Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 25-835

DATED 18 September 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Jannie, Rod: Revenue Dept. Recording Board's Rd: Submitting the fortnightly Narrative of the Bellary Dt for the period ending 15th July 1897 Court of E. Tl Circle.

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Public works (1897) department

Current-number: 9038

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REVENUE.

Recd. 9. 9. } 1897.
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Enclosures ~

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Communicated to the J.S. III cue.

14/9/97

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21/9/97

Fortnightly Narrative.

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

O.L. 5464 16/9

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 553, dated 5th August 1897 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Bellary District during the period ending 15th of July 1897 :—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and Water-supply.—

Station.	In the fortnight.	Up to the fortnight.	Average for three years.	
			In the fortnight.	Up to the fortnight.
Yemmiganur	0·44	6·08	2·83	6·26
Adóni	..	8·69	2·51	6·10
Alúr	..	6·99	1 78	7·23
Siruguppa	0 13	7·25	0·69	6·30
Kampli	..	8·28	0·69	3·62
Bellary	..	3·79	0·59	7·25
Rayadrug	..	7·13	0·65	5·71
Hospet	0·42	14·76	1·45	5 70
Kúdligi	0·81	14·87	1·64	8 28
Harpanahalli	1·20	9·38	2·57	10·46
Hadagalli	0·56	3 98	1·44	6·31
Sandúr	0·11	8·99	..	..

There has been very little rain during the fortnight, but the weather has been cloudy and slight showers have fallen at six stations. These have been sufficient to keep alive the standing dry crops on red soils in the western taluks, but rain is urgently wanted for the dry crops elsewhere. It is still too early to say that the monsoon has failed but the long break is causing much anxiety. In Adóni some of the early crop has already been lost, and in that taluk, Alúr, Rayadrug, Bellary and the east of Hospet, there will be general failure should there be no rain within a week. The drinking-water supply is at present generally sufficient except in Adóni town, where the Municipal Council propose to dig more wells in the bed of the reservoir. Water-supply for irrigation purposes is sufficient in river-fed channels and tanks and in wells, but not generally sufficient in other tanks though most of them have received a partial supply and a few full supply.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops—Adóni taluk.—The ryots are still preparing their lands ; weeding the newly-sown crop is in progress in some parts, but agricultural operations are greatly retarded by the want of rain. The young mungari crop has already practically failed in many places, while in the lower lands and over a small tract in the middle of the taluk, where the rain was heavier, the cholam still looks fair. Even such crops are, however, beginning to fade. The fields in which the crop has failed will be sown again with korra if the rains come.

Alúr Taluk.—In regada lands clearing of nuth grass is going on on a very small scale. The young crop is in urgent need of rain. The growth is stunted. Crops under wells are in good condition.

Bellary Division.—Ragi, cholam and tobacco are being sown under wells in the Rayadrug taluk. The early crops sown are in urgent need of rain. Cholam and ragi under wells are in good condition.

Hospet Division.—Ragi is being sown in Kúdligi and Harpanahalli taluks, yellow cholam and other mungari crops are being sown in parts of Hadagalli. Dry crops already sown are in fair condition but want more rain. Some in Hadagalli have been damaged by insects and wind. Crops under wells and channels are in good condition. Black soils are now being sown with cholam and pulses in Harpanahalli taluk.

Sandúr State.—Weeding continues. The standing dry crops are in good condition but they want rain badly. Garden crops are in good condition.

Supply of pasture and condition of cattle—Adóni taluk.—Pasture not available, except in the riverside villages. There is still plenty of fodder in the straw-yards of the richer ryots, and the Famine Fund is helping the poorer owners. The crop under the Rampur channel was good and the straw has been carted in great quantities to nearly every part of the taluk. The condition of the stall-fed cattle is fair, but that of others is deteriorating.

Alúr Taluk.—Pasture not available in sufficient quantities and fodder is very scanty except with a few well-to-do ryots. The fodder depôt at Aspari supplies straw to the needy ryots. The cattle belonging to the poor ryots are in bad condition but help is given by the Famine Fund.

Bellary Division.—Pasture is available to a limited extent in wet villages. Fodder is scanty. Hill grass, prickly-pear and grass roots are being used for food in the Bellary taluk. The condition of cattle is fair in Rayadrug and bad in Bellary, except in the case of stall-fed animals.

Hospet Division.—Pasture is available to a small extent in some parts but the grass is still tender and of little use for consumption by cattle. Fodder is insufficient. It is being purchased to a considerable extent from Kamalápuram and other villages adjoining the river channels in Hospet. The condition of cattle in Harpanahalli is good, in Kúdligi fair, but in parts they are weak and dying of diarrhœa, in Hadagalli moderate and in Hospet poor. Stall-fed cattle are, however, in better condition.

Sandúr State.—Pasture available. Fodder very scarce. The condition of cattle is improving.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—In Harpanahalli, with the possible exception of the north-east corner, prospects are satisfactory. This is also true of the south-west and some other portions of Hadagalli and parts of Kúdligi and Hospet, but hope of harvesting the standing crops in the other divisions of the district is diminishing. Rain within a week would still save most of them, but otherwise they must fail, I fear. Moreover, unless we get rain soon, the sowings that usually take place about the end of July will be retarded and even if good rain falls later on, the harvest will be delayed—a serious misfortune in a year of high prices. Pasture, too, is disappearing, and the cattle, which were beginning to show signs of improvement, will sink back into bad condition again.

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.		White cholam.		Yellow cholam.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
Adóni	8·10	7·56	10·30	8·24	11·33	9·79	14·55	12·13	There has been a sharp rise in prices owing to the failure of rains.
Alúr	7·56	7·02	10·30	8·24	11·33	9·27	..	..	
Bellary	8·10	8·10	9·79	8·76	11·33	10·30	13·58	13·10	
Rayadrug	9·72	8·10	..	9 79	13·39	10·52	14·10	11·64	
Hospet	7·02	8·10	11·33	9·27	11 84	10·30	15·52	13·10	
Kúdligi	7·56	7·56	..	..	11·33	10·30	13·58	12·61	
Harpanahalli	9·18	8·64	..	..	13·39	11·85	14·55	13·10	
Hadagaili	8·64	7·56	..	..	12·36	10·30	..	..	
Sandúr	8 49	7·56	..	..	12·87	10·30	..	..	
Average ..	8·26	7·80	10·43	8·86	12·13	10·36	14·31	12·61	

Activity of Trade.—Private trade is generally active. There has been a net import of 42,310 maunds of grain during the fortnight against 14,076 maunds in the previous fortnight, and this will probably prevent a further rise. There are already signs of a slight fall in some places. It is impossible to say how much grain there is in the district; but the other day a Reddi in the Alúr taluk admitted to me that he had 40,000 local seers in his pits and he probably has a good deal more. He said he would not sell as he wanted it for his family and servants. I calculated that it amounted to forty months' supply for them.

Condition of the People.

On Works.—Generally good, on some works excellent.

In Villages.—Generally good. With the rise in prices and the postponement of agricultural operations owing to the break in the monsoon, the numbers requiring relief must increase. I am going to Rayadrug at once to see whether any works are necessary in the black-cotton tracts of that taluk. Every effort will be made to give assistance in time where it is wanted. In Adóni and Alúr all who need it can find work and this is also true of the greater part of Bellary and the east of Hospet. Round Hospet town I found that there was a considerable demand for labour from the wet villages, and the ordinary Local Fund works are being put in hand. This course has also been ordered in the other western taluks and these ordinary road works will serve as a useful index of the demand for employment. I do not at present anticipate that it will be necessary to open additional works in the western taluks, but the position is being carefully watched.

Sickness and Mortality.—Small-pox prevails in parts of Harpanahalli and Hadagalli taluks. Slight Diarrhœa and Dysentery in Alúr and Adóni. Guinea-worm and sore eyes prevail among the relief-workers in Adóni and Bellary. Cholera still continues at Kenchenaguddam in Bellary taluk and has appeared again at Nagaladinne, Suganur and Yemmiganur in Adóni taluk. There have been in all 41 attacks and 10 deaths during the fortnight. The cholera is of a mild form, and all possible precautions are being taken to prevent its spread. Several of the reported cases have proved not to be true cholera.

Remarks.—More medical subordinates are wanted for relief works, the numbers on which have increased very largely as will be shown below. I regret to say that the district is about to lose the services of Surgeon-Major Evans, who is obliged to take leave on medical certificate. He has been of the greatest help to me and his activity and energy in inspecting works have been invaluable. If the numbers on works continue to increase, an officer of the rank of Assistant Surgeon will be necessary to assist the District Medical and Sanitary officer in inspection. I propose to address the Surgeon-General upon this matter at once.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Adóni	40,118	47,488	The number employed on works according to the latest reports is noted below:—
Alúr	41,035	46,925	
Bellary	11,836	15,477	
Hospet	7,480	10,357	Adóni 52,194
Kúdligi	1,117	1,598	Alúr 51,850
Hadagalli	4,370	5,694	Bellary 18,460
Total ..	105,956	1,27,539	Kúdligi 10,657
Sandúr	339	412	Hadagalli 6,663
			Total .. 1,41,403

Gratuitous Relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

Taluks.	Number relieved							
	At kitchens.				In poor-houses.		In villages.	
	Dependants.		Others.					
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Adóni	1,762	1,788	1,454	1,590	..	..	2,449	2,470
Alúr	2,138	2,177	693	632	..	..	4,583	5,297
Bellary	725	992	1,093	1,156	..	..	3,524	3,926
Hospet	538	725	6	306	..	..	2,153	1,977
Kúdligi	61	62	..	..	..	..	59	105
Hadagalli	159	225	28	25	..	..	1,100	2,315
Total ..	5,383	5,969	3,274	3,709	..	..	13,868	16,090
Sandúr	..	..	..	..	..	..	85	101

Taluks.	Weavers' relief.					
	Number of villages in which relief was given		Number of persons relieved		Number of cloths manufactured	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	In the period.	Up to date.
Adóni	121	138	2,653	3,579	744	22,687
Alúr	106	106	..	..	..	..
Bellary	76	76	76	517	387	555
Hospet	33	33	..	..	..	..
Kúdligi	..	Not reported.	..	..	..	..
Hadagalli	11	62	..	..	..	..
Sandúr	5	6	..	..	..	..

