Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 3434 W

DATED 8 December 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Famine. Rep: Revenue Dept recording Board's Rep. on the forthnightly narrative of the Godaveri Dt for the period ending 31st August and 15th September 1897 and approving with remarks the Collector's action in continuing grain sales at Bhadrachalam at Govt expense; Comd to S.E.I. Circle.

8
8/12/97

[P. W. 25.
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Public Works (897) dept. Current No. 1491

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

15 C. applied for 9/11/97 3/11/97

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G.O., No. 906, 2nd November 1897.

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Communicate to S.S.I. circle.

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Fortnightly Narratives.

Board's Proceedings submitting the — of the Gódávari district for the periods ending 31st August and 15th September 1897, recorded; and the Collector's action in continuing grain sales in Bhadráchalam at Government expense, approved with remarks.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 656, dated 8th October 1897 :—

W. J. H. LeFanu, Esq.
(Famine Commissioner).

Read—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), Mis. No. 7936, dated 28th September 1897 :—

Read—the following G.O., Mis. No. 4951, Revenue, dated 20th September 1897 :—

Read—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), Mis. No. 7294, dated 7th September 1897 :—

Read—the following letter from V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Gódávari, to the Famine Commissioner, Ref. No. 3728-Ver, dated Cocanada, 29th August 1897 :—

I have the honour to inform you that I returned yesterday from a short visit of inspection to Bhadráchalam in company with the Honourable Mr. Crole and regret to say that I have found things there in a distinctly critical condition and far worse than the weekly returns yet received would indicate and this is all the more strange as there has recently been ample rain and the crops of all kinds are reported to be in excellent condition and certainly those that I saw along the river bank could not possibly look better. Of course the riverside villages below Bhadráchalam are allright and most of them above up to the frontier are, though the winter crops were not so good above Bhadráchalam as below. The difficulty is the Koyi and Reddi population of the interior villages numbering in all some 23,000. Of these, I saw about 1,500 at Kunavaram coming for gratuitous relief or to apply for it and their condition generally was far from satisfactory. Extreme emaciation was happily not observable but most appeared to be distinctly below par and somewhat emaciated whilst others were distinctly emaciated.

2. The great change appears to have set in with the current month when with the improvement in the agricultural prospects of the taluk, owing to ample rain, one would have expected the reverse. My officers on the spot have been equal to the occasion so far, but their action in putting over 7,000 on to gratuitous relief against little over 1,000 at the commencement of the month, has increased expenditure enormously. Not only so, but though the anticipated, consumption of grain for August was 1,200 bags and the taluk started with a balance of 384 not allowed for, I find the Dummagudem and Bhadráchalam depôts empty and also those of the Marrigudem and Rékapalle must be empty now, in spite of my having sent up 1,200 bags already.

3. The explanation given on all hands is that the Koyis and Reddis have no longer any grain in their possession and none is to be bought for love or money as the riverside villagers who alone possess grain will sell none as they still fear that the season will prove a bad one, notwithstanding the very favourable outlook at present. They also allege that the produce of the jungles is exhausted and that the merchants will give no advances this year, though the principal dry crop of the Koyas—gingelly—

is a good one which will be harvested in the course of the next three weeks. They do not trust the Koyas in the first place, and in the next gingelly is so risky a crop that until it is safely harvested it is never out of danger. The condition of the Koyas clearly indicates that there is truth in all these statements; so also does the heavy and not anticipated run upon the grain depôts.

4. In these circumstances I regret that I must apply for more funds. How exactly the accounts stand is not known, but with the enormous increase in the numbers on gratuitous relief—the number has more than trebled since the beginning of the month—it is quite certain that the amount already allotted must be almost exhausted. Under these circumstances I have directly telegraphed to Government to save delay asking for a further allotment of Rs. 12,500. A copy of my telegram is enclosed for your information.

5. I should have sent up more grain than 1,200 bags already but the Public Works Department have hitherto been unable to let me have more than one steamer, and when I asked the Railway Company to let me have a steamer twelve days ago they could not manage it as one of their two was under repair. However, the "John Mullins" has started to-day with 600 bags and the Railway steamer "Kavour" with a barge goes up to-morrow with 1,100 more. This will make things safe and ought to carry us through, though it is difficult to say when the necessity for relief measures will wholly end, as the Koyas have not, I am told, raised dry crops on any large scale except gingelly, which is not eatable. The price however is good and when the crop is harvested, they will be able to buy what they want with the sale-proceeds and gratuitous relief won't be required.

6. I have to-day received Rs. 10,000 from the Charitable Relief Fund for loans to Koya cultivators to enable them to carry on till their crops are harvested. This will be an immense relief and also, I fancy, indirectly reduce the gratuitous relief list. At least I am hoping it will. As the Committee have given the money for grain advances I propose investing the whole amount at once in *grain* at Rajahmundry and debiting the cost of carriage to Government as a fair contribution on its part. This, I trust, Government will approve of. In other words, the Charitable Fund will give me at Rajahmundry so much grain for distribution in the shape of loans to needy Koya cultivators who are not perhaps in need of gratuitous relief, but in a very tight fix and I will distribute it carrying it for the purpose from Rajahmundry to Bhadráchalam at Government expense.

7. As it is necessary that some one should be in the taluk now to supervise operations and contract the grant of gratuitous relief as soon as this can be done, Mr. Phillips proceeds to Bhadráchalam to-morrow in the Railway steamer. It is an operation that will require some care; as we may do serious mischief by being too precipitate and yet it is waste of money to continue operations a day longer than is necessary. I am of opinion we shall have no great reduction before the middle of September, and hoping that the end of the month will see everything closed as the river will then be more practicable, probably for country trading boats, and the Koyas have ample funds from the sale of their gingelly which will then have been harvested, even if their edible dry crops are too limited in amount to support them till the winter crops they mainly depend on for food come in.

Resolution—Mis. No. 7294, dated 7th September 1897.

Submitted to Government with the request that, under the circumstances explained by the Collector, the additional funds asked for in paragraph 4 and the proposal in paragraph 6 of the letter read above may be sanctioned.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Gódávari.

Order thereon—Mis. No. 4951, Revenue, dated 20th September 1897.

The proposal in paragraph 6 of the Collector's letter is approved. The additional allotment applied for has already been sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.
" Financial Department.
" Accountant-General.

Resolution—Mis. No. 7936, dated 28th September 1897.

Communicated to the Collector of Gódávari.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Gódávari.

Read—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), Mis. No. 7937, dated 28th September 1897 :—

Read—the following G.O., Mis. No. 4947, Revenue, dated 20th September 1897 :—

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), Mis. No. 7055, dated 31st August 1897 :—

Read—the following letter from V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Gódávari, to the Famine Commissioner, Ref. on Cur. No. 3661-Ver., dated Cocanada, 18th August 1897 :—

I have the honour to state that at the urgent request of the Special Assistant, Polavaram, I have permitted him, in anticipation of the sanction of Government, to grant subsistence loans aggregating to eight and half putties of grain to Koyis of Kopalli and Koovada muttas in Polavaram division who are reported to be in need of the same. The loans will be made to the Koyis direct in the presence of their sureties, who are Gedda Kistnamma or their own headmen in the Kopalli mutta, and the renters of the villages concerned in the Koovada mutta. The loans will be made strictly in accordance with the rules framed under the Agriculturists' Loans Act for the relief of distress. I have already placed a sum of Rs. 1,000 out of the famine allotment of Rs. 20,000 for this district, at the disposal of the Special Assistant Agent for the purpose and request that my action may be approved and that I may be permitted to extend the operations where necessary so long as the allotment at my disposal is not exceeded. These men won't work, so the obligation to repay such grain advances in kind is no injustice.

Read—also G.O., No. 721, Revenue, dated 26th August 1897.

Abstract.—Recording Board's Proceedings submitting to Government, with remarks, report of the Collector on the condition of the people in parts of Gódávari, and passing orders as to the methods of relieving them.

