally consequent on the increase in the number of relief workers.

Private charity.—The sale of food grains at normal rates to Koyas and Panchamas at depôts opened with the funds supplied by the Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committee, Madras, is going on on a large scale. A depôt has lately been ordered to be started at Chódavaramu. I do not really think that there is much distress there. But the Deputy Tahsildar reports that the Koyas are making an outcry about the dearness of grain and certainly the Komaties are selling at a very dear rate.

General Remarks.—This report deals with the state of things up to the 10th instant. Owing to a sudden change in my plans owing to the disturbances in Polavaram which necessitated a rapid march of nearly 100 miles, my tappal has been reaching me eight or ten days after despatch and consequently this report has been delayed until to-day (23rd) when the Yellavaram Deputy Tahsildar's report reached me. On the 5th instant, a gang of Koyas in Polavaram division looted the village of Bayyanagudem and between then and the 10th instant several other villages were looted. The chief object was grain, but after the Panchamas joined in, jewellery was also looted. Dacoities were also reported from Yellavaram division in connection with which 60 persons were arrested. On receiving the report from Polavaram I went straight down from Pulusumamidi, where I was, to Jangareddigudem, 84 miles, but found on my arrival that the Agent and Superintendent of Police had done all that was necessary and that all disturbances seemed to be over. I accordingly started for Yellavaram under the orders of the Agent and cannot therefore say how far the looting was due to acute distress. I had seen no reason to fear such a rising during my tour in the division from 8th to 18th June, and in fact at Buttayagudem, almost the centre of the disturbed country, the headmen had told me that the people could pull through without assistance if the south-west monsoon did not fail.

When I left Bhadráchalam, the condition was critical as no good rain had fallen since 17th June 1897. However on the 10th and 11th good rain fell in places and further rain has since been reported. The increased number on relief works is not I think a sign of acute distress but is due to the fact becoming generally known that a B wage could be obtained without working for it. The system of gratuitous relief to people who have no means of livelihood and the sale of grain at cheap rates will now, I think, be sufficient measures of relief until the early crops are harvested. Until then no change can be made.

Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and places visited—Bhadráchalam taluk.—Kunavaram, Ratsagompalli, Gaviridevipet, Raynipet, Bhadráchalam, Dummagudem and return to Kunavaram and Pulusumamidi.

Advances of loans.—Nil.

Endorsement by V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Gódávari, dated 29th July 1897.

Forwarded. As regards Bhadráchalam, the season is now, I am informed, much more favourable, they having recently had over 5 inches of rain in a week at Dummagudem and copious rain generally throughout the taluk which has, I understand, come in time to save the paddy seedlings and the dry crops in most instances, although cases of lands having to be re-sown are reported by the Assistant Collector in the Marrigudem and Rekkapalli ranges. It is to be hoped now that the season will continue favourable. At least one thing is certain and that is, that the country has at last received a thorough soaking, so that a break in the rain now even for a fortnight or three weeks would probably not do immediate harm. In the Bhadráchalam range Mr. Woodhouse reports that the crops are in excellent condition and that he has closed the relief works owing to the scandalous waste of money that was going on—the workers although in excellent condition as a rule only turning out one-seventh of the prescribed task owing to the fact that the majority were doing no work at all owing to want of supervision. As regards this a separate communication has been sent to the Commissioner.

2. In the Marrigudem and Rekkapalli ranges Mr. Coleridge reports that the condition of the people appears to him to be deteriorating and has suggested the starting of works. I have vetoed this because works are no boon as they will only drag the people away from their own cultivation which requires all their attention and because there are no officers available to supervise them, and experience at Dummagudem shows that, if work is to be given, it must be on contract paid for by the piece and, I am sure, any work of the sort would never be completed and so prove a waste of money pure and simple. He has been instructed, instead, to be as liberal as he thinks necessary in the grant of gratuitous relief, as this form of relief will be more appreciated than real work by the people. Everywhere it is reported that the grain depôts carried on by means of an allotment from the Charitable fund are being increasingly run upon. As funds are nearly exhausted, I have asked the Charitable Committee for a further allotment, to enable me to continue these till the middle of September when the early crops should be harvested, but should the Charitable Fund Committee refuse further aid on the ground that such general measures of relief lie outside its functions, I solicit permission and funds to continue the same at the cost of Government. I have observed a letter in the "Madras Mail" to the effect that the concession of purchasing cholam at 16 seers per rupee should be allowed to all castes without distinction in Bhadráchalam and not, as at present, limited to Koyas, Reddis and Panchamas. The limit has been imposed for two reasons—first, because it would require far more funds to do this and also because the other castes reside in the river-side villages which, as a rule, everywhere had excellent crops. If the villagers have sold their grain, they have done so at excellent prices and can afford to buy elsewhere and where they have not, they must be hoarding for better prices still and I want to force them to sell. If we open the depôts to them, they will keep their own hoards and get their supplies from the depôt, as the famine scare is still strong. In the village of Waddigudem alone there are, I am certain, scores of putties of cholam but I have not yet heard that they are selling it or that they have as yet even opened their pits. The recent *heavy* rain should have made them do this and if it has, a fall in the local price will not, I think, be long in setting in, now that prospects generally are much brighter. Of course general rules cause hardship and I have accordingly informed Mr. Coleridge and Mr. Woodhouse that grain may be sold in small quantities at a time to members of other castes (not more than four seers) when the depôt-keepers are satisfied that they do not hold land in river-side villlages and that they are really poor.

