Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 948 W

DATED 2 April 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Jammu: Pros: Rev: Dept. Recrdg the fortnightly — Narrative of the Quantapan Dt. for the period ending 15th February 1897, Compt. & S.E. Punch.

[P.W. 25. 5,000—60-11-96.]

Indexed. 5/4/97

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	701	W	10-3-97				

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Public Works (1897) Department.

Current-Number: 3223

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. 30.3 } 1897. Enclosures .

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G.O., No. 175, 18th March 1897.

Read 948 Ry 2.4.97

Communicated to the Safety Engineer III Circle.

MARCH.

1/4/97

S.E. III Circle for 4 pc

AS 3/4

Famine.

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

2 copies to Govt 8.4.97

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 25th February 1897, No. 160 :—

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

State of the Country.

Rainfall and Water-supply.—There was a slight rainfall of 2 ounces registered at each of the two stations—Anantapur and Hindupur during the fortnight—against an expected average of 0·03 inch. Aggregate fall up to date is 14·63 against 23·44 inches.

Water-supply is generally sufficient for drinking purposes in all parts of the district, except in Hanchinahal, Malappuram and Kadatharabench in the Gooty taluk and in Dosaledu and its hamlet Obalapuram in the Tadpatri taluk. The Divisional Officer has called for estimates from the Tahsildars for improving the supply in these villages. In the Head-Assistant Collector's division, the supply for Malas and Madigas is reported to be seriously deficient. An application for a grant of Rupees 2,500 from Provincial funds has been received from the President, Taluk Board, for improving the water-supply in various villages of this division and an allotment will be applied for separately. For purposes of irrigation it is quite insufficient everywhere, and the supply in nalas and wells is said to be barely sufficient for the standing crops. The supply in wells is gradually failing in various parts of the district.

Agricultural operations and condition of standing crops—In Gooty division.—Red gram and castor sown in unirrigated dry lands are being harvested. Cotton on black soil is also being picked. The outturn is poor to moderate. White cholum sown for the late rains is fading and withering. It is expected to yield no outturn. Already, in some parts, the withered cholum stalks are being removed by the ryots. Bengal-and-horse-gram in both the taluks are also reported to be withering except in a few favoured localities, where they are expected to yield a crop. Indigo is stunted and poor.

In the two central taluks—the chief standing crops, viz., white cholum and Bengal-gram in the black soil tracts of the Kalyandrug taluk, and other minor crops, such as coriander, linseed and wheat are said to be fading away for want of rain. Only those standing in low-level tracts and a few isolated fields are expected to survive. On red soils, cotton, castor, red-gram and horse-gram are being harvested. Tank-bed cucumber is doing fairly.

In the southern taluks—of the Head Assistant Collector's division the crops mostly on red soil are also poor and stunted. Under tanks having well aid, nalas and springs, ploughing and sowing of paddy and transplanting of ragi is going on in parts of Gooty, Tadpatri, Kalyandrug and Madakasíra. In Tadpatri taluk harvests of ragi and paddy have commenced. In other parts ragi has eared and is likely to be harvested in a fortnight hence. The condition of the standing crops—paddy and ragi and slight cholum and korra under wells—is fair.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture is scarce everywhere, except in parts of Hindupur. Hill grass is available to a moderate extent in most localities. Fodder is generally very dear but is moderately procurable in several

villages owing to the ragi and paddy harvests in well lands. In the villages of the Gooty taluk bordering on the Bellary and Alúr taluks, prickly-pear is being used for cattle as fodder. The Deputy Collector reports that some of the cattle have been sent to the hilly tracts of the Mysore Province, where pasture is said to be available. In parts of Penukonda cattle are also being fed on *chigara* leaves and *sonti* roots. In the Kanaganapalli firka of the Dharmavaram taluk, the Head Assistant Collector reports that the condition of the cattle is very bad and that they are suffering from want of fodder as well as of water. The free cutting of grass in the forest reserves and the grazing permitted at reduced rates in this and the adjoining taluk of Penukonda are affording partial relief to the cattle.

Cattle disease is prevalent in parts of Anantapur, Kalyandrug, Dharmavaram and Madaksíra. Attacks 165 and deaths 93.

General remarks on above subjects.—The enormous extent of white cholum sown for the November rains is doomed to wither. The stalks, which in some places, have grown to a height of 2 or 3 feet from the ground are not only fading away for want of rain but are reported to have been damaged by insects. The area of cultivation elsewhere is very much restricted. Well sinking by the aid of State loans has improved the water-supply in several villages of Anantapur and Kalyandrug taluks.

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, yellow.		Cholum, white.	
	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.
Tadpatri	9·18	9·18	15·52	15·52	14·42	14·42	13·39	13·39
Yadiki	8·64	8·64	14·55	14·55	12·36	12·87	..	..
Gooty	8·64	8·64	14·40	15·52	13·23	13·67	12·50	13·39
Uravakonda	8·50	8·40	16·00	16·80	..	13·12	12·00	12·60
Anantapur	8·64	8·64	15·52	15·52	14·42	13·39	13·39	13·39
Kalyandrug	10·26	10·26	16·49	16·49	15·45	15·45	12·36	12·36
Dharmavaram	8·64	8·64	15·52	15·52	13·39	13·39	12·48	12·36
Penukonda	9·72	9·72	17·46	18·43	..	..	15·46	13·39
Hindupur	10·75	10·75	21·50	22·57	..	..	16·12	16·12
Madakasíra	10·80	10·80	19·40	20·37	..	..	..	..
Average ..	9·37	9·36	16·63	17·12	13·88	13·76	13·46	13·37

Activity of trade.—In Tadpatri and the two southern taluks of Penukonda and Hindupur, private trade is said to have become recently brisk and active on account of demand from Cuddapah. Elsewhere it is slack.

Imports by rail.—Three hundred and five bags of ragi from Bangalore. No others reported.

Condition of the People.

(1) *On works.*—Generally good.

(2) *In villages.*—Fair. There has been some migration from the Uravakonda side to the Mysore Province in expectation of better wages. The Head Assistant Collector reports :—

"The lower castes find difficulty in getting work and in some villages are stinting themselves. But they do not seem to be quite prepared to work for famine wages."

Sickness and Mortality.—Cholera is prevalent in parts of Anantapur, Dharmavaram and Kalyandrug taluks. Attacks 267, deaths 93. In the Penukonda taluk small-pox, chicken-pox and measles are also prevalent. Small-pox also in parts of Dharmavaram. No deaths from starvation.

Remarks.—The average jail population based on the figures of the three preceding years is 223 against the actuals of 379 relating to the current fortnight. These figures exclude Hindupur from which correct particulars have not been reported. The increase chiefly occurs in the Gooty Division, where the recorded statistics for the fortnight are nearly five times the expected average.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Tadpatri—			
1. Putlur	384	407	These represent the attendance prior to Saturday. The Tahsildar in his weekly season report since submitted has given a total of 2,429 for his taluk. He has not furnished particulars for each work.
2. Senegalgudur	541	1,571	
3. Yadiki	..	262	
Gooty—			
1. Guntakal	390	543	
2. Paltur	388	585	
Total ..	1,703	3,368	

N.B.—In no case was the fining on relief works carried below the minimum wage.

(2) *Gratuitous relief.*—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise:—

Taluks.	Number relieved At kitchens.		Remarks.
	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	
Tadpatri—			
Putlur	26	20	Here also the Tahsildar has furnished in his weekly season report since received 148 as the total for his taluk. Particulars for each kitchen have not been furnished.
Senegalgudur	60	43	
Yadiki	50	..	
Gooty—			
Guntakal	47	46	
Paltur	52	120	
Dharmavaram	76	..	
Bukkapatnam	14	..	
Total ..	325	229	

(3) *Private charity.*—*Vide* remark in the last narrative.

Inspections—Taluks and places visited.

Head Assistant Collector, Penukonda—

Penukonda taluk	Bukkapatnam.
	Kammavanapalli.
	Brahmanapalli.
	Munimadugu.
	Guttur.
	Locherla.
	Kothacheruvu.
Dharmavaram taluk	Dharmavaram.
	Nagasamudram.
	Kemtimaddi.
	Ramagiri.
	Perur.
	Nasanahora.

Inspections—Taluks and places visited—*cont.*

Head-quarters Deputy Collector—

Anantapur taluk	Rachanapalli.
	Kodimi.
	Kudair.
Kalyandrug taluk	Cholasamudram.
	Budigumma.
	Ramasagaram.
	Ankampalli.
	Thagguparthi.
	Belaguppa.
	Yerragudi.
	Avalenma.
	Sirpi.
	Gangavaram.
	Seebhavi.
	Golla.
	Kalwapalli.
	Kurugunta.

Gooty Deputy Collector—

Gooty taluk	Paltur.
	Undabanda.
	Uravakonda.
	Lattivaram.
	Sheiksanipalli.
	Vajra Karur.
	Konakondla.
	Timmancherla.
	Guntakal.
Tadpatri taluk	Royalcheruvu.
	Yadiki.
	Nittore.

By Collector—

Tadpatri taluk	Royalcheruvu.
	Yadiki.
Gooty taluk	Timmapuram.
	Jakkalcheruvu.
	Veerapalli.
	Thondapaud.
	Kothapetta.
	Gooty.
	Rajapuram.
	Pathkothacheruvu.
	Nakkandoddy.
	Narasapuram.
	Timmancherla.
	Guntakal.
	Marnipalli.
	Hanchinahal.
	Gadekal.
	Velpumadugu.
	Vidapanakal.
	Karakumukkala.
	Palthur.

General Remarks.—There has been no improvement since the date of my last report. On the contrary, in spite of the few drops of rain registered at Anantapur and Hindupur, barely sufficient to moisten the parched up soil, prospects are taking a slow but sure change for the worse. The comparatively high range of prices continues with a tendency towards a slow rise in a few of the affected localities. In other parts, they are most stationary. The attendance is steadily increasing on all relief works, and rapidly in Senegalagudur; here it has risen to thrice its original strength within the space of a fortnight. A relief work was opened at Yadiki, and the Deputy Collector, who proposed to start the work on the 10th instant, reports that numbers of the coolies of the Mala caste came to him on the 9th and entreated him to do so at once saying that

they were starving. The Deputy Collector reports that the coolies asked him no questions about tasks or wages and were anxious to enter on work on any wage. Some coolies of the "Kapu" caste also presented themselves at the work—a fact which goes to show that distress is deepening in this part of the taluk also, and has commenced to affect the agricultural population who are seldom, if ever, willing to offer themselves for relief at State relief works. The Deputy Collector further anticipates that some 200 coolies will have to be provided with labour towards the Kadavakal side, and reports that he is proceeding there shortly. It was in this locality that the new road from Kondapuram, hamlet of Surepalli, on the Anantapur-Tadpatri road to Kummanamalla was originally proposed (*vide* page 6 of my fortnightly narrative printed in B.P., No. 53, dated 25th January 1897), but on reconsideration, I have thought it better to start the work of collection of metal at Putlur itself for the benefit of the Kadavakal coolies, since it is inadvisable to take up too many new roads, and it would be more satisfactory to do the work already begun thoroughly and well before starting any more. The Kadavakal coolies may be employed on metalling and tamping the road now under progress from Putlur, which will, I believe, give them sufficient employment for some considerable time to come. I am therefore addressing the Deputy Collector and the Assistant Engineer, Famine Sub-division, to have this work commenced at an early date.

Two kitchens have also been opened at Dharmavaram and at Bukkapatam as already proposed and the Head Assistant Collector has also started some minor work out of Union funds for the able-bodied labourers at Dharmavaram. At Bukkapatam none came forward to work at the famine wages. The Head Assistant Collector writes—

"The distance of Bukkapatam from Putaperti and Bramhanapally is by no means prohibitive; and as due intimation has been given in all the surrounding villages of the terms on which children will be admitted into the kitchen, any Madigas who are really in want will go there. In Dharmavaram the great difficulty is to find any suitable work for those who wish employment. They are practically all Madiga women and children. Their husbands—in cases where they have any—have mostly gone off for work on coffee plantations. Hence it is impossible to set them to excavate gravel for the Union roads. Hitherto they have been employed in gathering metal, but this and the breaking of it can only keep them working for a short time more, and unless a fair number of men also come forward for work, the problem of keeping these women and children suitably employed will be extremely difficult. The Madigas of Chemakothapalli, to whose condition my attention was drawn by the Collector, still show no signs of wishing work at the prescribed rates. In Perur, where I am now camping, some of the Madigas are asking for work. I am having a list of these prepared and if necessary I shall submit proposals soon. The weavers in Dharmavaram show no signs of wishing help from Government on the rate explained to them; at present their whole energy appears to be devoted to breaking each other's heads in connection with the cultivation in tank-bed. As already remarked the want of water is felt very badly by the Madigas in almost every village. The Taluk Board has spent every available pie on this, and no funds can be transferred from other heads. The only way of improving matters is to have a grant sanctioned from Provincial funds."