Resolution—Mis. No. 7055, dated 31st August 1897.

With reference to the Government Order read above, the Famine Commissioner begs to submit the letter of the Collector of Gódávari, dated 18th August 1897, No. 3661, and to solicit the approval of Government to the Collector's action, which was taken before the Government Order could be communicated to him.

2. In this connection, the Famine Commissioner desires to draw the attention of Government to the excessive rate of mortality in the Bhadráchalam taluk during June, which, as reported by the Sanitary Commissioner, reached the high figure of 61·1 per mille and to the remarks of the Collector of Gódávari in his letter to be found in B.P., No. 6678, dated 20th August 1897. The latter officer says: "to leave the supply of grain wholly to the merchants would be to leave the people practically to starve, for no merchant would think of using a steamer, whilst by boat it now takes a fortnight or three weeks to get a consignment up . . . . . If I stop sending up grain, prices will probably rise with a bound to seven or eight seers a rupee, and we shall have to put the whole population nearly on gratuitous relief. To Government, the depôts are, consequently, more advantageous than to the people, though they benefit both, for they have had a great effect in keeping down prices, and so keeping the people off the gratuitous relief lists. They really also do not cost much as the requirements are only about 1,500 bags a month at the outside and the loss on this comes only to about Rs. 2,250; whilst if the Koya population had to pay at the rate of eight seers per rupee for grain, we should have had the whole of that population and a good many more besides on our hands." Mr. Coleridge, in his letter to be found in B.P., No. 6706, dated 21st August 1897, points out that there are no stocks of grain except in the river-side villages, and that these stocks are held by ryots, who refuse to put the grain on the market. If the importation of grain by Government is put a stop to, there will be a great risk of the ordinary market being unable to meet the demand; to offer money, when grain is not available, will be but a mockery, and must end in disaster. In consideration of these facts, and of the peculiar conditions of Bhadráchalam, which is perhaps even more inaccessible than the hill tracts of Ganjám and Vizagapatam, the Famine Commissioner ventures to request Government to give the Collector of Gódávari a free hand, and to permit him to import grain, and to grant relief in the form of grain, instead of money. The grain may be distributed as a loan, and the actual present cost of laying it down may be taken as the basis for calculating the money value of the loan, the loan, or such portion of it as the Collector may think desirable, being eventually recovered, not in grain, but in money.

3. The favour of early orders is solicited as the Famine Commissioner apprehends that a strict obedience to G.O., No. 721, may cause much difficulty and distress. It is requested that orders may be sent by telegram to the Collector direct.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Order thereon—Mis. No. 4947, Revenue, dated 20th September 1897.

The action taken by the Collector in making grain advances prior to the receipt of G.O., No. 721, dated 26th August 1897, is approved.

2. The Government sees no reason to reconsider the decision in paragraph 3 of the above order. If the Collector considers that the supply of grain to the remote hill tracts cannot safely be left in the hands of private traders, he may import grain on Government account for sale at cost price to the recipients of loans.

3. Ordered that the following telegram be despatched to the Collector of Gódávari :—

"B.P., 7055, dated 31st August. You may send up grain for sale to recipients of loans at cost price. Make only money advances."

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.

Resolution—Mis. No. 7937, dated 28th September 1897.

Communicated to the Collector of Gódávari.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Gódávari.

Read—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), Mis. No. 7938, dated 28th September 1897 :—

Read—the following G.O., No. 803, Revenue, dated 22nd September 1897 :—

Read—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), Mis. No. 6678, dated 20th August 1897, submitting for the orders of Government letter from the Collector of Gódávari requesting sanction to continue the grain depôts in the Bhadráchalam taluk at Government expense.

Read—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), No. 562, dated 10th August 1897.

Read—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), No. 6706, dated 21st August 1897, submitting to Government for information in continuation of B.P., No. 520-A., dated 24th July 1897, and No. 562, dated 10th August 1897, letter from the Collector of Gódávari submitting the report of the Assistant Collector, Bhadráchalam, about the condition of the Koyis.

Order thereon—No. 803, Revenue, dated 22nd September 1897.

The application for the further grant referred to in paragraph 2 of the second Proceedings read above has already been complied with, and the question as to the best method of relieving jungle tribes referred to in paragraph 5 has been disposed of in G.O., No. 721, dated 26th August 1897.

2. The proposal of the Collector to sell grain at reduced prices is, as pointed out by the Famine Commissioner, opposed to the general policy of the Code and cannot be accepted.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.

Resolution—Mis. No. 7938, dated 28th September 1897.

Recorded.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Gódávari.

Read—also the following Fortnightly Narrative for the affected táluks of the Gódávari district, for the period ending 31st of August 1897 :—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and Water-supply.—

		INCHES.
District average rainfall during the fortnight	... ...	6·23
Do. do. since 1st April 1897	... ...	22·76
Expected rainfall in the month	... ...	7·22
Do. do. up to the month	... ...	19·54

The rainfall at the affected centres is as shown below :—

	Rainfall during the fortnight. INCHES.
Bhadráchalam	3·65
Chódavaram	6·08
Yellavaram	9·65
Polavaram	5·66
Rajahmundry	4·86
Chintalapudi	5·57

The rainfall during the fortnight has been very good. The heaviest rainfall, however, occurred outside the affected tract. For instance, 5·75 inches fell at Bhímavaram on the 27th August, 4·85 at Tallapádu on the 28th idem, 4·22 at Prattipadu on the 20th idem, and 4·12 at Peddápuram on the same date. There is an ample supply of water for irrigation and drinking purposes. All the tanks in the affected tracts are full or nearly so, and the recent freshes in the Gódávari, and the heavy general rainfall have placed this district out of all danger, unless the north-east monsoon is as great a failure this year as it was last, which is not likely. Even then, the current year would be a better year, as we are now in a very much better position than we were this time last year.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—In *Bhadráchalam.*—The standing crops, gingelly, paddy, mokkajonna (maize), kondajonna (hill cholam), sama and cumbu are doing very well. Gingelly is almost ripe for harvest. The other food-crops are being harvested. The crops are on the whole fair (16 annas). The crops in the river-side villages are, I can say, from personal observation, excellent, but Mr. Coleridge reports that, in a few of the interior villages, the crops have failed.

In *Polavaram*, the crops are good. "Cumbu" has been spoilt in a small area in a few river-side villages by submersion from floods. Further sowings of castor and cholam are going on, as also, transplantation of paddy in places.

In *Chóduvaram* and *Yellavaram*, the condition of the crops continues to be very favourable. Sama, korra, ganti and gingelly have been harvested in many villages, doing away with the necessity for further relief. The outturn of the first three crops is from 16 to 20 annas, and of the last from 12 to 16 annas. Some of the earlier sown gingelly failed altogether, but there is a very fair crop remaining.

In *Chintalapudi division*, the dry crops, gingelly, maize, ganti, sama, korra are thriving well. Transplantation of paddy is in full swing. Gingelly, korra and sama are already coming to harvest.

In *Rajahmundry taluk* (*Kottapalli Range*), things must be going on very well, though I have not yet received the fortnightly narrative of the Deputy Collector in charge of the sub-division. The rains here, as elsewhere, were very copious and opportune. The ryots were not slow in taking advantage of them, and the result must, of course, be beneficial.