Private charity.—Many of the kitchens are supplied at times with vegetables given by private charity.

Sanjiva Reddi, of Joharapuram in Alúr taluk, continues to feed sixty children.

The various Sub-Committees of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund have been most active in giving assistance in the form of cloths, order for fodder and money-grants for the purchase of seed-grain, cattle and fodder. Many thousands of rupees have been spent to the great benefit of the people and their cattle.

General remarks.—We have reached a critical period in the development of relief operations. Owing to the sudden cessation of the rains, prices have risen and the demand for labour has diminished; the result has been a very large increase in the numbers in receipt of relief. If we do not get rain, the numbers will go up by leaps and bounds, for the small ryots will keep any stock of grain they may possess for use when they are engaged in raising their next crop. I have accordingly carefully examined the programme of works available and have made arrangements for the not improbable event of a continuance of the distress and a large accession to the ranks of relief-workers. The only part of the district in which it has been found difficult to find a suitable field for employment is the north-east corner of Adóni. The repair of the Yemmiganúr-Nagaladinne road is nearly finished, and though there is plenty of work available near Yemmiganúr itself, this is too far for the Nagaladinne people. Sanction has accordingly been asked for an estimate for constructing a new road from Nandavaram to Kósgi railway station, or rather to the point on the Madhavaram road where the existing Kósgi feeder road meets it.

2. The difficulty at Nagaladinne is increased by the number of people from Hyderabad who came to that work. I would suggest that the Government of His Highness the Nizam be asked to consider the desirability of opening a relief work on the other side of the river.

3. Under the personal instructions from the Famine Commissioner, the wage on three works in the Bellary taluk, is now being calculated on the basis of equal quantities of ragi and cholam, and, after inquiry, I have extended this method to the Kúdligi and Hospet taluks. It cannot be put in force in Hadagalli as there is no ragi available there, nor can it be introduced into the northern half of Bellary and Adóni and Alúr. In the last-named taluk, however, I have changed the standard grain from white cholam to equal parts of white and yellow, as more of the latter kind is now available.

4. Mr. T. Higham, C.I.E., who has been deputed on special duty by the Government of India, visited the district during the fortnight and inspected all the works on the Bellary-Alúr and Alúr-Guntakal roads. He saw over 20,000 relief-workers and I believe that he formed a very favourable impression as to their physical condition. On the Chippagiri road we were told that the people lived in much better style than usual at this time of the year, that they had a fowl curry once a week and that they spent a good deal on drink. I found that the quantity of arrack sold by the shop in Beladona, a roadside village, was 33 per cent. more during April, May and June 1897 than in the corresponding period of 1896, but the total quantity was not large and the presence of the relief works fully accounts for it. No statistics of the consumption of toddy are available.

5. A number of Sub-Inspectors of the Salt and Abkári Department have recently arrived and have been posted at once as Circle Inspectors and Paymasters. They will be of great assistance, I hope, and I wish we could get more of them.

6. A complaint was made by Mr. Tod, the Agent of Messrs. Dymes and Co. at Adóni that he could not get labour for his press. The matter is being inquired into by Mr. Lloyd. In one report already submitted by him, he points out that in the case of women, the wage offered by Mr. Tod is very little more than the present famine wage and that on the relief works the work is light and the employment certain, while the children are fed in a kitchen and a holiday is given once a week. I have given Mr. Lloyd discretion to increase the task and have instructed him that the families of people who work at the press may continue to be given gratuitous relief if the wage earned by their parents is not sufficient to support them. One man who worked six days at the press for 5 annas a day, came to the relief work on Sunday when the press was closed simply for the one day's wage. I should have raised the tasks all round ere this, but I do not know what action the Government will take in the matter of distance allowances. If they are abolished the present tasks will be sufficient in most cases for some time to come.

7. Cases of head coolies making false entries in muster rolls are becoming more common, but I am glad to say that some of the culprits have been successfully prosecuted. On one work the coolies prosecuted a sub-maistri for extorting money from them. Mr. Lloyd tried the case and found that there was no extortion, as the overseer had been authorized to recover from the gang one-half of the cost of tools that had been lost. The Famine Code fixes the responsibility for tools on the sub-maistri and I consider that it is unfair to make the whole gang pay for the carelessness of a few and very unwise to let a sub-maistri make recoveries. I have issued orders in this sense and heads of villages have also been directed to assist in recovering tools taken home by the workers. It is however a hopeful sign when the coolies themselves come forward in this way to resist what they believe to be unauthorized exactions.

8. Yesterday I saw the Dewan of Sandúr, the former Tahsildar of Adóni. He is fully alive to the situation and the administration of relief may safely be left in his capable hands. He tells me that the relief-workers in Sandúr work much harder than in Adóni.

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

Talaks.	Repair and construction of wells.						Other purposes.						Total.						Number of wells	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Adóni	12	2,710	9	930	64	15,348	153	13,020	148	11,570	395	29,780	165	15,730	157	12,500	469	45,128	..	8
Alúr	38	9,970	38	7,420	42	13,830	1,522	1,62,315	1,449	1,53,710	683	1,12,040	1,560	1,72,285	1,487	1,61,130	725	1,26,870	..	38
Bellary	36	4,492	36	4,492	26	9,228	876	84,970	876	84,970	199	15,440	912	89,462	912	89,462	245	64,668	..	36
Kayadrug	71	14,600	62	8,370	36	11,150	287	88,645	276	36,920	81	11,740	358	53,145	338	45,290	117	22,890	..	62
Hospet	16	3,720	16	1,960	21	4,500	62	3,975	62	3,976	21	2,300	68	7,695	68	6,935	42	6,800	..	11
Kúdligi	2	260	..	..	37	7,340	..	..	..	..	7	900	2	260	..	..	44	8,240	..	..
Harpanahalli ..	1	100	1	50	1	250	58	7,055	48	5,755	28	2,785	59	7,155	49	5,865	29	3,035	..	1
Hadagalli ..	9	1,000	8	550	21	5,900	73	9,610	58	8,225	118	21,475	82	10,610	66	8,775	139	27,375	..	3
Total ..	185	36,852	170	23,772	248	67,546	3,021	3,19,490	2,907	3,05,125	1,532	2,37,460	3,206	3,56,342	3,077	3,28,897	1,780	3,05,006	..	169

Talaks.	Cattle and seed-grain.						Purchase of fodder.						Total.						
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	
1	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.	
Adóni	332	11,098	224	7,280	407	35,243	6	240	2	240	126	5,230	338	11,338	926	7,385	533	40,473	
Alúr	1,089	36,952	960	33,138	791	56,438	10	650	10	650	69	3,311	1,049	36,602	970	33,788	860	59,749	
Bellary	677	27,588	677	27,538	590	32,692	..	..	..	..	..	..	677	27,558	677	27,538	590	32,692	
Rayadrug	59	3,616	56	3,366	99	5,059	..	..	..	..	18	310	69	4,231	66	3,981	117	6,369	
Hospet	101	3,490	101	3,490	65	3,825	10	615	10	615	..	..	101	3,490	101	* 3,490	65	3,825	
Kúdligi	470	12,059	467	11,839	171	7,859	..	..	..	..	..	..	470	12,059	467	11,839	171	7,859	
Harpanahalli ..	88	3,775	80	3,425	139	7,008	..	..	..	..	..	..	88	3,775	80	3,425	139	7,008	
Hadagalli	91	3,836	72	3,301	185	9,431	..	..	..	..	..	..	91	3,836	72	3,301	185	9,431	
Total ..	2,867	1,01,364	2,627	93,377	2,447	1,57,555	26	1,505	22	1,370	218	8,851	2,883	1,02,869	2,649	94,747	2,660	1,66,406	

* Revised figure.

Good work has been done in Adóni, Alúr and Bellary in making advances for the purchase of fodder.

Inspections of the District Officers.

(*Taluks and places visited.*)

By the Collector.—Hospet and the kitchen there. Chittavadigi Moka road, Halharvi road (both sections) and the Chippagiri road work (both sections) and the kitchens attached to these works.

Assistant Collector in charge of Adóni taluk.—Nandavaram work and kitchen, Chinnutambalam work and the two kitchens and the surrounding villages. Ratsamari work, Madhavaram kitchen, Belagallu, Adóni work and kitchen and the Kammarachedu work and kitchen.

Deputy Collector, Alúr.—Alúr-Moka road work (2 sections) Alúr-Chippagiri road (2 sections) Alúr-Adóni road work, the kitchens at Chetragudi, Halharvi, Námakkal, Chippagiri, Alúr and Kummarachedu (twice) and the villages of Khajipuram, Nancherla, Halibid, Alúr, Kuruvalli, Halharvi, Námakkal, Chippagiri and Nagaradona.

Divisional Officer, Bellary.—Paramadevanahalli, Sanganakal, Moka, Tambrahalli Jolahal, Banukal, Gollanagenahalli, Dasaranagenhalli, Sindhavalum, Yerragadi, Kuriched, Vanenur, Banapur, Kallukutikanahal, Gotur, Marur, Byalachinta, Bommanhal, Gonahal (Moka) Gonahal (Bellary) and the road work and the kitchens at Paramadevanahalli and Moka.

Head Assistant Collector.—Hospet kitchen, Daroji work and Devalapuram.

Resolution—No. 553, dated 5th August 1897.

Submitted to Government.

2. The rainfall during the fortnight was much below the average, although the total amount of the falls up to the fortnight since 1st April was higher than the average of the corresponding period, except in the Bellary taluk. Water-supply is sufficient in the river-fed channels and tanks and in wells, but most of the rain-fed tanks have received only a partial supply, and the Collector feared a general failure of the crops in Adóni, Alúr, Bellary, Rayadrug and part of Hospet taluks if there should be no rain within a week after the close of the fortnight under review. The rainfall reported since 15th July, however, was as follows :—

	INCHES.
Yemmiganur	3·78
Adóni	1·70
Alúr	1·64
Sirugappa	1·25
Bellary	0·30
Rayadrug	0·18
Kampli	0·73
Hospet	0·25
Hadagalli	0·14
Harpanahalli	0 27
Kúdligi	0·67

The fall in Bellary is still in considerable defect. Sowing and weeding are in progress, but agricultural operations are generally retarded by want of rain. The earlier-sown crops in general looked thin, and would come up unequally, and had received much damage from the long drought.