The Head Assistant Collector has not stated anything about the task fixed for the Dharmavaram workers and a report on this point has already been called for from him on B.P., dated 10th February 1897, Mis. No. 991. As the number of workers has apparently increased at Dharmavaram and as the preponderance of women is only natural, seeing that distress in this taluk is yet in its initial stage, I am arranging to have the collection of material on the Dharmavaram-Kothacheram road started as soon as possible. The work which has been suggested by the Head Assistant Collector is on the famine programme, and is expected to provide labour for 593 coolies for three months. Considering the magnitude of the distress that prevails in the black cotton tracts of the two northern taluks, I felt a natural anxiety as to the condition of the Rayadrug villages of the Kalyandrug taluk lately transferred to the latter taluk. I accordingly desired the Divisional Officer to make a tour through the principal villages of this tract, and he has just submitted a detailed report on their condition, from which I extract the following for the Board's information:—

* * * * *

3. "The chief standing crops in these black cotton tracts are white cholum and Bengal-gram. Cholum is generally 2 to 3 feet high and is yet tender. It has begun to fade in parts and there is no likelihood of its yielding any outturn except in a few isolated fields in low

villages. Bengal-gram too is not thriving well. People have already begun to gather cholum stalks in Ankampalli, &c., villages. Unless there is any rain, and there is no prospect of getting it, these crops would, I fear, generally wither.

4. "I made enquiries regarding the nature of labour available in the above villages. The loan works sanctioned give labour to the coolies to some extent. Ryots have begun to repair wells and to remove nuth grass. Out of eight wells I inspected, it was in only one work had not been commenced, and the delay in this case was due to the fact that there was plenty of water in the well. Labour is also available in gardens and wet lands under nalas, where coolies are employed in weeding ragi and paddy, &c. Coolies are employed in clearing nalas also.

5. "Taking advantage of the fact that the coolies are now available for less than the ordinary wages, people in well-to-do circumstances have been laying out their capital in reclaiming their land, digging wells, &c. A ryot of Rakatla, who owns 10 acres of wet and 16 acres of dry in Ramasagaram village, has been reclaiming his land by employing about 100 coolies for the last one month. He has already spent about Rs. 400, and I was informed by the people of Ramasagaram that the said ryot is arranging to spend something like Rs. 500 more in converting his dry land to wet.

6. "At Cholasamudram, a village in the Anantapur taluk about 6 miles from Kudair, the Boyas and Madigas complained that there was not sufficient work for them in their villages. I was informed that the cooly they now get was 1½ seers. It came to my notice that no loans were sanctioned or paid in this village, although two ryots had applied for loans about a month ago. Four applications for loans amounting to Rs. 550 were received by me at the time of my visit to the village, and they were all forwarded to the Tahsildar for early disposal. The coolies are not, however, inclined to resort to the test-relief work if one is opened on account of the low wages."

* * * * *

9 "I collected a number of coolies at Belaguppa, and enquired if they would come to the relief work if one is opened there. They said that they would not come for famine wages. My enquiries go to show that these coolies find some work at present in gardens and in wells and also in collecting thangedu bark, &c.

10. "People who own no lands here and who have relations in parts of the Mysore Province are reported to have gone to the Mysore villages. Some have driven their cattle there as it was difficult to maintain them here."

* * * * *

I have also before me a scheme for the relief of weavers in their own trade at Tadpatri, and I shall shortly submit my proposals on this subject for the Board's approval.

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

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.						Other purposes.						Total.				Number of wells.	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		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.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Tadpatri	13	2,770	3	225	12	2,520	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	2,770	3	225	12	2,520	..	3
Gooty	19	3,395	5	795	162	40,800	194	27,310	131	16,790	859	1,54,850	213	30,705	186	17,685	1,021	1,96,650	2	4
Anantapur	332	33,442	286	26,312	449	48,472	6	705	6	705	31	3,870	338	34,147	292	27,017	480	62,342	2	140
Kalyandrug	88	13,485	74	11,550	179	27,965	14	2,070	13	1,970	64	7,550	102	15,555	87	13,520	233	35,515	3	75
Dharmavaram	41	3,125	Not given.	3,072	105	16,630	1	250	1	250	5	800	42	5,375	1	3,322	110	16,430	11	55
Penukonda	19	3,450	13	1,395	9	1,140	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	3,450	13	1,395	9	1,140	4	17
Hindúpur	100	16,375	62	6,873	37	9,530	1	500	1	500	1	500	101	16,875	63	7,373	38	10,030	4	73
Madakasira	12	1,805	7	1,080	46	10,710	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	1,805	7	1,080	46	10,710	1	8
Total ..	624	79,847	450	51,302	999	1,56,767	216	30,835	152	20,215	960	1,67,570	840	1,10,682	602	71,617	1,949	3,24,337	25	375

Cattle and seed-grain.

Taluks.	Purchase of fodder.						Total.											
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.			
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
	Rs.			Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Tadpatri	2	200	2	200	41	3,700	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	200	2	200	41	3,700
Gooty	1	100	1	100	69	7,166	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	100	1	100	69	7,155
Anantapur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	400	..	..	..	..	8	420
Kalyandrug	..	..	..	..	1	20	2	100	2	100	24	1,600	2	100	2	100	24	1,600
Dharmavaram	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	895	..	..	8	450	10	895
Penukonda	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	990	8	450	8	450	10	990
Hindúpur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	400	..	..	..	..	2	400
Madakasira	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	3	300	3	300	111	10,875	10	550	10	550	53	4,285	13	850	13	850	164	15,160

Resolution—dated 25th February 1897, No. 160.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The general decrease in the water-supplies throughout the district demands the early attention of the District Board, and, as the Local Fund Engineer has to a great extent been relieved of the charge of special relief works, he should devote his attention to this matter. If the District as well as the Taluk Boards have no funds, application for a grant-in-aid from Provincial Revenues will be considered, but the improvement of the water-supplies is a duty to which, in the Board's opinion, the resources of the District Board should be freely devoted. If the people to a great extent are suffering from want of water, the case with the cattle must be even worse.

3. As to the condition of the country generally, it continues to deteriorate, and the crop sown after the November rainfall is doomed. There is still, however, some cultivation going on in favoured localities and this with loan works affords a certain amount of employment, especially for the men. Numbers of the latter have also gone to Mysore with cattle for grazing.

4. Prices are rising slightly, but the average price of ragi for the whole district is kept down by the comparatively low prices prevailing in the three southern taluks. At the four stations in the two northern taluks, cholum, which is there the staple food-grain, is now sold on the average at 13·5 seers per rupee. The average price for the district in February 1892 was 14·2 seers. Trade is stated to be slack.

5. The people are generally in good condition, but are now beginning to flock to the relief works, and in the Tadpatri taluk, the Board understands, some are coming in from Cuddapah. This is not as it should be, and the Collector of that district will be requested to lose no more time in opening a sufficiency of works for all the distressed in his district. The jail population, especially in the Gooty division, shows a marked increase, and it is evident from the Collector's general remarks that the situation in this district is rapidly growing more serious. The rapid disposal of applications for loans for carrying out land improvements will assist in providing employment locally, and application has been made to Government for the appointment of special officers of the Tahsildar grade for this work.

6. The falling off in attendance at the Paltur kitchen should receive early attention.

7. With reference to the Madiga women in Dharmavaram, there can be no difficulty in employing them on stone-breaking. If stone is not available close by, the lead can be extended.

8. The scheme for the relief of the Tadpatri weavers has been received and will be separately disposed of.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Anantapur.
" Collector of Cuddapah.
Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

Order—No. 175, Revenue, dated 18th March 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture).
Copy to the Public Works Department.
" the Local and Municipal Department.
" the Financial Department.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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G.O., No. 175, 18th March 1897.

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MARCH.

Famine.

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Water-supply is generally sufficient for drinking purposes in all parts of the district, except in Hanchinahal, Malappuram and Kadatharabench in the Gooty taluk and in Dosaledu and its hamlet Obalapuram in the Tadpatri taluk. The Divisional Officer has called for estimates from the Tahsildars for improving the supply in these villages. In the Head-Assistant Collector's division, the supply for Malas and Madigas is reported to be seriously deficient. An application for a grant of Rupees 2,500 from Provincial funds has been received from the President, Taluk Board, for improving the water-supply in various villages of this division and an allotment will be applied for separately. For purposes of irrigation it is quite insufficient everywhere, and the supply in nalas and wells is said to be barely sufficient for the standing crops. The supply in wells is gradually failing in various parts of the district.

Agricultural operations and condition of standing crops—In Gooty division.—Red gram and castor sown in unirrigated dry lands are being harvested. Cotton on black soil is also being picked. The outturn is poor to moderate. White cholum sown for the late rains is fading and withering. It is expected to yield no outturn. Already, in some parts, the withered cholum stalks are being removed by the ryots. Bengal-and-horse-gram in both the taluks are also reported to be withering except in a few favoured localities, where they are expected to yield a crop. Indigo is stunted and poor.

In the two central taluks—the chief standing crops, viz., white cholum and Bengal-gram in the black soil tracts of the Kalyandrug taluk, and other minor crops, such as coriander, linseed and wheat are said to be fading away for want of rain. Only those standing in low-level tracts and a few isolated fields are expected to survive. On red soils, cotton, castor, red-gram and horse-gram are being harvested. Tank-bed cucumber is doing fairly.

In the southern taluks—of the Head Assistant Collector's division the crops mostly on red soil are also poor and stunted. Under tanks having well aid, nalas and springs, ploughing and sowing of paddy and transplanting of ragi is going on in parts of Gooty, Tadpatri, Kalyandrug and Madakasíra. In Tadpatri taluk harvests of ragi and paddy have commenced. In other parts ragi has eared and is likely to be harvested in a fortnight hence. The condition of the standing crops—paddy and ragi and slight cholum and korra under wells—is fair.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture is scarce everywhere, except in parts of Hindupur. Hill grass is available to a moderate extent in most localities. Fodder is generally very dear but is moderately procurable in several

villages owing to the ragi and paddy harvests in well lands. In the villages of the Gooty taluk bordering on the Bellary and Alúr taluks, prickly-pear is being used for cattle as fodder. The Deputy Collector reports that some of the cattle have been sent to the hilly tracts of the Mysore Province, where pasture is said to be available. In parts of Penukonda cattle are also being fed on *chigara* leaves and *sonti* roots. In the Kanaganapalli firka of the Dharmavaram taluk, the Head Assistant Collector reports that the condition of the cattle is very bad and that they are suffering from want of fodder as well as of water. The free cutting of grass in the forest reserves and the grazing permitted at reduced rates in this and the adjoining taluk of Penukonda are affording partial relief to the cattle.

Cattle disease is prevalent in parts of Anantapur, Kalyandrug, Dharmavaram and Madaksíra. Attacks 165 and deaths 93.

General remarks on above subjects.—The enormous extent of white cholum sown for the November rains is doomed to wither. The stalks, which in some places, have grown to a height of 2 or 3 feet from the ground are not only fading away for want of rain but are reported to have been damaged by insects. The area of cultivation elsewhere is very much restricted. Well sinking by the aid of State loans has improved the water-supply in several villages of Anantapur and Kalyandrug taluks.

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, yellow.		Cholum, white.	
	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.
Tadpatri	9·18	9·18	15·52	15·52	14·42	14·42	13·39	13·39
Yadiki	8·64	8·64	14·55	14·55	12·36	12·87	..	..
Gooty	8 64	8·64	14·40	15·52	13·23	13·67	12·50	13·39
Uravakonda	8·50	8·40	16·00	16·80	..	13·12	12·00	12·60
Anantapur	8·64	8·64	15·52	15·52	14·42	13.39	13·39	13·39
Kalyandrug	10·26	10·26	16·49	16·49	15·45	15·45	12·36	12·36
Dharmavaram	8·64	8·64	15·52	15·52	13·39	13·39	12·48	12·36
Penukonda	9·72	9·72	17·46	18·43	..	..	15·46	13·39
Hindupur	10·75	10·75	21·50	22·57	..	..	16·12	16·12
Madakasira	10·80	10·80	19·40	20·37	..	..	..	..
Average ..	9·37	9·36	16·63	17·12	13 88	13·75	13·46	13·37

Activity of trade.—In Tadpatri and the two southern taluks of Penukonda and Hindupur, private trade is said to have become recently brisk and active on account of demand from Cuddapah. Elsewhere it is slack.

Imports by rail.—Three hundred and five bags of ragi from Bangalore. No others reported.

Condition of the People.