Supply of fodder and pasture, and condition of cattle.—Fodder is everywhere scanty, but pasture sufficient. Here and there, cattle still look very thin, but their condition has vastly improved on the whole, and no anxiety need be felt any longer.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—Standing crops are thriving well everywhere. Transplantation of wet paddy was in full swing during the fortnight. Korra and sama, the principal food stuffs of the mass of the country population at this season, are being harvested, and cumbu and other dry crops will be harvested in a week or two. The condition of cattle is good, pasture is available though fodder is scarce. Water supply for drinking and agricultural purposes is ample. Seeing that the prospects of the season are excellent, all famine works—relief-test, or intermediate—have been ordered to be closed. Gratuitous relief has also been ordered to be discontinued from the 10th instant everywhere (except in Polavaram and Bhadráchalam), where this had not been done already. In Chódavaram, the numbers on gratuitous relief never exceeded twenty, and in all, seven putties of grain were sold at favourable rates (16 seers per rupee). Relief was stopped there on the 22nd August. The

number gratuitously relieved in Yellavaram is below ten, and in Chintalapudi about 111. In Polavaram, gratuitous relief was given, and also loans for subsistence to needy cultivators from Charitable Relief Funds. The former method of relief has been ordered to be stopped from the 15th instant. There is cause for anxiety only in the case of Bhadráchalam (interior villages). The condition of the people is not very good, and the sowcars are still withholding advances, with prices standing at high rates. Now that the harvest for dry crops has commenced, I expect a favourable turn of things shortly. I have sent up grain in sufficient quantity, and Mr. Phillips has gone there to closely examine the situation himself. Indeed, my latest information is that there is considerable improvement in the situation.

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 31st August 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		Cholam.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
Bhadráchalam	7	7·7	10	11·4	..	..	There is no appreciable fall in prices, though in Bhadráchalam and some other places they show a tendency to fall. When a fall in prices occurs, there should be no further cause for anxiety.
Kochavaram	8	7·5	12	11	..	..	
Waddigudem	8	7·5	12	11	..	..	
Polavaram	8	8	11	11·5	..	11·8	
Jangareddigudem	8	8	11	11	..	..	
Buttayagudem	8	8	11	11	..	..	
Kannapuram	..	..	..	11	..	..	
Addatigela	8	8	12	..	12	12	
Jaddangi	8	8	12	..	12	12	
Chódavaram	8	8·5	12	11·5	12	11·8	
Devipatnam	8	8	13	13	12	12	
Chintalapudi	..	7	..	10·6	..	10·9	
Rajahmundry	..	8·5	..	12·7	..	10·6	

Activity of trade.—Except in Rajahmundry and in Ellore, private trade is dull. Owing to the favourable character of the season, traders naturally fear to make extensive purchases, lest there should be a sudden fall in prices next day. In the case of Bhadráchalam, coupled with this fear, there is also much difficulty and risk of long delay in communication by river. Hence the necessity for the efforts of the Famine Fund Committee and of Government to keep a sufficient supply of grain in the taluk, and replenish it from time to time for a few weeks more.

Condition of the People.

On works.—Nil, all the test relief works opened in the district having been ordered to be closed by the middle of August. The poor house in Cocanada has also been closed on the 5th instant. The intermediate work started in Chintalapudi has also been ordered to be closed. There were 150 workers working on it on the 25th August 1897. Their condition was as good as could be desired. I think it is more the dread of continued famine than present distress, that drove the few people that attended to the works.

In villages.—The condition of the people in Chódavaram and Yellavaram is reported to be good, and in Polavaram fair. In the interior villages of Bhadráchalam, the condition of the people is anything but satisfactory. The sight of about 1,500 Koyi recipients of gratuitous relief mustered by Mr. Coleridge, when myself and Honourable Mr. Crole, President of the Charitable Relief Fund, were there on the 26th ultimo, induced the latter to sanction at once an allotment of Rs. 10,000 for further relief, and me to apply for an allotment of Rs. 12,500 to enable me to send up more grain to the taluk, where it appeared it was badly wanted. In the river-side villages, no deterioration of health either in adults or children, I am happy to say, was found. The children were particularly fat and flourishing.

In the affected villages of Rajahmundry taluk and Chintalapudi division, the condition of the people is normal.

Sickness and Mortality.—Cholera is still prevalent in Polavaram, and has broken out afresh in the river-side villages of Chodavaram division, and in five villages of Chintalapudi division. No figures have been reported, but it seems that in the said five villages of Chintalapudi, there were 101 attacks and 41 deaths. It is probable, the disease is not cholera but "choleraic diarrhœa", brought on by the excessive consumption of forest roots and vegetables. Proper sanitary measures are being taken. Fever and dysentery are, as usual, prevalent in Chodavaram and Yellavaram. There were no deaths from starvation. Whatever emaciation there is, is due more to sickness than starvation.

Measures of Relief.

Works—In what taluks open and comparison of numbers—

Taluks.	Number employed	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Rajahmundry—		
Kottapalli	300	None
Kapavaram	150	„
Cocanada division—		
Cocanada	81	„

Gratuitous relief—Numbers relived 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.
Bhadráchalam	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,956	4,948
Chodavaram	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Yellavaram	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	6
Polavaram	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	78
Chintalapudi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	148
Rajahmundry	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	684
Cocanada	..	..	..	..	..	..	59	..

Taluks.	Number of villages in which relief was given.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Bhadráchalam	211	288
Chodavaram	...	12
Yellavaram	7	6
Polavaram	Not reported.	
Chintalapudi	...	8
Rajahmundry	...	8

Private charity.—Grain depôts are still maintained in Bhadráchalam. A further allotment of Rs. 10,000 has just been sanctioned by the committee on the representation of its President, Honourable Mr. Crole, for grain advances to Koyis of Bhadráchalam taluk. A sum of Rs. 3,000 has been spent by the committee for relief to Koyi cultivators, for purchase of seed grain.

General remarks.—I have nothing to say here, except that prospects everywhere are now most excellent throughout the district, and that there is no longer any serious distress anywhere, except in Bhadráchalam. Here too, the situation appears to be very rapidly improving, and the numbers on gratuitons relief which were very large at the end of August will, I am certain, be found to have diminished greatly by this date.

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

Taluks.	Other purposes for relief of distress.						Repair and construction of wells.						Purchase of fodder.						Cattle and seed-grain.						Total.						Number of wells.	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		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.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39		
		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.			
Polavaram division	90	113 9 1	90	113 9 1	..	..	90	113 9 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	90	113 9 1	90	113 9 1	..	..	90	113 9 1	90	113 9 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Polavaram division	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	..	..	..	..	..

Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and places visited.

By the Special Assistant Agent.—Ramacherlagudem, Jangareddigudem, Gollagudem and Koyyalagudem in Polavaram division.

By the Deputy Collector in charge of Sub-division.—Not reported.

By the Deputy Collector, Ellore.—None. He was laid up at Nidadavólu for treatment for dropsy to which at last he succumbed.

By myself.—Kunavaram, Bhadráchalam, and back to Rajahmundry by steamer.

Read—also the following letter from V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Gódávari, to the Famine Commissioner, Dis. No. 3345-Ver., dated Cocanada, 27th September 1897 :—

In reference to paragraph 4 of B.P., No. 616, dated 13th September 1897, I have the honour to state that up to 21st August Government funds were advanced for the purchase of grain retailed at the grain depôts and the loss by resale recouped out of the Charitable Fund allotment of Rs. 5,000 for the purpose, but since that date the whole of the said allotment having been spent and the Committee having declined to make further allotment on the score of want of funds, the depôts have in consequence been run solely at Government expense. This course is, I am aware, entirely opposed to the provisions of the Famine Code; but anticipating that things might come to this pass, I applied in my Ref. on F. Cur. No. 1-Ver., dated 4th August 1897, for sanction to continue the grain depôts at Government expense and have not received any orders yet. I trust therefore that my action under the circumstances will be approved. From the latest reports to hand, I observe that the sales at these depôts have fallen greatly lately, since sama and cumbu have come into the market at cheaper rates and I am certain that grain depôts and gratuitous relief will not be required much longer. I have accordingly ordered the closure thereof by the 10th proximo.

Resolution—No. 656, dated 8th October 1897.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The prospects are reported to be very favourable, and all relief—except gratuitous relief in Polavaram and Bhadráchalam—is being closed.

