

Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 928 W

DATED 2 April 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Lamine: Pros: Revenue Dept recording the
for night ~~year~~ - narrative of the Kurnool
for the period ending 15th February 1897, recorded
with reference to No 1440C of 12.3.97

Current Number: 3224

Recd. 30. 3 } 1897.
Regd. 30. 3 }

Spare copies 10

G.O., No. 182, 18th March 1897.

MARCH.

Record of
with reference to

1440 C 07 12-3-97

1/4/89

Famine.

Recording the fortnightly narrative of the Kurnool district for the period ending 15th February 1897.

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. 168 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Kurnool district during the period ending 15th of February 1897, Tour Dis. No. 303-Eng. :—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply—

	INCHES.
Rainfall in rain-registering stations	0.1
Do. up to the period from 1st April 1896	15.73
Average rainfall expected in the period	...
Do. do. up to the period from 1st April 1896	27.25

There was .15 of an inch of rain at Allagadda and a slight drizzle in the hill villages to the east of Pyápalí and in the villages to the south of Owk.

Water-supply was generally sufficient for drinking purposes, though diminishing in parts of the western, northern and southern sections, and was insufficient for irrigation purposes, except in canal villages and under wells. All the tanks, except those in the eastern section, were dry.

Agricultural operations and condition of standing crops.—Harvest operations still continued in different parts of the district, but, except in the eastern section, were coming to a close towards the end of the fortnight. The yield of the various crops harvested and the condition of the standing crops were as stated in the last report. The late crops sown after the rain of November are, for the most part, either totally lost or rapidly fading.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture was sufficient in the eastern section. It was available to some extent throughout the district in the vicinity of the hills and canal villages, but not elsewhere.

Fodder was sufficient in the northern and eastern sections but running short in the other sections. Hill grass continued to be used extensively.

Condition of cattle was fair, except in the affected parts of Pattikonda taluk and in the Owk division of Koilkuntla taluk. Rinderpest was slightly prevalent in parts of the taluks lying to the west of the Nallamalas.

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 February 1897 :—

Stations.	Rice.		Ragi.		Cholum.				Cumbu.	
					White.		Yellow.			
	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.
Pattikonda	9.72	9.72	..	..	12.87	12.87	14.42	14.42	12.22	12.22
Pyápalí	8.64	8.64	..	..	..	..	13.39	13.39	11.28	11.28
Kurnool	8.58	8.58	14.19	14.19	14.38	14.38	14.04	14.38	11.87	11.87
Nandikotkur	9.29	9.29	..	..	16.44	15.07	16.44	15.07	..	..
Atmakúr	10.01	10.01	..	..	17.12	15.75	17.12	15.75	..	..
Nandyál	10.01	10.01	16.77	17.41	16.09	14.38	15.41	14.04	12.50	12.50
Kalwa	8.58	8.58	..	..	16.44	15.07	17.81	15.07	..	..
Koilkuntla	9.96	9.96	16.50	15.00	14.22	14.22	14.22	12.64	13.05	13.05
Owk	9.96	9.96	15.00	15.00	13.83	13.43	13.43	13.03	11.60	11.60
Allagadda	8.93	8.58	16.77	15.15	15.07	12.33	13.70	12.33	..	..
Giddalore	8.71	8.71	15.00	15.00	..	..	15.41	15.80	14.50	13.05
Markapur	10.79	9.96	19.50	18.00	..	..	..	..	14.50	14.50
Average	9.43	9.40	16.25	15.76	15.16	14.39	15.03	14.41	12.69	12.63

Remarks—Rice.—Prices are stationary at all stations except Allagadda and Markapur. *Cholum.*—Prices are rising at almost all stations. *Cumbu.*—Prices are stationary except at Giddalore where rising. *Ragi.*—Prices are rising at Koilkuntla, Allagadda and Markapur and falling in Nandyál.

Activity of trade.—Trade was moderately active and grain was freely sold in the markets. Large quantities of cholum came into Kurnool town from the Nandikotkur taluk and were exported to the affected parts of the Bellary district. Certain merchants of Nandyál and Koilkuntla have been purchasing cholum in the same taluk for export to places outside the district.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

(1) *On works.*—The coolies engaged on the three relief works in the Pattikonda taluk, all of which were inspected by me, were in fairly good health. On the Kodumur work, a few found to be in an anæmic condition were being treated by the local Medical officer. The Head Assistant Collector considers the state of the workers in his division to be on the whole satisfactory. Two or three cases of small-pox were reported from Owk, but the disease does not appear to be spreading among the coolies.