3. The condition of the stall-fed cattle is generally fair, but that of others is poor. Pasture has not yet become generally available and fodder is scarce except with the well-to-do ryots.

Much help has been given by the action of the Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committee which imports and sells paddy straw at a cheap rate and distributes fodder gratis to those who cannot afford to buy, money grants for the purchase of fodder being given to those who live far from the depôts. There are two fodder depôts

established by the Fund within the district, and at these 375 tons of fodder have been sold or distributed gratis during the last two months. The depôt at Guntakal also helps the ryots of the district.

4. Prices rose sharply during the fortnight, but trade was active and prices have since shown a tendency to fall.

The comparative position of prices is shown in the subjoined table :—

Rate.	Measures per rupee.		
	Rice.	Cholam (mixed).	Ragi.
Normal	13·2	30·0	..
Warning	10·6	22·5	..
Scarcity	7·9	15·0	..
Current	7·8	9·6	12·6
July 1892	9·3	16·3	17·5
,, 1877	5·5	5·8	6·3

The current prices, being taluk averages, are not a guide to the prices actually paid in some places for grain. The Sanitary Commissioner found cases, both in Bellary and Kurnool, in which the price of cholam locally was only about 6 imperial measures.

5. The condition of the people on works and in villages is reported to have been generally good. Guinea-worm and sore-eyes prevailed among the relief workers in Adóni and Bellary, and cholera in a mild form appeared in parts of these taluks. Due precautions have been taken to prevent the spread of cholera, but the Collector states that the want of an adequate staff of medical subordinates is much felt.

The numbers on works rose by 21,656 or 20 per cent. during the fortnight, and have, since then, still further risen by over 28,000. The recent orders of Government directing the rigid enforcement of tasks may check further increase somewhat, but until the prices fall appreciably, any large diminution in the numbers on works cannot be hoped for, and matters will certainly grow worse if the monsoon eventually fail. The Collector is fully alive to the gravity of the situation and is preparing for the worst. The prices in some villages are actually dearer than those prevailing in May 1877, and it is interesting to observe that the numbers on relief in Alúr, at the close of the fortnight, viz., 46,925, closely correspond with the mortality in that taluk in the great famine, which, properly calculated, amounted to 47,500. Up to date, the excess mortality due to the present famine has been very small— a result, the credit of which Mr. Stuart and his officers will be happy to share with Mr. R. Campbell and Mr. Somers-Eve. The wages of relief workers, which were hitherto calculated on the price of white cholam, are now based on the price of equal quantities of ragi and cholam in the Bellary, Kúdligi and Hospet taluks, as it has been found that the people of these parts have begun to use ragi also, and on equal parts of white and yellow cholam in the Alúr taluk. A complaint made by the Agent of Messrs. Dymes & Co. at Adóni that he could not get labour for his press is being enquired into. Regarding this matter, the Famine Commissioner, in Proceedings, No. 5662-A, dated 22nd July 1897, wrote as follows :—

"The Famine Commissioner investigated this matter in person. The employment offered by the press in the off-season is of the most casual kind. Mr. Tod admitted that he had had a crowd of coolies in his compound clamouring for work which he could not give them. Coolies were required according to daily purchase of cotton. It would not be convenient to Mr. Tod to give a day's, or two days', notice when he wanted coolies, and he could not wait a day or two for them as the cotton had to be shifted as purchased. He did not believe that many of his regular coolies were on the relief works. He considered it a grievance that his manager should have to go a mile and-a-half on his pony to get coolies from the works. The wage he offered was small. It was the wage of ordinary times and not calculated on famine prices. If the coolies went to him, they would lose their Sunday wage on the works, which would practically swallow up the whole difference between the pay he offered them for a day or two and the wage on the relief works. These coolies, too, would have a difficulty in getting taken back on the works. They could not go to their old gangs and would have to go to a new gang. The Famine Commissioner came to the conclusion that the complaint was utterly unreasonable."

The Famine Commissioner has looked into several cases of this kind, and has nowhere found that other departments or private employers of labour had any cause for complaint. The most ridiculous case was a complaint put forward by the Locomotive Superintendent of the East Coast Railway at Waltair. There was not, at the time, a single relief work within seven miles of Waltair. Coolies were emigrating to Burma. The harbour gave employment to hundreds. A thousand coolies were employed in loading and unloading manganese in the railway yard. Mr. Morton seemed to be the only person who wanted coolies, and, considering at the time that every one who could gather a bundle of grass could get 7 annas for it, it was no wonder that his meagre offer did not attract labour.

6. The numbers on gratuitous relief have not kept pace with the increase in the numbers on works. This is not the fault of the District Officials, but some improvement may now be expected. The poor in Kurnool are at last beginning to discover that, however much people may have died in the camps in 1877, they are not dying now, and are beginning to overcome their, hitherto, very genuine dread of the kitchens.

7. It is to be regretted that such a misleading story as that about the weekly fowl curry should have been put forward in Mr. Higham's hearing. A census of the chickens in the villages from which the Chippagiri coolies came would show that the whole resources of the locality would not suffice for a single debauch of the kind. The actual amount of arrack drunk was, as the Collector states, small, and it is regrettable that the fact was mentioned at all. The head coolies on the work would, alone, be more than enough to account for the increase. The Famine Commissioner did not examine the toddy-shop referred to, but he did examine that at Moka, and it was absolutely deserted. The Tahsildar assured him that, in ordinary times, the large space surrounding it would be crowded with drinkers.

8. It was a source of much satisfaction to the Famine Commissioner to find that some effort had been made in the kitchens, which he inspected, to care for the emaciated babies. The milk in some kitchens was excellent, but the Mellin's food was caked and bad, and there seemed to be no idea how to cook it properly. Mr. Lloyd promised to look into the matter. It might, with advantage, be made a lady's business, if any lady in the district would be so kind as to take the matter up. There are seventy-six babies at Adóni, and on the works adjoining, too far advanced in emaciation to admit of recovery, but their last days might be made happier. What they want, as much as food, is warmth, and it is very pitiable to see them naked and shivering in the cold mornings and evenings, covered, at most, with a thin rag from the mother's cloth. It is hoped that the local Charitable Relief Fund may have found it possible, as was done at Kurnool, to supply these babies with flannel squares.

9. The progress of loans transactions has been as shown below :—

Up to end of week ending	Amount disbursed.
	Rs.
June 19th	3,31,561
„ 26th	3,75,629
July 3rd	4,08,711
„ 10th	4,32,853
„ 17th	4,44,404

The transactions in the last week are small.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of Bellary.
Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.
„ „ Chairman, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committe.

Order—No. 732, 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.

Mxd. Shaik Karim.

80 Copies.

Public Works Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

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

G.O., No. 732, 30th August 1897.

No. 2583 W dated 18.9.97
Communicates to the
Supdg. Engr. III circle.
Dy. Dir. C
W

AUGUST.

To
The S.E. III circle.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting to Government, with remarks, — of the Bellary 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. 553, dated 5th August 1897 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Bellary District during the period ending 15th of July 1897 :—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and Water-supply.—

Station.	In the fortnight.	Up to the fortnight.	Average for three years.	
			In the fortnight.	Up to the fortnight.
Yemmiganur	0·44	6·08	2·83	6·26
Adóni	..	8·69	2·51	6·10
Alúr	..	6·99	1 78	7·23
Siruguppa	0 13	7·25	0·69	6·30
Kampli	..	8·28	0·69	3·62
Bellary	..	3·79	0·59	7·25
Rayadrug	..	7·13	0·65	5·71
Hospet	0·42	14·76	1·45	5 70
Kúdligi	0·81	14·87	1·64	8 28
Harpanahalli	1·20	9·38	2·57	10·46
Hadagalli	0·56	3·98	1·44	6·31
Sandúr	0·11	8·99	..	..

There has been very little rain during the fortnight, but the weather has been cloudy and slight showers have fallen at six stations. These have been sufficient to keep alive the standing dry crops on red soils in the western taluks, but rain is urgently wanted for the dry crops elsewhere. It is still too early to say that the monsoon has failed but the long break is causing much anxiety. In Adóni some of the early crop has already been lost, and in that taluk, Alúr, Rayadrug, Bellary and the east of Hospet, there will be general failure should there be no rain within a week. The drinking-water supply is at present generally sufficient except in Adóni town, where the Municipal Council propose to dig more wells in the bed of the reservoir. Water-supply for irrigation purposes is sufficient in river-fed channels and tanks and in wells, but not generally sufficient in other tanks though most of them have received a partial supply and a few full supply.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops—Adóni taluk.—The ryots are still preparing their lands ; weeding the newly-sown crop is in progress in some parts, but agricultural operations are greatly retarded by the want of rain. The young mungari crop has already practically failed in many places, while in the lower lands and over a small tract in the middle of the taluk, where the rain was heavier, the cholam still looks fair. Even such crops are, however, beginning to fade. The fields in which the crop has failed will be sown again with korra if the rains come.

Alúr Taluk.—In regada lands clearing of nuth grass is going on on a very small scale. The young crop is in urgent need of rain. The growth is stunted. Crops under wells are in good condition.

Bellary Division.—Ragi, cholam and tobacco are being sown under wells in the Rayadrug taluk. The early crops sown are in urgent need of rain. Cholam and ragi under wells are in good condition.

Hospet Division.—Ragi is being sown in Kúdligi and Harpanahalli taluks, yellow cholam and other mungari crops are being sown in parts of Hadagalli. Dry crops already sown are in fair condition but want more rain. Some in Hadagalli have been

damaged by insects and wind. Crops under wells and channels are in good condition. Black soils are now being sown with cholam and pulses in Harpanahalli taluk.

Sandúr State.—Weeding continues. The standing dry crops are in good condition but they want rain badly. Garden crops are in good condition.

Supply of pasture and condition of cattle—Adóni taluk.—Pasture not available, except in the riverside villages. There is still plenty of fodder in the straw-yards of the richer ryots, and the Famine Fund is helping the poorer owners. The crop under the Rampur channel was good and the straw has been carted in great quantities to nearly every part of the taluk. The condition of the stall-fed cattle is fair, but that of others is deteriorating.