As regards Yellavaram and Chódavaramu, I have nothing to add to the remarks of the Special Assistant who is now there. The opening of a grain depôt at Chódavaramu is news to me, as I had not been informed that this had been done though I gave orders that, if the Komatis attempted to force up prices to 10 seers per rupee, it should be done and I would ask for funds to sell on market days to Koyas and Reddis at 14 seers per rupee. How these hill people generally are to be relieved most effectually is a puzzling question. They won't work, as we know, even at wood-cutting outside their villages and it is not kindness to compel them to go to works. Every man is a cultivator and has his own work on which his livelihood next year depends. Gratuitous relief cannot be given satisfactorily also, for we must give it practically to all without inquiry, for emaciation is no test. A whole village will have things more or less in common and live as usual till the last grain in it is consumed and we have consequently men in first-rate condition who may be starving though they look the reverse and the whole village will go down together were the Koya a man to suffer quietly. He is not, however. Gratuitous relief to a few in a village, therefore won't answer. In some villages all may be starving, and in others only a few but all will expect the same treatment. For such people two means of relief seem advisable—one the sale of grain at fair prices, so that those who have or can get money can get its full equivalent in food and the other is not to attempt gratuitous relief save in exceptional and isolated cases but to advance grain to the headmen to be repaid in grain. The liability to repay will have some effect in restraining those, who don't really want relief, claiming it, and possibly make the people a little careful in their use of the grain. The last point is doubtful though, for, a debt

sits lightly on the conscience of a Koya and we may be sure he will regard repayment as a nuisance whenever it has to be made, unless it is demanded at harvest when a plenteous supply makes him reckless and careless. I would make it a condition that such loans are to be recovered by the headmen at harvest and repaid or their value, at current market prices, repaid within one month of harvest. In Polavaram all disturbances are at an end and they were only partly, if at all, due to want. Principally they were due to instigation and a desire for vengeance on the Komaties who, having got rich by cheating and deceiving the Koyas for years, this year when they wanted aid, withheld it. Certainly on this side of the frontier there is no emaciation to indicate want and the only persons, I have seen in what could be called indifferent condition, were a batch of persons from the Nizam's side arrested at Jeelugumille. They certainly looked worse than any of those caught on this side though they were not very bad and the doctor stated it was ridiculous to ask him to certify as to whether they could stand a flogging of five or seven strokes, as they could very well stand far more. About Jangareddigudem and Buttayagudem, where I have seen hundreds of men and women, they are in excellent condition and don't pretend when pressed that they went looting for want and they were the principal looters of all. They went because every one else was going—those who were well off and those who were not. Nor do these remarks apply only to the Koyas but also to the Panchamas. A finer set of Panchamas, as regards condition and physique, could nowhere be picked up in the delta, haphazard, than a lot of 18 from Buttayagudem caught by the District Superintendent on the warpath, and of the lot he fattest, and he really was fat, gave his profession as "begging." Gedda Krishnamma, the uncrowned king of the Koyas at Kannapuram, told me some of them were hard up and wanted assistance, but he could not give the name of a single village off hand, and said he would inquire and send me a list; of course, he wants to make out that the Koyas went out from want, because the Komaties all say he was at the bottom of the whole thing, and certainly there are strong grounds for suspecting him, as such a thing could hardly originate in his muttah, as it did, without his knowledge, and the fact that he afterwards got up a sham loot of one of his own houses only increases this suspicion. If they went out from want, it is certain they must have applied for assistance first to him, and he must, one feels certain, have got rid of the burden by directing their attention to the Komaties. Once started, of course, the mania for looting spread like wild fire, for as soon as it was reported that the Koyas were coming, in most villages every man, woman and child fled. In consequence we had 31 villages looted in six days and all looted but one in five days—Sunday to Friday. If relief is to be given, it should take the shape of advances through the muttahdars who must be held responsible for repayment.