(1) *On works.*—Generally good.

(2) *In villages.*—Fair. There has been some migration from the Uravakonda side to the Mysore Province in expectation of better wages. The Head Assistant Collector reports :—

"The lower castes find difficulty in getting work and in some villages are stinting themselves. But they do not seem to be quite prepared to work for famine wages."

Sickness and Mortality.—Cholera is prevalent in parts of Anantapur, Dharmavaram and Kalyandrug taluks. Attacks 267, deaths 93. In the Penukonda taluk small-pox, chicken-pox and measles are also prevalent. Small-pox also in parts of Dharmavaram. No deaths from starvation.

Remarks.—The average jail population based on the figures of the three preceding years is 223 against the actuals of 379 relating to the current fortnight. These figures exclude Hindupur from which correct particulars have not been reported. The increase chiefly occurs in the Gooty Division, where the recorded statistics for the fortnight are nearly five times the expected average.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Tadpatri—			
1. Putlur	384	407	These represent the attendance prior to Saturday. The Tahsildar in his weekly season report since submitted has given a total of 2,429 for his taluk. He has not furnished particulars for each work.
2. Senegalgudur	541	1,571	
3. Yadiki	..	262	
Gooty—			
1. Guntakal	390	543	
2. Paltur	388	585	
Total ..	1,703	3,368	

N.B.—In no case was the fining on relief works carried below the minimum wage.

(2) *Gratuitous relief.*—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise:—

Taluks.	Number relieved		Remarks.
	At kitchens.		
	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	
Tadpatri—			
Putlur	26	20	Here also the Tahsildar has furnished in his weekly season report since received 148 as the total for his taluk. Particulars for each kitchen have not been furnished.
Senegalgudur	60	43	
Yadiki	50	..	
Gooty—			
Guntakal	47	46	
Paltur	52	120	
Dharmavaram	76	..	
Bukkapatnam	14	..	
Total ..	325	229	

(3) *Private charity.*—*Vide* remark in the last narrative.

Inspections—Taluks and places visited.

Head Assistant Collector, Penukonda—

Penukonda taluk ... ...
- Bukkapatnam.
- Kammavanapalli.
- Brahmanapalli.
- Munimadugu.
- Guttur.
- Locherla.
- Kothacheruvu.

Dharmavaram taluk ... ...
- Dharmavaram.
- Nagasamudram.
- Kemtimaddi.
- Ramagiri.
- Perur.
- Nasanahora.

Inspections—Taluks and places visited—*cont.*

Head-quarters Deputy Collector—

Anantapur taluk ... ...
- Rachanapalli.
- Kodimi.
- Kudair.

Kalyandrug taluk ... ...
- Cholasamudram.
- Budigumma.
- Ramasagaram.
- Ankampalli.
- Thagguparthi.
- Belaguppa.
- Yerragudi.
- Avalenma.
- Sirpi.
- Gangavaram.
- Seebhavi.
- Golla.
- Kalwapalli.
- Kurugunta.

Gooty Deputy Collector—

Gooty taluk ... ...
- Paltur.
- Undabanda.
- Uravakonda.
- Lattivaram.
- Sheiksanipalli.
- Vajra Karur.
- Konakondla.
- Timmancherla.
- Guntakal.

Tadpatri taluk ... ...
- Royalcheruvu.
- Yadiki.
- Nittore.

By Collector—

Tadpatri taluk ... ...
- Royalcheruvu.
- Yadiki.

Gooty taluk ... ...
- Timmapuram.
- Jakkalcheruvu.
- Veerapalli.
- Thondapaud.
- Kothapetta.
- Gooty.
- Rajapuram.
- Pathkothacheruvu.
- Nakkandoddy.
- Narasapuram.
- Timmancherla.
- Guntakal.
- Marnipalli.
- Hanchinahal.
- Gadekal.
- Velpumadugu.
- Vidapanakal.
- Karakumukkala.
- Palthur.

General Remarks.—There has been no improvement since the date of my last report. On the contrary, in spite of the few drops of rain registered at Anantapur and Hindupur, barely sufficient to moisten the parched up soil, prospects are taking a slow but sure change for the worse. The comparatively high range of prices continues with a tendency towards a slow rise in a few of the affected localities. In other parts, they are most stationary. The attendance is steadily increasing on all relief works, and rapidly in Senegalagudur; here it has risen to thrice its original strength within the space of a fortnight. A relief work was opened at Yadiki, and the Deputy Collector, who proposed to start the work on the 10th instant, reports that numbers of the coolies of the Mala caste came to him on the 9th and entreated him to do so at once saying that

they were starving. The Deputy Collector reports that the coolies asked him no questions about tasks or wages and were anxious to enter on work on any wage. Some coolies of the "Kapu" caste also presented themselves at the work—a fact which goes to show that distress is deepening in this part of the taluk also, and has commenced to affect the agricultural population who are seldom, if ever, willing to offer themselves for relief at State relief works. The Deputy Collector further anticipates that some 200 coolies will have to be provided with labour towards the Kadavakal side, and reports that he is proceeding there shortly. It was in this locality that the new road from Kondapuram, hamlet of Surepalli, on the Anantapur-Tadpatri road to Kummanamalla was originally proposed (*vide* page 6 of my fortnightly narrative printed in B.P., No. 53, dated 25th January 1897), but on reconsideration, I have thought it better to start the work of collection of metal at Putlur itself for the benefit of the Kadavakal coolies, since it is inadvisable to take up too many new roads, and it would be more satisfactory to do the work already begun thoroughly and well before starting any more. The Kadavakal coolies may be employed on metalling and tamping the road now under progress from Putlur, which will, I believe, give them sufficient employment for some considerable time to come. I am therefore addressing the Deputy Collector and the Assistant Engineer, Famine Sub-division, to have this work commenced at an early date.

Two kitchens have also been opened at Dharmavaram and at Bukkapatam as already proposed and the Head Assistant Collector has also started some minor work out of Union funds for the able-bodied labourers at Dharmavaram. At Bukkapatam none came forward to work at the famine wages. The Head Assistant Collector writes—

"The distance of Bukkapatam from Putaperti and Bramhanapally is by no means prohibitive; and as due intimation has been given in all the surrounding villages of the terms on which children will be admitted into the kitchen, any Madigas who are really in want will go there. In Dharmavaram the great difficulty is to find any suitable work for those who wish employment. They are practically all Madiga women and children. Their husbands—in cases where they have any—have mostly gone off for work on coffee plantations. Hence it is impossible to set them to excavate gravel for the Union roads. Hitherto they have been employed in gathering metal, but this and the breaking of it can only keep them working for a short time more, and unless a fair number of men also come forward for work, the problem of keeping these women and children suitably employed will be extremely difficult. The Madigas of Chemakothapalli, to whose condition my attention was drawn by the Collector, still show no signs of wishing work at the prescribed rates. In Perur, where I am now camping, some of the Madigas are asking for work. I am having a list of these prepared and if necessary I shall submit proposals soon. The weavers in Dharmavaram show no signs of wishing help from Government on the rate explained to them; at present their whole energy appears to be devoted to breaking each other's heads in connection with the cultivation in tank-bed. As already remarked the want of water is felt very badly by the Madigas in almost every village. The Taluk Board has spent every available pie on this, and no funds can be transferred from other heads. The only way of improving matters is to have a grant sanctioned from Provincial funds."

The Head Assistant Collector has not stated anything about the task fixed for the Dharmavaram workers and a report on this point has already been called for from him on B.P., dated 10th February 1897, Mis. No. 991. As the number of workers has apparently increased at Dharmavaram and as the preponderance of women is only natural, seeing that distress in this taluk is yet in its initial stage, I am arranging to have the collection of material on the Dharmavaram-Kothacheram road started as soon as possible. The work which has been suggested by the Head Assistant Collector is on the famine programme, and is expected to provide labour for 593 coolies for three months. Considering the magnitude of the distress that prevails in the black cotton tracts of the two northern taluks, I felt a natural anxiety as to the condition of the Rayadrug villages of the Kalyandrug taluk lately transferred to the latter taluk. I accordingly desired the Divisional Officer to make a tour through the principal villages of this tract, and he has just submitted a detailed report on their condition, from which I extract the following for the Board's information:—

* * * * *

3. "The chief standing crops in these black cotton tracts are white cholum and Bengal-gram. Cholum is generally 2 to 3 feet high and is yet tender. It has begun to fade in parts and there is no likelihood of its yielding any outturn except in a few isolated fields in low

villages. Bengal-gram too is not thriving well. People have already begun to gather cholum stalks in Ankampalli, &c., villages. Unless there is any rain, and there is no prospect of getting it, these crops would, I fear, generally wither.

4. "I made enquiries regarding the nature of labour available in the above villages. The loan works sanctioned give labour to the coolies to some extent. Ryots have begun to repair wells and to remove nuth grass. Out of eight wells I inspected, it was in only one work had not been commenced, and the delay in this case was due to the fact that there was plenty of water in the well. Labour is also available in gardens and wet lands under nalas, where coolies are employed in weeding ragi and paddy, &c. Coolies are employed in clearing nalas also.

5. "Taking advantage of the fact that the coolies are now available for less than the ordinary wages, people in well-to-do circumstances have been laying out their capital in reclaiming their land, digging wells, &c. A ryot of Rakatla, who owns 10 acres of wet and 16 acres of dry in Ramasagaram village, has been reclaiming his land by employing about 100 coolies for the last one month. He has already spent about Rs. 400, and I was informed by the people of Ramasagaram that the said ryot is arranging to spend something like Rs. 500 more in converting his dry land to wet.

6. "At Cholasamudram, a village in the Anantapur taluk about 6 miles from Kudair, the Boyas and Madigas complained that there was not sufficient work for them in their villages. I was informed that the cooly they now get was 1½ seers. It came to my notice that no loans were sanctioned or paid in this village, although two ryots had applied for loans about a month ago. Four applications for loans amounting to Rs. 550 were received by me at the time of my visit to the village, and they were all forwarded to the Tahsildar for early disposal. The coolies are not, however, inclined to resort to the test-relief work if one is opened on account of the low wages."

* * * * *

9 "I collected a number of coolies at Belaguppa, and enquired if they would come to the relief work if one is opened there. They said that they would not come for famine wages. My enquiries go to show that these coolies find some work at present in gardens and in wells and also in collecting thangedu bark, &c.

10. "People who own no lands here and who have relations in parts of the Mysore Province are reported to have gone to the Mysore villages. Some have driven their cattle there as it was difficult to maintain them here."

* * * * *

I have also before me a scheme for the relief of weavers in their own trade at Tadpatri, and I shall shortly submit my proposals on this subject for the Board's approval.

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

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.						Other purposes.						Total.						Number of wells.	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Tadpatri	13	2,770	3	225	12	2,520	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	2,770	3	225	12	2,520	..	3
Gooty	19	3,395	5	795	162	40,800	194	27,310	131	6,700	20	5,040	213	30,705	136	17,585	1,021	1,95,650	41	4
Anantapur	332	33,442	286	26,312	449	48,472	6	705	6	1,200	1	100	338	34,147	292	27,017	480	82,342	3	140
Kalyandrug	88	13,455	74	11,550	179	27,965	14	2,070	13	1,950	2	300	102	15,555	87	13,520	233	35,615	11	75
Dharmavaram	41	3,125	Not given.	3,072	105	15,630	1	260	1	150	..	..	42	3,375	1	3,322	110	16,430	11	65
Penukonda	19	3,450	13	1,395	9	1,140	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	3,450	13	1,395	9	1,140	4	17
Hindúpur	100	16,375	62	6,873	37	9,530	1	500	1	500	..	..	101	16,875	63	7,373	38	10,030	4	73
Madakasira	12	1,805	7	1,080	46	10,710	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	1,805	7	1,080	46	10,710	1	8
Total ..	624	79,847	460	51,302	999	1,56,767	216	30,835	152	10,500	23	5,440	840	1,10,682	602	71,517	1,949	3,24,337	25	375

Taluks.	Purchase of fodder.						Total.					
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.				Rs.		Rs.	
Tadpatri	2	200	2	200	41	3,700	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gooty	1	100	1	100	69	7,155	..	..	..	..	..	..
Anantapur	..	..	..	..	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kalyandrug	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	100	2	100	7	400
Dharmavaram	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	100
Penukonda	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	895
Hindúpur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	990
Madakasira	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	400
Total ..	3	300	3	300	111	10,875	10	550	10	550	53	4,285

Resolution—dated 25th February 1897, No. 160.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The general decrease in the water-supplies throughout the district demands the early attention of the District Board, and, as the Local Fund Engineer has to a great extent been relieved of the charge of special relief works, he should devote his attention to this matter. If the District as well as the Taluk Boards have no funds, application for a grant-in-aid from Provincial Revenues will be considered, but the improvement of the water-supplies is a duty to which, in the Board's opinion, the resources of the District Board should be freely devoted. If the people to a great extent are suffering from want of water, the case with the cattle must be even worse.