3. The proposal to buy grain at Rajahmundry with the Famine Fund grant, and to import it into Bhadráchalam at Government cost, has been approved in G.O., Mis. No. 4951, Revenue, dated 20th September 1897. The Collector has been empowered in G.O., Mis. No. 4947, Revenue, dated 20th September 1897, to import grain into Bhadráchalam on Government account for sale at cost price to recipients of loans, if the local markets should prove unable to meet the demand. The proposal to buy grain at Government cost, and then sell it at reduced prices has been negatived in G.O., No. 803, Revenue, dated 22nd September 1897.

4. The approval of Government is solicited to the action of the Collector in continuing to maintain depôts in Bhadráchalam at Government expense, pending orders on his references on the point.

5. The Collector is somewhat over-sanguine in his estimate of the crops in Bhadráchalam. They have suffered from excessive rains and are nearer 12 to 8 annas than to 16. It is anticipated that the numbers on gratuitous relief in this tract will fall immediately. Mr. Ward was of opinion that additional relief would be necessary, when the Chintur range in the interior was inspected. The big crop will not come in before January, and the small crops which will fall in meanwhile will not last long. Roots will not, he thinks, be available before December, and bamboo tips are not available on the Dummagudem and Bhadráchalam sides. The Collector should consider whether it would not be advisable to put the Deputy Tahsildar, Appu Rao, on

distribution in Marigudem. The Bhadráchalam Tahsildar is physically unequal to out-door work.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Read—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 658, dated 12th October 1897:—

W. J. H. LeFanu, Esq.
(Famine Commissioner.)

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Special Assistant Agent's Division, Gódávari district, for the period ending 15th September 1897 based on the information received up to the 10th instant:—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and Water-supply.—

	Rainfall during the period.	Expected rainfall.
	INCHES.	INCHES.
Bhadráchalam taluk	3·27 *	6·15
Polavaram division—Statistics not given.		
Chodavaram division—Information not received.		
Yellavaram do.	8·96	2·38

* On 26th, 28th August, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 8th and 9th September.

Rainfall has been ample. The supply of water in all parts of the division is sufficient for irrigation and drinking purposes. Some of the first sown sama, korra, and mokkajonna are being harvested in many villages. Their outturn may be estimated to be 16 annas. Heavy rains have been damaging flowers of cumbu crop which is ready for harvest in Yellavaram division.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—In Bhadráchalam, ploughing for further crops of monjonna, &c., is going on; planting chilli plants, and watching mokkajonna and chama fields. The standing crops gingelly, paddy, hill cholam, mokkajonna, chama, &c., are in good condition.

In Polavaram, cholam and castor-oil seeds have been sown in some villages, and lands are being ploughed up, and prepared for sowing. Gingelly has yielded well in the hill villages. It has been reaped in some villages, and is being reaped in others. It is a complete failure in the villages in this division immediately adjoining the Yernagudem taluk. Cumbu has yielded well, but has sprouted here and there, owing to incessant rainfall when the crop was standing. It is being reaped. Maize, pala-chama and korra have borne ears in hill villages, and are expected to be harvested within a period ranging from a week to a fortnight. Nalla chama and hill cholam, and wet paddy plants are thriving.

In Yellavaram, the transplantation of wet paddy has been finished. Ragi is still being transplanted. Maize, chama, black paddy, ganti, cholam, ragi, and wet paddy are good. In some villages, ryots are tilling lands for sowing grains. Ragi and cholam are being damaged by heavy rains. Korra has been already cut. Chama has been for the most part reaped. Both are being used for consumption by the people. They yielded between 16 and 18 annas.

Supply of fodder and pasture, and condition of cattle.—The abundant supply of pasture in all parts of the division removes the necessity for fodder of which there is no supply whatever. The condition of cattle is reported to be good, and no cattle diseases reported.

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 of September 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		Cholam.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	
Bhadráchalam	7½	7½	11	11	..	..	Rice falling in Kunavaram, Addatigela and Jaddangi. Cholam rising in Polavaram, Kunavaram, Waddigudem. The rise in the price of cholam at Kunavaram is due to the grain depôts, in consequence of which merchants do not import. Korra and sama are being sold in some villages at 20 seers a rupee.
Kunavaram	7½	8	11	10	..	..	
Waddigudem	7½	7	11	10	..	..	
Polavaram	..	7	12	10	..	10	
Addatigela	8	8¼	..	..	12	12	
Jaddangi	8	8¼	..	..	12	12	

Activity of trade.—Private trade is moderate both in rice and dry staple food-grains. Sufficient quantity of rice and cholam is being imported into the division from Rajahmundry.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On works.—There are no relief works in the division.

In villages.—The old, the infirm and the destitute poor are being given gratuitous relief. Some of the Koyas in the interior are using veduru, dumpalu and gurugu-kura in addition to the grain obtained in the depôts. In Polavaram, the hill men and others are all busily engaged in cultivating their fields and podus, and have been keeping up their normal health. In Yellavaram, the hill people have given up eating roots and vegetables, and they are living upon korra and chama. Some people in rented villages are still cutting wood in jungles, and taking it for sale to plain villages.

Sickness and mortality.—Cholera has broken out in the Yellavaram division. Seventeen, out of twenty-six cases, proved fatal. Fever and dysentery are, as usual, prevalent in Chódavaram and Yellavaram divisions. No deaths from starvation.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

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

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

Taluks.	Number relieved							
	At kitchens.				In poor-houses.		In villages.	
	Dependants.		Others.					
	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.
Bhadráchalam	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,001	2,073
Polavaram	..	..	..	..	..		..	Figures not reported.
Chódavaram	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	*Nil.*
Yellavaram *	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	*Nil.*

* This week gratuitous relief was discontinued under the Collector's orders.

Taluks.	Number of villages in which relief was given.		Weavers' relief.			
			Number of persons relieved.		Number of cloths manufactured.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	In the period.	Up to date.
Bhadráchalam	210	192	..	..	..	..

Private charity.—The Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committee have allotted Rs. 10,000 to be spent on grain advances to needy Koya and Reddi cultivators. The grain is now being distributed, from 30 to 60 measures being given to each household. This will support the recipients until the crops are harvested.

General Remarks.

In Chódavaram and Yellavaram divisions, all chance of famine is at an end, and all relief measures have been stopped. The new Deputy Tahsildar at Polavaram has submitted a very inadequate report, and as the Special Assistant Agent has not been in that division since August 20th, it is impossible to give much information. Gratuitous relief has been given, and loans of food-grain and seed-grain. As the crops are now reported to be coming in, it is presumed that very little further relief will be required. The crops in this division are rather late, and gratuitous relief will, probably, have to be continued until the beginning of October.

The situation in Bhadráchalam is much improved. Grain, *i.e.*, korra and sama, is being sold in small quantity in Bhadráchalam at 20 seers a rupee, and I believe in other riverside villages also. The result is that the sales at the grain depôts have fallen enormously.

The numbers on gratuitous relief have decreased considerably, and everybody appears more hopeful. The distribution of the grain supplied from the Famine Fund will be most beneficial, and will result in reducing the numbers on gratuitous relief to a minimum; for it will remove from the lists people who ought really to be working, but who will not work. The Panchamas appear to be able to find work. At Dumagudem, the coolies refused to carry camp kit, a 7-mile march, as they could do better by unloading grain bags at Dumagudem. Coolies also refused to come in from Anjipaka and Neelagapadu (near Dumagudem) owing to the celebration of their harvest festival. These facts certainly tend to show that the condition of these people is improving.

Inspections of the District officers.

Taluks and Places visited.

Kunavaram, Ratsagompalli, Bhadráchalam, Gangolu, Dumagudem, Yetapaka and Pallum.

Statement of loans.

	Allotment.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	
Polavaram division	1,000	886 kunchams cholam.
		93 „ paddy.
		145 „ ragi.

Gratuitous Relief.

	Rs.	
Polavaram division	500	170 kunchams cholam.
		4 „ paddy.
		43 „ ragi.

