Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 1995 W

DATED 23 July 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Racine, Rs: Revenue Dept. sending Board's Rs: submitting with remarks the forwarding - Narrative of the Legislative Dt for the period ending 31st May 1897, Compd to 15 I Cirl.

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[P.W. 28. 5,000—30-11-96.]

23.7.97

Indexed. 24/7

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Public Works Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 525, 2nd July 1897.

No 1995 W & 23.7.97

Communicated to the

S.E.I circle

JULY.

for D.R.C

To

the S.E.I circle

2 copies to ack

23/7/97

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting to Government, with remarks, — of the Vizagapatam district for the period ending 31st May 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 15th June 1897, No. 436 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Vizagapatam district during the period ending 31st May 1897 :—

State of the country.

Rainfall and water-supply.—

	District rainfall.	
	Actual rainfall.	Expected rainfall.
	INCHES.	INCHES.
In the fortnight	1·76	0·46
Up to the fortnight	3·66	3·66

There was very good rain at almost all stations on the night of the 19th. It varied from 4·70 inches at Vizianagram to about 2 inches in other parts within 15 or 20 miles of the coast and less than an inch at stations under the hills. There is little trouble about drinking water anywhere now. Most tanks have received some supply and about Vizianagram they have mostly received a supply sufficient for 1½ to 2 months. Since the 19th there have been a few scattered showers, useful but not important.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—Dry cultivation has commenced almost everywhere and is proceeding briskly. Ploughing is general. Gingelly, cotton and cumbu being sown somewhat freely, and ragi less so. Cumbu is in many places nearly ready to transplant, which will be done with the next shower, ragi also where the seed-beds are under wells. Vudala, an inferior paddy grown on dry lands, which comes to harvest in six weeks, is doing well where it has been sown. Except what has been recently sown there are few crops standing, only the early gingelly and indigo in a few places. The rain has done good to these. Another shower within this week will make the prospects of the dry crops quite bright.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture above the hot-weather average and sufficient everywhere. Fodder very scarce and unprocurable in parts. The want is supplied by hundreds of grass-cutters. There is no anxiety about cattle now, though of course the inferior uncared-for herds are very poor.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—Prospects are for the present considerably improved. The ryots consider the season favourable and are full of hope. Dry cultivation has got a good start and is advanced for the time of year. It is, however, rather risky work, as there may be no more rain till the middle of June, in which case most of the sowings now made will be lost. The country looks green and fresh, and water is almost everywhere visible.

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 May 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		Ragi.		Cumbu.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
1. Párvatípuram	9·51	9 43	16·48	14·65	17·50	15·40	Prices have risen smartly and ragi is for the first time just above the scarcity rate. The prices have been for a long time cheaper than in the two neighbouring districts and though there is not much trade with Ganjám, there is with Gódávari, and our prices are bound to level up to those of that district. There is besides a large demand for seed grain which has assisted the rise.
2. Saluru	11·07	9·22	17·64	14·40	14·70	13·30	
3. Palkonda	10·17	9·04	15·15	13·13	18·81	13·86	
4. Gajapatinagram	9·43	9·02	15·64	13·32	17·28	13·68	
5. Chipurupalli	9·84	9·84	..	14·04	..	17·28	
6. Vizianagram	9·04	8·13	14·64	12·12	13·86	12·87	
7. Vizagapatam	9·04	7 91	14·44	12·82	13·86	12·87	
8. Chódavaramu	9·50	9·50	19·11	17·29	18·48	16·72	
9. Anakápalle	9·00	9·00	15·47	14·56	..	..	
10. Yellamanchilli	10·00	9·00	14·56	13·65	..	14·08	
11. Narsapatam	10·00	9·40	15·12	13·44	16·20	14·58	
Average ..	9·69	9·04	15·81	13·94	16·27	14·46	

Activity of trade—Trade is fairly active—especially in rice and paddy—less so in dry grains, the stock of which is becoming contracted.

	Exports.	Imports.
	MDS.	MDS.
By sea for the period ending 29th May 1897	309	650
By rail do. do.	923	25,463 (carts)
By road from Jeypore for the period ending 29th May 1897 ...		4,657

Condition of the People.

On works.—The condition of relief workers is generally good. Cases of really bad condition are very rare. During the fortnight attendance has been irregular, many people going away for a little to attend to agriculture and coming back again.

In villages.—Good, with very few exceptions. In accordance with the orders of Government detailed enquiries are now being made and village lists got ready against a possible failure of the monsoon. These have not yet disclosed any distress which is not amenable to the measures at present being taken. In Vizianagram some of the Kshatriyas, who will on no account work, consented to come to the kitchen. They did so and a cook of their own caste was provided, but after a trial they gave it up and said they would not come unless given rice to eat. In this case beggars are choosers. The weavers at Pondur have been again offered relief, but, the Principal Assistant Collector reports, "rejected it with scorn." Those at Rayavaram applied for advances of Rs. 20 or 30 per loom to be repaid like agriculturists' loans, but decline task-work.

Sickness and Mortality.—Cholera is very prevalent and getting worse in Parvatipuram, Palkonda and Viravilli taluks chiefly. It is also bad in the Gunupur hill tracts, where several villages were deserted, the inhabitants removing to the jungle and leaving corpses in the village. In several villages these were collected and buried by the local medical officer who was sent out. The District Surgeon thinks that temporary abandonment of the affected village is the best sanitary measure they can take. No deaths from starvation.

Remarks.—With the exception of cholera, health is good, and seeing that the district has now gone through a full six months of scarcity and high prices, I think it is quite remarkable that there are not more traces of its effects to be seen either in the health or condition of the population.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Relief Works.			
I. Vizianagram—			
(1) Pusapatirega	3,443	3,716	These figures show an increase over those reported last fortnight. The maximum was, however, reached in the figures reported by telegram on 17th May. There has been a progressive decrease in the two following weeks. The rain of 19th May took away a number of workers, but there has been no good rain in the affected tracts since then and some have been coming back. The decrease will be much more marked with the next useful fall of rain.
II. Bimlipatam—			
(1) Dakmarri	3,015	3,523	
(2) Padmanabham	1,487	2,429	
III. Vizagapatam—			
(1) Gazuvaka	2,174	1,158	
(2) Pendur	1,653	1,608	
IV. Sarvasiddhi—			
(1) Kondakarla	1,977	1,773	
Total ..	13,749	14,207	
Test Relief Work.			
I. Chipurupalli—			
(1) Ranastalam	526	547	
Total ..	526	547	
Grand Total ..	14,275	14,764	

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

Taluks.	Number relieved			
	At kitchens.			
	Dependants.		Others.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Government.				
I. Párvatípuram taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Párvatípuram ..	..	..	120	173
II. Chipurupalli taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Ranastalam ..	32	79	283	192
III. Vizianagram taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Pusapatirega ..	125	103	33	64
(2) ,, at Vizianagram ..	..	..	195	238
IV. Bimlipatam taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Dakmarri	81	194	19	17
(2) ,, at Padmanabham ..	116	136	36	115
(3) ,, at Bhogapuram ..	158	..	23	245
V. Vizagapatam taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Garuvaka	199	187	22	39
(2) ,, at Pendur	193	198	72	43
VI. Sarvasiddhi taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Kondakarla ..	76	73	161	198
Total ..	980	970	964	1,324
Rajah Gajapati Row's kitchens—				
1. Vizagapatam	..	..	225	233
2. Anakápalli	..	..	130	146
3. Sarvasiddhi	..	..	666	523
Total ..	..	..	1,021	902
Grand Total ..	980	970	1,985	2,226

Number of villages in which relief was given, &c.—*Nil.*

Private charity.—In spite of the lamented death of the Maharajah of Vizianagram, his charities—poor-house and Brahman chattram—are being continued. The Rajah of Bobbili, the Rani Saheb of Wadhwan, Rani Ankitam Atchayamma, Messrs. Perla Narayana Chetti, the Gopalpur Proprietor, and K. Venkanna Chetti are dispensing much private charity. *Facile princeps* in this respect is the Rajah Gajapati Row.