The revision of the Code standard tasks for earth-work should, as the Executive Engineer has been informed, be attended to with the least possible delay. I saw many able-bodied workers near Hosúr engaged in cutting side-drains in stony gravel, who, though stated by the Overseer in charge to be in no way lazy, were unable to turn out the C class task; these people were being paid the minimum wage, on which they certainly cannot be expected to keep up their strength for long.

(2) *In villages.*—The condition of the people in the northern and eastern sections and in the Ramallakota taluk of the western section of the district is reported to be good for the present.

For eleven days out of the fortnight I was on tour in the affected villages of the Pattikonda taluk of the western section. At Kodumur, I found about 1,100 persons attending the relief work; they had been doing no more than the C class task, but I had the B class task marked out for them and understand that most of the gangs have been turning out that task ever since. From Kodumur I proceeded to the extreme north of the taluk, and thence southwards through Peda Maravidi and Peraikal to Pattikonda crossing the main roads to Bellary and Adóni at Bellikal and Devanabanda, respectively. Maddikera was visited at the end of the fortnight. In the villages lying between Kodumur and Bellagal there had been good crops of cholum on the patches of the red-soil scattered here and there; several labourers were away from home earning wages in harvest operations in the Nandikotkur taluk, while the poorest were attending or about to attend the relief work at Kodumur. At Bellagal, the reddy, a well-to-do man, had given employment to many coolies in the removal of *nuth* grass from his lands and, though the work was stated to be almost finished, the coolies professed their unwillingness to do any labour outside their village for some time to come. The people of Kambadakal, Alavala, Peda Maravidi and Ganjehal having no work and being in a very poor condition, I considered that metal breaking and stacking should be commenced near Gonedandla on the track which will, I hope, ultimately be the Kodumur-Yemiganur road, and requested the Executive Engineer to have quarries marked out and a test work opened at a very early date. The Superintendent Engineer has addressed the Collector of Bellary suggesting that the portion of the road that lies within his district should also be taken up as a relief work. In Thernikal and the neighbourhood there is a fair amount of cultivation going on under wells sunk alongside the bank of the Hendri river. At Bailuppala, Agraharam, Karamanchi and Badamanur, where there are considerable tracts of red-soil, cholum had yielded moderately, as shown by the heaps of fodder surrounding the villages. Bellekal was but scarcely at all affected, and at Devanabanda and in its vicinity rich ryots were getting *nuth* grass removed, and thus affording relief to the poorer classes. The Deputy Collector is being asked to examine the villages lying between Thernikal and the Bellary frontier on the one side and between that place and Devanabanda on the other side before the close of the month in view to ascertain whether it is necessary to offer work in those parts; there was in my opinion no immediate necessity for doing so at the time of my inspection. The work at Hosúr, which was

opened just before the beginning of the fortnight, was attracting over 900 labourers daily from Peda Hulti, Chinna Hulti, Puchakayalamada, Hosur and Pattikonda and its hamlets. There is undoubtedly a good deal of distress in those parts, and if only the standard task for earth-work be revised so as to enable workers to earn with due diligence at that form of labour the fair wage that is already being earned at breaking and stacking metal, the numbers attending the work will, I believe, largely increase. The work at Maddikera was attracting over 1,000 labourers daily and seemed to be properly conducted.

The amount applied for in this taluk in the shape of Government loan is very large, and will, when disbursed, lead to the employment of many who are in want of work, in digging wells and removing *nuth* grass. Some Rs. 2,500 were paid to applicants during my stay at the Taluk head-quarters and now that the Revenue Inspector specially sanctioned for loans work has joined his appointment, the Tahsildar promises to proceed vigorously with this branch of his duties.

I made particular enquiries in the different villages I passed through as to the need for giving gratuitous relief. It was only at one place, viz., Pedda Maravadi, that it was said to be needed by about a dozen aged and afflicted persons who were pointed out to me; these may be received into the kitchen to be attached to the new work near Gonegundla and meanwhile the reddy and some other ryots were arranging that they should not starve.

The Deputy Collector, Pyapali, visited Guddipad, Jakkasamikuntla and other places to the south-east of the Pattikonda taluk and found distress to prevail to a small extent. The Public Works Department has been asked to prepare an estimate for repairing the tank at Gudipad, and labourers at Jakkasamikuntla and other hill villages were invited to resort to a relief work that has lately been opened a few miles off at Yadiki in the Anantapur district.