Endorsement by V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Gódávari, Dis. No. 3317-Ver., dated Cocanada, 27th September 1897.

Forwarded. There is no distress now anywhere, except in Bhadráchalam, and the pressure there appears to be diminishing, although we cannot expect to wholly discontinue relief until the middle of October. By the end of this month, I hope the numbers on relief will have fallen by two-thirds, and the other third will not require help for more than ten days or a fortnight more, until their dry crops have been harvested.

Resolution—No. 658, dated 12th October 1897.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. Mr. Brodie is oversanguine as to the date on which relief will close in Bhadráchalam. The condition of the people at Dummagudem is still bad, and, owing to Mr. Coleridge's illness, relief had not reached the Chintur range, which runs into the interior from Kunavaram. Here Mr. Ward anticipated an increase in numbers on relief for a time, and no one knows the country so well as Mr. Ward, for Mr. Cain's knowledge is confined to a comparatively narrow range. The *Soorki* fruit was exhausted, and then the people eked out subsistence on the leaves of a creeper called *Bothi* and of the *Godalichettu*, after which they got some field herbs, and, in villages near the hills, the bastard sago helped them. Recently, the more eastern villages have depended on tender bamboo shoots, but these are not available on the Dummagudem side. Sama and Korra fall in early in October, but will not last much over the month, and it is only in some villages that a rice crop will be obtained, which will help the people over November and December. The lasting change will not come till the big cholam crop is reaped in January. It would be possible to close all relief by the end of November, if Government would sanction the disbursement of a fortnight's dole in advance on that date to the persons then on gratuitous relief. The Collector will be asked to report definitely on this point, after consulting Messrs. Ward and Woodhouse.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 906, Revenue, dated 2nd November 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The Collector's action in continuing grain sales in Bhadráchalam at Government expense is approved, but the Government observes that the Famine Commissioner's Proceedings, No. 562, dated 10th August 1897, in paragraph 5 of which he expresses his disapproval of such sales at Government expense as being opposed to the general policy of the Famine Code, must have been received by the Collector about the time the Famine Committee's allotment was exhausted. The Collector should have discontinued depôt sales on receipt of these proceedings.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. T. K. Narayana Aiyangar.
20 Copies.

Items 882
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Only ten Copies of
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C. Rathmell Saunders
Hon Clerk, R.D.

3/12/97

Telephone Message

To. H.C. - Revenue,

Please send by a
messenger coming today
to chepak 15 S.C. of
Co. ~~to~~ 906 Rev.
d/2/11/97. - subject
famine warrants of
Godavari Dt.

Rec'd
3/12/97
H.C

for Secretary
3/12/97

Memo 882
3.12.97

Only ten Copies of
Ex. 906 dd 2nd March 1897.
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C. Rathmell Saunders
Head Clerk, R.D.

W.N.
3.12.97

W

Submitted.
W. does not
care to see papers
of this kind.

23-(12)97

15 days

Telephone Message

To.
H.C. - Revenue,

Please send by a
messenger coming today
to chepak 15 S.C. of
Ex. ~~6~~ 906 Rev.
d/2/11(97). - Subject
famine narrative of
Gurdaspur Dt.

Rec'd
3/12/97.
H.C

for Secretary
3/12/97

Public Works (1897) Department

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

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G.O., No. 906, 2nd November 1897.

NOVEMBER.

Communicated to the S.E I circle (M) CMBB

To
S.E I circle

Fortnightly Narratives.

Board's Proceedings submitting the — of the Gódávari district for the periods ending 31st August and 15th September 1897, recorded; and the Collector's action in continuing grain sales in Bhadráchalam at Government expense, approved with remarks.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 656, dated 8th October 1897 :—

W. J. H. LeFanu, Esq.

(Famine Commissioner).

Read—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), Mis. No. 7936, dated 28th September 1897 :—

Read—the following G.O., Mis. No. 4951, Revenue, dated 20th September 1897 :—

Read—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), Mis. No. 7294, dated 7th September 1897 :—

Read—the following letter from V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Gódávari, to the Famine Commissioner, Ref. No. 3728-Ver, dated Cocanada, 29th August 1897 :—

I have the honour to inform you that I returned yesterday from a short visit of inspection to Bhadráchalam in company with the Honourable Mr. Crole and regret to say that I have found things there in a distinctly critical condition and far worse than the weekly returns yet received would indicate and this is all the more strange as there has recently been ample rain and the crops of all kinds are reported to be in excellent condition and certainly those that I saw along the river bank could not possibly look better. Of course the riverside villages below Bhadráchalam are allright and most of them above up to the frontier are, though the winter crops were not so good above Bhadráchalam as below. The difficulty is the Koyi and Reddi population of the interior villages numbering in all some 23,000. Of these, I saw about 1,500 at Kunavaram coming for gratuitous relief or to apply for it and their condition generally was far from satisfactory. Extreme emaciation was happily not observable but most appeared to be distinctly below par and somewhat emaciated whilst others were distinctly emaciated.

2. The great change appears to have set in with the current month when with the improvement in the agricultural prospects of the taluk, owing to ample rain, one would have expected the reverse. My officers on the spot have been equal to the occasion so far, but their action in putting over 7,000 on to gratuitous relief against little over 1,000 at the commencement of the month, has increased expenditure enormously. Not only so, but though the anticipated, consumption of grain for August was 1,200 bags and the taluk started with a balance of 384 not allowed for, I find the Dummagudem and Bhadráchalam depôts empty and also those of the Marrigudem and Rékapalle must be empty now, in spite of my having sent up 1,200 bags already.

3. The explanation given on all hands is that the Koyis and Reddis have no longer any grain in their possession and none is to be bought for love or money as the riverside villagers who alone possess grain will sell none as they still fear that the season will prove a bad one, notwithstanding the very favourable outlook at present. They also allege that the produce of the jungles is exhausted and that the merchants will give no advances this year, though the principal dry crop of the Koyas—gingelly—

is a good one which will be harvested in the course of the next three weeks. They do not trust the Koyas in the first place, and in the next gingelly is so risky a crop that until it is safely harvested it is never out of danger. The condition of the Koyas clearly indicates that there is truth in all these statements; so also does the heavy and not anticipated run upon the grain depôts.

4. In these circumstances I regret that I must apply for more funds. How exactly the accounts stand is not known, but with the enormous increase in the numbers on gratuitous relief—the number has more than trebled since the beginning of the month—it is quite certain that the amount already allotted must be almost exhausted. Under these circumstances I have directly telegraphed to Government to save delay asking for a further allotment of Rs. 12,500. A copy of my telegram is enclosed for your information.

5. I should have sent up more grain than 1,200 bags already but the Public Works Department have hitherto been unable to let me have more than one steamer, and when I asked the Railway Company to let me have a steamer twelve days ago they could not manage it as one of their two was under repair. However, the "John Mullins" has started to-day with 600 bags and the Railway steamer "Kavour" with a barge goes up to-morrow with 1,100 more. This will make things safe and ought to carry us through, though it is difficult to say when the necessity for relief measures will wholly end, as the Koyas have not, I am told, raised dry crops on any large scale except gingelly, which is not eatable. The price however is good and when the crop is harvested, they will be able to buy what they want with the sale-proceeds and gratuitous relief won't be required.

6. I have to-day received Rs. 10,000 from the Charitable Relief Fund for loans to Koya cultivators to enable them to carry on till their crops are harvested. This will be an immense relief and also, I fancy, indirectly reduce the gratuitous relief list. At least I am hoping it will. As the Committee have given the money for grain advances I propose investing the whole amount at once in *grain* at Rajahmundry and debiting the cost of carriage to Government as a fair contribution on its part. This, I trust, Government will approve of. In other words, the Charitable Fund will give me at Rajahmundry so much grain for distribution in the shape of loans to needy Koya cultivators who are not perhaps in need of gratuitous relief, but in a very tight fix and I will distribute it carrying it for the purpose from Rajahmundry to Bhadráchalam at Government expense.