General remarks.

Prospects have somewhat brightened during the fortnight, but whether distress is to increase or gradually to disappear depends on the weather of the next three weeks. The numbers on works have fallen off a little and with more good rain will do so still more. If there is no more rain before the monsoon breaks, the numbers will go up again, but if there is and if the monsoon opens favourably, there will be no need of works by the last week of the month, as employment will be amply available and the workers have been kept in good enough condition and spirits to be ready to resume their normal avocations. Women, however, will be in no hurry to leave the works where they are better paid than they will be anywhere else. The only disquieting feature in the situation at present is the somewhat rapid rise in prices. In the north of the district it is stated that fear of cholera has paralysed trade. Elsewhere the demand for seed-grain is large, and stocks of dry grains are perhaps not very extensive. Besides prices must perforce level up to those of the Gódávari district. This rise in prices may render necessary some extension of gratuitous relief, since the monsoon, which brings employment to workers, will do nothing for the helpless. Only a fall in prices can affect them. I may therefore have to open more kitchens, especially in parts not hitherto affected. I expect that the provision of plenty of kitchens will amply meet the distress if there is a fair monsoon, and in any case the enquiries now being conducted will show if any other form of gratuitous relief is called for. This I do not expect, except perhaps in a few isolated cases. The next fortnight or three weeks will be a period of painful anxiety.

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

Taluks.	Other purposes.				Total.				Number of wells.			
	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.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
1. Palkonda	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1,000	7	1,000	..	..
2. Sarvasiddhi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	1,970	..	..
3. Golgonda	..	..	..	..	7	2,600	..	..	19	6,900	..	..
4. Srungavarapukota ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	375	14	3,120	..	..
5. Parvatipuram	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	400	..	..	..	..
									4	2,300	..	..
Total ..	..	..	..	..	7	2,600	11	1,775	47	14,290	..	..

Cattle and seed-grain.

Taluks.	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Total. Applications accepted.		Total. Loans disbursed.		Total. Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
1	14	15	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
1. Palkonda	(a) 15	540	15	7,476	212	12,757	168	8,016	168	8,016	212	12,757
2. Sarvasiddhi	..	..	..	3,475	264	41,005	53	3,475	53	3,475	257	41,215
3. Golgonda	(b) 438	8,826	(b) 438	11,072	(b) 719	43,429	(b) 438	19,898	(b) 438	19,898	(b) 719	57,078
4. Srungavarapukota ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Parvatipuram	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total .	453	9,366	453	22,023	1,185	97,191	659	31,389	659	31,389	1,188	1,11,050

Purchase of fodder.

Taluks.	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Total. Applications accepted.		Total. Loans disbursed.		Total. Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
1	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
1. Palkonda	..	..	15	540	..	..	164	7,476	164	7,476	212	12,757
2. Sarvasiddhi	..	..	..	..	3	210	53	3,475	53	3,475	264	41,005
3. Golgonda	..	..	(b) 438	8,826	(b) 719	13,649	(b) 438	11,072	(b) 438	11,072	(b) 719	43,429
4. Srungavarapukota ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Parvatipuram	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total .	453	9,366	453	9,366	722	13,859	655	22,023	655	22,023	1,185	97,191

(a) Includes eleven applications shown in column 28.

(b) In all these cases fodder, seed-grain and cattle were applied for in one and the same application.

INSPECTIONS—TALUKS AND PLACES VISITED.

Principal Assistant Collector.

Bimlipatam taluk ... ... Chittivalasa. Bimlipatam. Padmanabham.

Vizianagram taluk ... ... Vizianagram, to which he was called in on account of the Maharaja's death.

Chípurupalle taluk ... ... Ranastalam, Pondar and surrounding villages.

Head Assistant Collector.

Sarvasiddhi taluk ... ... Uppavaram. Jaganadhapuram. Melupaka. Ramarayadupalem. Yellamanchilli. Panchadarla. Kondakarla. Nakkapalli. Bhímavaram. Lakkavaram. Timmarajupeta. Kokkirapalli. Peddapalli.

Anakápalle taluk ... ... Munagapaka and Anakápalle.

Golgonda taluk ... ... Makarapalem, Gangavaram and Narsapatam.

Senior Assistant Collector.

Párvatípuram taluk ... ... Kurupam and twenty other villages.

Hosúr Deputy Collector.

Vizagapatam taluk ... ... Adivinaram, Narayanapuram, Pendurti, Gazavaka and other villages.

Collector.

I was in camp 13 days out of the fortnight. Inspected Gazavaka and Kondakarla relief works and kitchens at these places—Anakápalle, Vizagapatam and Vizianagram. I was called in to Vizianagaram by the death of the Maharaja, which interrupted my famine inspections on the 23rd.

Resolution—dated 15th June 1897, No. 436.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall of the fortnight was generally good and all apprehensions as to want of water for drinking are now removed. Irrigation tanks also received supplies. Dry cultivation was proceeding briskly.

Pasture is above the average, and, although fodder is scarce, there need be no anxiety for the present about cattle.

3. Prices rose smartly throughout the district, and ragi is now above the scarcity rate. The rise is due to the influence of prices in the adjoining districts. The relative position of prices is shown by the following figures:—

Rate.	Measures per rupee.		
	Rice.	Ragi.	Cumbu.
Normal	15·0	28·0	30·0
Warning	12·0	21·0	22·5
Scarcity	9·0	14·0	15·0
Current	9·0	13·9	14·5
May 1892	10·0	15·7	16·6
May 1878	7·6	12·5	12·1

Trade was fairly active.

4. The condition of the people was generally good. In former years it used to be a common expectation that cholera would spread down from the north, and, in view of its prevalence in the two northern districts, the Sanitary Commissioner will be asked to consider whether all necessary precautions have been taken to prevent its spread to the south. The Deccan districts have been singularly exempt this year; but if the germs of the disease once spread, the harvest will be terrible, and, now that the Presidency is knit up with railways, the danger is much greater than in former years.

5. The numbers on works increased but very slightly, and it is reported that many absented themselves for short periods for work in the fields. The falling off has continued since the close of the period reported on.

The Kshatriyas in Vizianagaram should not be relieved by doles. It is evident that they have no objection to attending kitchens, and if they refuse to accept ragi food or to work, they must, for the present, be left to themselves. They should be made to understand, however, that work or ragi cakes in kitchens are available for them, if they choose to apply.

6. The following disbursements have been made under the Loans Acts in the past four weeks:—

Week ending—

	Rs.
May 8th	2,470
„ 15th	6,456
„ 22nd	6,406
„ 29th	2,502

Progress during the last week has not been so satisfactory as in the preceding two weeks. There are many applications pending, and they should be disposed of without delay.

7. The report strikes the first note of cheerfulness from the affected districts since the commencement of distress. It is to be trusted that the fair prospects may not be belied by a failure or delay of the monsoon.