3. As to the condition of the country generally, it continues to deteriorate, and the crop sown after the November rainfall is doomed. There is still, however, some cultivation going on in favoured localities and this with loan works affords a certain amount of employment, especially for the men. Numbers of the latter have also gone to Mysore with cattle for grazing.

4. Prices are rising slightly, but the average price of ragi for the whole district is kept down by the comparatively low prices prevailing in the three southern taluks. At the four stations in the two northern taluks, cholum, which is there the staple food-grain, is now sold on the average at 13·5 seers per rupee. The average price for the district in February 1892 was 14·2 seers. Trade is stated to be slack.

5. The people are generally in good condition, but are now beginning to flock to the relief works, and in the Tadpatri taluk, the Board understands, some are coming in from Cuddapah. This is not as it should be, and the Collector of that district will be requested to lose no more time in opening a sufficiency of works for all the distressed in his district. The jail population, especially in the Gooty division, shows a marked increase, and it is evident from the Collector's general remarks that the situation in this district is rapidly growing more serious. The rapid disposal of applications for loans for carrying out land improvements will assist in providing employment locally, and application has been made to Government for the appointment of special officers of the Tahsildar grade for this work.

6. The falling off in attendance at the Paltur kitchen should receive early attention.

7. With reference to the Madiga women in Dharmavaram, there can be no difficulty in employing them on stone-breaking. If stone is not available close by, the lead can be extended.

8. The scheme for the relief of the Tadpatri weavers has been received and will be separately disposed of.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

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

Order—No. 175, Revenue, dated 18th March 1897.

Miscellaneous. Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Copy to the Public Works Department.
" the Local and Municipal Department.
" the Financial Department.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

60 Copies.

Public Works Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

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

G.O., No. 175, 18th March 1897.

Order thereon No 9486 of 2.4.97 communicated to the Superintending Engineer III circle.

MARCH.

(True extract)
Sd/ D. Rue

To
The Superintending Engineer III Circle.

Famine.

Recording the fortnightly narrative of the Anantapur 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 25th February 1897, No. 160 :—

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

State of the Country.

Rainfall and Water-supply.—There was a slight rainfall of 2 ounces registered at each of the two stations—Anantapur and Hindupur during the fortnight—against an expected average of 0·03 inch. Aggregate fall up to date is 14·63 against 23·44 inches.

Water-supply is generally sufficient for drinking purposes in all parts of the district, except in Hanchinahal, Malappuram and Kadatharabench in the Gooty taluk and in Dosaledu and its hamlet Obalapuram in the Tadpatri taluk. The Divisional Officer has called for estimates from the Tahsildars for improving the supply in these villages. In the Head-Assistant Collector's division, the supply for Malas and Madigas is reported to be seriously deficient. An application for a grant of Rupees 2,500 from Provincial funds has been received from the President, Taluk Board, for improving the water-supply in various villages of this division and an allotment will be applied for separately. For purposes of irrigation it is quite insufficient everywhere, and the supply in nalas and wells is said to be barely sufficient for the standing crops. The supply in wells is gradually failing in various parts of the district.

Agricultural operations and condition of standing crops—In Gooty division.—Red gram and castor sown in unirrigated dry lands are being harvested. Cotton on black soil is also being picked. The outturn is poor to moderate. White cholum sown for the late rains is fading and withering. It is expected to yield no outturn. Already, in some parts, the withered cholum stalks are being removed by the ryots. Bengal-and-horse-gram in both the taluks are also reported to be withering except in a few favoured localities, where they are expected to yield a crop. Indigo is stunted and poor.

In the two central taluks—the chief standing crops, viz., white cholum and Bengal-gram in the black soil tracts of the Kalyandrug taluk, and other minor crops, such as coriander, linseed and wheat are said to be fading away for want of rain. Only those standing in low-level tracts and a few isolated fields are expected to survive. On red soils, cotton, castor, red-gram and horse-gram are being harvested. Tank-bed cucumber is doing fairly.

In the southern taluks—of the Head Assistant Collector's division the crops mostly on red soil are also poor and stunted. Under tanks having well aid, nalas and springs, ploughing and sowing of paddy and transplanting of ragi is going on in parts of Gooty, Tadpatri, Kalyandrug and Madakasíra. In Tadpatri taluk harvests of ragi and paddy have commenced. In other parts ragi has eared and is likely to be harvested in a fortnight hence. The condition of the standing crops—paddy and ragi and slight cholum and korra under wells—is fair.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture is scarce everywhere, except in parts of Hindupur. Hill grass is available to a moderate extent in most localities. Fodder is generally very dear but is moderately procurable in several

villages owing to the ragi and paddy harvests in well lands. In the villages of the Gooty taluk bordering on the Bellary and Alúr taluks, prickly-pear is being used for cattle as fodder. The Deputy Collector reports that some of the cattle have been sent to the hilly tracts of the Mysore Province, where pasture is said to be available. In parts of Penukonda cattle are also being fed on *chigara* leaves and *sonti* roots. In the Kanaganapalli firka of the Dharmavaram taluk, the Head Assistant Collector reports that the condition of the cattle is very bad and that they are suffering from want of fodder as well as of water. The free cutting of grass in the forest reserves and the grazing permitted at reduced rates in this and the adjoining taluk of Penukonda are affording partial relief to the cattle.

Cattle disease is prevalent in parts of Anantapur, Kalyandrug, Dharmavaram and Madaksíra. Attacks 165 and deaths 93.

General remarks on above subjects.—The enormous extent of white cholum sown for the November rains is doomed to wither. The stalks, which in some places, have grown to a height of 2 or 3 feet from the ground are not only fading away for want of rain but are reported to have been damaged by insects. The area of cultivation elsewhere is very much restricted. Well sinking by the aid of State loans has improved the water-supply in several villages of Anantapur and Kalyandrug taluks.

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, yellow.		Cholum, white.	
	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.
Tadpatri..	9·18	9·18	15·52	15·52	14·42	14·42	13·39	13·39
Yadiki	8·64	8·64	14·55	14·55	12·36	12·87	..	..
Gooty	8 64	8·64	14·40	15·52	13·23	13·67	12·50	13·39
Uravakonda	8·50	8·40	16·00	16·80	..	13·12	12·00	12·60
Anantapur	8·64	8·64	15·52	15·52	14·42	13.39	13·39	13·39
Kalyandrug	10·26	10·26	16·49	16·49	15·45	15·45	12·36	12·36
Dharmavaram	8·64	8·64	15·52	15·52	13·39	13·39	12·48	12·36
Penukonda	9·72	9·72	17·46	18·43	..	..	15·46	13·39
Hindupur	10·75	10·75	21·50	22·57	..	..	16·12	16·12
Madakasíra	10·80	10·80	19·40	20·37	..	..	..	..
Average ..	9·37	9·36	16·63	17·12	13 88	13·75	13·46	13·37

Activity of trade.—In Tadpatri and the two southern taluks of Penukonda and Hindupur, private trade is said to have become recently brisk and active on account of demand from Cuddapah. Elsewhere it is slack.

Imports by rail.—Three hundred and five bags of ragi from Bangalore. No others reported.

Condition of the People.

(1) *On works.*—Generally good.

(2) *In villages.*—Fair. There has been some migration from the Uravakonda side to the Mysore Province in expectation of better wages. The Head Assistant Collector reports :—

"The lower castes find difficulty in getting work and in some villages are stinting themselves. But they do not seem to be quite prepared to work for famine wages."

Sickness and Mortality.—Cholera is prevalent in parts of Anantapur, Dharmavaram and Kalyandrug taluks. Attacks 267, deaths 93. In the Penukonda taluk small-pox, chicken-pox and measles are also prevalent. Small-pox also in parts of Dharmavaram. No deaths from starvation.

Remarks.—The average jail population based on the figures of the three preceding years is 223 against the actuals of 379 relating to the current fortnight. These figures exclude Hindupur from which correct particulars have not been reported. The increase chiefly occurs in the Gooty Division, where the recorded statistics for the fortnight are nearly five times the expected average.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Tadpatri—			
1. Putlur	384	407	These represent the attendance prior to Saturday. The Tahsildar in his weekly season report since submitted has given a total of 2,429 for his taluk. He has not furnished particulars for each work.
2. Senegalgudur	541	1,571	
3. Yadiki	..	262	
Gooty—			
1. Guntakal	390	543	
2. Paltur	388	585	
Total ..	1,703	3,368	

N.B.—In no case was the fining on relief works carried below the minimum wage.

(2) *Gratuitous relief.*—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise:—

Taluks.	Number relieved at kitchens.		Remarks.
	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	
Tadpatri—			
Putlur	26	20	Here also the Tahsildar has furnished in his weekly season report since received 148 as the total for his taluk. Particulars for each kitchen have not been furnished.
Senegalgudur	60	43	
Yadiki	50	..	
Gooty—			
Guntakal	47	46	
Paltur	52	120	
Dharmavaram	76	..	
Bukkapatnam	14	..	
Total ..	325	229	

(3) *Private charity.*—*Vide* remark in the last narrative.

Inspections—Taluks and places visited.

Head Assistant Collector, Penukonda—

Penukonda taluk ... ...
- Bukkapatnam.
- Kammavanapalli.
- Brahmanapalli.
- Munimadugu.
- Guttur.
- Locherla.
- Kothacheruvu.

Dharmavaram taluk ... ...
- Dharmavaram.
- Nagasamudram.
- Kemtimaddi.
- Ramagiri.
- Perur.
- Nasanahora.

Inspections—Taluks and places visited—*cont.*

Head-quarters Deputy Collector—

Anantapur taluk ... ...
- Rachanapalli.
- Kodimi.
- Kudair.

Kalyandrug taluk ... ...
- Cholasamudram.
- Budigumma.
- Ramasagaram.
- Ankampalli.
- Thagguparthi.
- Belaguppa.
- Yerragudi.
- Avalenma.
- Sirpi.
- Gangavaram.
- Seebhavi.
- Golla.
- Kalwapalli.
- Kurugunta.

Gooty Deputy Collector—

Gooty taluk ... ...
- Paltur.
- Undabanda.
- Uravakonda.
- Lattivaram.
- Sheiksanipalli.
- Vajra Karur.
- Konakondla.
- Timmancherla.
- Guntakal.

Tadpatri taluk ... ...
- Royalcheruvu.
- Yadiki.
- Nittore.

By Collector—

Tadpatri taluk ... ...
- Royalcheruvu.
- Yadiki.
- Timmapuram.
- Jakkalcheruvu.
- Veerapalli.
- Thondapaud.
- Kothapetta.
- Gooty.
- Rajapuram.
- Pathkothacheruvu.
- Nakkandoddy.

Gooty taluk ... ...
- Narasapuram.
- Timmancherla.
- Guntakal.
- Marnipalli.
- Hanchinahal.
- Gadekal.
- Velpumadugu.
- Vidapanakal.
- Karakumukkala.
- Palthur.

General Remarks.—There has been no improvement since the date of my last report. On the contrary, in spite of the few drops of rain registered at Anantapur and Hindupur, barely sufficient to moisten the parched up soil, prospects are taking a slow but sure change for the worse. The comparatively high range of prices continues with a tendency towards a slow rise in a few of the affected localities. In other parts, they are most stationary. The attendance is steadily increasing on all relief works, and rapidly in Senegalagudur; here it has risen to thrice its original strength within the space of a fortnight. A relief work was opened at Yadiki, and the Deputy Collector, who proposed to start the work on the 10th instant, reports that numbers of the coolies of the Mala caste came to him on the 9th and entreated him to do so at once saying that

they were starving. The Deputy Collector reports that the coolies asked him no questions about tasks or wages and were anxious to enter on work on any wage. Some coolies of the "Kapu" caste also presented themselves at the work—a fact which goes to show that distress is deepening in this part of the taluk also, and has commenced to affect the agricultural population who are seldom, if ever, willing to offer themselves for relief at State relief works. The Deputy Collector further anticipates that some 200 coolies will have to be provided with labour towards the Kadavakal side, and reports that he is proceeding there shortly. It was in this locality that the new road from Kondapuram, hamlet of Surepalli, on the Anantapur-Tadpatri road to Kummanamalla was originally proposed (*vide* page 6 of my fortnightly narrative printed in B.P., No. 53, dated 25th January 1897), but on reconsideration, I have thought it better to start the work of collection of metal at Putlur itself for the benefit of the Kadavakal coolies, since it is inadvisable to take up too many new roads, and it would be more satisfactory to do the work already begun thoroughly and well before starting any more. The Kadavakal coolies may be employed on metalling and tamping the road now under progress from Putlur, which will, I believe, give them sufficient employment for some considerable time to come. I am therefore addressing the Deputy Collector and the Assistant Engineer, Famine Sub-division, to have this work commenced at an early date.