As regards the rest of the district, I have to report that all Divisional officers were ordered to open test relief works when it was seen the monsoon was unduly late, but they have nowhere attracted labour, except in the Kottapalli range of Rajahmundry and at Cocanada where a few Turpus have attended a work. This last, however, is hardly a fair test, as I find the workers are being paid far more than the wages they are entitled to under the Famine Code in lieu of payments for dependants which are not made. A man gets As. 2 and a woman As. 1–6, so that a man and his wife can earn As. 3–6 a day which is a high wage. If they have children who can work, of course, they get more, as all children alike get 9 pies a day. Even with these rates there are only about 180 on the work, who are mostly natives of Vizagapatam and Ganjám, though a few old Cocanada people, like worn out punkah-pullers, &c., are also to be found among them. When a man is too old to pull a punkah, he can't do much work, but of course he has no objection to do what he can for As. 2.

3. As regards Rajahmundry, I have not received particulars from the Deputy Collector as to what wages he is paying and on what prices they have been fixed nor also information as to tasks. I have called for this and leave for Rajahmundry the day after to-morrow to see how things are going on. As things stand, the Kottapalli range must, however, be considered an affected tract, as four small test works opened in it have all attracted labourers and the total working is now reported to be about

1,000 and increasing. In conclusion, I have to complain that the Rs. 20,000 I asked for on the 4th instant has not yet been received, though I have twice telegraphed about it. I am spending money because it is reported to be absolutely necessary, however, and will recoup if my present allotment is exceeded when the money is received.

Resolution—No. 568, dated 14th August 1897.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall in the fortnight under report was below the average, but there has been a good fall since, which has materially improved the condition and prospects of the district.

3. The questions discussed by the Collector have been disposed of in separate Proceedings.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 730, Revenue, dated 30th August 1897.

Miscellaneous.	Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. Shaik Karim.

80 Copies.

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PW 8585/97

G.O., No. 730, 30th August 1897.

AUGUST.

Fortnightly Narrative.

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

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 568, dated 14th August 1897 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Special Assistant Agent's division, Gódávari district, during the period ending 15th of July 1897 :—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and Water-supply.—

	Rainfall during the period in inches.	Expected rainfall in inches.
Bhadráchalam taluk	0·30 (2nd & 7th)	1·40
Chódavaramu division	3·0	5·22
Yellavaram division	1·16	0·78
Polavaram division ...	No statement has been received. The Deputy Tahsildar has been asked to explain the omission.	

Water is sufficient for drinking purposes throughout. In Yellavaram division, the tanks have received a certain supply. But nowhere is water as yet sufficient for irrigation purposes. The rainfall is deficient in Bhadráchalam and more was urgently needed, when I left the taluk on 12th. I hear that a good fall of rain has since occurred.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.

Bhadráchalam Taluk.—The standing crops paddy, gingelly, maize and hill cholam are fair but are in want of rain. The occasional showers and the frequent cloudiness during the fortnight have been keeping them alive. Ploughing is going on for the purpose of sowing the remaining crops, and if rain comes soon, the safety of dry crops should be assured. At the end of this fortnight, the position was very critical, but has since improved. *Polavaram Division*—Statement not received. The Deputy Tahsildar has been called on for explanation. *Chódavaramu Division.*—The ryots are busy with their ploughs and cattle. Gingelly, ganti and chama are flourishing in places where there has been rain. In other places they are not promising. From the quantity of rain received I think it may be presumed that the crops will not be a failure. *Yellavaram Division.*—Owing to the rains which have been falling throughout the division in this fortnight, millet, gingelly and chama are reviving. Ganti is being transplanted. Seed-beds of paddy in Chamagedda and Gurtedu muttas are flourishing. In other places paddy is being sown for seed-beds. Dry paddy is being broad cast. Ryots are ploughing lands for sowing cholam. The state of affairs in this division now affords very little cause for anxiety.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle—Bhadráchalam.—Fodder is not procurable but pasture is available for cattle and their condition is improving and is now fairly good. *Polavaram Division.*—The Deputy Tahsildar has not sent in his statement. His explanation has been called for. *Chódavaramu Division.*—Fodder is not available. Pasture insufficient in the riverside villages where the people are taking special care of their ploughing cattle and milch-cows, leaving the rest of their herds to pick up what they can. The condition of the latter even is not bad. Koyas and Reddis have also allowed their cattle to stray in the jungles and live there as best as they can. Their condition too seems satisfactory. *Yellavaram Division.*—Fodder not procurable. Pasture available but not sufficient. Cattle diseases, such as dysentery, &c., are still prevailing in some villages. As the tanks here have received a

certain supply, pasture must improve and ought, by now, to be sufficient. In fact now the pasture appears to me sufficient in the parts I have been in and the cattle are in fair condition.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—The rainfall in Bhadráchalam taluk and in the riverside villages of Chódavaramu division is scanty and the condition of standing crops is not quite satisfactory. In Yellavaram division and in the interior of Chódavaramu division where there has been some good rain, the prospects, as to dry crops, are favourable. The river Gódávari has received no new freshes in this fortnight. The Sabari, however, came down on the night of the 11th and thus caused a slight fresh in the Gódávari. There was rain round Kunavaram, and there, as well as at Pulusumamidi, the crops looked favourable. Mr. Woodhouse also reports that they are good at Abhicharla. At Bhadráchalam and Dummagudem unfortunately the fall of rain on this date was very slight.