Alúr Taluk.—Pasture not available in sufficient quantities and fodder is very scanty except with a few well-to-do ryots. The fodder depôt at Aspari supplies straw to the needy ryots. The cattle belonging to the poor ryots are in bad condition but help is given by the Famine Fund.

Bellary Division.—Pasture is available to a limited extent in wet villages. Fodder is scanty. Hill grass, prickly-pear and grass roots are being used for food in the Bellary taluk. The condition of cattle is fair in Rayadrug and bad in Bellary, except in the case of stall-fed animals.

Hospet Division.—Pasture is available to a small extent in some parts but the grass is still tender and of little use for consumption by cattle. Fodder is insufficient. It is being purchased to a considerable extent from Kamalápuram and other villages adjoining the river channels in Hospet. The condition of cattle in Harpanahalli is good, in Kúdligi fair, but in parts they are weak and dying of diarrhœa, in Hadagalli moderate and in Hospet poor. Stall-fed cattle are, however, in better condition.

Sandúr State.—Pasture available. Fodder very scarce. The condition of cattle is improving.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—In Harpanahalli, with the possible exception of the north-east corner, prospects are satisfactory. This is also true of the south-west and some other portions of Hadagalli and parts of Kúdligi and Hospet, but hope of harvesting the standing crops in the other divisions of the district is diminishing. Rain within a week would still save most of them, but otherwise they must fail, I fear. Moreover, unless we get rain soon, the sowings that usually take place about the end of July will be retarded and even if good rain falls later on, the harvest will be delayed—a serious misfortune in a year of high prices. Pasture, too, is disappearing, and the cattle, which were beginning to show signs of improvement, will sink back into bad condition again.

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.		White cholam.		Yellow cholam.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
Adóni	8·10	7·56	10·30	8·24	11·33	9·79	14·55	12·13	There has been a sharp rise in prices owing to the failure of rains.
Alúr	7·56	7·02	10·30	8·24	11·33	9·27	..	..	
Bellary	8·10	8·10	9·79	8·76	11·33	10·30	13·58	13·10	
Rayadrug	9·72	8·10	..	9 79	13·39	10·52	14·10	11·64	
Hospet	7·02	8·10	11·33	9·27	11 84	10·30	15·52	13·10	
Kúdligi	7·56	7·56	..	..	11·33	10·30	13·58	12·61	
Harpanahalli	9·18	8·64	..	..	13·39	11·85	14·55	13·10	
Hadagaili	8·64	7·56	..	..	12·36	10·30	..	..	
Sandúr	8 49	7·56	..	..	12·37	10·30	..	..	
Average ..	8·26	7·80	10·43	8·86	12·13	10·36	14·31	12·61	

Activity of Trade.—Private trade is generally active. There has been a net import of 42,310 maunds of grain during the fortnight against 14,076 maunds in the previous fortnight, and this will probably prevent a further rise. There are already signs of a slight fall in some places. It is impossible to say how much grain there is in the district; but the other day a Reddi in the Alúr taluk admitted to me that he had 40,000 local seers in his pits and he probably has a good deal more. He said he would not sell as he wanted it for his family and servants. I calculated that it amounted to forty months' supply for them.

Condition of the People.

On Works.—Generally good, on some works excellent.

In Villages.—Generally good. With the rise in prices and the postponement of agricultural operations owing to the break in the monsoon, the numbers requiring relief must increase. I am going to Rayadrug at once to see whether any works are necessary in the black-cotton tracts of that taluk. Every effort will be made to give assistance in time where it is wanted. In Adóni and Alúr all who need it can find work and this is also true of the greater part of Bellary and the east of Hospet. Round Hospet town I found that there was a considerable demand for labour from the wet villages, and the ordinary Local Fund works are being put in hand. This course has also been ordered in the other western taluks and these ordinary road works will serve as a useful index of the demand for employment. I do not at present anticipate that it will be necessary to open additional works in the western taluks, but the position is being carefully watched.

Sickness and Mortality.—Small-pox prevails in parts of Harpanahalli and Hadagalli taluks. Slight Diarrhœa and Dysentery in Alúr and Adóni. Guinea-worm and sore eyes prevail among the relief-workers in Adóni and Bellary. Cholera still continues at Kenchenaguddam in Bellary taluk and has appeared again at Nagaladinne, Suganur and Yemmiganur in Adóni taluk. There have been in all 41 attacks and 10 deaths during the fortnight. The cholera is of a mild form, and all possible precautions are being taken to prevent its spread. Several of the reported cases have proved not to be true cholera.

Remarks.—More medical subordinates are wanted for relief works, the numbers on which have increased very largely as will be shown below. I regret to say that the district is about to lose the services of Surgeon-Major Evans, who is obliged to take leave on medical certificate. He has been of the greatest help to me and his activity and energy in inspecting works have been invaluable. If the numbers on works continue to increase, an officer of the rank of Assistant Surgeon will be necessary to assist the District Medical and Sanitary officer in inspection. I propose to address the Surgeon-General upon this matter at once.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Adóni	40,118	47,488	The number employed on works according to the latest reports is noted below: —
Alúr	41,035	46,925	
Bellary	11,836	15,477	Adóni 52,194
Hospet	7,480	10,357	Alúr 51,850
Kúdligi	1,117	1,598	Bellary 18,460
Hadagalli	4,370	5,694	Hospet 10,657
Total ..	105,956	1,27,539	Kúdligi 1,579
			Hadagalli 6,663
Sandúr	339	412	Total .. 1,41,403

Gratuitous Relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

Taluks.	Number relieved							
	At kitchens.				In poor-houses.		In villages.	
	Dependants.		Others.					
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Adóni	1,762	1,788	1,454	1,590	..	..	2,449	2,470
Alúr	2,138	2,177	693	632	..	..	4,583	5,297
Bellary	725	992	1,093	1,156	..	..	3,524	3,926
Hospet	538	725	6	306	..	..	2,153	1,977
Kúdligi	61	62	..	..	..	..	59	105
Hadagalli	159	225	28	25	..	..	1,100	2,315
Total ..	5,383	5,969	3,274	3,709	..	..	13,868	16,090
Sandúr	..	..	..	..	..	..	85	101

Taluks.	Weavers' relief.			
	Number of villages in which relief was given		Number of persons relieved		Number of cloths manufactured	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	In the period.	Up to date.
Adóni	121	138	2,653	3,579	744	22,687
Alúr	106	106	..	..	..	..
Bellary	76	76	76	517	387	555
Hospet	33	33	..	..	..	..
Kúdligi	..	Not reported.	..	..	..	..
Hadagalli	11	62	..	..	..	..
Sandúr	5	6	..	..	..	..

Private charity.—Many of the kitchens are supplied at times with vegetables given by private charity.

Sanjiva Reddi, of Joharapuram in Alúr taluk, continues to feed sixty children.

The various Sub-Committees of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund have been most active in giving assistance in the form of cloths, order for fodder and money-grants for the purchase of seed-grain, cattle and fodder. Many thousands of rupees have been spent to the great benefit of the people and their cattle.

General remarks.—We have reached a critical period in the development of relief operations. Owing to the sudden cessation of the rains, prices have risen and the demand for labour has diminished; the result has been a very large increase in the numbers in receipt of relief. If we do not get rain, the numbers will go up by leaps and bounds, for the small ryots will keep any stock of grain they may possess for use when they are engaged in raising their next crop. I have accordingly carefully examined the programme of works available and have made arrangements for the not improbable event of a continuance of the distress and a large accession to the ranks of relief-workers. The only part of the district in which it has been found difficult to find a suitable field for employment is the north-east corner of Adóni. The repair of the Yemmiganúr-Nagaladinne road is nearly finished, and though there is plenty of work available near Yemmiganúr itself, this is too far for the Nagaladinne people. Sanction has accordingly been asked for an estimate for constructing a new road from Nandavaram to Kósgi railway station, or rather to the point on the Madhavaram road where the existing Kósgi feeder road meets it.

2. The difficulty at Nagaladinne is increased by the number of people from Hyderabad who came to that work. I would suggest that the Government of His Highness the Nizam be asked to consider the desirability of opening a relief work on the other side of the river.

3. Under the personal instructions from the Famine Commissioner, the wage on three works in the Bellary taluk, is now being calculated on the basis of equal quantities of ragi and cholam, and, after inquiry, I have extended this method to the Kúdligi and Hospet taluks. It cannot be put in force in Hadagalli as there is no ragi available there, nor can it be introduced into the northern half of Bellary and Adóni and Alúr. In the last-named taluk, however, I have changed the standard grain from white cholam to equal parts of white and yellow, as more of the latter kind is now available.

4. Mr. T. Higham, C.I.E., who has been deputed on special duty by the Government of India, visited the district during the fortnight and inspected all the works on the Bellary-Alúr and Alúr-Guntakal roads. He saw over 20,000 relief-workers and I believe that he formed a very favourable impression as to their physical condition. On the Chippagiri road we were told that the people lived in much better style than usual at this time of the year, that they had a fowl curry once a week and that they spent a good deal on drink. I found that the quantity of arrack sold by the shop in Beladona, a roadside village, was 33 per cent. more during April, May and June 1897 than in the corresponding period of 1896, but the total quantity was not large and the presence of the relief works fully accounts for it. No statistics of the consumption of toddy are available.

5. A number of Sub-Inspectors of the Salt and Abkári Department have recently arrived and have been posted at once as Circle Inspectors and Paymasters. They will be of great assistance, I hope, and I wish we could get more of them.

6. A complaint was made by Mr. Tod, the Agent of Messrs. Dymes and Co. at Adóni that he could not get labour for his press. The matter is being inquired into by Mr. Lloyd. In one report already submitted by him, he points out that in the case of women, the wage offered by Mr. Tod is very little more than the present famine wage and that on the relief works the work is light and the employment certain, while the children are fed in a kitchen and a holiday is given once a week. I have given Mr. Lloyd discretion to increase the task and have instructed him that the families of people who work at the press may continue to be given gratuitous relief if the wage earned by their parents is not sufficient to support them. One man who worked six days at the press for 5 annas a day, came to the relief work on Sunday when the press was closed simply for the one day's wage. I should have raised the tasks all round ere this, but I do not know what action the Government will take in the matter of distance allowances. If they are abolished the present tasks will be sufficient in most cases for some time to come.