8. The Collector is right in saying that gratuitous relief would have to be kept up for some time after works are closed. He should consider, in case the season should distinctly improve, how works can best be closed. Vizagapatam is different from the other affected districts, in that relief has not been found necessary there within the memory of the present generation; and, if the season improve, it is the first district in which relief, and especially works, can be closed. The difficulty, as he foreshadows, will be to get rid of the women. The weakly men and women might hang on a little longer; there are few of the former; but the question is how, when the time comes, to weed out the stronger and less needy women, for, wages being what they are in the two northern districts, the famine wage, to the women, is always a temptation. It might be advisable to depart somewhat from the strict letter of section 97 of the Famine Code, and weed the women into gangs according to their physique, without reference to their villages or relationships. It would then be possible to require of the really able-bodied, of whom there are so many in Vizagapatam, a task calculated without any reference to the weaker members of a gang, and this, duly enforced, will soon eliminate all who can really afford to go. The really destitute could then be left on relief for a month or two longer. The Collector will bear the matter in mind so as to be able to act when the time comes.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 525, Revenue, dated 2nd July 1897.

Miscellaneous. Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. Shaik Karim.

80 Copies.

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15.7-97.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. Enclosures
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G.O., No. 471, 18th June 1897.

JUNE.

Fortnightly Narrative.

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

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 28th May 1897, No. 405 :—

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

State of the Country.

Rainfall and water-supply—

District rainfall.	Actual rainfall. INCHES	Expected rainfall. INCHES
In the fortnight	0·93	1·65
Up to the fortnight	1·92	2·85

There have been thunder showers in many places, but no general rain. This is seasonable. The heat has increased enormously during the past fortnight. The rain, I am sorry to say, did not fall in the neighbourhood of relief works to any extent, and, with the exception of heavy showers at Vizagapatam and Vizianagram, was principally confined to the inland and less affected taluks. Water-supply is deficient in many parts of Vizagapatam and Anakápalle and in parts of Bimlipatam taluks. Tanks have some supply in most of the inland taluks.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—Ploughing of dry lands is general, and in a very few places wet lands are getting their first ploughing. Gingelly, ragi and cumbu have commenced to be sown, but sparingly; sugarcane is being planted where wells are available. Chillies and gingelly, where standing, have been freshened up by the rain. The prospects of the coming season are as good as can be expected. A few more thunder showers will do much good.

Agricultural operations are, however, not yet undertaken on a sufficient scale to employ much labour beyond that of the ryots and their servants.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture is up to the usual hot weather standard almost everywhere, and much above it in many parts. It is still very scarce indeed, however, in those parts of Vizagapatam taluk which were not touched by the recent showers. Except in the latter parts, cattle are generally in good or fair condition.

Fodder is exceedingly dear and in some places difficult to procure.

Unless the monsoon holds off I have little or no apprehension of mortality among cattle.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—The general state and appearance of the country is not bad for the season of year. Everything is being got ready for early sowing as soon as the season permits, and the ryots may be trusted to lose no time. They are, however, wisely cautious about trusting to hot weather showers, which may or may not be received in the next fortnight. Prospects it is at present impossible to gauge, but they are not unfavourable so far as can be judged now.

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 May 1897.

Stations.	Rice. End of last period.	Rice. End of current period.	Ragi. End of last period.	Ragi. End of current period.	Cumbu. End of last period.	Cumbu. End of current period.	Remarks.
1. Párvatípuram ..	9·84	+ 9·51	17·28	+ 16·48	17·50	17·50	There has been a rise of nearly a seer in the price of ragi, which however is still a good deal cheaper than scarcity rate. I suppose it is inevitable that there should be a further continuing rise until the monsoon is established.
2. Sálúr	11·07	11·07	18·72	+ 17·64	16·45	+ 14·70	
3. Palkonda	9·60	— 10·17	16·16	+ 15·15	19·80	+ 18·81	
4. Gajapatinagram ..	9·84	+ 9·43	17·76	+ 15·54	17·28	17·28	
5. Chipurupalle ..	9·84	9·84	15·12	..	17·28	..	
6. Vizianagram ..	9·60	+ 9·04	16·16	+ 14·64	14·85	+ 13·86	
7. Vizagapatam ..	9·04	9·04	15·25	+ 14·44	13·86	+ 13·36	
8. Chódavaramu ..	9·50	9·50	19·11	19·11	18·48	18·48	
9. Anakápalle	9·00	9·00	16·38	+ 15·47	..	..	
10. Yellamanchili ..	11·00	+ 10·00	14·56	14·56	..	..	
11. Narasapatnam ..	9·40	— 10·00	16·80	+ 15·12	16·20	16·20	
Average ..	9·79	9·69	16·66	15·81	16·85	16·27	

Activity of Trade.—

	Exports. MDS.	Imports. MDS.
By sea for the period ending 8th May 1897	988	...
By rail for the period ending 8th May 1897	2,006	18,939
	CARTS.	CARTS.
By road from Jeypore for the period ending 8th May 1897.	...	4,669

Trade active. Markets very well supplied. No difficulty in purchasing staple grain anywhere, even in small villages.

Condition of the people.

On Works.—The condition of relief workers may be described as good. Certainly I do not think that any ordinary observer inspecting a number of them would notice them as differing materially from an ordinary crowd of coolies collected at any time. But, of course, there are exceptions. The Famine Commissioner has seen most of the workers in the district himself during the fortnight.

In villages.—Good with very few exceptions. Inquiries continue to be made. The weavers in Pondur have been carefully watched, as they were reported short of work. They are, however, still unwilling to work at task rates. What they would like is an unlimited market at ordinary prices. Nowhere else does there appear to be any suspicion of distress among weavers.

Sickness and mortality.—No deaths from starvation. Cholera is prevalent in parts, but nowhere very virulent. I am thankful to say it has not appeared on any relief work.

Remarks.—The season is apparently healthy. I expect an increased death-rate with the monsoon, as I believe generally occurs after a period of scarcity.

Measures of relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Relief workers.			
I. Vizianagram—			
(1) Pusapatirega	1,994	3,443	
II. Bimlipatam—			
(1) Dakmarri	2,371	3,015	The increase in numbers on works is steady and not excessive.
(2) Padmanabham	40	1,487	
III. Vizagapatam—			
(1) Pondur	2,062	1,653	
(2) Gazuvaka	2,087	2,174	
IV. Sarvasiddhi—			
(1) Kondakarla	1,359	1,977	
Total ..	9,913	13,749	
Test relief works.			
I. Bimlipatam—			
(1) Bhogapuram	417	513	Closed on 6th May 1897. Work was finished and Rega was on their reach.
II. Chipurupalle—			
(1) Ranastalam	..	526	Lately opened to provide work in the neighbourhood of their homes for those who cannot fairly be expected to go to Rega.
Total ..	417	1,039	
Grand Total ..	10,330	14,788	

Gratuitous Relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

Taluks.	Number relieved at kitchens.			
	Dependants.		Others.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Government.				
I. Párvatípuram taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Parvatipur	..	..	99	120
II. Chipurupalle taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Ranastalam	..	32	193	283
III. Vizianagram taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Pusapatirega	143	125	96	33
(2) Do. at Vizianagram	..	..	151	195
IV. Bimlipatam taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Dakmarri	52	81	12	19
(2) Do. at Bhogapuram	91	158	4	23
(3) Do. at Padmanabham	5	116	..	36
V. Vizagapatam taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Pendur	143	193	44	72
(2) Do. at Gazuvaka	155	199	6	22
VI. Sarvasiddhi taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Kondakerla	46	76	116	161
Total ..	635	980	721	964
Rajah Gajapati Rao's kitchens.				
1. Vizagapatam	..	..	140	225
2. Anakápalle	..	..	97	130
3. Sarvasiddhi	..	..	500	666
Total ..	..	..	737	1,021
Grand Total ..	635	980	1,458	1,985

Private charity.—Private charity on a considerable scale continues to be dispensed by the Maharajah of Vizianagram, the Rajah of Bobbili, Rajah Gajapati Rao, the Rani Sahib of Wadhwan, Rani Ankitam Achayyamma, Messrs. Perla Narayana Chetti and K. Venkanna Garu. The sources of ordinary small private charity have not dried up. This is proved by the fact that in the large towns the professional beggars prefer their own trade to the kitchens available.