The Head Assistant Collector reports the condition of the people in the villages of his division to be generally good, though, owing to the approaching cessation of agricultural operations, the demand for relief work is likely to increase within a short time. The District Forest-Officer was requested to open forest works at Gazulapalli and Rudravaram, as there was reported to be some distress in the villages lying at the foot of the Nallamalas. Road works were ordered to be opened near Chennur on the Rampur pass road and near Alamur on the Alamur-Rudravaram road. The Head Assistant Collector was asked to take steps to re-open work on the Chagalmari-Mutyapad road, the Tahsildar having reported the people thereabouts to be in need of relief. During the fortnight, work was started at both ends of the Kalava-Betamcherla road and near Paniem on the Chittoor road, but no formal reports of the opening have as yet been received. On the Koilkuntla-Allagada road, there was no application for labour at Koilkuntla, and but comparatively few coolies came to work at Allagada in spite of the fact of those that did come being treated, as the Tahsildar says, with every consideration. I am about to start for the Nandyal division and hope to be able in my next narrative to give some account based on personal observation of how matters stand. I regret that B.P., dated 2nd February 1897, Mis. No. 768, in which I was advised to proceed to the Sirvel taluk as soon as possible did not reach me till I had got as far as Bellagal and had made all arrangements for a tour in the Pattikonda taluk.

Relief for weavers.—Proposals for offering relief to weavers in the Pattikonda taluk were submitted to the Board for orders just after the close of the fortnight, and meanwhile relief in accordance therewith is being offered in anticipation of sanction, as suggested by the Board. A full report as to the modifications to be made in the scheme sanctioned for the relief of the weavers of Kurnool town is daily expected from the Assistant Collector.

Jail population.—The information required in B.P., dated 21st January 1897, Mis. No. 435, has been received from only seven out of the thirteen sub-jails of the district. The fluctuations in the jail population are not reported to be due to any special causes except in Sirvel, where the increase of one over the average for the past three years is said to be due to the present distress.

Sickness and Mortality.—No deaths were reported from want of food. Public health was generally good except that small-pox was slightly prevalent in a few villages of Ramallakota and Koilkuntla taluks. Cholera appeared in a village of Kalava division and three deaths occurred.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

1. *On works.*—In what taluks open, and comparison of numbers.

Taluk.	Number employed.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Nandyal	35	355
Sirvel	1,282	2,066
Koilkuntla	2,303	3,403
Pattikonda	3,620	6,371
Total	7,240	12,195

2. *Gratuitous Relief.*—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise.

Taluk.	Numbers relieved at kitchens.	
	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.
Sirvel	16	80
Koilkuntla	131	183
Pattikonda	228	263
Total	375	526

INSPECTIONS—TALUKS AND PLACES VISITED.

I was on tour from 4th up to the end of the fortnight and visited the following places:—Kodumur, Varukur, Vemugodu, Thippanur, Bodepau, Lingamdinne, Pulukurti, Burandoddi, Bellagal, Kambadahal, Alavala, Pedda Marivadi, Ganjahal, Thernikal, Bailoopala, Agraharam, Karamanchi, Badamanur, fields of Potlapaud, Khairuppala, Bellekal, fields of Juttur, Devanabanda, Chinna Hulti, Pattikonda, Hosur, Puchakayalamada and Maddikera.

The Kurnool Division Deputy Collector visited the following villages:—

Pattikonda taluk.—Pattikonda.—Yenigamarri, Pyapali, Kalachatla, Hanumantharayanipalli, Gudipad, Payasam, Rungareddypalli, Jakkasamikuntla, Rajulapalli, Mamillapalli, Ramapuram, Rungapuram, Nallamakapalli, Valmeekapuram, Peddapaya, Chandrapalli, Hussainpuram, Chelianagattu, Kommarriarri, Gutlapalli, Naraducharla, Burugala, Konlapalli, Vankamettupalli, Racherla, Munumadagu, Allabad, Garladinne, Ramapuram, Nillulerri, Rungapuram, Vengalampalli, Jonnagiri, Nallahalli, and Upperalpalli.

Ramallakota taluk.—Julakallu, Mallapuram, Pyalakurthi, Kondapuram, Palakallu, Amadaguntla, Narlapuram, Jogarachedu, Tallagokulapad, Chetlamallapuram, and Malkapuram.