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 July 1897.

Stations.	Rice. End of last period.	Rice. End of current period.	Cholam. End of last period.	Cholam. End of current period.	Ragi. End of last period.	Ragi. End of current period.	Remarks.
Bhadráchalam	9	9	12	12	..	..	
Kachavaram	9	9	14	14	..	..	
Waddigudem	9	9	14	14	..	..	
Chódavaramu	8	8	12	12	12	12	There were two market days during the fortnight. Their average prices are shown.
Devipatnam	9½	8	13	13 & 12	..	13 & 12	
Addatigala	9	8½	13	12	13	12	The prices at Yelleswaram shandy have been a bit better and numbers of the people in the Yellavaram division go there to buy grain.
Jaddangi	9	8	13	12	13	12	

Activity of trade.—Private trade in rice and dry staple food-grains is moderate. No imports or exports by sea or train. Sufficient quantity of rice has been imported from Rajahmundry to Bhadráchalam taluk.

The consumption of the grain from the Government depôts supplied with money from the Famine Relief Fund has increased largely. The increase is rather difficult to account for, but is probably due to the depôts becoming better known and to advances being made more freely by the Komaties owing to the fall of rain.

Condition of the People.

On works.—The relief workers on the Gangole tank near Dummagudem are in good condition. Their number has risen to 1,953 and is still enormously increasing. This increase is attributed mainly to the little work that is being done by the labourers owing to laxity of supervision, the Assistant Engineer in charge of the works with his scanty and incompetent staff of officers under him being unable to exercise due supervision and check. The result is that B wage is given to many who do not do a stroke of work and naturally the works are popular. The works have since been reported to have been stopped for this reason. Gratuitous relief is given to the really deserving workers. This will be further reported on in the next fortnightly narrative. The ordinary road works in Chódavaramu and Yellavaram divisions have been taken on contract by people from the plains.

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	Dependants.		Others.					
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
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2. In the Marrigudem and Rekkapalli ranges Mr. Coleridge reports that the condition of the people appears to him to be deteriorating and has suggested the starting of works. I have vetoed this because works are no boon as they will only drag the people away from their own cultivation which requires all their attention and because there are no officers available to supervise them, and experience at Dummagudem shows that, if work is to be given, it must be on contract paid for by the piece and, I am sure, any work of the sort would never be completed and so prove a waste of money pure and simple. He has been instructed, instead, to be as liberal as he thinks necessary in the grant of gratuitous relief, as this form of relief will be more appreciated than real work by the people. Everywhere it is reported that the grain depôts carried on by means of an allotment from the Charitable fund are being increasingly run upon. As funds are nearly exhausted, I have asked the Charitable Committee for a further allotment, to enable me to continue these till the middle of September when the early crops should be harvested, but should the Charitable Fund Committee refuse further aid on the ground that such general measures of relief lie outside its functions, I solicit permission and funds to continue the same at the cost of Government. I have observed a letter in the "Madras Mail" to the effect that the concession of purchasing cholam at 16 seers per rupee should be allowed to all castes without distinction in Bhadráchalam and not, as at present, limited to Koyas, Reddis and Panchamas. The limit has been imposed for two reasons—first, because it would require far more funds to do this and also because the other castes reside in the river-side villages which, as a rule, everywhere had excellent crops. If the villagers have sold their grain, they have done so at excellent prices and can afford to buy elsewhere and where they have not, they must be hoarding for better prices still and I want to force them to sell. If we open the depôts to them, they will keep their own hoards and get their supplies from the depôt, as the famine scare is still strong. In the village of Waddigudem alone there are, I am certain, scores of putties of cholam but I have not yet heard that they are selling it or that they have as yet even opened their pits. The recent *heavy* rain should have made them do this and if it has, a fall in the local price will not, I think, be long in setting in, now that prospects generally are much brighter. Of course general rules cause hardship and I have accordingly informed Mr. Coleridge and Mr. Woodhouse that grain may be sold in small quantities at a time to members of other castes (not more than four seers) when the depôt-keepers are satisfied that they do not hold land in river-side villlages and that they are really poor.