General Remarks.

During the fortnight no new works have been opened, those in existence being in my opinion sufficient to cover the affected area. The provision of ample ordinary work by the Public Works Department in Sarvasiddhi taluk has, together with the kitchens maintained there, obviated the otherwise inevitable necessity of more relief works there. The distress which would have been felt in that taluk was only the want of employment and that is now met by the ordinary works at full rates and the Kondakerla relief work. The Public Works Department has now taken over charge of all relief works, but the overseer posted to Gazuvaka, being an absolutely new hand without experience, has been superseded by the Executive Engineer to whom I have lent a Local Fund overseer, although these latter are now fully employed at their own work which is also useful in employing labour all over the district. During the fortnight I closed the Bhogapuram test work, as it was within three miles of the nearest part of the Rega work, and I have opened a small work to employ about 500 coolies at Ranastalam on the edge of Chípurupalle taluk, north of Rega. This I thought well to do as the Principal Assistant Collector reported that in the kitchen at that place were many people fit for work if near at hand, but unfit to be sent away to Rega, where, however, hutting accommodation has been provided. The present is the most critical period of the whole season, things must soon either mend or get worse. The distress hitherto developed is not of a severe character and, if only the monsoon is a fair one, there is little to fear.

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

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
1. Palkonda	..	..	..	..	..	Rs. ..	7	Rs. 1,000	7	Rs. 1,000	..	Rs. ..	7	Rs. 1,000	7	Rs. 1,000	..	Rs. ..	..	..
2. Sarvasiddhi	..	..	..	..	6	2,400	..	..	..	..	11	4,100	..	..	..	..	17	6,500	..	..
3. Golgonda	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	375	2	375	10	2,420	2	375	2	375	10	2,420	..	..
Total ..	..	..	..	..	6	2,400	9	1,375	9	1,375	21	6,520	9	1,375	9	1,375	27	8,920	..	..

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
1. Palkonda	(a) 15	Rs. 540	15	Rs. 540	..	Rs. ..	134	Rs. 5,990	134	Rs. 5,990	97	Rs. 4,140	138	Rs. 6,530	138	Rs. 6,530	97	Rs. 4,140
2. Sarvasiddhi	..	..	..	..	2	110	36	2,110	36	2,110	170	31,275	36	2,110	36	2,110	172	31,385
3. Golgonda	(b) 291	5,318	(b) 291	5,318	(b) 845	20,400	(b) 291	6,503	(b) 291	6,503	(b) 845	49,407	291	11,821	291	11,821	845	69,807
Total ..	306	5,858	306	5,858	847	20,510	461	14,603	461	14,603	1,112	84,822	465	20,461	465	20,461	1,114	1,05,332

(a) Includes eleven applications shown in column 28,

(b) In these cases, fodder, seed-grain and cattle were applied for in one and the same application.

Taluks and places visited.

Principal Assistant Collector.

Vizianagram taluk ... ... { Vizianagram (kitchen).
Pusapatirega (work).
Bimlipatam taluk ... ... { Padmanabham (work).
Bhogapuram (do.)
Chipurupalle taluk ... ... { Dakmarri (do.)
Ranastalam (kitchen and starting work).

Senior Assistant Collector.

Párvatipuram taluk ... ... { Vikramapuram.
Astam.
Duggi.
China Merangi.
Pedda Merangi.
Kurupám.
Mandá.
Gumma.
Elwinpeta.
Gunupur taluk ... ... { Jagannadhapuram.
Ukkamba.
Regada.

Head Assistant Collector.

Sarvasiddhi taluk ... ... Kondakerla relief work and twelve villages.
Anakápalle taluk ... ... { Anakápalle (kitchen).
Munagapaka and Jaggayyapéta.
Huzur Deputy Collector ... ... All the works and kitchens in his division.

Collector.

Vizianagram taluk ... ... { Vizianagram (kitchen).
Pusapatirega (work).
Bimlipatam taluk ... ... { Dakmarri (do.).
Bhogapuram (do.).
Padmanabham (do.).
Vizagapatam taluk ... ... { Pendurti (do.).
Gaznvaka (do.) twice.
Balacheruvu.

Resolution—dated 28th May 1897, No. 405.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall during the fortnight was below the average. The supply of water is deficient in the Central Coast taluks. Agricultural operations are as yet on a small scale, though dry lands are generally being prepared for sowing.

3. There need be no anxiety about cattle, unless the monsoon holds off, as pasture is, except in parts of the Vizagapatam taluk, either up to, or above, the normal hot-weather standard.

4. Prices rose, especially that of ragi, the staple crop of the district. The position of prices is shown in the accompanying table:—

Rate.	Seers per rupee.		
	Rice.	Ragi.	Cumbu.
Standard	15·0	28·0	30·0
Warning	12·0	21·0	22·5
Scarcity	9·0	14·0	15·0
Current	9·7	15·8	16·3
May 1893	10·0	15·7	16·6
,, 1878	7·6	12·5	12·1

It will be observed that ragi touched scarcity rate and that cumbu was dearer than scarcity rate at three stations.

Trade was active and markets were well supplied.

5. The condition of the people was normal, with but few exceptions, but the growing intensity of distress may be gauged by the fact that relief-workers increased by 43 per cent. during the fortnight. The Collector should explain the falling off at Pondur.

6. The progress in disposing of applications for loans is slow, as is shown by the following figures :—

Amount disbursed. Rs.	Up to the end of the week ending.
15,855	May 1st
18,325	„ 8th
24,781	„ 15th
31,187	„ 22nd

Applications for nearly a lakh and a quarter still remain undisposed of. Much remains to be done in Golgonda, if the applications there are *bonâ fide*, of which the Famine Commissioner has some doubts.

7. The Collector is fully awake to the necessities of the district, and is doing all that is required. There need be no anxiety about the district unless the monsoon fails.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 471, Revenue, dated 18th June 1897.

Miscellaneous. Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. Shaik Karim.

70 Copies.

Public Works Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. Enclosures
Regd. } Spare copies

G.O., No. 525, 2nd July 1897.

No 1995 dtd 23.7.97
Communicated to the
Sr Re I circle.

JULY.

Ftd D.No.C
11

To
The Sr Re I Circle.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting to Government, with remarks, — of the Vizagapatam district for the period ending 31st May 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 15th June 1897, No. 436 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Vizagapatam district during the period ending 31st May 1897 :—

State of the country.