The Head Assistant Collector inspected the following villages all lying in the Koilkuntla taluk:—

Chintakunta, Amadalla, Sowderdinne, Koilkuntla, Bhimmipad, Kolladarah, Velagatur, Vemalapaud, Annavaram, Gullasingakaram, Nichanametla, Gokuladinne, Ramavaram, Mungumpet (hill village) Raghavarajapuram, Konapuram, Mellapalli, Owk, Singanapalli, Sangapatnam, Chennanpalli, Siwaram, Cherlapalli, Ramapuram, Isanagundla, Ittikala, Kalwatala, Nandipaud, Rayala Tadpatri, Uppalore, Hanumanthagudam, Yerragudi, Timmanayunipeta, Perusomula and Kotapaud.

The Head-quarter Deputy Collector of Nandikotkur inspected the following villages:—

Gadithamadugu, Allur, Voddamam, Tangadancha, Kambalapalli, Atmakur, Velgode, Boyarevula, Siddaipalli, Pinnapuram, Kristnapuram, Ramapuram, Kurakunda, Guvalakuntla, Veerapuram, Nandikunta, Bavapuram and Kothapalli.

The Deputy Collector of Cumbum division inspected the following villages:—

Cumbum taluk.—Doddavada, Tudicherla, Hussamapuram, Penchikalapad, Mokshagundam, Setticherla, Papayyapalli, Somavarpeta and Chutthalapalayam.

Markapur taluk.—Idupur, Darimadugu, Tangrallapalli, Mallakaram, Kesinani-palli, Dhupad, Denipalli, Attampalli, Rajupalayam, Tiripuranthakam and Chinthala-palli.

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

Taluka.	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		6		8		10		12		14		16		18		20	21
Pattikonda	15	rs. 2,845	15	rs. 1,440	81	rs. 26,190	16	rs. 1,770	16	rs. 450	239	rs. 31,195	31	rs. 4,615	31	rs. 2,540	320	rs. 57,385	..	rs. 14
Ramallakota	1	250	1	250	3	410	3	450	3	450	3	870	4	700	4	700	6	780	2	2
Nandikotkur	4	400	4	400	48	10,645	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	400	4	400	48	10,645	..	..
Nandyal	4	340	4	340	12	5,275	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	340	4	340	12	5,275	..	..
Koilkuntla	4	900	8	650	35	10,630	..	..	..	..	5	1,350	4	900	3	650	40	11,980	..	..
Sirvel	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	2,450	..	..
Cumbum	..	..	..	..	10	2,450	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	436	88,515	..	16
Markapur	..	..	..	..	189	55,600	19	2,220	19	1,650	247	32,915	47	6,955	46	4,730	436	88,515	..	..
Total	28	4,735	27	3,080	189	55,600	19	2,220	19	1,650	247	32,915	47	6,955	46	4,730	436	88,515	..	..

Taluka.	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.		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.		
Pattikonda	22		23		26		28		30		31		32		33		34		36	39
Ramallakota	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	rs. 720
Nandikotkur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nandyal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Koilkuntla	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sirvel	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cumbum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Markapur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

NOTE.—The delay in the submission of this report is due to the late receipt by me in camp of reports from subordinates.

Resolution—dated 26th February 1897, No. 168.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. Except to the east of the Nallamalas, the condition of the Kurnool district continues to deteriorate. Water-supplies are drying up; the employment afforded in gathering the harvests is coming to an end; the late-sown crop is either totally lost or withering away; pasture is becoming more scarce, though still obtainable amongst the hills in places, and fodder is naturally growing scarcer; and the cattle are suffering in the most affected portion. Prices are also rising and are now as dear as, or dearer than, they were in February 1892, and trade is drawing away grain from the district. The markets are, however, now well supplied.

3. The people, on the whole, continue in fair condition, but Mr. Elwin's careful inspection of the worst portion of the western section of the district shows that a considerable extension of the measures for the relief of the people is necessary. He has addressed the Public Works Department to provide the employment necessary, and to make the necessary adjustments in the Code tasks to make them suitable to the people of the district and the circumstances existing. The recent orders of Government, allowing the Collector, under section 107 of the Code, to reduce the percentage of a full task to be demanded of a B class labourer below that prescribed in section 100 for workers of that class, will enable him and his Divisional Officers to deal with difficulties that may arise in reference to the prescription of tasks for persons in low condition, such as those at Pattikonda and Maddikera, without reference to the Public Works Department.