7. As it is necessary that some one should be in the taluk now to supervise operations and contract the grant of gratuitous relief as soon as this can be done, Mr. Phillips proceeds to Bhadráchalam to-morrow in the Railway steamer. It is an operation that will require some care; as we may do serious mischief by being too precipitate and yet it is waste of money to continue operations a day longer than is necessary. I am of opinion we shall have no great reduction before the middle of September, and hoping that the end of the month will see everything closed as the river will then be more practicable, probably for country trading boats, and the Koyas have ample funds from the sale of their gingelly which will then have been harvested, even if their edible dry crops are too limited in amount to support them till the winter crops they mainly depend on for food come in.

Resolution—Mis. No. 7294, dated 7th September 1897.

Submitted to Government with the request that, under the circumstances explained by the Collector, the additional funds asked for in paragraph 4 and the proposal in paragraph 6 of the letter read above may be sanctioned.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Gódávari.

Resolution—Mis. No. 7937, dated 28th September 1897.

Communicated to the Collector of Gódávari.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Gódávari.

Read—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), Mis. No. 7938, dated 28th September 1897 :—

Read—the following G.O., No. 803, Revenue, dated 22nd September 1897 :—

Read—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), Mis. No. 6678, dated 20th August 1897, submitting for the orders of Government letter from the Collector of Gódávari requesting sanction to continue the grain depôts in the Bhadráchalam taluk at Government expense.

Read—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), No. 562, dated 10th August 1897.

Read—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), No. 6706, dated 21st August 1897, submitting to Government for information in continuation of B.P., No. 520-A., dated 24th July 1897, and No. 562, dated 10th August 1897, letter from the Collector of Gódávari submitting the report of the Assistant Collector, Bhadráchalam, about the condition of the Koyis.

Order thereon—No. 803, Revenue, dated 22nd September 1897.

The application for the further grant referred to in paragraph 2 of the second Proceedings read above has already been complied with, and the question as to the best method of relieving jungle tribes referred to in paragraph 5 has been disposed of in G.O., No. 721, dated 26th August 1897.

2. The proposal of the Collector to sell grain at reduced prices is, as pointed out by the Famine Commissioner, opposed to the general policy of the Code and cannot be accepted.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.

Resolution—Mis. No. 7938, dated 28th September 1897.

Recorded.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Gódávari.

Read—also the following Fortnightly Narrative for the affected taluks of the Gódávari district, for the period ending 31st of August 1897 :—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and Water-supply.—

	INCHES.
District average rainfall during the fortnight	6·23
Do. do. since 1st April 1897	22·76
Expected rainfall in the month	7·22
Do. do. up to the month	19·54

The rainfall at the affected centres is as shown below :—

	Rainfall during the fortnight. INCHES.
Bhadráchalam	3·65
Chódavaram	6·08
Yellavaram	9·65
Polavaram	5·66
Rajahmundry	4·86
Chintalapudi	5·57

The rainfall during the fortnight has been very good. The heaviest rainfall, however, occurred outside the affected tract. For instance, 5·75 inches fell at Bhímavaram on the 27th August, 4·85 at Tallapádu on the 28th idem, 4·22 at Prattipadu on the 20th idem, and 4·12 at Peddápuram on the same date. There is an ample supply of water for irrigation and drinking purposes. All the tanks in the affected tracts are full or nearly so, and the recent freshes in the Gódávari, and the heavy general rainfall have placed this district out of all danger, unless the north-east monsoon is as great a failure this year as it was last, which is not likely. Even then, the current year would be a better year, as we are now in a very much better position than we were this time last year.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—In *Bhadráchalam.*—The standing crops, gingelly, paddy, mokkajonna (maize), kondajonna (hill cholam), sama and cumbu are doing very well. Gingelly is almost ripe for harvest. The other food-crops are being harvested. The crops are on the whole fair (16 annas). The crops in the river-side villages are, I can say, from personal observation, excellent, but Mr. Coleridge reports that, in a few of the interior villages, the crops have failed.

In *Polavaram*, the crops are good. "Cumbu" has been spoilt in a small area in a few river-side villages by submersion from floods. Further sowings of castor and cholam are going on, as also, transplantation of paddy in places.

In *Chódavaram and Yellavaram*, the condition of the crops continues to be very favourable. Sama, korra, ganti and gingelly have been harvested in many villages, doing away with the necessity for further relief. The outturn of the first three crops is from 16 to 20 annas, and of the last from 12 to 16 annas. Some of the earlier sown gingelly failed altogether, but there is a very fair crop remaining.

In *Chintalapudi division*, the dry crops, gingelly, maize, ganti, sama, korra are thriving well. Transplantation of paddy is in full swing. Gingelly, korra and sama are already coming to harvest.

In *Rajahmundry taluk* (*Kottapalli Range*), things must be going on very well, though I have not yet received the fortnightly narrative of the Deputy Collector in charge of the sub-division. The rains here, as elsewhere, were very copious and opportune. The ryots were not slow in taking advantage of them, and the result must, of course, be beneficial.

Supply of fodder and pasture, and condition of cattle.—Fodder is everywhere scanty, but pasture sufficient. Here and there, cattle still look very thin, but their condition has vastly improved on the whole, and no anxiety need be felt any longer.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—Standing crops are thriving well everywhere. Transplantation of wet paddy was in full swing during the fortnight. Korra and sama, the principal food stuffs of the mass of the country population at this season, are being harvested, and cumbu and other dry crops will be harvested in a week or two. The condition of cattle is good, pasture is available though fodder is scarce. Water supply for drinking and agricultural purposes is ample. Seeing that the prospects of the season are excellent, all famine works—relief-test, or intermediate—have been ordered to be closed. Gratuitous relief has also been ordered to be discontinued from the 10th instant everywhere (except in Polavaram and Bhadráchalam), where this had not been done already. In Chódavaram, the numbers on gratuitous relief never exceeded twenty, and in all, seven putties of grain were sold at favourable rates (16 seers per rupee). Relief was stopped there on the 22nd August. The

number gratuitously relieved in Yellavaram is below ten, and in Chintalapudi about 111. In Polavaram, gratuitous relief was given, and also loans for subsistence to needy cultivators from Charitable Relief Funds. The former method of relief has been ordered to be stopped from the 15th instant. There is cause for anxiety only in the case of Bhadráchalam (interior villages). The condition of the people is not very good, and the sowcars are still withholding advances, with prices standing at high rates. Now that the harvest for dry crops has commenced, I expect a favourable turn of things shortly. I have sent up grain in sufficient quantity, and Mr. Phillips has gone there to closely examine the situation himself. Indeed, my latest information is that there is considerable improvement in the situation.

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 31st August 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		Cholam.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
Bhadráchalam	7	7·7	10	11·4	..	..	There is no appreciable fall in prices, though in Bhadráchalam and some other places they show a tendency to fall. When a fall in prices occurs, there should be no further cause for anxiety.
Kochavaram	8	7·5	12	11	..	..	
Waddigudem	8	7·5	12	11	..	..	
Polavaram	8	8	11	11·5	..	11·8	
Jangareddigudem	8	8	11	11	..	..	
Buttayagudem	8	8	11	11	..	..	
Kannapuram	..	..	..	11	..	..	
Addatigela	8	8	12	..	12	12	
Jaddangi	8	8	12	..	12	12	
Chódavaram	8	8·5	12	11·5	12	11·8	
Devipatnam	8	8	13	13	12	12	
Chintalapudi	..	7	..	10·6	..	10·9	
Rajahmundry	..	8·5	..	12·7	..	10·6	

Activity of trade.—Except in Rajahmundry and in Ellore, private trade is dull. Owing to the favourable character of the season, traders naturally fear to make extensive purchases, lest there should be a sudden fall in prices next day. In the case of Bhadráchalam, coupled with this fear, there is also much difficulty and risk of long delay in communication by river. Hence the necessity for the efforts of the Famine Fund Committee and of Government to keep a sufficient supply of grain in the taluk, and replenish it from time to time for a few weeks more.