Rainfall and water-supply.—

	District rainfall.	
	Actual rainfall.	Expected rainfall.
	INCHES.	INCHES.
In the fortnight	1·76	0·46
Up to the fortnight	3·66	3·66

There was very good rain at almost all stations on the night of the 19th. It varied from 4·70 inches at Vizianagram to about 2 inches in other parts within 15 or 20 miles of the coast and less than an inch at stations under the hills. There is little trouble about drinking water anywhere now. Most tanks have received some supply and about Vizianagram they have mostly received a supply sufficient for 1½ to 2 months. Since the 19th there have been a few scattered showers, useful but not important.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—Dry cultivation has commenced almost everywhere and is proceeding briskly. Ploughing is general. Gingelly, cotton and cumbu being sown somewhat freely, and ragi less so. Cumbu is in many places nearly ready to transplant, which will be done with the next shower, ragi also where the seed-beds are under wells. Vudala, an inferior paddy grown on dry lands, which comes to harvest in six weeks, is doing well where it has been sown. Except what has been recently sown there are few crops standing, only the early gingelly and indigo in a few places. The rain has done good to these. Another shower within this week will make the prospects of the dry crops quite bright.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture above the hot-weather average and sufficient everywhere. Fodder very scarce and unprocurable in parts. The want is supplied by hundreds of grass-cutters. There is no anxiety about cattle now, though of course the inferior uncared-for herds are very poor.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—Prospects are for the present considerably improved. The ryots consider the season favourable and are full of hope. Dry cultivation has got a good start and is advanced for the time of year. It is, however, rather risky work, as there may be no more rain till the middle of June, in which case most of the sowings now made will be lost. The country looks green and fresh, and water is almost everywhere visible.

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 May 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		Ragi.		Cumbu.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
1. Párvatípuram	9·51	9·43	16·48	14·65	17·50	15·40	Prices have risen smartly and ragi is for the first time just above the scarcity rate. The prices have been for a long time cheaper than in the two neighbouring districts and though there is not much trade with Ganjám, there is with Gódávari, and our prices are bound to level up to those of that district. There is besides a large demand for seed grain which has assisted the rise.
2. Saluru	11·07	9·22	17·64	14·40	14·70	13·30	
3. Palkonda	10·17	9·04	15·15	13·13	18·81	13·86	
4. Gajapatinagram	9·43	9·02	15·54	13·32	17·28	13·68	
5. Chipurupalli	9·84	9·84	..	14·04	..	17·28	
6. Vizianagram	9·04	8·13	14·64	12·12	13·86	12·87	
7. Vizagapatam	9·04	7·91	14·44	12·82	13·86	12·87	
8. Chódavaramu	9·50	9·50	19·11	17·29	18·48	16·72	
9. Anakápalle	9·00	9·00	15·47	14·56	..	..	
10. Yellamanchilli	10·00	9·00	14·56	13·65	..	14·08	
11. Narsapatam	10·00	9·40	15·12	13·44	16·20	14·58	
Average ..	9·69	9·04	15·81	13·94	16·27	14·46	

Activity of trade—Trade is fairly active—especially in rice and paddy—less so in dry grains, the stock of which is becoming contracted.

	Exports.	Imports.
	MDS.	MDS.
By sea for the period ending 29th May 1897	359	650
By rail do. do.	923	25,463
		(carts)
By road from Jeypore for the period ending 29th May 1897 ...		4,657

Condition of the People.

On works.—The condition of relief workers is generally good. Cases of really bad condition are very rare. During the fortnight attendance has been irregular, many people going away for a little to attend to agriculture and coming back again.

In villages.—Good, with very few exceptions. In accordance with the orders of Government detailed enquiries are now being made and village lists got ready against a possible failure of the monsoon. These have not yet disclosed any distress which is not amenable to the measures at present being taken. In Vizianagram some of the Kshatriyas, who will on no account work, consented to come to the kitchen. They did so and a cook of their own caste was provided, but after a trial they gave it up and said they would not come unless given rice to eat. In this case beggars are choosers. The weavers at Pondur have been again offered relief, but, the Principal Assistant Collector reports, "rejected it with scorn." Those at Rayavaram applied for advances of Rs. 20 or 30 per loom to be repaid like agriculturists' loans, but decline task-work.

Sickness and Mortality.—Cholera is very prevalent and getting worse in Parvatipuram, Palkonda and Viravilli taluks chiefly. It is also bad in the Gunupur hill tracts, where several villages were deserted, the inhabitants removing to the jungle and leaving corpses in the village. In several villages these were collected and buried by the local medical officer who was sent out. The District Surgeon thinks that temporary abandonment of the affected village is the best sanitary measure they can take. No deaths from starvation.

Remarks.—With the exception of cholera, health is good, and seeing that the district has now gone through a full six months of scarcity and high prices, I think it is quite remarkable that there are not more traces of its effects to be seen either in the health or condition of the population.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Relief Works.			
I. Vizianagram—			
(1) Pusapatirega	3,443	3,716	These figures show an increase over those reported last fortnight. The maximum was, however, reached in the figures reported by telegram on 17th May. There has been a progressive decrease in the two following weeks. The rain of 19th May took away a number of workers, but there has been no good rain in the affected tracts since then and some have been coming back. The decrease will be much more marked with the next useful fall of rain.
II. Bimlipatam—			
(1) Dakmarri	3,015	3,523	
(2) Padmanabham	1,487	2,429	
III. Vizagapatam—			
(1) Gazuvaka	2,174	1,158	
(2) Pendur	1,653	1,608	
IV. Sarvasiddhi—			
(1) Kondakarla	1,977	1,773	
Total ..	13,749	14,207	
Test Relief Work.			
I. Chipurupalli—			
(1) Ranastalam	526	547	
Total ..	526	547	
Grand Total ..	14,275	14,754	

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

Taluks.	Number relieved			
	At kitchens.			
	Dependants.		Others.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Government.				
I. Párvatípuram taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Párvatípuram ..	..	..	120	173
II. Chipurupalli taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Ranastalam ..	32	79	283	192
III. Vizianagram taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Pusapatirega ..	125	103	33	64
(2) ,, at Vizianagram ..	..	..	195	238
IV. Bimlipatam taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Dakmarri	81	194	19	17
(2) ,, at Padmanabham ..	116	136	36	115
(3) ,, at Bhogapuram ..	158	..	23	245
V. Vizagapatam taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Garuvaka	199	187	22	39
(2) ,, at Pendur	193	198	72	43
VI. Sarvasiddhi taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Kondakarla ..	76	73	161	198
Total ..	980	970	964	1,324
Rajah Gajapati Row's kitchens—				
1. Vizagapatam	..	..	225	233
2. Anakápalli	..	..	130	146
3. Sarvasiddhi	..	..	666	523
Total ..	..	..	1,021	902
Grand Total ..	980	970	1,985	2,226

Number of villages in which relief was given, &c.—*Nil.*

Private charity.—In spite of the lamented death of the Maharajah of Vizianagram, his charities—poor-house and Brahman chattram—are being continued. The Rajah of Bobbili, the Rani Saheb of Wadhwan, Rani Ankitam Atchayamma, Messrs. Perla Narayana Chetti, the Gopalpur Proprietor, and K. Venkanna Chetti are dispensing much private charity. *Facile princeps* in this respect is the Rajah Gajapati Row.

General remarks.