7. Cases of head coolies making false entries in muster rolls are becoming more common, but I am glad to say that some of the culprits have been successfully prosecuted. On one work the coolies prosecuted a sub-maistri for extorting money from them. Mr. Lloyd tried the case and found that there was no extortion, as the overseer had been authorized to recover from the gang one-half of the cost of tools that had been lost. The Famine Code fixes the responsibility for tools on the sub-maistri and I consider that it is unfair to make the whole gang pay for the carelessness of a few and very unwise to let a sub-maistri make recoveries. I have issued orders in this sense and heads of villages have also been directed to assist in recovering tools taken home by the workers. It is however a hopeful sign when the coolies themselves come forward in this way to resist what they believe to be unauthorized exactions.

8. Yesterday I saw the Dewan of Sandúr, the former Tahsildar of Adóni. He is fully alive to the situation and the administration of relief may safely be left in his capable hands. He tells me that the relief-workers in Sandúr work much harder than in Adóni.

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

Talúks.	Repair and construction of wells.				Other purposes.				Cattle and seed-grain.				Purchase of fodder.				Total.						Number of wells	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Loans disbursed.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Loans disbursed.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
		Rs.		Rs.			Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.					
Adóni	..	12	2,710	9	930	64	15,348	153	13,020	148	11,570	895	29,780	165	15,730	157	12,500	459	46,128	..	..	8	
Alúr	..	38	9,970	38	7,420	42	13,830	1,522	1,62,315	1,449	1,53,710	683	1,13,040	1,560	1,72,285	1,487	1,41,130	726	1,26,870	..	..	38	
Bellary	..	36	4,492	36	4,492	26	9,228	876	84,970	876	84,970	199	55,440	912	89,462	912	89,462	245	64,668	..	..	36	
Kayadrug	..	71	14,600	62	8,370	36	11,150	287	36,920	276	36,920	81	11,740	358	53,145	338	45,290	117	22,890	..	..	62	
Hospet	..	16	8,720	16	1,960	21	4,500	52	3,975	52	3,975	21	2,300	68	7,695	68	5,935	42	6,800	..	..	11	
Kúdligi	..	2	260	..	..	37	7,340	..	..	..	..	7	900	2	200	..	..	44	8,240	..	..	..	
Harpanahalli	..	1	100	1	50	1	250	58	7,055	48	5,755	28	2,785	59	7,165	49	5,805	29	3,035	..	1	3	
Hadagalli	..	9	1,000	8	550	21	5,900	73	9,610	68	8,225	118	21,475	82	10,610	66	8,775	139	27,375	..	..	3	
Total	..	185	36,852	170	23,772	248	67,546	3,021	3,19,490	2,907	3,05,125	1,532	2,37,460	3,206	3,56,342	3,077	3,28,897	1,780	3,05,006	..	..	159	

Talúks.	Repair and construction of wells.				Other purposes.				Cattle and seed-grain.				Purchase of fodder.				Total.						Number of wells	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Loans disbursed.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Loans disbursed.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
		Rs.		Rs.			Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.					
Adóni	..	332	11,098	224	7,280	407	35,243	6	240	..	..	105	..	126	5,230	338	11,338	226	7,385	533	40,473		
Alúr	..	1,089	35,952	960	38,138	791	56,488	10	650	..	..	650	..	69	3,311	1,049	36,602	970	33,788	860	59,749		
Bellary	..	677	27,538	677	27,638	590	32,692	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	677	27,538	677	27,538	590	32,692		
Kayadrug	..	59	3,616	56	3,366	99	5,059	..	..	10	615	..	..	18	310	101	4,231	66	3,981	117	5,369		
Hospet	..	101	3,490	101	3,490	65	3,825	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	101	3,490	101	*3,490	65	3,825		
Kúdligi	..	470	12,059	457	11,839	171	7,859	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	470	12,059	457	11,839	171	7,859		
Harpanahalli	..	88	3,775	80	3,425	139	7,008	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	88	3,775	80	3,425	139	7,008		
Hadagalli	..	91	3,886	72	3,301	185	9,431	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	91	3,886	72	3,301	185	9,431		
Total	..	2,857	1,01,364	2,627	93,377	2,447	1,57,555	26	1,505	22	1,870	213	8,851	2,883	1,02,869	2,649	94,747	2,660	1,66,406					

* Revised figure.

Good work has been done in Adóni, Alúr and Bellary in making advances for the purchase of fodder.

Inspections of the District Officers.

(*Taluks and places visited.*)

By the Collector.—Hospet and the kitchen there. Chittavadigi Moka road, Halharvi road (both sections) and the Chippagiri road work (both sections) and the kitchens attached to these works.

Assistant Collector in charge of Adóni taluk.—Nandavaram work and kitchen, Chinnutambalam work and the two kitchens and the surrounding villages. Ratsamari work, Madhavaram kitchen, Belagallu, Adóni work and kitchen and the Kammarachedu work and kitchen.

Deputy Collector, Alúr.—Alúr-Moka road work (2 sections) Alúr-Chippagiri road (2 sections) Alúr-Adóni road work, the kitchens at Chetragudi, Halharvi, Námakkal, Chippagiri, Alúr and Kummarachedu (twice) and the villages of Khajipuram, Nancherla, Halibid, Alúr, Kuruvalli, Halharvi, Námakkal, Chippagiri and Nagaradona.

Divisional Officer, Bellary.—Paramadevanahalli, Sanganakal, Moka, Tambrahalli Jolahal, Banukal, Gollanagenahalli, Dasaranagenhalli, Sindhavalum, Yerragadi, Kuriched, Vanenur, Banapur, Kallukutikanahal, Gotur, Marur, Byalachinta, Bommanhál, Gonahal (Moka) Gonahal (Bellary) and the road work and the kitchens at Paramadevanahalli and Moka.

Head Assistant Collector.—Hospet kitchen, Daroji work and Devalapuram.

Resolution—No. 553, dated 5th August 1897.

Submitted to Government.

2. The rainfall during the fortnight was much below the average, although the total amount of the falls up to the fortnight since 1st April was higher than the average of the corresponding period, except in the Bellary taluk. Water-supply is sufficient in the river-fed channels and tanks and in wells, but most of the rain-fed tanks have received only a partial supply, and the Collector feared a general failure of the crops in Adóni, Alúr, Bellary, Rayadrug and part of Hospet taluks if there should be no rain within a week after the close of the fortnight under review. The rainfall reported since 15th July, however, was as follows :—

	INCHES.
Yemmiganur	3·78
Adóni	1·70
Alúr	1·64
Sirugappa	1·25
Bellary	0·30
Rayadrug	0·18
Kampli	0·73
Hospet	0·25
Hadagalli	0·14
Harpanahalli	0·27
Kúdligi	0·67

The fall in Bellary is still in considerable defect. Sowing and weeding are in progress, but agricultural operations are generally retarded by want of rain. The earlier-sown crops in general looked thin, and would come up unequally, and had received much damage from the long drought.

3. The condition of the stall-fed cattle is generally fair, but that of others is poor. Pasture has not yet become generally available and fodder is scarce except with the well-to-do ryots.

Much help has been given by the action of the Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committee which imports and sells paddy straw at a cheap rate and distributes fodder gratis to those who cannot afford to buy, money grants for the purchase of fodder being given to those who live far from the depôts. There are two fodder depôts

established by the Fund within the district, and at these 375 tons of fodder have been sold or distributed gratis during the last two months. The depôt at Guntakal also helps the ryots of the district.

4. Prices rose sharply during the fortnight, but trade was active and prices have since shown a tendency to fall.

The comparative position of prices is shown in the subjoined table :—

Rate.	Measures per rupee.		
	Rice.	Cholam (mixed).	Ragi.
Normal	13·2	30·0	..
Warning	10·6	22·5	..
Scarcity	7·9	15·0	..
Current	7·8	9·6	12·6
July 1892	9·3	16·3	17·5
,, 1877	5·5	5·8	6·6

The current prices, being taluk averages, are not a guide to the prices actually paid in some places for grain. The Sanitary Commissioner found cases, both in Bellary and Kurnool, in which the price of cholam locally was only about 6 imperial measures.

5. The condition of the people on works and in villages is reported to have been generally good. Guinea-worm and sore-eyes prevailed among the relief workers in Adóni and Bellary, and cholera in a mild form appeared in parts of these taluks. Due precautions have been taken to prevent the spread of cholera, but the Collector states that the want of an adequate staff of medical subordinates is much felt.

The numbers on works rose by 21,656 or 20 per cent. during the fortnight, and have, since then, still further risen by over 28,000. The recent orders of Government directing the rigid enforcement of tasks may check further increase somewhat, but until the prices fall appreciably, any large diminution in the numbers on works cannot be hoped for, and matters will certainly grow worse if the monsoon eventually fail. The Collector is fully alive to the gravity of the situation and is preparing for the worst. The prices in some villages are actually dearer than those prevailing in May 1877, and it is interesting to observe that the numbers on relief in Alúr, at the close of the fortnight, viz., 46,925, closely correspond with the mortality in that taluk in the great famine, which, properly calculated, amounted to 47,500. Up to date, the excess mortality due to the present famine has been very small— a result, the credit of which Mr. Stuart and his officers will be happy to share with Mr. R. Campbell and Mr. Somers-Eve. The wages of relief workers, which were hitherto calculated on the price of white cholam, are now based on the price of equal quantities of ragi and cholam in the Bellary, Kúdligi and Hospet taluks, as it has been found that the people of these parts have begun to use ragi also, and on equal parts of white and yellow cholam in the Alúr taluk. A complaint made by the Agent of Messrs. Dymes & Co. at Adóni that he could not get labour for his press is being enquired into. Regarding this matter, the Famine Commissioner, in Proceedings, No. 5662-A, dated 22nd July 1897, wrote as follows :—

"The Famine Commissioner investigated this matter in person. The employment offered by the press in the off-season is of the most casual kind. Mr. Tod admitted that he had had a crowd of coolies in his compound clamouring for work which he could not give them. Coolies were required according to daily purchase of cotton. It would not be convenient to Mr. Tod to give a day's, or two days', notice when he wanted coolies, and he could not wait a day or two for them as the cotton had to be shifted as purchased. He did not believe that many of his regular coolies were on the relief works. He considered it a grievance that his manager should have to go a mile and-a-half on his pony to get coolies from the works. The wage he offered was small. It was the wage of ordinary times and not calculated on famine prices. If the coolies went to him, they would lose their Sunday wage on the works, which would practically swallow up the whole difference between the pay he offered them for a day or two and the wage on the relief works. These coolies, too, would have a difficulty in getting taken back on the works. They could not go to their old gangs and would have to go to a new gang. The Famine Commissioner came to the conclusion that the complaint was utterly unreasonable."