Two kitchens have also been opened at Dharmavaram and at Bukkapatam as already proposed and the Head Assistant Collector has also started some minor work out of Union funds for the able-bodied labourers at Dharmavaram. At Bukkapatam none came forward to work at the famine wages. The Head Assistant Collector writes—

"The distance of Bukkapatam from Putaperti and Bramhanapally is by no means prohibitive; and as due intimation has been given in all the surrounding villages of the terms on which children will be admitted into the kitchen, any Madigas who are really in want will go there. In Dharmavaram the great difficulty is to find any suitable work for those who wish employment. They are practically all Madiga women and children. Their husbands—in cases where they have any—have mostly gone off for work on coffee plantations. Hence it is impossible to set them to excavate gravel for the Union roads. Hitherto they have been employed in gathering metal, but this and the breaking of it can only keep them working for a short time more, and unless a fair number of men also come forward for work, the problem of keeping these women and children suitably employed will be extremely difficult. The Madigas of Chemakothapalli, to whose condition my attention was drawn by the Collector, still show no signs of wishing work at the prescribed rates. In Perur, where I am now camping, some of the Madigas are asking for work. I am having a list of these prepared and if necessary I shall submit proposals soon. The weavers in Dharmavaram show no signs of wishing help from Government on the rate explained to them; at present their whole energy appears to be devoted to breaking each other's heads in connection with the cultivation in tank-bed. As already remarked the want of water is felt very badly by the Madigas in almost every village. The Taluk Board has spent every available pie on this, and no funds can be transferred from other heads. The only way of improving matters is to have a grant sanctioned from Provincial funds."

The Head Assistant Collector has not stated anything about the task fixed for the Dharmavaram workers and a report on this point has already been called for from him on B.P., dated 10th February 1897, Mis. No. 991. As the number of workers has apparently increased at Dharmavaram and as the preponderance of women is only natural, seeing that distress in this taluk is yet in its initial stage, I am arranging to have the collection of material on the Dharmavaram-Kothacheram road started as soon as possible. The work which has been suggested by the Head Assistant Collector is on the famine programme, and is expected to provide labour for 593 coolies for three months. Considering the magnitude of the distress that prevails in the black cotton tracts of the two northern taluks, I felt a natural anxiety as to the condition of the Rayadrug villages of the Kalyandrug taluk lately transferred to the latter taluk. I accordingly desired the Divisional Officer to make a tour through the principal villages of this tract, and he has just submitted a detailed report on their condition, from which I extract the following for the Board's information:—

* * * * *

3. "The chief standing crops in these black cotton tracts are white cholum and Bengalgram. Cholum is generally 2 to 3 feet high and is yet tender. It has begun to fade in parts and there is no likelihood of its yielding any outturn except in a few isolated fields in low

villages. Bengal-gram too is not thriving well. People have already begun to gather cholum stalks in Ankampalli, &c., villages. Unless there is any rain, and there is no prospect of getting it, these crops would, I fear, generally wither.

4. "I made enquiries regarding the nature of labour available in the above villages. The loan works sanctioned give labour to the coolies to some extent. Ryots have begun to repair wells and to remove nuth grass. Out of eight wells I inspected, it was in only one work had not been commenced, and the delay in this case was due to the fact that there was plenty of water in the well. Labour is also available in gardens and wet lands under nalas, where coolies are employed in weeding ragi and paddy, &c. Coolies are employed in clearing nalas also.

5. "Taking advantage of the fact that the coolies are now available for less than the ordinary wages, people in well-to-do circumstances have been laying out their capital in reclaiming their land, digging wells, &c. A ryot of Rakatla, who owns 10 acres of wet and 16 acres of dry in Ramasagaram village, has been reclaiming his land by employing about 100 coolies for the last one month. He has already spent about Rs. 400, and I was informed by the people of Ramasagaram that the said ryot is arranging to spend something like Rs. 500 more in converting his dry land to wet.

6. "At Cholasamudram, a village in the Anantapur taluk about 6 miles from Kudair, the Boyas and Madigas complained that there was not sufficient work for them in their villages. I was informed that the cooly they now get was 1½ seers. It came to my notice that no loans were sanctioned or paid in this village, although two ryots had applied for loans about a month ago. Four applications for loans amounting to Rs. 550 were received by me at the time of my visit to the village, and they were all forwarded to the Tahsildar for early disposal. The coolies are not, however, inclined to resort to the test-relief work if one is opened on account of the low wages."

* * * * *

9 "I collected a number of coolies at Belaguppa, and enquired if they would come to the relief work if one is opened there. They said that they would not come for famine wages. My enquiries go to show that these coolies find some work at present in gardens and in wells and also in collecting thangedu bark, &c.

10. "People who own no lands here and who have relations in parts of the Mysore Province are reported to have gone to the Mysore villages. Some have driven their cattle there as it was difficult to maintain them here."

* * * * *

I have also before me a scheme for the relief of weavers in their own trade at Tadpatri, and I shall shortly submit my proposals on this subject for the Board's approval.

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

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.								Other purposes.								Total.				Number of wells.	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Tadpatri	13	2,770	3	225	12	2,520	..	..	131	16,790	859	1,54,850	13	2,770	3	225	12	2,520	..	3
Gooty	19	3,395	5	795	102	40,800	194	27,310	6	705	31	3,870	213	30,705	136	17,585	1,021	1,95,650	..	4
Anantapur	332	33,442	286	26,312	449	48,472	6	705	13	1,970	54	7,550	338	34,147	292	27,017	480	52,342	2	140
Kalyandrug	88	13,485	74	11,550	179	27,965	14	2,070	1	250	5	800	102	15,555	87	13,520	233	35,515	3	75
Dharmavaram	41	3,125	Not given.	3,072	105	15,630	1	250					42	5,375	1	3,322	110	16,430	11	55
Penukonda	19	3,450	13	1,395	9	1,140	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	3,450	13	1,395	9	1,140	4	17
Hindúpur	100	16,375	62	6,873	37	9,530	1	500	1	500	1	500	101	16,875	63	7,373	38	10,030	4	73
Madakasira	12	1,805	7	1,080	46	10,710	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	1,805	7	1,080	46	10,710	1	8
Total ..	624	79,847	460	51,302	999	1,56,767	216	30,835	152	20,215	950	1,67,570	840	1,10,682	602	71,517	1,949	3,24,337	25	375

Cattle and seed-grain.

Taluks.	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.		
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39		
	Rs.			Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Tadpatri	2	200	2	200	41	3,700	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	200	2	200	41	3,700	..	..
Gooty	1	100	1	100	69	7,155	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	100	1	100	69	7,155	..	..
Anantapur	..	..	..	..	1	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kalyandrug	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	100	..	..	7	400	..	..	..	..	8	420	..	..
Dharmavaram	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	100	24	1,600	2	100	2	100	24	1,600	1	100
Penukonda	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	895	..	..	..	..	10	895	..	..
Hindúpur	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	450	8	450	10	990	8	450	8	450	10	990	..	..
Madakasira	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	400	..	..	..	..	2	400	..	..
Total ..	3	300	3	300	111	10,875	10	550	10	550	53	4,285	13	850	13	850	164	15,160	1	100

Purchase of fodder.

Taluks.	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.		
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39		
	Rs.			Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Tadpatri	2	200	2	200	41	3,700	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	200	2	200	41	3,700	..	..
Gooty	1	100	1	100	69	7,155	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	100	1	100	69	7,155	..	..
Anantapur	..	..	..	..	1	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kalyandrug	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	100	..	..	7	400	..	..	..	..	8	420	..	..
Dharmavaram	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	100	24	1,600	2	100	2	100	24	1,600	1	100
Penukonda	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	895	..	..	..	..	10	895	..	..
Hindúpur	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	450	8	450	10	990	8	450	8	450	10	990	..	..
Madakasira	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	400	..	..	..	..	2	400	..	..
Total ..	3	300	3	300	111	10,875	10	550	10	550	53	4,285	13	850	13	850	164	15,160	1	100

Resolution—dated 25th February 1897, No. 160.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The general decrease in the water-supplies throughout the district demands the early attention of the District Board, and, as the Local Fund Engineer has to a great extent been relieved of the charge of special relief works, he should devote his attention to this matter. If the District as well as the Taluk Boards have no funds, application for a grant-in-aid from Provincial Revenues will be considered, but the improvement of the water-supplies is a duty to which, in the Board's opinion, the resources of the District Board should be freely devoted. If the people to a great extent are suffering from want of water, the case with the cattle must be even worse.

3. As to the condition of the country generally, it continues to deteriorate, and the crop sown after the November rainfall is doomed. There is still, however, some cultivation going on in favoured localities and this with loan works affords a certain amount of employment, especially for the men. Numbers of the latter have also gone to Mysore with cattle for grazing.

4. Prices are rising slightly, but the average price of ragi for the whole district is kept down by the comparatively low prices prevailing in the three southern taluks. At the four stations in the two northern taluks, cholum, which is there the staple food-grain, is now sold on the average at 13·5 seers per rupee. The average price for the district in February 1892 was 14·2 seers. Trade is stated to be slack.

5. The people are generally in good condition, but are now beginning to flock to the relief works, and in the Tadpatri taluk, the Board understands, some are coming in from Cuddapah. This is not as it should be, and the Collector of that district will be requested to lose no more time in opening a sufficiency of works for all the distressed in his district. The jail population, especially in the Gooty division, shows a marked increase, and it is evident from the Collector's general remarks that the situation in this district is rapidly growing more serious. The rapid disposal of applications for loans for carrying out land improvements will assist in providing employment locally, and application has been made to Government for the appointment of special officers of the Tahsildar grade for this work.

6. The falling off in attendance at the Paltur kitchen should receive early attention.

7. With reference to the Madiga women in Dharmavaram, there can be no difficulty in employing them on stone-breaking. If stone is not available close by, the lead can be extended.

8. The scheme for the relief of the Tadpatri weavers has been received and will be separately disposed of.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Anantapur.
" Collector of Cuddapah.
Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

Order—No. 175, Revenue, dated 18th March 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Copy to the Public Works Department.
" the Local and Municipal Department.
" the Financial Department.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

60 Copies.

Public Works Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. } *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 175, 18th March 1897.

Order thereon No 948 of 24.3.97
Communicated to the
Supdg: Engineer III Circle.
(True extract)
for D. Ex. C.

MARCH.

To
The Supdg Engineer III Circle.

Famine.

Recording the fortnightly narrative of the Anantapur 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 25th February 1897, No. 160 :—

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

State of the Country.

Rainfall and Water-supply.—There was a slight rainfall of 2 ounces registered at each of the two stations—Anantapur and Hindupur during the fortnight—against an expected average of 0·03 inch. Aggregate fall up to date is 14·63 against 23·44 inches.

Water-supply is generally sufficient for drinking purposes in all parts of the district, except in Hanchinahal, Malappuram and Kadatharabench in the Gooty taluk and in Dosaledu and its hamlet Obalapuram in the Tadpatri taluk. The Divisional Officer has called for estimates from the Tahsildars for improving the supply in these villages. In the Head-Assistant Collector's division, the supply for Malas and Madigas is reported to be seriously deficient. An application for a grant of Rupees 2,500 from Provincial funds has been received from the President, Taluk Board, for improving the water-supply in various villages of this division and an allotment will be applied for separately. For purposes of irrigation it is quite insufficient everywhere, and the supply in nalas and wells is said to be barely sufficient for the standing crops. The supply in wells is gradually failing in various parts of the district.

Agricultural operations and condition of standing crops—In Gooty division.—Red gram and castor sown in unirrigated dry lands are being harvested. Cotton on black soil is also being picked. The outturn is poor to moderate. White cholum sown for the late rains is fading and withering. It is expected to yield no outturn. Already, in some parts, the withered cholum stalks are being removed by the ryots. Bengal-and-horse-gram in both the taluks are also reported to be withering except in a few favoured localities, where they are expected to yield a crop. Indigo is stunted and poor.

In the two central taluks—the chief standing crops, viz., white cholum and Bengal-gram in the black soil tracts of the Kalyandrug taluk, and other minor crops, such as coriander, linseed and wheat are said to be fading away for want of rain. Only those standing in low-level tracts and a few isolated fields are expected to survive. On red soils, cotton, castor, red-gram and horse-gram are being harvested. Tank-bed cucumber is doing fairly.