Condition of the People.

On works.—Nil, all the test relief works opened in the district having been ordered to be closed by the middle of August. The poor house in Cocanada has also been closed on the 5th instant. The intermediate work started in Chintalapudi has also been ordered to be closed. There were 150 workers working on it on the 25th August 1897. Their condition was as good as could be desired. I think it is more the dread of continued famine than present distress, that drove the few people that attended to the works.

In villages.—The condition of the people in Chódavaram and Yellavaram is reported to be good, and in Polavaram fair. In the interior villages of Bhadráchalam, the condition of the people is anything but satisfactory. The sight of about 1,500 Koyi recipients of gratuitous relief mustered by Mr. Coleridge, when myself and Honourable Mr. Crole, President of the Charitable Relief Fund, were there on the 26th ultimo, induced the latter to sanction at once an allotment of Rs. 10,000 for further relief, and me to apply for an allotment of Rs. 12,500 to enable me to send up more grain to the taluk, where it appeared it was badly wanted. In the river-side villages, no deterioration of health either in adults or children, I am happy to say, was found. The children were particularly fat and flourishing.

In the affected villages of Rajahmundry taluk and Chintalapudi division, the condition of the people is normal.

Sickness and Mortality.—Cholera is still prevalent in Polavaram, and has broken out afresh in the river-side villages of Chodavaram division, and in five villages of Chintalapudi division. No figures have been reported, but it seems that in the said five villages of Chintalapudi, there were 101 attacks and 41 deaths. It is probable, the disease is not cholera but "choleraic diarrhœa", brought on by the excessive consumption of forest roots and vegetables. Proper sanitary measures are being taken. Fever and dysentery are, as usual, prevalent in Chodavaram and Yellavaram. There were no deaths from starvation. Whatever emaciation there is, is due more to sickness than starvation.

Measures of Relief.

Works—In what taluks open and comparison of numbers—

Taluks.	Number employed	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Rajahmundry—		
Kottapalli	300	None
Kapavaram	150	„
Cocanada division—		
Cocanada	81	„

Gratuitous relief—Numbers relived 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.
Bhadráchalam	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,956	4,948
Chodavaram	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Yellavaram	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	6
Polavaram	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	78
Chintalapudi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	143
Rajahmundry	..	..	..	..	..	59	..	684
Cocanada	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Taluks.	Number of villages in which relief was given.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Bhadráchalam	211	288
Chodavaram	...	12
Yellavaram	7	6
Polavaram	Not reported.	
Chintalapudi	...	8
Rajahmundry	...	8

Private charity.—Grain depôts are still maintained in Bhadráchalam. A further allotment of Rs. 10,000 has just been sanctioned by the committee on the representation of its President, Honourable Mr. Crole, for grain advances to Koyis of Bhadráchalam taluk. A sum of Rs. 3,000 has been spent by the committee for relief to Koyi cultivators, for purchase of seed grain.

General remarks.—I have nothing to say here, except that prospects everywhere are now most excellent throughout the district, and that there is no longer any serious distress anywhere, except in Bhadráchalam. Here too, the situation appears to be very rapidly improving, and the numbers on gratuitons relief which were very large at the end of August will, I am certain, be found to have diminished greatly by this date.

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

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.								Other purposes for relief of distress.								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. A. P.		Rs. A. P.				Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.				Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.				
		113 9 1		113 9 1				113 9 1		113 9 1				113 9 1		113 9 1				
Polavaram division	..	..	..	..	..	..	90	..	90	..	..	..	90	..	90	..	..	..	..	..

Taluks.	Cattle and seed-grain.								Purchase of fodder.								Total.							
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.					
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.				
1	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	..	..				
														Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.								
														113 9 1		113 9 1								
Polavaram division	..	..	..	..	..	..	90	..	90	..	..	..	90	..	90	..	..	..	..	..				

Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and places visited.

By the Special Assistant Agent.—Ramacherlagudem, Jangareddigudem, Gollagudem and Koyyalagudem in Polavaram division.

By the Deputy Collector in charge of Sub-division.—Not reported.

By the Deputy Collector, Ellore.—None. He was laid up at Nidadavólu for treatment for dropsy to which at last he succumbed.

By myself.—Kunavaram, Bhadráchalam, and back to Rajahmundry by steamer.

Read—also the following letter from V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Gódávari, to the Famine Commissioner, Dis. No. 3345-Ver., dated Cocanada, 27th September 1897:—

In reference to paragraph 4 of B.P., No. 616, dated 13th September 1897, I have the honour to state that up to 21st August Government funds were advanced for the purchase of grain retailed at the grain depôts and the loss by resale recouped out of the Charitable Fund allotment of Rs. 5,000 for the purpose, but since that date the whole of the said allotment having been spent and the Committee having declined to make further allotment on the score of want of funds, the depôts have in consequence been run solely at Government expense. This course is, I am aware, entirely opposed to the provisions of the Famine Code; but anticipating that things might come to this pass, I applied in my Ref. on F. Cur. No. 1-Ver., dated 4th August 1897, for sanction to continue the grain depôts at Government expense and have not received any orders yet. I trust therefore that my action under the circumstances will be approved. From the latest reports to hand, I observe that the sales at these depôts have fallen greatly lately, since sama and cumbu have come into the market at cheaper rates and I am certain that grain depôts and gratuitous relief will not be required much longer. I have accordingly ordered the closure thereof by the 10th proximo.

Resolution—No. 656, dated 8th October 1897.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The prospects are reported to be very favourable, and all relief—except gratuitous relief in Polavaram and Bhadráchalam—is being closed.

3. The proposal to buy grain at Rajahmundry with the Famine Fund grant, and to import it into Bhadráchalam at Government cost, has been approved in G.O., Mis. No. 4951, Revenue, dated 20th September 1897. The Collector has been empowered in G.O., Mis. No. 4947, Revenue, dated 20th September 1897, to import grain into Bhadráchalam on Government account for sale at cost price to recipients of loans, if the local markets should prove unable to meet the demand. The proposal to buy grain at Government cost, and then sell it at reduced prices has been negatived in G.O., No. 803, Revenue, dated 22nd September 1897.

4. The approval of Government is solicited to the action of the Collector in continuing to maintain depôts in Bhadráchalam at Government expense, pending orders on his references on the point.

5. The Collector is somewhat over-sanguine in his estimate of the crops in Bhadráchalam. They have suffered from excessive rains and are nearer 12 to 8 annas than to 16. It is anticipated that the numbers on gratuitous relief in this tract will fall immediately. Mr. Ward was of opinion that additional relief would be necessary, when the Chintur range in the interior was inspected. The big crop will not come in before January, and the small crops which will fall in meanwhile will not last long. Roots will not, he thinks, be available before December, and bamboo tips are not available on the Dummagudem and Bhadráchalam sides. The Collector should consider whether it would not be advisable to put the Deputy Tahsildar, Appu Rao, on

distribution in Marigudem. The Bhadráchalam Tahsildar is physically unequal to out-door work.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Read—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 658, dated 12th October 1897:—

W. J. H. LeFanu, Esq.
(Famine Commissioner.)

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Special Assistant Agent's Division, Gódávari district, for the period ending 15th September 1897 based on the information received up to the 10th instant:—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and Water-supply.—

	Rainfall during the period.	Expected rainfall.
	INCHES.	INCHES.
Bhadráchalam taluk	3·27 *	6·15
Polavaram division—Statistics not given.		
Chodavaram division—Information not received.		
Yellavaram do.	8·96	2·38

* On 26th, 28th August, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 8th and 9th September.