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sits lightly on the conscience of a Koya and we may be sure he will regard repayment as a nuisance whenever it has to be made, unless it is demanded at harvest when a plenteous supply makes him reckless and careless. I would make it a condition that such loans are to be recovered by the headmen at harvest and repaid or their value, at current market prices, repaid within one month of harvest. In Polavaram all disturbances are at an end and they were only partly, if at all, due to want. Principally they were due to instigation and a desire for vengeance on the Komaties who, having got rich by cheating and deceiving the Koyas for years, this year when they wanted aid, withheld it. Certainly on this side of the frontier there is no emaciation to indicate want and the only persons, I have seen in what could be called indifferent condition, were a batch of persons from the Nizam's side arrested at Jeelugumille. They certainly looked worse than any of those caught on this side though they were not very bad and the doctor stated it was ridiculous to ask him to certify as to whether they could stand a flogging of five or seven strokes, as they could very well stand far more. About Jangareddigudem and Buttayagudem, where I have seen hundreds of men and women, they are in excellent condition and don't pretend when pressed that they went looting for want and they were the principal looters of all. They went because every one else was going—those who were well off and those who were not. Nor do these remarks apply only to the Koyas but also to the Panchamas. A finer set of Panchamas, as regards condition and physique, could nowhere be picked up in the delta, haphazard, than a lot of 18 from Buttayagudem caught by the District Superintendent on the warpath, and of the lot he fattest, and he really was fat, gave his profession as "begging." Gedda rishnamma, the uncrowned king of the Koyas at Kannapuram, told me some of them were hard up and wanted assistance, but he could not give the name of a single village off hand, and said he would inquire and send me a list; of course, he wants to make out that the Koyas went out from want, because the Komaties all say he was at the bottom of the whole thing, and certainly there are strong grounds for suspecting him, as such a thing could hardly originate in his muttah, as it did, without his knowledge, and the fact that he afterwards got up a sham loot of one of his own houses only increases this suspicion. If they went out from want, it is certain they must have applied for assistance first to him, and he must, one feels certain, have got rid of the burden by directing their attention to the Komaties. Once started, of course, the mania for looting spread like wild fire, for as soon as it was reported that the Koyas were coming, in most villages every man, woman and child fled. In consequence we had 31 villages looted in six days and all looted but one in five days—Sunday to Friday. If relief is to be given, it should take the shape of advances through the muttahdars who must be held responsible for repayment.

As regards the rest of the district, I have to report that all Divisional officers were ordered to open test relief works when it was seen the monsoon was unduly late, but they have nowhere attracted labour, except in the Kottapalli range of Rajahmundry and at Cocanada where a few Turpus have attended a work. This last, however, is hardly a fair test, as I find the workers are being paid far more than the wages they are entitled to under the Famine Code in lieu of payments for dependants which are not made. A man gets As. 2 and a woman As. 1–6, so that a man and his wife can earn As. 3–6 a day which is a high wage. If they have children who can work, of course, they get more, as all children alike get 9 pies a day. Even with these rates there are only about 180 on the work, who are mostly natives of Vizagapatam and Ganjám, though a few old Cocanada people, like worn out punkah-pullers, &c., are also to be found among them. When a man is too old to pull a punkah, he can't do much work, but of course he has no objection to do what he can for As. 2.

3. As regards Rajahmundry, I have not received particulars from the Deputy Collector as to what wages he is paying and on what prices they have been fixed nor also information as to tasks. I have called for this and leave for Rajahmundry the day after to-morrow to see how things are going on. As things stand, the Kottapalli range must, however, be considered an affected tract, as four small test works opened in it have all attracted labourers and the total working is now reported to be about

1,000 and increasing. In conclusion, I have to complain that the Rs. 20,000 I asked for on the 4th instant has not yet been received, though I have twice telegraphed about it. I am spending money because it is reported to be absolutely necessary, however, and will recoup if my present allotment is exceeded when the money is received.

Resolution—No. 568, dated 14th August 1897.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall in the fortnight under report was below the average, but there has been a good fall since, which has materially improved the condition and prospects of the district.

3. The questions discussed by the Collector have been disposed of in separate Proceedings.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 730, Revenue, dated 30th August 1897.

Miscellaneous. Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. Shaik Karim.

30 Copies.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. } *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 730, 30th August 1897.

AUGUST.

Fortnightly Narrative.

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

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 568, dated 14th August 1897 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Special Assistant Agent's division, Gódávari district, during the period ending 15th of July 1897 :—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and Water-supply.—

	Rainfall during the period in inches.	Expected rainfall in inches.
Bhadráchalam taluk	0·30 (2nd & 7th)	1·40
Chódavaramu division	3·0	5·22
Yellavaram division	1·16	0·78
Polavaram division ...	No statement has been received. The Deputy Tahsildar has been asked to explain the omission.	

Water is sufficient for drinking purposes throughout. In Yellavaram division, the tanks have received a certain supply. But nowhere is water as yet sufficient for irrigation purposes. The rainfall is deficient in Bhadráchalam and more was urgently needed, when I left the taluk on 12th. I hear that a good fall of rain has since occurred.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.