In the southern taluks—of the Head Assistant Collector's division the crops mostly on red soil are also poor and stunted. Under tanks having well aid, nalas and springs, ploughing and sowing of paddy and transplanting of ragi is going on in parts of Gooty, Tadpatri, Kalyandrug and Madakasíra. In Tadpatri taluk harvests of ragi and paddy have commenced. In other parts ragi has eared and is likely to be harvested in a fortnight hence. The condition of the standing crops—paddy and ragi and slight cholum and korra under wells—is fair.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture is scarce everywhere, except in parts of Hindupur. Hill grass is available to a moderate extent in most localities. Fodder is generally very dear but is moderately procurable in several

villages owing to the ragi and paddy harvests in well lands. In the villages of the Gooty taluk bordering on the Bellary and Alúr taluks, prickly-pear is being used for cattle as fodder. The Deputy Collector reports that some of the cattle have been sent to the hilly tracts of the Mysore Province, where pasture is said to be available. In parts of Penukonda cattle are also being fed on *chigara* leaves and *sonti* roots. In the Kanaganapalli firka of the Dharmavaram taluk, the Head Assistant Collector reports that the condition of the cattle is very bad and that they are suffering from want of fodder as well as of water. The free cutting of grass in the forest reserves and the grazing permitted at reduced rates in this and the adjoining taluk of Penukonda are affording partial relief to the cattle.

Cattle disease is prevalent in parts of Anantapur, Kalyandrug, Dharmavaram and Madaksíra. Attacks 165 and deaths 93.

General remarks on above subjects.—The enormous extent of white cholum sown for the November rains is doomed to wither. The stalks, which in some places, have grown to a height of 2 or 3 feet from the ground are not only fading away for want of rain but are reported to have been damaged by insects. The area of cultivation elsewhere is very much restricted. Well sinking by the aid of State loans has improved the water-supply in several villages of Anantapur and Kalyandrug taluks.

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, yellow.		Cholum, white.	
	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.
Tadpatri..	9·18	9·18	15·52	15·52	14·42	14·42	13·39	13·39
Yadiki	8·64	8·64	14·55	14·55	12·36	12·87	..	..
Gooty	8 64	8·64	14·40	15·52	13·23	13·67	12·50	13·39
Uravakonda	8·50	8·40	16·00	16·80	..	13·12	12·00	12·60
Anantapur	8·64	8·64	15·52	15·52	14·42	13.39	13·39	13·39
Kalyandrug	10·26	10·26	16·49	16·49	15·45	15·45	12·36	12·36
Dharmavaram	8·64	8·64	15·52	15·52	13·39	13·39	12·48	12·36
Penukonda	9·72	9·72	17·46	18·43	..	..	15·46	13·39
Hindupur	10·75	10·75	21·50	22·57	..	..	16·12	16·12
Madakasíra	10·80	10·80	19·40	20·37	..	..	..	..
Average ..	9·37	9·36	16·63	17·12	13 88	13·75	13·46	13·37

Activity of trade.—In Tadpatri and the two southern taluks of Penukonda and Hindupur, private trade is said to have become recently brisk and active on account of demand from Cuddapah. Elsewhere it is slack.

Imports by rail.—Three hundred and five bags of ragi from Bangalore. No others reported.

Condition of the People.

(1) *On works.*—Generally good.

(2) *In villages.*—Fair. There has been some migration from the Uravakonda side to the Mysore Province in expectation of better wages. The Head Assistant Collector reports :—

"The lower castes find difficulty in getting work and in some villages are stinting themselves. But they do not seem to be quite prepared to work for famine wages."

Sickness and Mortality.—Cholera is prevalent in parts of Anantapur, Dharmavaram and Kalyandrug taluks. Attacks 267, deaths 93. In the Penukonda taluk small-pox, chicken-pox and measles are also prevalent. Small-pox also in parts of Dharmavaram. No deaths from starvation.

Remarks.—The average jail population based on the figures of the three preceding years is 223 against the actuals of 379 relating to the current fortnight. These figures exclude Hindupur from which correct particulars have not been reported. The increase chiefly occurs in the Gooty Division, where the recorded statistics for the fortnight are nearly five times the expected average.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Tadpatri—			
1. Putlur	384	407	These represent the attendance prior to Saturday. The Tahsildar in his weekly season report since submitted has given a total of 2,429 for his taluk. He has not furnished particulars for each work.
2. Senegalgudur	541	1,571	
3. Yadiki	..	262	
Gooty—			
1. Guntakal	390	543	
2. Paltur	388	585	
Total ..	1,703	3,368	

N.B.—In no case was the fining on relief works carried below the minimum wage.

(2) *Gratuitous relief.*—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise:—

Taluks.	Number relieved at kitchens.		Remarks.
	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	
Tadpatri—			
Putlur	26	20	Here also the Tahsildar has furnished in his weekly season report since received 148 as the total for his taluk. Particulars for each kitchen have not been furnished.
Senegalgudur	60	43	
Yadiki	50	..	
Gooty—			
Guntakal	47	46	
Paltur	52	120	
Dharmavaram	76	..	
Bukkapatnam	14	..	
Total ..	325	229	

(3) *Private charity.*—*Vide* remark in the last narrative.

Inspections—Taluks and places visited.

Head Assistant Collector, Penukonda—

Penukonda taluk	Bukkapatnam.
	Kammavanapalli.
	Brahmanapalli.
	Munimadugu.
	Guttur.
	Locherla.
	Kothacheruvu.
Dharmavaram taluk	Dharmavaram.
	Nagasamudram.
	Kemtimaddi.
	Ramagiri.
	Perur.
	Nasanahora.

Inspections—Taluks and places visited—*cont.*

Head-quarters Deputy Collector—

Anantapur taluk	Rachanapalli.
	Kodimi.
	Kudair.
Kalyandrug taluk	Cholasamudram.
	Budigumma.
	Ramasagaram.
	Ankampalli.
	Thagguparthi.
	Belaguppa.
	Yerragudi.
	Avalenma.
	Sirpi.
	Gangavaram.
	Seebhavi.
	Golla.
	Kalwapalli.
	Kurugunta.

Gooty Deputy Collector—

Gooty taluk	Paltur.
	Undabanda.
	Uravakonda.
	Lattivaram.
	Sheiksanipalli.
	Vajra Karur.
	Konakondla.
	Timmamcherla.
	Guntakal.
Tadpatri taluk	Royalcheruvu.
	Yadiki.
	Nittore.

By Collector—

Tadpatri taluk	Royalcheruvu.
	Yadiki.
Gooty taluk	Timmapuram.
	Jakkalcheruvu.
	Veerapalli.
	Thondapaud.
	Kothapetta.
	Gooty.
	Rajapuram.
	Pathkothacheruvu.
	Nakkandoddy.
	Narasapuram.
	Timmamcherla.
	Guntakal.
	Marnipalli.
	Hanchinahal.
	Gadekal.
	Velpumadugu.
	Vidapanakal.
	Karakumukkala.
	Palthur.

General Remarks.—There has been no improvement since the date of my last report. On the contrary, in spite of the few drops of rain registered at Anantapur and Hindupur, barely sufficient to moisten the parched up soil, prospects are taking a slow but sure change for the worse. The comparatively high range of prices continues with a tendency towards a slow rise in a few of the affected localities. In other parts, they are most stationary. The attendance is steadily increasing on all relief works, and rapidly in Senegalagudur; here it has risen to thrice its original strength within the space of a fortnight. A relief work was opened at Yadiki, and the Deputy Collector, who proposed to start the work on the 10th instant, reports that numbers of the coolies of the Mala caste came to him on the 9th and entreated him to do so at once saying that

they were starving. The Deputy Collector reports that the coolies asked him no questions about tasks or wages and were anxious to enter on work on any wage. Some coolies of the "Kapu" caste also presented themselves at the work—a fact which goes to show that distress is deepening in this part of the taluk also, and has commenced to affect the agricultural population who are seldom, if ever, willing to offer themselves for relief at State relief works. The Deputy Collector further anticipates that some 200 coolies will have to be provided with labour towards the Kadavakal side, and reports that he is proceeding there shortly. It was in this locality that the new road from Kondapuram, hamlet of Surepalli, on the Anantapur-Tadpatri road to Kummanamalla was originally proposed (*vide* page 6 of my fortnightly narrative printed in B.P., No. 53, dated 25th January 1897), but on reconsideration, I have thought it better to start the work of collection of metal at Putlur itself for the benefit of the Kadavakal coolies, since it is inadvisable to take up too many new roads, and it would be more satisfactory to do the work already begun thoroughly and well before starting any more. The Kadavakal coolies may be employed on metalling and tamping the road now under progress from Putlur, which will, I believe, give them sufficient employment for some considerable time to come. I am therefore addressing the Deputy Collector and the Assistant Engineer, Famine Sub-division, to have this work commenced at an early date.

Two kitchens have also been opened at Dharmavaram and at Bukkapatam as already proposed and the Head Assistant Collector has also started some minor work out of Union funds for the able-bodied labourers at Dharmavaram. At Bukkapatam none came forward to work at the famine wages. The Head Assistant Collector writes—

"The distance of Bukkapatam from Putaperti and Bramhanapally is by no means prohibitive; and as due intimation has been given in all the surrounding villages of the terms on which children will be admitted into the kitchen, any Madigas who are really in want will go there. In Dharmavaram the great difficulty is to find any suitable work for those who wish employment. They are practically all Madiga women and children. Their husbands—in cases where they have any—have mostly gone off for work on coffee plantations. Hence it is impossible to set them to excavate gravel for the Union roads. Hitherto they have been employed in gathering metal, but this and the breaking of it can only keep them working for a short time more, and unless a fair number of men also come forward for work, the problem of keeping these women and children suitably employed will be extremely difficult. The Madigas of Chemakothapalli, to whose condition my attention was drawn by the Collector, still show no signs of wishing work at the prescribed rates. In Perur, where I am now camping, some of the Madigas are asking for work. I am having a list of these prepared and if necessary I shall submit proposals soon. The weavers in Dharmavaram show no signs of wishing help from Government on the rate explained to them; at present their whole energy appears to be devoted to breaking each other's heads in connection with the cultivation in tank-bed. As already remarked the want of water is felt very badly by the Madigas in almost every village. The Taluk Board has spent every available pie on this, and no funds can be transferred from other heads. The only way of improving matters is to have a grant sanctioned from Provincial funds."

The Head Assistant Collector has not stated anything about the task fixed for the Dharmavaram workers and a report on this point has already been called for from him on B.P., dated 10th February 1897, Mis. No. 991. As the number of workers has apparently increased at Dharmavaram and as the preponderance of women is only natural, seeing that distress in this taluk is yet in its initial stage, I am arranging to have the collection of material on the Dharmavaram-Kothacheram road started as soon as possible. The work which has been suggested by the Head Assistant Collector is on the famine programme, and is expected to provide labour for 593 coolies for three months. Considering the magnitude of the distress that prevails in the black cotton tracts of the two northern taluks, I felt a natural anxiety as to the condition of the Rayadrug villages of the Kalyandrug taluk lately transferred to the latter taluk. I accordingly desired the Divisional Officer to make a tour through the principal villages of this tract, and he has just submitted a detailed report on their condition, from which I extract the following for the Board's information:—

* * * * *

3. "The chief standing crops in these black cotton tracts are white cholum and Bengal-gram. Cholum is generally 2 to 3 feet high and is yet tender. It has begun to fade in parts and there is no likelihood of its yielding any outturn except in a few isolated fields in low

villages. Bengal-gram too is not thriving well. People have already begun to gather cholum stalks in Ankampalli, &c., villages. Unless there is any rain, and there is no prospect of getting it, these crops would, I fear, generally wither.

4. "I made enquiries regarding the nature of labour available in the above villages. The loan works sanctioned give labour to the coolies to some extent. Ryots have begun to repair wells and to remove nuth grass. Out of eight wells I inspected, it was in only one work had not been commenced, and the delay in this case was due to the fact that there was plenty of water in the well. Labour is also available in gardens and wet lands under nalas, where coolies are employed in weeding ragi and paddy, &c. Coolies are employed in clearing nalas also.

5. "Taking advantage of the fact that the coolies are now available for less than the ordinary wages, people in well-to-do circumstances have been laying out their capital in reclaiming their land, digging wells, &c. A ryot of Rakatla, who owns 10 acres of wet and 16 acres of dry in Ramasagaram village, has been reclaiming his land by employing about 100 coolies for the last one month. He has already spent about Rs. 400, and I was informed by the people of Ramasagaram that the said ryot is arranging to spend something like Rs. 500 more in converting his dry land to wet.