Rainfall has been ample. The supply of water in all parts of the division is sufficient for irrigation and drinking purposes. Some of the first sown sama, korra, and mokkajonna are being harvested in many villages. Their outturn may be estimated to be 16 annas. Heavy rains have been damaging flowers of cumbu crop which is ready for harvest in Yellavaram division.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—In Bhadráchalam, ploughing for further crops of monjonna, &c., is going on; planting chilli plants, and watching mokkajonna and chama fields. The standing crops gingelly, paddy, hill cholam, mokkajonna, chama, &c., are in good condition.

In Polavaram, cholam and castor-oil seeds have been sown in some villages, and lands are being ploughed up, and prepared for sowing. Gingelly has yielded well in the hill villages. It has been reaped in some villages, and is being reaped in others. It is a complete failure in the villages in this division immediately adjoining the Yernagudem taluk. Cumbu has yielded well, but has sprouted here and there, owing to incessant rainfall when the crop was standing. It is being reaped. Maize, pala-chama and korra have borne ears in hill villages, and are expected to be harvested within a period ranging from a week to a fortnight. Nalla chama and hill cholam, and wet paddy plants are thriving.

In Yellavaram, the transplantation of wet paddy has been finished. Ragi is still being transplanted. Maize, chama, black paddy, ganti, cholam, ragi, and wet paddy are good. In some villages, ryots are tilling lands for sowing grains. Ragi and cholam are being damaged by heavy rains. Korra has been already cut. Chama has been for the most part reaped. Both are being used for consumption by the people. They yielded between 16 and 18 annas.

Supply of fodder and pasture, and condition of cattle.—The abundant supply of pasture in all parts of the division removes the necessity for fodder of which there is no supply whatever. The condition of cattle is reported to be good, and no cattle diseases reported.

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 of September 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		Cholam.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	
Bhadráchalam	7½	7½	11	11	..	..	Rice falling in Kunavaram, Addatigela and Jaddangi. Cholam rising in Polavaram, Kunavaram, Waddigudem. The rise in the price of cholam at Kunavaram is due to the grain depôts, in consequence of which merchants do not import. Korra and sama are being sold in some villages at 20 seers a rupee.
Kunavaram	7½	8	11	10	..	..	
Waddigudem	7½	7	11	10	..	..	
Polavaram	..	7	12	10	..	10	
Addatigela	8	8¼	..	..	12	12	
Jaddangi	8	8¼	..	..	12	12	

Activity of trade.—Private trade is moderate both in rice and dry staple food-grains. Sufficient quantity of rice and cholam is being imported into the division from Rajahmundry.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On works.—There are no relief works in the division.

In villages.—The old, the infirm and the destitute poor are being given gratuitous relief. Some of the Koyas in the interior are using veduru, dumpalu and gurugu-kura in addition to the grain obtained in the depôts. In Polavaram, the hill men and others are all busily engaged in cultivating their fields and podus, and have been keeping up their normal health. In Yellavaram, the hill people have given up eating roots and vegetables, and they are living upon korra and chama. Some people in rented villages are still cutting wood in jungles, and taking it for sale to plain villages.

Sickness and mortality.—Cholera has broken out in the Yellavaram division. Seventeen, out of twenty-six cases, proved fatal. Fever and dysentery are, as usual, prevalent in Chódavaram and Yellavaram divisions. No deaths from starvation.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

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

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

Taluks.	Number relieved							
	At kitchens.				In poor-houses.		In villages.	
	Dependants.		Others.					
	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.
Bhadráchalam	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,001	2,073
Polavaram	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Figures not reported.
Chódavaram	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	*Nil.*
Yellavaram *	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	*Nil.*

* This week gratuitous relief was discontinued under the Collector's orders.

Taluks.	Number of villages in which relief was given.		Weavers' relief.			
			Number of persons relieved.		Number of cloths manufactured.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	In the period.	Up to date.
Bhadráchalam	210	192	..	..	..	..

Private charity.—The Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committee have allotted Rs. 10,000 to be spent on grain advances to needy Koya and Reddi cultivators. The grain is now being distributed, from 30 to 60 measures being given to each household. This will support the recipients until the crops are harvested.

General Remarks.

In Chódavaram and Yellavaram divisions, all chance of famine is at an end, and all relief measures have been stopped. The new Deputy Tahsildar at Polavaram has submitted a very inadequate report, and as the Special Assistant Agent has not been in that division since August 20th, it is impossible to give much information. Gratuitous relief has been given, and loans of food-grain and seed-grain. As the crops are now reported to be coming in, it is presumed that very little further relief will be required. The crops in this division are rather late, and gratuitous relief will, probably, have to be continued until the beginning of October.

The situation in Bhadráchalam is much improved. Grain, *i.e.*, korra and sama, is being sold in small quantity in Bhadráchalam at 20 seers a rupee, and I believe in other riverside villages also. The result is that the sales at the grain depôts have fallen enormously.

The numbers on gratuitous relief have decreased considerably, and everybody appears more hopeful. The distribution of the grain supplied from the Famine Fund will be most beneficial, and will result in reducing the numbers on gratuitous relief to a minimum; for it will remove from the lists people who ought really to be working, but who will not work. The Panchamas appear to be able to find work. At Dumagudem, the coolies refused to carry camp kit, a 7-mile march, as they could do better by unloading grain bags at Dumagudem. Coolies also refused to come in from Anjipaka and Neelagapadu (near Dumagudem) owing to the celebration of their harvest festival. These facts certainly tend to show that the condition of these people is improving.

Inspections of the District officers.

Taluks and Places visited.

Kunavaram, Ratsagompalli, Bhadráchalam, Gangolu, Dumagudem, Yetapaka and Pallum.

Statement of loans.

	Allotment.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	
Polavaram division	1,000	886 kunchams cholam.
		93 „ paddy.
		145 „ ragi.

Gratuitous Relief.

	Rs.	
Polavaram division	500	170 kunchams cholam.
		4 „ paddy.
		43 „ ragi.

Endorsement by V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Gódávari, Dis. No. 3317-Ver., dated Cocanada, 27th September 1897.

Forwarded. There is no distress now anywhere, except in Bhadráchalam, and the pressure there appears to be diminishing, although we cannot expect to wholly discontinue relief until the middle of October. By the end of this month, I hope the numbers on relief will have fallen by two-thirds, and the other third will not require help for more than ten days or a fortnight more, until their dry crops have been harvested.

Resolution—No. 658, dated 12th October 1897.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. Mr. Brodie is oversanguine as to the date on which relief will close in Bhadráchalam. The condition of the people at Dummagudem is still bad, and, owing to Mr. Coleridge's illness, relief had not reached the Chintur range, which runs into the interior from Kunavaram. Here Mr. Ward anticipated an increase in numbers on relief for a time, and no one knows the country so well as Mr. Ward, for Mr. Cain's knowledge is confined to a comparatively narrow range. The *Soorki* fruit was exhausted, and then the people eked out subsistence on the leaves of a creeper called *Bothi* and of the *Godalichettu*, after which they got some field herbs, and, in villages near the hills, the bastard sago helped them. Recently, the more eastern villages have depended on tender bamboo shoots, but these are not available on the Dummagudem side. Sama and Korra fall in early in October, but will not last much over the month, and it is only in some villages that a rice crop will be obtained, which will help the people over November and December. The lasting change will not come till the big cholam crop is reaped in January. It would be possible to close all relief by the end of November, if Government would sanction the disbursement of a fortnight's dole in advance on that date to the persons then on gratuitous relief. The Collector will be asked to report definitely on this point, after consulting Messrs. Ward and Woodhouse.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 906, Revenue, dated 2nd November 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The Collector's action in continuing grain sales in Bhadráchalam at Government expense is approved, but the Government observes that the Famine Commissioner's Proceedings, No. 562, dated 10th August 1897, in paragraph 5 of which he expresses his disapproval of such sales at Government expense as being opposed to the general policy of the Famine Code, must have been received by the Collector about the time the Famine Committee's allotment was exhausted. The Collector should have discontinued depôt sales on receipt of these proceedings.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. T. K. Narayana Aiyangar.

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