Bhadráchalam Taluk.—The standing crops paddy, gingelly, maize and hill cholam are fair but are in want of rain. The occasional showers and the frequent cloudiness during the fortnight have been keeping them alive. Ploughing is going on for the purpose of sowing the remaining crops, and if rain comes soon, the safety of dry crops should be assured. At the end of this fortnight, the position was very critical, but has since improved. *Polavaram Division*—Statement not received. The Deputy Tahsildar has been called on for explanation. *Chódavaramu Division.*—The ryots are busy with their ploughs and cattle. Gingelly, ganti and chama are flourishing in places where there has been rain. In other places they are not promising. From the quantity of rain received I think it may be presumed that the crops will not be a failure. *Yellavaram Division.*—Owing to the rains which have been falling throughout the division in this fortnight, millet, gingelly and chama are reviving. Ganti is being transplanted. Seed-beds of paddy in Chamagedda and Gurtedu muttas are flourishing. In other places paddy is being sown for seed-beds. Dry paddy is being broad cast. Ryots are ploughing lands for sowing cholam. The state of affairs in this division now affords very little cause for anxiety.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle—Bhadráchalam.—Fodder is not procurable but pasture is available for cattle and their condition is improving and is now fairly good. *Polavaram Division.*—The Deputy Tahsildar has not sent in his statement. His explanation has been called for. *Chódavaramu Division.*—Fodder is not available. Pasture insufficient in the riverside villages where the people are taking special care of their ploughing cattle and milch-cows, leaving the rest of their herds to pick up what they can. The condition of the latter even is not bad. Koyas and Reddis have also allowed their cattle to stray in the jungles and live there as best as they can. Their condition too seems satisfactory. *Yellavaram Division.*—Fodder not procurable. Pasture available but not sufficient. Cattle diseases, such as dysentery, &c., are still prevailing in some villages. As the tanks here have received a

certain supply, pasture must improve and ought, by now, to be sufficient. In fact now the pasture appears to me sufficient in the parts I have been in and the cattle are in fair condition.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—The rainfall in Bhadráchalam taluk and in the riverside villages of Chódavaramu division is scanty and the condition of standing crops is not quite satisfactory. In Yellavaram division and in the interior of Chódavaramu division where there has been some good rain, the prospects, as to dry crops, are favourable. The river Gódávari has received no new freshes in this fortnight. The Sabari, however, came down on the night of the 11th and thus caused a slight [illegible]esh in the Gódávari. There was rain round Kunavaram, and there, as well as at [illegible]lusumamidi, the crops looked favourable. Mr. Woodhouse also reports that they are [illegible]d at Abhicharla. At Bhadráchalam and Dummagudem unfortunately the fall of rain on this date was very slight.

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 July 1897.

Stations.	Rice. End of last period.	Rice. End of current period.	Cholam. End of last period.	Cholam. End of current period.	Ragi. End of last period.	Ragi. End of current period.	Remarks.
Bhadráchalam	9	9	12	12	..	..	
Kachavaram	9	9	14	14	..	..	
Waddigudem	9	9	14	14	..	..	
Chódavaramu	8	8	12	12	12	12	There were two market days during the fortnight. Their average prices are shown.
Devipatnam	9½	8	13	13 & 12	..	13 & 12	
Addatigala	9	8½	13	12	13	12	The prices at Yelleswaram shandy have been a bit better and numbers of the people in the Yellavaram division go there to buy grain.
Jaddangi	9	8	13	12	13	12	

Activity of trade.—Private trade in rice and dry staple food-grains is moderate. No imports or exports by sea or train. Sufficient quantity of rice has been imported from Rajahmundry to Bhadráchalam taluk.

The consumption of the grain from the Government depôts supplied with money from the Famine Relief Fund has increased largely. The increase is rather difficult to account for, but is probably due to the depôts becoming better known and to advances being made more freely by the Komaties owing to the fall of rain.

Condition of the People.

On works.—The relief workers on the Gangole tank near Dummagudem are in good condition. Their number has risen to 1,953 and is still enormously increasing. This increase is attributed mainly to the little work that is being done by the labourers owing to laxity of supervision, the Assistant Engineer in charge of the works with his scanty and incompetent staff of officers under him being unable to exercise due supervision and check. The result is that B wage is given to many who do not do a stroke of work and naturally the works are popular. The works have since been reported to have been stopped for this reason. Gratuitous relief is given to the really deserving workers. This will be further reported on in the next fortnightly narrative. The ordinary road works in Chódavaramu and Yellavaram divisions have been taken on contract by people from the plains.