6. "At Cholasamudram, a village in the Anantapur taluk about 6 miles from Kudair, the Boyas and Madigas complained that there was not sufficient work for them in their villages. I was informed that the cooly they now get was 1½ seers. It came to my notice that no loans were sanctioned or paid in this village, although two ryots had applied for loans about a month ago. Four applications for loans amounting to Rs. 550 were received by me at the time of my visit to the village, and they were all forwarded to the Tahsildar for early disposal. The coolies are not, however, inclined to resort to the test-relief work if one is opened on account of the low wages."

* * * * *

9 "I collected a number of coolies at Belaguppa, and enquired if they would come to the relief work if one is opened there. They said that they would not come for famine wages. My enquiries go to show that these coolies find some work at present in gardens and in wells and also in collecting thangedu bark, &c.

10. "People who own no lands here and who have relations in parts of the Mysore Province are reported to have gone to the Mysore villages. Some have driven their cattle there as it was difficult to maintain them here."

* * * * *

I have also before me a scheme for the relief of weavers in their own trade at Tadpatri, and I shall shortly submit my proposals on this subject for the Board's approval.

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

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.						Other purposes.						Total.						Number of wells.	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Rs		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Tadpatri	13	2,770	3	225	12	2,520	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	2,770	3	225	12	2,520	..	3
Gooty	19	3,395	5	795	162	40,800	194	27,310	131	16,790	859	1,54,850	213	30,705	136	17,585	1,021	1,95,650	..	4
Anantapur	332	33,442	286	26,312	449	48,472	6	705	6	705	31	3,870	338	34,147	292	27,017	480	52,342	2	140
Kalyandrug	88	13,485	74	11,550	179	27,965	14	2,070	13	1,970	54	7,550	102	15,555	87	13,520	233	35,515	3	75
Dharmavaram	41	3,125	Not given.	3,072	105	15,630	1	250	1	250	5	800	42	5,375	1	3,322	110	16,430	11	55
Penukonda	19	3,450	13	1,395	9	1,140	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	3,450	13	1,395	9	1,140	4	17
Hindúpur	100	16,375	62	6,873	37	9,530	1	500	1	500	1	500	101	16,875	63	7,373	38	10,030	4	73
Madakasíra	12	1,805	7	1,080	46	10,710	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	1,805	7	1,080	46	10,710	1	8
Total ..	624	79,847	450	51,302	999	1,56,767	216	30,835	152	20,215	950	1,67,570	840	1,10,682	602	71,517	1,949	3,24,337	25	375

Taluks.	Purchase of fodder.						Cattle and seed-grain.						Total.					
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Tadpatri	2	200	2	200	41	3,700	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	200	2	200	41	3,700
Gooty	1	100	1	100	69	7,155	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	100	1	100	69	7,155
Anantapur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kalyandrug	..	..	..	..	1	20	..	..	..	..	7	400	..	..	..	..	8	420
Dharmavaram	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	100	2	100	24	1,600	2	100	2	100	24	1,600
Penukonda	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	895	..	..	..	..	10	895
Hindúpur	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	450	8	450	10	990	8	450	8	450	10	990
Madakasíra	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	400	..	..	..	..	2	400
Total ..	3	300	3	300	111	10,875	10	550	10	550	53	4,285	13	850	13	850	164	15,160

Resolution—dated 25th February 1897, No. 160.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The general decrease in the water-supplies throughout the district demands the early attention of the District Board, and, as the Local Fund Engineer has to a great extent been relieved of the charge of special relief works, he should devote his attention to this matter. If the District as well as the Taluk Boards have no funds, application for a grant-in-aid from Provincial Revenues will be considered, but the improvement of the water-supplies is a duty to which, in the Board's opinion, the resources of the District Board should be freely devoted. If the people to a great extent are suffering from want of water, the case with the cattle must be even worse.

3. As to the condition of the country generally, it continues to deteriorate, and the crop sown after the November rainfall is doomed. There is still, however, some cultivation going on in favoured localities and this with loan works affords a certain amount of employment, especially for the men. Numbers of the latter have also gone to Mysore with cattle for grazing.

4. Prices are rising slightly, but the average price of ragi for the whole district is kept down by the comparatively low prices prevailing in the three southern taluks. At the four stations in the two northern taluks, cholum, which is there the staple food-grain, is now sold on the average at 13·5 seers per rupee. The average price for the district in February 1892 was 14·2 seers. Trade is stated to be slack.

5. The people are generally in good condition, but are now beginning to flock to the relief works, and in the Tadpatri taluk, the Board understands, some are coming in from Cuddapah. This is not as it should be, and the Collector of that district will be requested to lose no more time in opening a sufficiency of works for all the distressed in his district. The jail population, especially in the Gooty division, shows a marked increase, and it is evident from the Collector's general remarks that the situation in this district is rapidly growing more serious. The rapid disposal of applications for loans for carrying out land improvements will assist in providing employment locally, and application has been made to Government for the appointment of special officers of the Tahsildar grade for this work.

6. The falling off in attendance at the Paltur kitchen should receive early attention.

7. With reference to the Madiga women in Dharmavaram, there can be no difficulty in employing them on stone-breaking. If stone is not available close by, the lead can be extended.

8. The scheme for the relief of the Tadpatri weavers has been received and will be separately disposed of.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Anantapur.
" Collector of Cuddapah.
" Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

Order—No. 175, Revenue, dated 18th March 1897.

Miscellaneous. Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Copy to the Public Works Department.
" the Local and Municipal Department.
" the Financial Department.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

60 Copies.

Public Works Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

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

G.O., No. 175, 18th March 1897.

Order thereon No 948 dated 2.4.97
Communicated to the Superintending Engineer III circle.

(True extract)
Sd) D. Ru. C

To
The Supdg: Engineer III Circle.

MARCH.

Famine.

Recording the fortnightly narrative of the Anantapur 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 25th February 1897, No. 160 :—

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

State of the Country.

Rainfall and Water-supply.—There was a slight rainfall of 2 ounces registered at each of the two stations—Anantapur and Hindupur during the fortnight—against an expected average of 0·03 inch. Aggregate fall up to date is 14·63 against 23·44 inches.

Water-supply is generally sufficient for drinking purposes in all parts of the district, except in Hanchinahal, Malappuram and Kadatharabench in the Gooty taluk and in Dosaledu and its hamlet Obalapuram in the Tadpatri taluk. The Divisional Officer has called for estimates from the Tahsildars for improving the supply in these villages. In the Head-Assistant Collector's division, the supply for Malas and Madigas is reported to be seriously deficient. An application for a grant of Rupees 2,500 from Provincial funds has been received from the President, Taluk Board, for improving the water-supply in various villages of this division and an allotment will be applied for separately. For purposes of irrigation it is quite insufficient everywhere, and the supply in nalas and wells is said to be barely sufficient for the standing crops. The supply in wells is gradually failing in various parts of the district.

Agricultural operations and condition of standing crops—In Gooty division.—Red gram and castor sown in unirrigated dry lands are being harvested. Cotton on black soil is also being picked. The outturn is poor to moderate. White cholum sown for the late rains is fading and withering. It is expected to yield no outturn. Already, in some parts, the withered cholum stalks are being removed by the ryots. Bengal-and-horse-gram in both the taluks are also reported to be withering except in a few favoured localities, where they are expected to yield a crop. Indigo is stunted and poor.

In the two central taluks—the chief standing crops, viz., white cholum and Bengal-gram in the black soil tracts of the Kalyandrug taluk, and other minor crops, such as coriander, linseed and wheat are said to be fading away for want of rain. Only those standing in low-level tracts and a few isolated fields are expected to survive. On red soils, cotton, castor, red-gram and horse-gram are being harvested. Tank-bed cucumber is doing fairly.

In the southern taluks—of the Head Assistant Collector's division the crops mostly on red soil are also poor and stunted. Under tanks having well aid, nalas and springs, ploughing and sowing of paddy and transplanting of ragi is going on in parts of Gooty, Tadpatri, Kalyandrug and Madakasíra. In Tadpatri taluk harvests of ragi and paddy have commenced. In other parts ragi has eared and is likely to be harvested in a fortnight hence. The condition of the standing crops—paddy and ragi and slight cholum and korra under wells—is fair.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture is scarce everywhere, except in parts of Hindupur. Hill grass is available to a moderate extent in most localities. Fodder is generally very dear but is moderately procurable in several

villages owing to the ragi and paddy harvests in well lands. In the villages of the Gooty taluk bordering on the Bellary and Alúr taluks, prickly-pear is being used for cattle as fodder. The Deputy Collector reports that some of the cattle have been sent to the hilly tracts of the Mysore Province, where pasture is said to be available. In parts of Penukonda cattle are also being fed on *chigara* leaves and *sonti* roots. In the Kanaganapalli firka of the Dharmavaram taluk, the Head Assistant Collector reports that the condition of the cattle is very bad and that they are suffering from want of fodder as well as of water. The free cutting of grass in the forest reserves and the grazing permitted at reduced rates in this and the adjoining taluk of Penukonda are affording partial relief to the cattle.

Cattle disease is prevalent in parts of Anantapur, Kalyandrug, Dharmavaram and Madaksíra. Attacks 165 and deaths 93.

General remarks on above subjects.—The enormous extent of white cholum sown for the November rains is doomed to wither. The stalks, which in some places, have grown to a height of 2 or 3 feet from the ground are not only fading away for want of rain but are reported to have been damaged by insects. The area of cultivation elsewhere is very much restricted. Well sinking by the aid of State loans has improved the water-supply in several villages of Anantapur and Kalyandrug taluks.

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, yellow.		Cholum, white.	
	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.
Tadpatri..	9·18	9·18	15·52	15·52	14·42	14·42	13·39	13·39
Yadiki	8·64	8·64	14·55	14·55	12·36	12·87	..	..
Gooty	8 64	8·64	14·40	15·52	13·23	13·67	12·50	13·39
Uravakonda	8·50	8·40	16·00	16·80	..	13·12	12·00	12·60
Anantapur	8·64	8·64	15·52	15·52	14·42	13.39	13·39	13·39
Kalyandrug	10·26	10·26	16·49	16·49	15·45	15·45	12·36	12·36
Dharmavaram	8·64	8·64	15·52	15·52	13·39	13·39	12·48	12·36
Penukonda	9·72	9·72	17·46	18·43	..	..	15·46	13·39
Hindupur	10·75	10·75	21·50	22·57	..	..	16·12	16·12
Madakasíra	10·80	10·80	19·40	20·37	..	..	..	..
Average ..	9·37	9·36	16·63	17·12	13·88	13·75	13·46	13·37

Activity of trade.—In Tadpatri and the two southern taluks of Penukonda and Hindupur, private trade is said to have become recently brisk and active on account of demand from Cuddapah. Elsewhere it is slack.

Imports by rail.—Three hundred and five bags of ragi from Bangalore. No others reported.

Condition of the People.

(1) *On works.*—Generally good.

(2) *In villages.*—Fair. There has been some migration from the Uravakonda side to the Mysore Province in expectation of better wages. The Head Assistant Collector reports :—

"The lower castes find difficulty in getting work and in some villages are stinting themselves. But they do not seem to be quite prepared to work for famine wages."

Sickness and Mortality.—Cholera is prevalent in parts of Anantapur, Dharmavaram and Kalyandrug taluks. Attacks 267, deaths 93. In the Penukonda taluk small-pox, chicken-pox and measles are also prevalent. Small-pox also in parts of Dharmavaram. No deaths from starvation.

Remarks.—The average jail population based on the figures of the three preceding years is 223 against the actuals of 379 relating to the current fortnight. These figures exclude Hindupur from which correct particulars have not been reported. The increase chiefly occurs in the Gooty Division, where the recorded statistics for the fortnight are nearly five times the expected average.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Tadpatri—			
1. Putlur	384	407	These represent the attendance prior to Saturday. The Tahsildar in his weekly season report since submitted has given a total of 2,429 for his taluk. He has not furnished particulars for each work.
2. Senegalgudur	541	1,571	
3. Yadiki	..	262	
Gooty—			
1. Guntakal	390	543	
2. Paltur	388	585	
Total ..	1,703	3,368	

N.B.—In no case was the fining on relief works carried below the minimum wage.

(2) *Gratuitous relief.*—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise:—

Taluks.	Number relieved At kitchens.		Remarks.
	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	
Tadpatri—			
Putlur	26	20	Here also the Tahsildar has furnished in his weekly season report since received 148 as the total for his taluk. Particulars for each kitchen have not been furnished.
Senegalgudur	60	43	
Yadiki	50	..	
Gooty—			
Guntakal	47	46	
Paltur	52	120	
Dharmavaram	76	..	
Bukkapatnam	14	..	
Total ..	325	229	

(3) *Private charity.*—*Vide* remark in the last narrative.

Inspections—Taluks and places visited.