The Famine Commissioner has looked into several cases of this kind, and has nowhere found that other departments or private employers of labour had any cause for complaint. The most ridiculous case was a complaint put forward by the Locomotive Superintendent of the East Coast Railway at Waltair. There was not, at the time, a single relief work within seven miles of Waltair. Coolies were emigrating to Burma. The harbour gave employment to hundreds. A thousand coolies were employed in loading and unloading manganese in the railway yard. Mr. Morton seemed to be the only person who wanted coolies, and, considering at the time that every one who could gather a bundle of grass could get 7 annas for it, it was no wonder that his meagre offer did not attract labour.

6. The numbers on gratuitous relief have not kept pace with the increase in the numbers on works. This is not the fault of the District Officials, but some improvement may now be expected. The poor in Kurnool are at last beginning to discover that, however much people may have died in the camps in 1877, they are not dying now, and are beginning to overcome their, hitherto, very genuine dread of the kitchens.

7. It is to be regretted that such a misleading story as that about the weekly fowl curry should have been put forward in Mr. Higham's hearing. A census of the chickens in the villages from which the Chippagiri coolies came would show that the whole resources of the locality would not suffice for a single debauch of the kind. The actual amount of arrack drunk was, as the Collector states, small, and it is regrettable that the fact was mentioned at all. The head coolies on the work would, alone, be more than enough to account for the increase. The Famine Commissioner did not examine the toddy-shop referred to, but he did examine that at Moka, and it was absolutely deserted. The Tahsildar assured him that, in ordinary times, the large space surrounding it would be crowded with drinkers.

8. It was a source of much satisfaction to the Famine Commissioner to find that some effort had been made in the kitchens, which he inspected, to care for the emaciated babies. The milk in some kitchens was excellent, but the Mellin's food was caked and bad, and there seemed to be no idea how to cook it properly. Mr. Lloyd promised to look into the matter. It might, with advantage, be made a lady's business, if any lady in the district would be so kind as to take the matter up. There are seventy-six babies at Adóni, and on the works adjoining, too far advanced in emaciation to admit of recovery, but their last days might be made happier. What they want, as much as food, is warmth, and it is very pitiable to see them naked and shivering in the cold mornings and evenings, covered, at most, with a thin rag from the mother's cloth. It is hoped that the local Charitable Relief Fund may have found it possible, as was done at Kurnool, to supply these babies with flannel squares.

9. The progress of loans transactions has been as shown below :—

Up to end of week ending	Amount disbursed.
	Rs.
June 19th	3,31,561
„ 26th	3,75,629
July 3rd	4,08,711
„ 10th	4,32,853
„ 17th	4,44,404

The transactions in the last week are small.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of Bellary.
Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.
„ „ Chairman, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committe.

Order—No. 732, 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.

Md. Shaik Karim.

80 Copies.

Public Works Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. Enclosures

Regd. } 1897. Spare copies

G.O., No. 732, 30th August 1897.

No. 2503 W, 18.9.97
Communicated to the
Supdg. Engr. III circle.

AUGUST.

H/J D.no.e
W

To

The S.E. III circle.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting to Government, with remarks, — of the Bellary 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. 553, dated 5th August 1897 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Bellary District during the period ending 15th of July 1897 :—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and Water-supply.—

Station.	In the fortnight.	Up to the fortnight.	Average for three years.	
			In the fortnight.	Up to the fortnight.
Yemmiganur	0·44	6·08	2·83	6·26
Adóni	..	8·69	2·51	6·10
Alúr	..	6·99	1 78	7·23
Siruguppa	0 13	7·25	0·69	6·30
Kampli	..	8·28	0·69	3·62
Bellary	..	3·79	0·59	7·25
Rayadrug	..	7·13	0·65	5·71
Hospet	0·42	14·76	1·45	5 70
Kúdligi	0·81	14·87	1·64	8 28
Harpanahalli	1·20	9·38	2·57	10·46
Hadagalli	0·56	3 98	1·44	6·31
Sandúr	0·11	8·99	..	..

There has been very little rain during the fortnight, but the weather has been cloudy and slight showers have fallen at six stations. These have been sufficient to keep alive the standing dry crops on red soils in the western taluks, but rain is urgently wanted for the dry crops elsewhere. It is still too early to say that the monsoon has failed but the long break is causing much anxiety. In Adóni some of the early crop has already been lost, and in that taluk, Alúr, Rayadrug, Bellary and the east of Hospet, there will be general failure should there be no rain within a week. The drinking-water supply is at present generally sufficient except in Adóni town, where the Municipal Council propose to dig more wells in the bed of the reservoir. Water-supply for irrigation purposes is sufficient in river-fed channels and tanks and in wells, but not generally sufficient in other tanks though most of them have received a partial supply and a few full supply.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops—Adóni taluk.—The ryots are still preparing their lands ; weeding the newly-sown crop is in progress in some parts, but agricultural operations are greatly retarded by the want of rain. The young mungari crop has already practically failed in many places, while in the lower lands and over a small tract in the middle of the taluk, where the rain was heavier, the cholam still looks fair. Even such crops are, however, beginning to fade. The fields in which the crop has failed will be sown again with korra if the rains come.

Alúr Taluk.—In regada lands clearing of nuth grass is going on on a very small scale. The young crop is in urgent need of rain. The growth is stunted. Crops under wells are in good condition.

Bellary Division.—Ragi, cholam and tobacco are being sown under wells in the Rayadrug taluk. The early crops sown are in urgent need of rain. Cholam and ragi under wells are in good condition.

Hospet Division.—Ragi is being sown in Kúdligi and Harpanahalli taluks, yellow cholam and other mungari crops are being sown in parts of Hadagalli. Dry crops already sown are in fair condition but want more rain. Some in Hadagalli have been damaged by insects and wind. Crops under wells and channels are in good condition. Black soils are now being sown with cholam and pulses in Harpanahalli taluk.

Sandúr State.—Weeding continues. The standing dry crops are in good condition but they want rain badly. Garden crops are in good condition.

Supply of pasture and condition of cattle—Adóni taluk.—Pasture not available, except in the riverside villages. There is still plenty of fodder in the straw-yards of the richer ryots, and the Famine Fund is helping the poorer owners. The crop under the Rampur channel was good and the straw has been carted in great quantities to nearly every part of the taluk. The condition of the stall-fed cattle is fair, but that of others is deteriorating.

Alúr Taluk.—Pasture not available in sufficient quantities and fodder is very scanty except with a few well-to-do ryots. The fodder depôt at Aspari supplies straw to the needy ryots. The cattle belonging to the poor ryots are in bad condition but help is given by the Famine Fund.

Bellary Division.—Pasture is available to a limited extent in wet villages. Fodder is scanty. Hill grass, prickly-pear and grass roots are being used for food in the Bellary taluk. The condition of cattle is fair in Rayadrug and bad in Bellary, except in the case of stall-fed animals.

Hospet Division.—Pasture is available to a small extent in some parts but the grass is still tender and of little use for consumption by cattle. Fodder is insufficient. It is being purchased to a considerable extent from Kamalápuram and other villages adjoining the river channels in Hospet. The condition of cattle in Harpanahalli is good, in Kúdligi fair, but in parts they are weak and dying of diarrhœa, in Hadagalli moderate and in Hospet poor. Stall-fed cattle are, however, in better condition.

Sandúr State.—Pasture available. Fodder very scarce. The condition of cattle is improving.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—In Harpanahalli, with the possible exception of the north-east corner, prospects are satisfactory. This is also true of the south-west and some other portions of Hadagalli and parts of Kúdligi and Hospet, but hope of harvesting the standing crops in the other divisions of the district is diminishing. Rain within a week would still save most of them, but otherwise they must fail, I fear. Moreover, unless we get rain soon, the sowings that usually take place about the end of July will be retarded and even if good rain falls later on, the harvest will be delayed—a serious misfortune in a year of high prices. Pasture, too, is disappearing, and the cattle, which were beginning to show signs of improvement, will sink back into bad condition again.

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.		White cholam.		Yellow cholam.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
Adóni	8·10	7·56	10·30	8·24	11·33	9·79	14·55	12·13	There has been a sharp rise in prices owing to the failure of rains.
Alúr	7·56	7·02	10·30	8·24	11·33	9·27	..	..	
Bellary	8·10	8·10	9·79	8·76	11·33	10·30	13·58	13·10	
Rayadrug	9·72	8·10	..	9 79	13·39	10·52	14·10	11·64	
Hospet	7·02	8·10	11·33	9·27	11 84	10·30	15·52	13·10	
Kúdligi	7·56	7·56	..	..	11·33	10·30	13·58	12·61	
Harpanahalli	9·18	8·64	..	..	13·39	11·85	14·55	13·10	
Hadagaili	8·64	7·56	..	..	12·36	10·30	..	..	
Sandúr	8 49	7·56	..	..	12·87	10·30	..	..	
Average ..	8·26	7·80	10·43	8·86	12 13	10·36	14·31	12·61	

Activity of Trade.—Private trade is generally active. There has been a net import of 42,310 maunds of grain during the fortnight against 14,076 maunds in the previous fortnight, and this will probably prevent a further rise. There are already signs of a slight fall in some places. It is impossible to say how much grain there is in the district; but the other day a Reddi in the Alúr taluk admitted to me that he had 40,000 local seers in his pits and he probably has a good deal more. He said he would not sell as he wanted it for his family and servants. I calculated that it amounted to forty months' supply for them.

Condition of the People.

On Works.—Generally good, on some works excellent.