In villages.—Cholam and ragi are being sold by Government at different centres in Bhadráchalam taluk at normal rates to Koyas and Panchamas. The old and infirm are being given gratuitous relief. Others are partly living on jungle roots, leaves, &c., and partly on grain occasionally purchased. In Chódavaramu a grain depôt has lately been opened and cholam and ragi are being sold there to the hill people at cheaper rates than at the local markets. Here and in Yellavaram division, the bulk of the people are living on jungle roots, vegetable *curries*, *ambalies* of tamarind seeds and jeelugu stems, toddy, &c. The people in the rented villages of Yellavaram division cut timber and take it for sale to plain villages. The rainfall during this fortnight has enabled the hill people to dig out roots from the soil which had hitherto been too hard. Amongst those on gratuitous relief at Dummagudem only a few were really emaciated. Mr. Coleridge reports that there are many in his range and he has been ordered to put them all on gratuitous relief.

Sickness and mortality.—No deaths from starvation. Cholera has abated in Bhadráchalam taluk to a great extent but still breaks out from time to time. No epidemics nor other sorts of sickness are reported anywhere except fevers which are indigenous to the climate. Cholera has again broken out in Polavaram but I do not know to what extent, as the Deputy Tahsildar has not reported, and I only made a hurried journey from Polavaram to Jangareddigudem and back.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluk.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Bhadráchalam taluk— At Dummagudem	399	1,953	The increase in the number is accounted for under "Condition of the people—on works."

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.
Bhadráchalam	..	..	..	..	..	..	353	531

The increase is due to failure of the rains and may be expected to continue until the early crops are harvested.

Taluks.	Number of villages in which relief was given.		Number of relief workers' children and infirm dependants receiving money doles.		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Bhadráchalam	59	83	312	2,078	The increase is naturally consequent on the increase in the number of relief workers.

Private charity.—The sale of food grains at normal rates to Koyas and Panchamas at depôts opened with the funds supplied by the Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committee, Madras, is going on on a large scale. A depôt has lately been ordered to be started at Chódavaramu. I do not really think that there is much distress there. But the Deputy Tahsildar reports that the Koyas are making an outcry about the dearness of grain and certainly the Komaties are selling at a very dear rate.

General Remarks.—This report deals with the state of things up to the 10th instant. Owing to a sudden change in my plans owing to the disturbances in Polavaram which necessitated a rapid march of nearly 100 miles, my tappal has been reaching me eight or ten days after despatch and consequently this report has been delayed until to-day (23rd) when the Yellavaram Deputy Tahsildar's report reached me. On the 7th instant, a gang of Koyas in Polavaram division looted the village of Bayyaram and between then and the 10th instant several other villages were looted. The object was grain, but after the Panchamas joined in, jewellery was also looted and Dacoities were also reported from Yellavaram division in connection with which three persons were arrested. On receiving the report from Polavaram I went straight through from Pulusumamidi, where I was, to Jangareddigudem, 84 miles, but found on my arrival that the Agent and Superintendent of Police had done all that was necessary and that all disturbances seemed to be over. I accordingly started for Yellavaram in accordance with the orders of the Agent and cannot therefore say how far the looting was due to acute distress or not. I had seen no reason to fear such a rising during my tour in the division from 8th by 18th June, and in fact at Buttayagudem, almost the centre of the disturbed country, real headmen had told me that the people could pull through without assistance if the south-west monsoon did not fail.

When I left Bhadrachalam on the 10th the condition was critical as no good rain had fallen since 17th June 1897. However on the 10th and 11th good rain fell in places and further rain has since been reported. The increased number on relief works is not I think a sign of acute distress but is due to the fact becoming generally known that a B wage could be obtained without actually working for it. The system of gratuitous relief to people who have no means of living but by food and the sale of grain at cheap rates will now, I think, be sufficient measures of relief until the early crops are harvested. Until then no change can be made.

Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and places visited—Bhadráchalam taluk.—Kunavaram, Ratsagompalli, Gaviridevipet, Raynipet, Bhadráchalam, Dummagudem and return to Kunavaram and Pulusumamidi.

Advances of loans.—Nil.

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As regards Yellavaram and Chódavaramu, I have nothing to add to the remarks of the Special Assistant who is now there. The opening of a grain depôt at Chódavaramu is news to me, as I had not been informed that this had been done though I gave orders that, if the Komatis attempted to force up prices to 10 seers per rupee, it should be done and I would ask for funds to sell on market days to Koyas and Reddis at 14 seers per rupee. How these hill people generally are to be relieved most effectually is a puzzling question. They won't work, as we know, even at wood-cutting outside their villages and it is not kindness to compel them to go to works. Every man is a cultivator and has his own work on which his livelihood next year depends. Gratuitous relief cannot be given satisfactorily also, for we must give it practically to all without inquiry, for emaciation is no test. A whole village will have things more or less in common and live as usual till the last grain in it is consumed and we have consequently men in first-rate condition who may be starving though they look the reverse and the whole village will go down together were the Koya a man to suffer quietly. He is not, however. Gratuitous relief to a few in a village, therefore won't answer. In some villages all may be starving, and in others only a few but all will expect the same treatment. For such people two means of relief seem advisable—one the sale of grain at fair prices, so that those who have or can get money can get its full equivalent in food and the other is not to attempt gratuitous relief save in exceptional and isolated cases but to advance grain to the headmen to be repaid in grain. The liability to repay will have some effect in restraining those, who don't really want relief, claiming it, and possibly make the people a little careful in their use of the grain. The last point is doubtful though, for, a debt