Prospects have somewhat brightened during the fortnight, but whether distress is to increase or gradually to disappear depends on the weather of the next three weeks. The numbers on works have fallen off a little and with more good rain will do so still more. If there is no more rain before the monsoon breaks, the numbers will go up again, but if there is and if the monsoon opens favourably, there will be no need of works by the last week of the month, as employment will be amply available and the workers have been kept in good enough condition and spirits to be ready to resume their normal avocations. Women, however, will be in no hurry to leave the works where they are better paid than they will be anywhere else. The only disquieting feature in the situation at present is the somewhat rapid rise in prices. In the north of the district it is stated that fear of cholera has paralysed trade. Elsewhere the demand for seed-grain is large, and stocks of dry grains are perhaps not very extensive. Besides prices must perforce level up to those of the Gódávari district. This rise in prices may render necessary some extension of gratuitous relief, since the monsoon, which brings employment to workers, will do nothing for the helpless. Only a fall in prices can affect them. I may therefore have to open more kitchens, especially in parts not hitherto affected. I expect that the provision of plenty of kitchens will amply meet the distress if there is a fair monsoon, and in any case the enquiries now being conducted will show if any other form of gratuitous relief is called for. This I do not expect, except perhaps in a few isolated cases. The next fortnight or three weeks will be a period of painful anxiety.

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

Taluks.	Other purposes.				Total.				Number of wells.	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
1. Palkonda ..	..	..	..	..	7	1,000	7	1,000	10	1,970	..	..
2. Sarvasiddhi ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	4,300	..	..
3. Golgonda ..	..	..	..	..	2	375	2	375	14	3,120	..	..
4. Srungavarapukota ..	..	..	..	..	2	400	2	400	..	..	..	..
5. Párvatípuram ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	2,300	..	..
Total ..	..	..	..	..	11	1,775	11	1,775	40	11,690	..	..

Taluks.	Cattle and seed-grain.								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.
1	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
1. Palkonda ..	(a) 15	540	15	540	.. 3	210	164	7,476	164	7,476	212	12,757
2. Sarvasiddhi ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	53	3,475	53	3,475	254	41,005
3. Golgonda ..	(b) 438	8,826	(b) 438	8,826	(b) 719	13,649	(b) 438	11,072	(b) 438	11,072	(b) 719	43,429
4. Srungavarapukota ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Párvatípuram ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total .	453	9,366	453	9,366	792	13,859	655	22,023	655	22,023	1,185	97,191

Taluks.	Purchase of fodder.				Total.			
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
1	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
1. Palkonda ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	164	7,476
2. Sarvasiddhi ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	53	3,475
3. Golgonda ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(b) 438	11,072
4. Srungavarapukota ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Párvatípuram ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total .	453	9,366	453	9,366	792	13,859	655	22,023

(a) Includes eleven applications shown in column 28.

(b) In all these cases fodder, seed-grain and cattle were applied for in one and the same application.

INSPECTIONS—TALUKS AND PLACES VISITED.

Principal Assistant Collector.

Bimlipatam taluk ... ... Chittivalasa. Bimlipatam. Padmanabham.

Vizianagram taluk ... ... Vizianagram, to which he was called in on account of the Maharaja's death.

Chípurupalle taluk ... ... Ranastalam, Pondar and surrounding villages.

Head Assistant Collector.

Sarvasiddhi taluk ... ... Uppavaram. Jaganadhapuram. Melupaka. Ramarayadupalem. Yellamanchilli. Panchadarla. Kondakarla. Nakkapalli. Bhímavaram. Lakkavaram. Timmarajupeta. Kokkirapalli. Peddapalli.

Anakápalle taluk ... ... Munagapaka and Anakápalle.

Golgonda taluk ... ... Makarapalem, Gangavaram and Narsapatam.

Senior Assistant Collector.

Párvatípuram taluk ... ... Kurupam and twenty other villages.

Hosúr Deputy Collector.

Vizagapatam taluk ... ... Adivinaram, Narayanapuram, Pendurti, Gazavaka and other villages.

Collector.

I was in camp 13 days out of the fortnight. Inspected Gazavaka and Kondakarla relief works and kitchens at these places—Anakápalle, Vizagapatam and Vizianagram. I was called in to Vizianagaram by the death of the Maharaja, which interrupted my famine inspections on the 23rd.

———

Resolution—dated 15th June 1897, No. 436.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall of the fortnight was generally good and all apprehensions as to want of water for drinking are now removed. Irrigation tanks also received supplies. Dry cultivation was proceeding briskly.

Pasture is above the average, and, although fodder is scarce, there need be no anxiety for the present about cattle.

3. Prices rose smartly throughout the district, and ragi is now above the scarcity rate. The rise is due to the influence of prices in the adjoining districts. The relative position of prices is shown by the following figures:—

Rate.	Measures per rupee.		
	Rice.	Ragi.	Cumbu.
Normal	15·0	28·0	30·0
Warning	12·0	21·0	22·5
Scarcity	9·0	14·0	15·0
Current	9·0	13·9	14·5
May 1892	10·0	15·7	16·6
May 1878	7·6	12·5	12·1

Trade was fairly active.

4. The condition of the people was generally good. In former years it used to be a common expectation that cholera would spread down from the north, and, in view of its prevalence in the two northern districts, the Sanitary Commissioner will be asked to consider whether all necessary precautions have been taken to prevent its spread to the south. The Deccan districts have been singularly exempt this year; but if the germs of the disease once spread, the harvest will be terrible, and, now that the Presidency is knit up with railways, the danger is much greater than in former years.

5. The numbers on works increased but very slightly, and it is reported that many absented themselves for short periods for work in the fields. The falling off has continued since the close of the period reported on.

The Kshatriyas in Vizianagaram should not be relieved by doles. It is evident that they have no objection to attending kitchens, and if they refuse to accept ragi food or to work, they must, for the present, be left to themselves. They should be made to understand, however, that work or ragi cakes in kitchens are available for them, if they choose to apply.

6. The following disbursements have been made under the Loans Acts in the past four weeks:—

Week ending—	Rs.
May 8th ...	2,470
„ 15th ...	6,456
„ 22nd ...	6,406
„ 29th ...	2,502

Progress during the last week has not been so satisfactory as in the preceding two weeks. There are many applications pending, and they should be disposed of without delay.

7. The report strikes the first note of cheerfulness from the affected districts since the commencement of distress. It is to be trusted that the fair prospects may not be belied by a failure or delay of the monsoon.

8. The Collector is right in saying that gratuitous relief would have to be kept up for some time after works are closed. He should consider, in case the season should distinctly improve, how works can best be closed. Vizagapatam is different from the other affected districts, in that relief has not been found necessary there within the memory of the present generation; and, if the season improve, it is the first district in which relief, and especially works, can be closed. The difficulty, as he foreshadows, will be to get rid of the women. The weakly men and women might hang on a little longer; there are few of the former; but the question is how, when the time comes, to weed out the stronger and less needy women, for, wages being what they are in the two northern districts, the famine wage, to the women, is always a temptation. It might be advisable to depart somewhat from the strict letter of section 97 of the Famine Code, and weed the women into gangs according to their physique, without reference to their villages or relationships. It would then be possible to require of the really able-bodied, of whom there are so many in Vizagapatam, a task calculated without any reference to the weaker members of a gang, and this, duly enforced, will soon eliminate all who can really afford to go. The really destitute could then be left on relief for a month or two longer. The Collector will bear the matter in mind so as to be able to act when the time comes.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 525, Revenue, dated 2nd July 1897.

Miscellaneous. Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. Shaik Karim.

