

Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 927 W

DATED 2 April 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Zaunee, Pros: Revenue Dept recording
Board's Pros: Submitting the fortnightly
- narrative of the Vizagapatam R.R. for period
ending 15th February 1897, count to S.E. & Cash

[P.W. 25.
5,000-50-11-96.]

Indexed.

5/4/97

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 26th February 1897, No. 167:—

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

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply.—No rain. Water for cultivation nil, except by baling from temporary wells and from a few river channels in Palkonda.

Water for drinking is the most pressing difficulty just now. The Local Boards are doing all in their power. There have been a few trifling drops of rain in the last two days at a few places, and it looks like showers in the tracts nearest the hills. Without rain the difficulty will become most serious.

Agricultural operations and condition of standing crops.—A little gingelly has been sown in the Senior Assistant's Division. Much would be sown if the showers expected about now were to fall. Elsewhere ragi under wells and garden crops and the remains of the sugar-cane crop represent the whole of the standing crops, which are doing fairly well where there is water enough.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Fodder is getting dearer, and pasture is, in most places, almost unobtainable. Nevertheless, the condition of cattle is reported fair to good. Cattle disease seems to be subsiding. Valuable cattle are, without exception, in good condition. All the bullocks and buffaloes employed on the Jeypore trade are in good condition.

FOOD SUPPLIES AND THE STATE OF THE MARKETS.

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

Stations.	Rice.		Ragi.		Cumbu.		Remarks.
	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	
1. Párvatipuram ..	10-86	10-86	18-36	18-00	18-20	17-50	There is a smart rise in rice at Sálur for which there seems little reason as the Jeypore trade is still vigorous and paddy is no dearer than it was above gháts. Ragi has risen 1 seer at the same place and a similar amount at Palkonda and Anakápallo and Yellamanchilli. There is less trade in this grain than in rice.
2. Sálur ..	11-07	9-84	17-28	16-20	17-50	15-75	
3. Palkonda ..	9-60	9-60	17-17	16-16	17-50	15-75	
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11. Narasapatnam ..	10-34	9-87	18-48	18-48	17-82	17-82	
Average ..	9-85	9-65	17-30	16-92	17-51	17-16	

Activity of trade.—Trade is on the whole active.

Imports, by rail 20,409 maunds; by sea 3,298 maunds and by road from Jeypore, 6,012 cart-loads for the fortnight ending 13th February 1897.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

(1) *On works.*—All Divisional Officers report the condition of labourers on ordinary works to be good.

(2) *In villages.*—In villages the population is reported in good condition. The Principal Assistant Collector says there is some slight demand for employment in the southern portion of Palkonda taluk, but the Public Works Department will probably be able to afford employment on ordinary work here. The demand is not so keen as to accept employment at famine rates.

Sickness and mortality.—There is a little cholera and small-pox but not as much as might perhaps have been expected.

Remarks.—My information is entirely obtained from Divisional Officers.

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Water for cultivation only by baling from wells. Drinking-water very scarce in parts. Every endeavour being made to improve supply which has been much benefited by recent showers in some parts; the latter were much heavier in many places than the amounts registered at reporting stations indicate. Sown indigo and gingelly in three taluks, green-gram in two, transplanted sugarcane in two taluks, ragi in one; wet crops only sugarcane under wells; dry crops withered except under wells where they are doing fairly. Harvested sugarcane in eight taluks, outturn middling; tobacco and chillies in two and ragi in one, outturn in all poor. Pasture very scarce, but will now improve in many places. Fodder very dear but procurable. Cattle not visibly suffering. Prospects bad. Cholera prevailing five taluks; 79 attacks 38 deaths. The working classes reported by all Divisional Officers to be doing fairly well. Demand for employment in Kodisa firka does not amount to a demand for famine labour and can be met by ordinary means. Food-grains imported by sea 797 maunds, exported 234 maunds, imported from Jeypore 2,772 carts, also considerable local import from Gódávri by road. Exported by rail 130 maunds, imported 19,946 maunds. Emigrants to Burma 264, Natal 39.

Submitted for the information of Government.

3. Prices, notwithstanding considerable imports, show an upward tendency; the rates for February 6th and 20th having been as follows:—

The people, however, notwithstanding high prices, do not appear to be in need of relief; and such casual paupers as exist are being relieved by private charity. Prices of the staple grains are still considerably lower than in Ganjám, and, judging from experience there, they can still rise by two seers before serious anxiety need be felt, and meanwhile the situation is being carefully watched.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

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

6

No. 171, REVENUE, 15TH MARCH 1897.

ORDER—No. 171, Revenue, dated 15th March 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

G. Mohan.

Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture).
„ the Local and Municipal Department.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Accountant-General.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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Public Works Department
Government {1897} of Madras.
REVENUE.

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Enclosures

1897.

Regd.

Spare copies

G.O., No. 171, 15th March 1897.

Order thereon No 927 of 2.4.97

Communicated to the

Supty. Engr. I Circle.

MARCH.

(True extract)

sdg Dmc.

To
The Supty. Engr. I Circle.

Season.

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