Head Assistant Collector, Penukonda—

Penukonda taluk	Bukkapatnam.
	Kammavanapalli.
	Brahmanapalli.
	Munimādugu.
	Guttur.
	Locherla.
	Kothacheruvu.
Dharmavaram taluk	Dharmavaram.
	Nagasamudram.
	Kemtimaddi.
	Ramagiri.
	Perur.
	Nasanahora.

Inspections—Taluks and places visited—*cont.*

Head-quarters Deputy Collector—

Anantapur taluk	Rachanapalli.
	Kodimi.
	Kudair.
Kalyandrug taluk	Cholasamudram.
	Budigumma.
	Ramasagaram.
	Ankampalli.
	Thagguparthi.
	Belaguppa.
	Yerragudi.
	Avalenma.
	Sirpi.
	Gangavaram.
	Seebhavi.
	Golla.
	Kalwapalli.
	Kurugunta.

Gooty Deputy Collector—

Gooty taluk	Paltur.
	Undabanda.
	Uravakonda.
	Lattivaram.
	Sheiksanipalli.
	Vajra Karur.
	Konakondla.
	Timmancherla.
	Guntakal.
Tadpatri taluk	Royalcheruvu.
	Yadiki.
	Nittore.

By Collector—

Tadpatri taluk	Royalcheruvu.
	Yadiki.
Gooty taluk	Timmapuram.
	Jakkalcheruvu.
	Veerapalli.
	Thondapaud.
	Kothapetta.
	Gooty.
	Rajapuram.
	Pathkothacheruvu.
	Nakkandoddy.
	Narasapuram.
	Timmancherla.
	Guntakal.
	Marnipalli.
	Hanchinahal.
	Gadekal.
	Velpumadugu.
	Vidapanakal.
	Karakumukkala.
	Palthur.

General Remarks.—There has been no improvement since the date of my last report. On the contrary, in spite of the few drops of rain registered at Anantapur and Hindupur, barely sufficient to moisten the parched up soil, prospects are taking a slow but sure change for the worse. The comparatively high range of prices continues with a tendency towards a slow rise in a few of the affected localities. In other parts, they are most stationary. The attendance is steadily increasing on all relief works, and rapidly in Senegalagudur; here it has risen to thrice its original strength within the space of a fortnight. A relief work was opened at Yadiki, and the Deputy Collector, who proposed to start the work on the 10th instant, reports that numbers of the coolies of the Mala caste came to him on the 9th and entreated him to do so at once saying that

they were starving. The Deputy Collector reports that the coolies asked him no questions about tasks or wages and were anxious to enter on work on any wage. Some coolies of the "Kapu" caste also presented themselves at the work—a fact which goes to show that distress is deepening in this part of the taluk also, and has commenced to affect the agricultural population who are seldom, if ever, willing to offer themselves for relief at State relief works. The Deputy Collector further anticipates that some 200 coolies will have to be provided with labour towards the Kadavakal side, and reports that he is proceeding there shortly. It was in this locality that the new road from Kondapuram, hamlet of Surepalli, on the Anantapur-Tadpatri road to Kummanamalla was originally proposed (*vide* page 6 of my fortnightly narrative printed in B.P., No. 53, dated 25th January 1897), but on reconsideration, I have thought it better to start the work of collection of metal at Putlur itself for the benefit of the Kadavakal coolies, since it is inadvisable to take up too many new roads, and it would be more satisfactory to do the work already begun thoroughly and well before starting any more. The Kadavakal coolies may be employed on metalling and tamping the road now under progress from Putlur, which will, I believe, give them sufficient employment for some considerable time to come. I am therefore addressing the Deputy Collector and the Assistant Engineer, Famine Sub-division, to have this work commenced at an early date.

Two kitchens have also been opened at Dharmavaram and at Bukkapatam as already proposed and the Head Assistant Collector has also started some minor work out of Union funds for the able-bodied labourers at Dharmavaram. At Bukkapatam none came forward to work at the famine wages. The Head Assistant Collector writes—

"The distance of Bukkapatam from Putaperti and Bramhanapally is by no means prohibitive; and as due intimation has been given in all the surrounding villages of the terms on which children will be admitted into the kitchen, any Madigas who are really in want will go there. In Dharmavaram the great difficulty is to find any suitable work for those who wish employment. They are practically all Madiga women and children. Their husbands—in cases where they have any—have mostly gone off for work on coffee plantations. Hence it is impossible to set them to excavate gravel for the Union roads. Hitherto they have been employed in gathering metal, but this and the breaking of it can only keep them working for a short time more, and unless a fair number of men also come forward for work, the problem of keeping these women and children suitably employed will be extremely difficult. The Madigas of Chemakothapalli, to whose condition my attention was drawn by the Collector, still show no signs of wishing work at the prescribed rates. In Perur, where I am now camping, some of the Madigas are asking for work. I am having a list of these prepared and if necessary I shall submit proposals soon. The weavers in Dharmavaram show no signs of wishing help from Government on the rate explained to them; at present their whole energy appears to be devoted to breaking each other's heads in connection with the cultivation in tank-bed. As already remarked the want of water is felt very badly by the Madigas in almost every village. The Taluk Board has spent every available pie on this, and no funds can be transferred from other heads. The only way of improving matters is to have a grant sanctioned from Provincial funds."

The Head Assistant Collector has not stated anything about the task fixed for the Dharmavaram workers and a report on this point has already been called for from him on B.P., dated 10th February 1897, Mis. No. 991. As the number of workers has apparently increased at Dharmavaram and as the preponderance of women is only natural, seeing that distress in this taluk is yet in its initial stage, I am arranging to have the collection of material on the Dharmavaram-Kothacheram road started as soon as possible. The work which has been suggested by the Head Assistant Collector is on the famine programme, and is expected to provide labour for 593 coolies for three months. Considering the magnitude of the distress that prevails in the black cotton tracts of the two northern taluks, I felt a natural anxiety as to the condition of the Rayadrug villages of the Kalyandrug taluk lately transferred to the latter taluk. I accordingly desired the Divisional Officer to make a tour through the principal villages of this tract, and he has just submitted a detailed report on their condition, from which I extract the following for the Board's information:—

* * * * *

3. "The chief standing crops in these black cotton tracts are white cholum and Bengal-gram. Cholum is generally 2 to 3 feet high and is yet tender. It has begun to fade in parts and there is no likelihood of its yielding any outturn except in a few isolated fields in low

villages. Bengal-gram too is not thriving well. People have already begun to gather cholum stalks in Ankampalli, &c., villages. Unless there is any rain, and there is no prospect of getting it, these crops would, I fear, generally wither.

4. "I made enquiries regarding the nature of labour available in the above villages. The loan works sanctioned give labour to the coolies to some extent. Ryots have begun to repair wells and to remove nuth grass. Out of eight wells I inspected, it was in only one work had not been commenced, and the delay in this case was due to the fact that there was plenty of water in the well. Labour is also available in gardens and wet lands under nalas, where coolies are employed in weeding ragi and paddy, &c. Coolies are employed in clearing nalas also.

5. "Taking advantage of the fact that the coolies are now available for less than the ordinary wages, people in well-to-do circumstances have been laying out their capital in reclaiming their land, digging wells, &c. A ryot of Rakatla, who owns 10 acres of wet and 16 acres of dry in Ramasagaram village, has been reclaiming his land by employing about 100 coolies for the last one month. He has already spent about Rs. 400, and I was informed by the people of Ramasagaram that the said ryot is arranging to spend something like Rs. 500 more in converting his dry land to wet.

6. "At Cholasamudram, a village in the Anantapur taluk about 6 miles from Kudair, the Boyas and Madigas complained that there was not sufficient work for them in their villages. I was informed that the cooly they now get was 1½ seers. It came to my notice that no loans were sanctioned or paid in this village, although two ryots had applied for loans about a month ago. Four applications for loans amounting to Rs. 550 were received by me at the time of my visit to the village, and they were all forwarded to the Tahsildar for early disposal. The coolies are not, however, inclined to resort to the test-relief work if one is opened on account of the low wages."

* * * * *

9 "I collected a number of coolies at Belaguppa, and enquired if they would come to the relief work if one is opened there. They said that they would not come for famine wages. My enquiries go to show that these coolies find some work at present in gardens and in wells and also in collecting thangedu bark, &c.

10. "People who own no lands here and who have relations in parts of the Mysore Province are reported to have gone to the Mysore villages. Some have driven their cattle there as it was difficult to maintain them here."

* * * * *

I have also before me a scheme for the relief of weavers in their own trade at Tadpatri, and I shall shortly submit my proposals on this subject for the Board's approval.

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

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.						Other purposes.						Total.						Number of wells.	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Rs		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Tadpatri	13	2,770	3	225	12	2,520	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	2,770	3	225	12	2,520	..	3
Gooty	19	3,395	5	795	162	40,800	194	27,310	131	16,790	859	1,54,850	213	30,705	136	17,585	1,021	1,95,650	..	4
Anantapur	332	33,442	286	26,312	449	48,472	6	705	6	705	31	3,870	338	34,147	292	27,017	480	52,342	2	140
Kalyandrug	88	13,485	74	11,550	179	27,965	14	2,070	13	1,970	54	7,550	102	15,555	87	13,520	233	35,515	3	75
Dharmavaram	41	3,125	Not given.	3,072	105	15,630	1	250	1	250	5	800	42	5,375	1	3,322	110	16,430	11	55
Penukonda	19	3,450	13	1,395	9	1,140	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	3,450	13	1,395	9	1,140	4	17
Hindúpur	100	16,375	62	6,873	37	9,530	1	500	1	500	1	500	101	16,875	63	7,373	38	10,030	4	73
Madakasíra	12	1,805	7	1,080	46	10,710	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	1,805	7	1,080	46	10,710	1	8
Total ..	624	79,847	450	51,302	999	1,56,767	216	30,835	152	20,215	950	1,67,570	840	1,10,682	602	71,517	1,949	3,24,337	25	375

Taluks.	Purchase of fodder.						Cattle and seed-grain.						Total.					
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications. pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Tadpatri	2	200	2	200	41	3,700	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	200	2	200	41	3,700
Gooty	1	100	1	100	69	7,155	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	100	1	100	69	7,155
Anantapur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kalyandrug	..	..	..	..	1	20	..	..	..	..	7	400	..	..	..	..	8	420
Dharmavaram	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	100	2	100	24	1,600	2	100	2	100	24	1,600
Penukonda	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	895	..	..	..	..	10	895
Hindúpur	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	450	8	450	10	990	8	450	8	450	10	990
Madakasíra	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	400	..	..	..	..	2	400
Total ..	3	300	3	300	111	10,875	10	550	10	550	53	4,285	13	850	13	850	164	15,160

Resolution—dated 25th February 1897, No. 160.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The general decrease in the water-supplies throughout the district demands the early attention of the District Board, and, as the Local Fund Engineer has to a great extent been relieved of the charge of special relief works, he should devote his attention to this matter. If the District as well as the Taluk Boards have no funds, application for a grant-in-aid from Provincial Revenues will be considered, but the improvement of the water-supplies is a duty to which, in the Board's opinion, the resources of the District Board should be freely devoted. If the people to a great extent are suffering from want of water, the case with the cattle must be even worse.

3. As to the condition of the country generally, it continues to deteriorate, and the crop sown after the November rainfall is doomed. There is still, however, some cultivation going on in favoured localities and this with loan works affords a certain amount of employment, especially for the men. Numbers of the latter have also gone to Mysore with cattle for grazing.

4. Prices are rising slightly, but the average price of ragi for the whole district is kept down by the comparatively low prices prevailing in the three southern taluks. At the four stations in the two northern taluks, cholum, which is there the staple food-grain, is now sold on the average at 13·5 seers per rupee. The average price for the district in February 1892 was 14·2 seers. Trade is stated to be slack.

5. The people are generally in good condition, but are now beginning to flock to the relief works, and in the Tadpatri taluk, the Board understands, some are coming in from Cuddapah. This is not as it should be, and the Collector of that district will be requested to lose no more time in opening a sufficiency of works for all the distressed in his district. The jail population, especially in the Gooty division, shows a marked increase, and it is evident from the Collector's general remarks that the situation in this district is rapidly growing more serious. The rapid disposal of applications for loans for carrying out land improvements will assist in providing employment locally, and application has been made to Government for the appointment of special officers of the Tahsildar grade for this work.

6. The falling off in attendance at the Paltur kitchen should receive early attention.

7. With reference to the Madiga women in Dharmavaram, there can be no difficulty in employing them on stone-breaking. If stone is not available close by, the lead can be extended.

8. The scheme for the relief of the Tadpatri weavers has been received and will be separately disposed of.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Anantapur.
" Collector of Cuddapah.
" Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

Order—No. 175, Revenue, dated 18th March 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Copy to the Public Works Department.
" the Local and Municipal Department.
" the Financial Department.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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