80 Copies.

Public Works Department

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. Enclosures

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G.O., No. 525, 2nd July 1897.

No 1995 dtd 23-7-97
Communicated to the
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W.
to the SR. I Circle.

JULY.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting to Government, with remarks, — of the Vizagapatam district for the period ending 31st May 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 15th June 1897, No. 436:—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Vizagapatam district during the period ending 31st May 1897:—

State of the country.

Rainfall and water-supply.—

	District rainfall.	
	Actual rainfall. INCHES.	Expected rainfall. INCHES.
In the fortnight	1·76	0·46
Up to the fortnight	3·66	3·66

There was very good rain at almost all stations on the night of the 19th. It varied from 4·70 inches at Vizianagram to about 2 inches in other parts within 15 or 20 miles of the coast and less than an inch at stations under the hills. There is little trouble about drinking water anywhere now. Most tanks have received some supply and about Vizianagram they have mostly received a supply sufficient for $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 months. Since the 19th there have been a few scattered showers, useful but not important.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—Dry cultivation has commenced almost everywhere and is proceeding briskly. Ploughing is general. Gingelly, cotton and cumbu being sown somewhat freely, and ragi less so. Cumbu is in many places nearly ready to transplant, which will be done with the next shower, ragi also where the seed-beds are under wells. Vudala, an inferior paddy grown on dry lands, which comes to harvest in six weeks, is doing well where it has been sown. Except what has been recently sown there are few crops standing, only the early gingelly and indigo in a few places. The rain has done good to these. Another shower within this week will make the prospects of the dry crops quite bright.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture above the hot-weather average and sufficient everywhere. Fodder very scarce and unprocurable in parts. The want is supplied by hundreds of grass-cutters. There is no anxiety about cattle now, though of course the inferior uncared-for herds are very poor.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—Prospects are for the present considerably improved. The ryots consider the season favourable and are full of hope. Dry cultivation has got a good start and is advanced for the time of year. It is, however, rather risky work, as there may be no more rain till the middle of June, in which case most of the sowings now made will be lost. The country looks green and fresh, and water is almost everywhere visible.

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 May 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		Ragi.		Cumbu.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
1. Párvatípuram	9·51	9 43	16·48	14·65	17·50	15·40	Prices have risen smartly and ragi is for the first time just above the scarcity rate. The prices have been for a long time cheaper than in the two neighbouring districts and though there is not much trade with Ganjám, there is with Gódávari, and our prices are bound to level up to those of that district. There is besides a large demand for seed grain which has assisted the rise.
2 Saluru	11·07	9·22	17·64	14·40	14·70	13·30	
3. Palkonda	10·17	9·04	15·15	13·13	18·81	13·86	
4. Gajapatinagram	9·43	9·02	15·54	13·32	17·28	13·68	
5. Chipurupalli	9·84	9·84	..	14·04	..	17·28	
6. Vizianagram	9·04	8·13	14·64	12·12	13·86	12·87	
7. Vizagapatam	9·04	7 91	14·44	12·82	13·86	12·87	
8. Chódavaramu	9·50	9·50	19·11	17·29	18·48	16·72	
9. Anakápalle	9·00	9·00	15·47	14·56	..	..	
10. Yellamanchilli	10·00	9·00	14·56	13·65	..	14·08	
11. Narsapatam	10·00	9·40	15·12	13·44	16·20	14·58	
Average ..	9·69	9·04	15·81	13·94	16·27	14·46	

Activity of trade—Trade is fairly active—especially in rice and paddy—less so in dry grains, the stock of which is becoming contracted.

	Exports.	Imports.
	MDS.	MDS.
By sea for the period ending 29th May 1897	329	650
By rail do. do.	923	25,463 (carts)
By road from Jeypore for the period ending 29th May 1897 ...		4,657

Condition of the People.

On works.—The condition of relief workers is generally good. Cases of really bad condition are very rare. During the fortnight attendance has been irregular, many people going away for a little to attend to agriculture and coming back again.

In villages.—Good, with very few exceptions. In accordance with the orders of Government detailed enquiries are now being made and village lists got ready against a possible failure of the monsoon. These have not yet disclosed any distress which is not amenable to the measures at present being taken. In Vizianagram some of the Kshatriyas, who will on no account work, consented to come to the kitchen. They did so and a cook of their own caste was provided, but after a trial they gave it up and said they would not come unless given rice to eat. In this case beggars are choosers. The weavers at Pondur have been again offered relief, but, the Principal Assistant Collector reports, "rejected it with scorn." Those at Rayavaram applied for advances of Rs. 20 or 30 per loom to be repaid like agriculturists' loans, but decline task-work.

Sickness and Mortality.—Cholera is very prevalent and getting worse in Parvatipuram, Palkonda and Viravilli taluks chiefly. It is also bad in the Gunupur hill tracts, where several villages were deserted, the inhabitants removing to the jungle and leaving corpses in the village. In several villages these were collected and buried by the local medical officer who was sent out. The District Surgeon thinks that temporary abandonment of the affected village is the best sanitary measure they can take. No deaths from starvation.

Remarks.—With the exception of cholera, health is good, and seeing that the district has now gone through a full six months of scarcity and high prices, I think it is quite remarkable that there are not more traces of its effects to be seen either in the health or condition of the population.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Relief Works.			
I. Vizianagram—			
(1) Pusapatirega	3,443	3,716	These figures show an increase over those reported last fortnight. The maximum was, however, reached in the figures reported by telegram on 17th May. There has been a progressive decrease in the two following weeks. The rain of 19th May took away a number of workers, but there has been no good rain in the affected tracts since then and some have been coming back. The decrease will be much more marked with the next useful fall of rain.
II. Bimlipatam—			
(1) Dakmarri	3,015	3,523	
(2) Padmanabham	1,487	2,429	
III. Vizagapatam—			
(1) Gazuvaka	2,174	1,158	
(2) Pendur	1,653	1,608	
IV. Sarvasiddhi—			
(1) Kondakarla	1,977	1,773	
Total ..	13,749	14,207	
Test Relief Work.			
I. Chipurupalli—			
(1) Ranastalam	526	547	
Total ..	526	547	
Grand Total ..	14,275	14,754	

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

Taluks.	Number relieved			
	At kitchens.			
	Dependants.		Others.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Government.				
I. Párvatípuram taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Párvatípuram	..	..	120	173
II. Chipurupalli taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Ranastalam ..	32	79	283	192
III. Vizianagram taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Pusapatirega ..	125	103	33	64
(2) ,, at Vizianagram ..	..	..	195	238
IV. Bimlipatam taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Dakmarri	81	194	19	17
(2) ,, at Padmanabham ..	116	136	36	115
(3) ,, at Bhogapuram ..	158	..	23	245
V. Vizagapatam taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Garuvaka	199	187	22	39
(2) ,, at Pendur	193	198	72	43
VI. Sarvasiddhi taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Kondakarla ..	76	73	161	198
Total ..	980	970	964	1,324
Rajah Gajapati Row's kitchens—				
1. Vizagapatam	..	..	225	233
2. Anakápalli	..	..	130	146
3. Sarvasiddhi	..	..	666	523
Total ..	..	..	1,021	902
Grand Total ..	980	970	1,985	2,226

Number of villages in which relief was given, &c.—*Nil.*

Private charity.—In spite of the lamented death of the Maharajah of Vizianagram, his charities—poor-house and Brahman chattram—are being continued. The Rajah of Bobbili, the Rani Saheb of Wadhwan, Rani Ankitam Atchayamma, Messrs. Perla Narayana Chetti, the Gopalpur Proprietor, and K. Venkanna Chetti are dispensing much private charity. *Facile princeps* in this respect is the Rajah Gajapati Row.