4. It, however, appears that the Public Works Department in the district requires strengthening, and the Board has already on several occasions had to remark on the unsuitability of the present Executive Engineer for his post in the existing circumstances. Now that the harvesting operations in Nandikotkur and under the canal are coming to an end, a wide extension and deepening of distress is to be expected, and it is of the utmost importance that the Public Works Department should have both the staff and equipment ready to expand the works in many places at the shortest notice, whenever called upon by the District officers. The numbers resorting to the relief works are already increasing considerably, but it would appear, from the comparatively small numbers hitherto fed at the kitchens, that adequate arrangements have not been made to provide for their dependants in the manner contemplated in the Code. In Nandyal taluk, no provision in this way appears to have been made as yet. This matter should receive the earnest attention of the Collector, for the wage offered to relief workers contains no margin whence they can support those dependent on them who are unable to work, and village relief has been, for the present, prohibited by Government.

5. The appointment of a special Revenue Inspector in Pattikonda will, it is hoped, lead to a more rapid disposal of loan operations there. The Collector should consider whether, in view of the probable early necessity for expanding relief measures in this taluk, and with reference to the prompt disposal of these loan applications, any additional assistance is required there. The entire absence of applications for land improvement loans in Ramallakota and Cumbum should be inquired into by the Divisional Officers and explained.

6. The Collector states, correctly, that the crops sown after the November rains are for the most part either totally lost or rapidly failing. When he speaks of good crops on red soil in Kodumur and Bellakal he is probably referring to crops sown before November. The fact that there were heaps of fodder surrounding the villages at Bailapalli, &c., does not necessarily show that "cholam had yielded moderately;" it only shows that fodder had been produced. Unless the ears were actually examined it would not be possible to say that there had been any yield. Even in irrigated land, close to Cuddapah, the standing cholam, with fair sized ears, was absolutely barren of seed, and the cholam heaps stacked were the same. Some of the irrigated ragi in the same place was stunted and would yield only about 3 annas. When this is the case in wet land, the utmost caution is necessary in pronouncing on the condition of dry crops. The ears should be actually inspected in each case. In the tracts of dry land which the Commissioner has recently seen, nothing had survived but some very poor castor and a very little poor horsegram.

7. The Collector states that the labourers in the tract at Jakhasamikunta were referred to the Yadiki work in Anantapur. The distance is not stated, but it is hoped that it is not excessive.

8. The time has come when some more stress should be laid on the necessity for sanitary arrangements at works. The state of the ground at the Maddikera work when the Commissioner inspected it was not what could be desired.

There was a general complaint there that the quantity of salt allowed with the kitchen rations was insufficient. The Sanitary Commissioner will be requested to favour the Board with his opinion. The inmates said that cholam required more salt than other grains for digestion. The matter is a small one as regards cost, and if the Sanitary Commissioner should consider an increase in the ration necessary, Government would no doubt consent. The arrangement for serving out the "sharam" was not satisfactory, as only the juice is poured out, the dhál remaining in the pot. Cocoanut spoons should be supplied to the kitchens, and the "sharam" stirred up as each spoonful is given out, so as to ensure that each person gets a fair share of the condiments. The Revenue officers should use their influence to overcome the objections of workers to send their children to the kitchens, and the caste section should be screened off with a separate entrance.

The outturn of work at Maddikera was not satisfactory, the stones being insufficiently broken. The Supervisor in charge explained this as due to the hardness of the stone. If this is so the task should be reduced, but no stone insufficiently broken should be admitted to the task heap.

The Commissioner was much pained by the distress shown by some of the women and girls at their fallen position on the works. More than one burst into tears during the inspection. This the medical subordinate explained as due to hysteria, which is no doubt true; but the ordinary woman of the working classes is too sturdy and sensible to be hysterical. It was plain that only severe distress had driven these women to this work. This work was free from sore-eyes, which is creditable to the medical subordinate in charge.

9. The present fortnightly report is a great improvement on its predecessors. The Revenue officers seem to be generally active and interested, and a much-to-be desired change seems to have come in the spirit with which the distress is being administered.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ the Collector of Kurnool.

Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.
„ „ Chief Engineer.

ORDER—No. 182, Revenue, dated 18th March 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture).

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

Exd. Shaik Karim.

60 Copies.