sits lightly on the conscience of a Koya and we may be sure he will regard repayment as a nuisance whenever it has to be made, unless it is demanded at harvest when a plenteous supply makes him reckless and careless. I would make it a condition that such loans are to be recovered by the headmen at harvest and repaid or their value, at current market prices, repaid within one month of harvest. In Polavaram all disturbances are at an end and they were only partly, if at all, due to want. Principally they were due to instigation and a desire for vengeance on the Komaties who, having got rich by cheating and deceiving the Koyas for years, this year when they wanted aid, withheld it. Certainly on this side of the frontier there is no emaciation to indicate want and the only persons, I have seen in what could be called indifferent condition, were a batch of persons from the Nizam's side arrested at Jeelugumille. They certainly looked worse than any of those caught on this side though they were not very bad and the doctor stated it was ridiculous to ask him to certify as to whether they could stand a flogging of five or seven strokes, as they could very well stand far more. About Jangareddigudem and Buttayagudem, where I have seen hundreds of men and women, they are in excellent condition and don't pretend when pressed that they went looting for want and they were the principal looters of all. They went because every one else was going—those who were well off and those who were not. Nor do these remarks apply only to the Koyas but also to the Panchamas. A finer set of Panchamas, as regards condition and physique, could nowhere be picked up in the delta, haphazard, than a lot of 18 from Buttayagudem caught by the District Superintendent on the warpath, and of the lot he fattest, and he really was fat, gave his profession as "begging." Gedda rishnamma, the uncrowned king of the Koyas at Kannapuram, told me some of them were hard up and wanted assistance, but he could not give the name of a single village off hand, and said he would inquire and send me a list; of course, he wants to make out that the Koyas went out from want, because the Komaties all say he was at the bottom of the whole thing, and certainly there are strong grounds for suspecting him, as such a thing could hardly originate in his muttah, as it did, without his knowledge, and the fact that he afterwards got up a sham loot of one of his own houses only increases this suspicion. If they went out from want, it is certain they must have applied for assistance first to him, and he must, one feels certain, have got rid of the burden by directing their attention to the Komaties. Once started, of course, the mania for looting spread like wild fire, for as soon as it was reported that the Koyas were coming, in most villages every man, woman and child fled. In consequence we had 31 villages looted in six days and all looted but one in five days—Sunday to Friday. If relief is to be given, it should take the shape of advances through the muttahdars who must be held responsible for repayment.

As regards the rest of the district, I have to report that all Divisional officers were ordered to open test relief works when it was seen the monsoon was unduly late, but they have nowhere attracted labour, except in the Kottapalli range of Rajahmundry and at Cocanada where a few Turpus have attended a work. This last, however, is hardly a fair test, as I find the workers are being paid far more than the wages they are entitled to under the Famine Code in lieu of payments for dependants which are not made. A man gets As. 2 and a woman As. 1–6, so that a man and his wife can earn As. 3–6 a day which is a high wage. If they have children who can work, of course, they get more, as all children alike get 9 pies a day. Even with these rates there are only about 180 on the work, who are mostly natives of Vizagapatam and Ganjám, though a few old Cocanada people, like worn out punkah-pullers, &c., are also to be found among them. When a man is too old to pull a punkah, he can't do much work, but of course he has no objection to do what he can for As. 2.

3. As regards Rajahmundry, I have not received particulars from the Deputy Collector as to what wages he is paying and on what prices they have been fixed nor also information as to tasks. I have called for this and leave for Rajahmundry the day after to-morrow to see how things are going on. As things stand, the Kottapalli range must, however, be considered an affected tract, as four small test works opened in it have all attracted labourers and the total working is now reported to be about

1,000 and increasing. In conclusion, I have to complain that the Rs. 20,000 I asked for on the 4th instant has not yet been received, though I have twice telegraphed about it. I am spending money because it is reported to be absolutely necessary, however, and will recoup if my present allotment is exceeded when the money is received.

Resolution—No. 568, dated 14th August 1897.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall in the fortnight under report was below the average, but there has been a good fall since, which has materially improved the condition and prospects of the district.

3. The questions discussed by the Collector have been disposed of in separate Proceedings.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 730, Revenue, dated 30th August 1897.

Miscellaneous.	Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Ed. Shaik Karim.

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