In Villages.—Generally good. With the rise in prices and the postponement of agricultural operations owing to the break in the monsoon, the numbers requiring relief must increase. I am going to Rayadrug at once to see whether any works are necessary in the black-cotton tracts of that taluk. Every effort will be made to give assistance in time where it is wanted. In Adóni and Alúr all who need it can find work and this is also true of the greater part of Bellary and the east of Hospet. Round Hospet town I found that there was a considerable demand for labour from the wet villages, and the ordinary Local Fund works are being put in hand. This course has also been ordered in the other western taluks and these ordinary road works will serve as a useful index of the demand for employment. I do not at present anticipate that it will be necessary to open additional works in the western taluks, but the position is being carefully watched.

Sickness and Mortality.—Small-pox prevails in parts of Harpanahalli and Hadagalli taluks. Slight Diarrhœa and Dysentery in Alúr and Adóni. Guinea-worm and sore eyes prevail among the relief-workers in Adóni and Bellary. Cholera still continues at Kenchenaguddam in Bellary taluk and has appeared again at Nagaladinne, Suganur and Yemmiganur in Adóni taluk. There have been in all 41 attacks and 10 deaths during the fortnight. The cholera is of a mild form, and all possible precautions are being taken to prevent its spread. Several of the reported cases have proved not to be true cholera.

Remarks.—More medical subordinates are wanted for relief works, the numbers on which have increased very largely as will be shown below. I regret to say that the district is about to lose the services of Surgeon-Major Evans, who is obliged to take leave on medical certificate. He has been of the greatest help to me and his activity and energy in inspecting works have been invaluable. If the numbers on works continue to increase, an officer of the rank of Assistant Surgeon will be necessary to assist the District Medical and Sanitary officer in inspection. I propose to address the Surgeon-General upon this matter at once.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Adóni	40,118	47,488	The number employed on works according to the latest reports is noted below: —
Alúr	41,035	46,925	
Bellary	11,836	15,477	
Hospet	7,480	10,357	
Kúdligi	1,117	1,598	
Hadagalli	4,370	5,694	
Total ..	105,956	1,27,539	
Sandúr	339	412	

Adóni	52,194
Alúr	51,850
Bellary	18,460
Hospet	10,657
Kúdligi	1,579
Hadagalli	6,663
Total ..	1,41,403

Gratuitous Relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

Taluks.	Number relieved							
	At kitchens.				In poor-houses.		In villages.	
	Dependants.		Others.					
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Adóni	1,762	1,788	1,454	1,590	..	..	2,449	2,470
Alúr	2,138	2,177	693	632	..	..	4,583	5,297
Bellary	725	992	1,093	1,156	..	..	3,524	3,926
Hospet	538	725	6	306	..	..	2,153	1,977
Kúdligi	61	62	..	..	..	..	59	105
Hadagalli	159	225	28	25	..	..	1,100	2,315
Total ..	5,383	5,969	3,274	3,709	..	..	13,868	16,090
Sandúr	..	..	..	..	..	..	85	101

Taluks.	Weavers' relief.			
	Number of villages in which relief was given		Number of persons relieved		Number of cloths manufactured	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	In the period.	Up to date.
Adóni	121	138	2,653	3,579	744	22,687
Alúr	106	106	..	..	..	..
Bellary	76	76	76	517	387	555
Hospet	33	33	..	..	..	..
Kúdligi	..	Not reported.	..	..	..	..
Hadagalli	11	62	..	..	..	..
Sandúr	5	6	..	..	..	..

Private charity.—Many of the kitchens are supplied at times with vegetables given by private charity.

Sanjiva Reddi, of Joharapuram in Alúr taluk, continues to feed sixty children.

The various Sub-Committees of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund have been most active in giving assistance in the form of cloths, order for fodder and money-grants for the purchase of seed-grain, cattle and fodder. Many thousands of rupees have been spent to the great benefit of the people and their cattle.

General remarks.—We have reached a critical period in the development of relief operations. Owing to the sudden cessation of the rains, prices have risen and the demand for labour has diminished; the result has been a very large increase in the numbers in receipt of relief. If we do not get rain, the numbers will go up by leaps and bounds, for the small ryots will keep any stock of grain they may possess for use when they are engaged in raising their next crop. I have accordingly carefully examined the programme of works available and have made arrangements for the not improbable event of a continuance of the distress and a large accession to the ranks of relief-workers. The only part of the district in which it has been found difficult to find a suitable field for employment is the north-east corner of Adóni. The repair of the Yemmiganúr-Nagaladinne road is nearly finished, and though there is plenty of work available near Yemmiganúr itself, this is too far for the Nagaladinne people. Sanction has accordingly been asked for an estimate for constructing a new road from Nandavaram to Kósgi railway station, or rather to the point on the Madhavaram road where the existing Kósgi feeder road meets it.

2. The difficulty at Nagaladinne is increased by the number of people from Hyderabad who came to that work. I would suggest that the Government of His Highness the Nizam be asked to consider the desirability of opening a relief work on the other side of the river.

3. Under the personal instructions from the Famine Commissioner, the wage on three works in the Bellary taluk, is now being calculated on the basis of equal quantities of ragi and cholam, and, after inquiry, I have extended this method to the Kúdligi and Hospet taluks. It cannot be put in force in Hadagalli as there is no ragi available there, nor can it be introduced into the northern half of Bellary and Adóni and Alúr. In the last-named taluk, however, I have changed the standard grain from white cholam to equal parts of white and yellow, as more of the latter kind is now available.

4. Mr. T. Higham, C.I.E., who has been deputed on special duty by the Government of India, visited the district during the fortnight and inspected all the works on the Bellary-Alúr and Alúr-Guntakal roads. He saw over 20,000 relief-workers and I believe that he formed a very favourable impression as to their physical condition. On the Chippagiri road we were told that the people lived in much better style than usual at this time of the year, that they had a fowl curry once a week and that they spent a good deal on drink. I found that the quantity of arrack sold by the shop in Beladona, a roadside village, was 33 per cent. more during April, May and June 1897 than in the corresponding period of 1896, but the total quantity was not large and the presence of the relief works fully accounts for it. No statistics of the consumption of toddy are available.

5. A number of Sub-Inspectors of the Salt and Abkári Department have recently arrived and have been posted at once as Circle Inspectors and Paymasters. They will be of great assistance, I hope, and I wish we could get more of them.

6. A complaint was made by Mr. Tod, the Agent of Messrs. Dymes and Co. at Adóni that he could not get labour for his press. The matter is being inquired into by Mr. Lloyd. In one report already submitted by him, he points out that in the case of women, the wage offered by Mr. Tod is very little more than the present famine wage and that on the relief works the work is light and the employment certain, while the children are fed in a kitchen and a holiday is given once a week. I have given Mr. Lloyd discretion to increase the task and have instructed him that the families of people who work at the press may continue to be given gratuitous relief if the wage earned by their parents is not sufficient to support them. One man who worked six days at the press for 5 annas a day, came to the relief work on Sunday when the press was closed simply for the one day's wage. I should have raised the tasks all round ere this, but I do not know what action the Government will take in the matter of distance allowances. If they are abolished the present tasks will be sufficient in most cases for some time to come.

7. Cases of head coolies making false entries in muster rolls are becoming more common, but I am glad to say that some of the culprits have been successfully prosecuted. On one work the coolies prosecuted a sub-maistri for extorting money from them. Mr. Lloyd tried the case and found that there was no extortion, as the overseer had been authorized to recover from the gang one-half of the cost of tools that had been lost. The Famine Code fixes the responsibility for tools on the sub-maistri and I consider that it is unfair to make the whole gang pay for the carelessness of a few and very unwise to let a sub-maistri make recoveries. I have issued orders in this sense and heads of villages have also been directed to assist in recovering tools taken home by the workers. It is however a hopeful sign when the coolies themselves come forward in this way to resist what they believe to be unauthorized exactions.

8. Yesterday I saw the Dewan of Sandúr, the former Tahsildar of Adóni. He is fully alive to the situation and the administration of relief may safely be left in his capable hands. He tells me that the relief-workers in Sandúr work much harder than in Adóni.

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

Talukas.	Repair and construction of wells.								Other purposes.								Total.				Number of wells	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Loans disbursed.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Adóni ..	12	2,710	9	930	64	15,348	153	13,020	148	11,670	395	29,780	165	15,730	157	12,500	459	45,128	..	..	8	
Alúr ..	38	9,970	38	7,420	42	13,830	1,622	1,62,315	1,449	1,53,710	683	1,15,040	1,560	1,72,285	1,487	1,61,130	725	1,26,870	..	..	38	
Bellary ..	36	4,492	36	4,492	26	9,228	876	84,970	876	84,970	199	55,440	912	89,462	912	89,462	226	64,668	..	..	36	
Kayadrug ..	71	14,600	62	8,370	36	11,150	287	38,645	276	36,920	81	11,740	358	53,145	338	46,290	117	22,890	..	..	62	
Hospet ..	16	3,720	16	1,960	21	4,600	52	3,975	52	3,975	21	2,300	68	7,695	68	5,935	42	6,800	..	..	11	
Kódligi ..	2	260	..	..	37	7,340	..	..	..	..	7	900	2	260	..	..	44	8,240	..	..	..	
Harpanahalli ..	1	100	1	50	1	250	58	7,055	48	5,755	28	2,785	69	7,155	49	5,805	29	3,035	..	..	1	
Hadagalli ..	9	1,000	8	550	21	5,900	73	9,610	58	8,225	118	21,475	82	10,610	66	8,775	139	27,375	..	..	3	
Total ..	185	36,852	170	23,772	248	67,546	3,021	3,19,490	2,907	3,05,125	1,532	2,37,460	3,206	3,56,342	3,077	3,28,897	1,780	3,05,006	..	..	159	

Talukas.	Cattle and seed-grain.								Purchase of fodder.								Total.					
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39				
	Rs.			Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.				
Adóni ..	832	11,098	224	7,280	407	36,243	6	240	2	105	126	5,230	338	11,338	226	7,385	533	40,473				
Alúr ..	1,039	35,962	960	38,138	791	56,438	10	650	10	650	69	3,311	1,049	36,602	970	33,788	860	59,749				
Bellary ..	677	27,638	677	27,638	590	32,692	..	..	..	..	..	..	677	27,538	677	27,538	590	32,602				
Kayadrug ..	59	3,616	56	3,366	99	6,059	10	615	15	615	18	310	69	4,231	66	3,981	117	6,369				
Hospet ..	101	3,490	101	3,490	65	3,825	..	..	..	..	..	..	101	3,490	101	* 3,490	65	3,825				
Kódligi ..	470	12,059	467	11,839	171	7,859	..	..	..	..	..	..	476	12,059	457	11,839	171	7,859				
Harpanahalli ..	88	3,775	80	3,425	139	7,008	..	..	..	..	..	..	88	3,775	80	3,425	139	7,008				
Hadagalli ..	91	3,836	72	3,301	185	9,431	..	..	..	..	..	..	91	3,836	72	3,301	185	9,431				
Total ..	2,357	1,01,364	2,627	93,377	2,447	1,57,555	26	1,505	22	1,370	213	8,851	2,883	1,02,869	2,649	94,747	2,660	1,66,406				

* Revised figure.

Good work has been done in Adóni, Alúr and Bellary in making advances for the purchase of fodder.

Inspections of the District Officers.

(*Taluks and places visited.*)

By the Collector.—Hospet and the kitchen there. Chittavadigi Moka road, Halharvi road (both sections) and the Chippagiri road work (both sections) and the kitchens attached to these works.

Assistant Collector in charge of Adóni taluk.—Nandavaram work and kitchen, Chinnutambalam work and the two kitchens and the surrounding villages. Ratsamari work, Madhavaram kitchen, Belagallu, Adóni work and kitchen and the Kammarachedu work and kitchen.

Deputy Collector, Alúr.—Alúr-Moka road work (2 sections) Alúr-Chippagiri road (2 sections) Alúr-Adóni road work, the kitchens at Chetragudi, Halharvi, Námakkal, Chippagiri, Alúr and Kummarachedu (twice) and the villages of Khajipuram, Nancherla, Halibid, Alúr, Kuruvalli, Halharvi, Námakkal, Chippagiri and Nagaradona.

Divisional Officer, Bellary.—Paramadevanahalli, Sanganakal, Moka, Tambrahalli Jolahal, Banukal, Gollanagenahalli, Dasaranagenhalli, Sindhavalum, Yerragadi, Kuriched, Vanenur, Banapur, Kallukutikanahal, Gotur, Marur, Byalachinta, Bommanhal, Gonahal (Moka) Gonahal (Bellary) and the road work and the kitchens at Paramadevanahalli and Moka.

Head Assistant Collector.—Hospet kitchen, Daroji work and Devalapuram.

Resolution—No. 553, dated 5th August 1897.

Submitted to Government.

2. The rainfall during the fortnight was much below the average, although the total amount of the falls up to the fortnight since 1st April was higher than the average of the corresponding period, except in the Bellary taluk. Water-supply is sufficient in the river-fed channels and tanks and in wells, but most of the rain-fed tanks have received only a partial supply, and the Collector feared a general failure of the crops in Adóni, Alúr, Bellary, Rayadrug and part of Hospet taluks if there should be no rain within a week after the close of the fortnight under review. The rainfall reported since 15th July, however, was as follows :—

	INCHES.
Yemmiganur	3·78
Adóni	1·70
Alúr	1·64
Sirugappa	1·25
Bellary	0·30
Rayadrug	0·18
Kampli	0·73
Hospet	0·25
Hadagalli	0·14
Harpanahalli	0 27
Kúdligi	0·67

The fall in Bellary is still in considerable defect. Sowing and weeding are in progress, but agricultural operations are generally retarded by want of rain. The earlier-sown crops in general looked thin, and would come up unequally, and had received much damage from the long drought.

3. The condition of the stall-fed cattle is generally fair, but that of others is poor. Pasture has not yet become generally available and fodder is scarce except with the well-to-do ryots.

Much help has been given by the action of the Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committee which imports and sells paddy straw at a cheap rate and distributes fodder gratis to those who cannot afford to buy, money grants for the purchase of fodder being given to those who live far from the depôts. There are two fodder depôts

established by the Fund within the district, and at these 375 tons of fodder have been sold or distributed gratis during the last two months. The depôt at Guntakal also helps the ryots of the district.

4. Prices rose sharply during the fortnight, but trade was active and prices have since shown a tendency to fall.

The comparative position of prices is shown in the subjoined table :—

Rate.	Measures per rupee.		
	Rice.	Cholam (mixed).	Ragi.
Normal	13·2	30·0	..
Warning	10·6	22·5	..
Scarcity	7·9	15·0	..
Current	7·8	9·6	12·6
July 1892	9·3	16·3	17·5
,, 1877	5·5	5·8	6·6

The current prices, being taluk averages, are not a guide to the prices actually paid in some places for grain. The Sanitary Commissioner found cases, both in Bellary and Kurnool, in which the price of cholam locally was only about 6 imperial measures.

5. The condition of the people on works and in villages is reported to have been generally good. Guinea-worm and sore-eyes prevailed among the relief workers in Adóni and Bellary, and cholera in a mild form appeared in parts of these taluks. Due precautions have been taken to prevent the spread of cholera, but the Collector states that the want of an adequate staff of medical subordinates is much felt.

The numbers on works rose by 21,656 or 20 per cent. during the fortnight, and have, since then, still further risen by over 28,000. The recent orders of Government directing the rigid enforcement of tasks may check further increase somewhat, but until the prices fall appreciably, any large diminution in the numbers on works cannot be hoped for, and matters will certainly grow worse if the monsoon eventually fail. The Collector is fully alive to the gravity of the situation and is preparing for the worst. The prices in some villages are actually dearer than those prevailing in May 1877, and it is interesting to observe that the numbers on relief in Alúr, at the close of the fortnight, viz., 46,925, closely correspond with the mortality in that taluk in the great famine, which, properly calculated, amounted to 47,500. Up to date, the excess mortality due to the present famine has been very small— a result, the credit of which Mr. Stuart and his officers will be happy to share with Mr. R. Campbell and Mr. Somers-Eve. The wages of relief workers, which were hitherto calculated on the price of white cholam, are now based on the price of equal quantities of ragi and cholam in the Bellary, Kúdligi and Hospet taluks, as it has been found that the people of these parts have begun to use ragi also, and on equal parts of white and yellow cholam in the Alúr taluk. A complaint made by the Agent of Messrs. Dymes & Co. at Adóni that he could not get labour for his press is being enquired into. Regarding this matter, the Famine Commissioner, in Proceedings, No. 5662-A, dated 22nd July 1897, wrote as follows :—

"The Famine Commissioner investigated this matter in person. The employment offered by the press in the off-season is of the most casual kind. Mr. Tod admitted that he had had a crowd of coolies in his compound clamouring for work which he could not give them. Coolies were required according to daily purchase of cotton. It would not be convenient to Mr. Tod to give a day's, or two days', notice when he wanted coolies, and he could not wait a day or two for them as the cotton had to be shifted as purchased. He did not believe that many of his regular coolies were on the relief works. He considered it a grievance that his manager should have to go a mile and-a-half on his pony to get coolies from the works. The wage he offered was small. It was the wage of ordinary times and not calculated on famine prices. If the coolies went to him, they would lose their Sunday wage on the works, which would practically swallow up the whole difference between the pay he offered them for a day or two and the wage on the relief works. These coolies, too, would have a difficulty in getting taken back on the works. They could not go to their old gangs and would have to go to a new gang. The Famine Commissioner came to the conclusion that the complaint was utterly unreasonable."

The Famine Commissioner has looked into several cases of this kind, and has nowhere found that other departments or private employers of labour had any cause for complaint. The most ridiculous case was a complaint put forward by the Locomotive Superintendent of the East Coast Railway at Waltair. There was not, at the time, a single relief work within seven miles of Waltair. Coolies were emigrating to Burma. The harbour gave employment to hundreds. A thousand coolies were employed in loading and unloading manganese in the railway yard. Mr. Morton seemed to be the only person who wanted coolies, and, considering at the time that every one who could gather a bundle of grass could get 7 annas for it, it was no wonder that his meagre offer did not attract labour.

6. The numbers on gratuitous relief have not kept pace with the increase in the numbers on works. This is not the fault of the District Officials, but some improvement may now be expected. The poor in Kurnool are at last beginning to discover that, however much people may have died in the camps in 1877, they are not dying now, and are beginning to overcome their, hitherto, very genuine dread of the kitchens.

7. It is to be regretted that such a misleading story as that about the weekly fowl curry should have been put forward in Mr. Higham's hearing. A census of the chickens in the villages from which the Chippagiri coolies came would show that the whole resources of the locality would not suffice for a single debauch of the kind. The actual amount of arrack drunk was, as the Collector states, small, and it is regrettable that the fact was mentioned at all. The head coolies on the work would, alone, be more than enough to account for the increase. The Famine Commissioner did not examine the toddy-shop referred to, but he did examine that at Moka, and it was absolutely deserted. The Tahsildar assured him that, in ordinary times, the large space surrounding it would be crowded with drinkers.

8. It was a source of much satisfaction to the Famine Commissioner to find that some effort had been made in the kitchens, which he inspected, to care for the emaciated babies. The milk in some kitchens was excellent, but the Mellin's food was caked and bad, and there seemed to be no idea how to cook it properly. Mr. Lloyd promised to look into the matter. It might, with advantage, be made a lady's business, if any lady in the district would be so kind as to take the matter up. There are seventy-six babies at Adóni, and on the works adjoining, too far advanced in emaciation to admit of recovery, but their last days might be made happier. What they want, as much as food, is warmth, and it is very pitiable to see them naked and shivering in the cold mornings and evenings, covered, at most, with a thin rag from the mother's cloth. It is hoped that the local Charitable Relief Fund may have found it possible, as was done at Kurnool, to supply these babies with flannel squares.

9. The progress of loans transactions has been as shown below :—

Up to end of week ending	Amount disbursed.
	Rs.
June 19th	3,31,561
„ 26th	3,75,629
July 3rd	4,08,711
„ 10th	4,32,853
„ 17th	4,44,404

The transactions in the last week are small.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of Bellary.
Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.
„ „ Chairman, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committe.

Order—No. 732, 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.

50 Copies.

Public Works (1893.) Department.

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