General remarks.

Prospects have somewhat brightened during the fortnight, but whether distress is to increase or gradually to disappear depends on the weather of the next three weeks. The numbers on works have fallen off a little and with more good rain will do so still more. If there is no more rain before the monsoon breaks, the numbers will go up again, but if there is and if the monsoon opens favourably, there will be no need of works by the last week of the month, as employment will be amply available and the workers have been kept in good enough condition and spirits to be ready to resume their normal avocations. Women, however, will be in no hurry to leave the works where they are better paid than they will be anywhere else. The only disquieting feature in the situation at present is the somewhat rapid rise in prices. In the north of the district it is stated that fear of cholera has paralysed trade. Elsewhere the demand for seed-grain is large, and stocks of dry grains are perhaps not very extensive. Besides prices must perforce level up to those of the Gódávari district. This rise in prices may render necessary some extension of gratuitous relief, since the monsoon, which brings employment to workers, will do nothing for the helpless. Only a fall in prices can affect them. I may therefore have to open more kitchens, especially in parts not hitherto affected. I expect that the provision of plenty of kitchens will amply meet the distress if there is a fair monsoon, and in any case the enquiries now being conducted will show if any other form of gratuitous relief is called for. This I do not expect, except perhaps in a few isolated cases. The next fortnight or three weeks will be a period of painful anxiety.

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

Taluks.	Other purposes.												Total.				Number of wells.	
	Repair and construction of wells.																	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
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.		
1. Palkonda	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1,000	7	1,000	10	1,970	7	1,000	7	1,000	10	1,970	..	..
2. Sarvasiddhi	..	..	..	..	7	2,600	..	..	..	..	19	6,900	..	..	..	..	19	6,900	..	..
3. Golgonda	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	375	2	375	14	3,120	2	375	2	375	14	3,120	..	..
4. Srungavarapukota ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	400	2	400	4	2,300	2	400	2	400	4	2,300	..	..
5. Párvatípuram	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	..	..	7	2,600	11	1,775	11	1,775	47	14,290	11	1,775	11	1,775	47	14,290	..	..

Taluks.	Cattle and seed-grain.												Total.					
	Purchase of fodder.																	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
1	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
	Rs.			Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
1. Palkonda	(a) 15	540	15	540	.. 3	210	164	7,476	164	7,476	212	12,757	168	8,016	168	8,016	212	12,757
2. Sarvasiddhi	.. ..	..	..	..	(b) 719	13,649	53	3,476	53	3,475	254	41,005	53	3,475	53	3,475	257	41,215
3. Golgonda	(b) 438	8,826	(b) 438	8,826	.. ..	..	(b) 438	11,072	(b) 438	11,072	(b) 719	43,429	(b) 438	19,898	(b) 438	19,898	(b) 719	57,078
4. Srungavarapukota ..	.. ..	..	..	..	.. ..	..	.. ..	..	.. ..	..	.. ..	..	.. ..	..	.. ..	..	.. ..	..
5. Párvatípuram	.. ..	..	..	..	.. ..	..	.. ..	..	.. ..	..	.. ..	..	.. ..	..	.. ..	..	.. ..	..
Total .	453	9,366	453	9,366	722	13,859	655	22,023	655	22,023	1,185	97,191	659	31,389	659	31,389	1,188	1,11,050

(a) Includes eleven applications shown in column 28.

(b) In all these cases fodder, seed-grain and cattle were applied for in one and the same application.

Inspections—Taluks and places visited.

Principal Assistant Collector.

Bimlipatam taluk ... ... Chittivalasa. Bimlipatam. Padmanabham.

Vizianagram taluk ... ... Vizianagram, to which he was called in on account of the Maharaja's death.

Chípurupalle taluk ... ... Ranastalam, Pondar and surrounding villages.

Head Assistant Collector.

Sarvasiddhi taluk ... ... Uppavaram. Jaganadhapuram. Melupaka. Ramarayadupalem. Yellamanchilli. Panchadarla. Kondakarla. Nakkapalli. Bhímavaram. Lakkavaram. Timmarajupeta. Kokkirapalli. Peddapalli.

Anakápalle taluk ... ... Munagapaka and Anakápalle.

Golgonda taluk ... ... Makarapalem, Gangavaram and Narsapatam.

Senior Assistant Collector.

Párvatípuram taluk ... ... Kurapam and twenty other villages.

Hosúr Deputy Collector.

Vizagapatam taluk ... ... Adivinaram, Narayanapuram, Pendurti, Gazavaka and other villages.

Collector.

I was in camp 13 days out of the fortnight. Inspected Gazavaka and Kondakarla relief works and kitchens at these places—Anakápalle, Vizagapatam and Vizianagram. I was called in to Vizianagaram by the death of the Maharaja, which interrupted my famine inspections on the 23rd.

———

Resolution—dated 15th June 1897, No. 436.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall of the fortnight was generally good and all apprehensions as to want of water for drinking are now removed. Irrigation tanks also received supplies. Dry cultivation was proceeding briskly.

Pasture is above the average, and, although fodder is scarce, there need be no anxiety for the present about cattle.

3. Prices rose smartly throughout the district, and ragi is now above the scarcity rate. The rise is due to the influence of prices in the adjoining districts. The relative position of prices is shown by the following figures:—

Rate.	Measures per rupee.		
	Rice.	Ragi.	Cumbu.
Normal	15·0	28·0	30·0
Warning	12·0	21·0	22·5
Scarcity	9·0	14·0	15·0
Current	9·0	13·9	14·5
May 1892	10·0	15·7	16·6
May 1878	7·6	12·5	12·1

Trade was fairly active.

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Famine Secretary.

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

Order—No. 525, Revenue, dated 2nd July 1897.

Miscellaneous. Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Erd. Shaik Karim.

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No. 525

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

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G.O., No. 525, 2nd July 1897.

JULY.

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	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
1. Párvatipuram	9·51	9·43	16·48	14·65	17·50	15·40	Prices have risen smartly and ragi is for the first time just above the scarcity rate. The prices have been for a long time cheaper than in the two neighbouring districts and though there is not much trade with Ganjám, there is with Gódávari, and our prices are bound to level up to those of that district. There is besides a large demand for seed grain which has assisted the rise.
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4. Gajapatinagram	9·43	9·02	15·54	13·32	17·28	13·68	
5. Chipurupalli	9·84	9·84	..	14·04	..	17·28	
6. Vizianagram	9·04	8·13	14·64	12·12	13·86	12·87	
7. Vizagapatam	9·04	7·91	14·44	12·82	13·86	12·87	
8. Chódavaramu	9·50	9·50	19·11	17·29	18·48	16·72	
9. Anakápalle	9·00	9·00	15·47	14·56	..	..	
10. Yellamanchilli	10·00	9·00	14·56	13·65	..	14·08	
11. Narsapatam	10·00	9·40	15·12	13·44	16·20	14·58	
Average ..	9·69	9·04	15·81	13·94	16·27	14·46	

Activity of trade—Trade is fairly active—especially in rice and paddy—less so in dry grains, the stock of which is becoming contracted.

	Exports.	Imports.
	MDS.	MDS.
By sea for the period ending 29th May 1897	359	650
By rail do. do.	923	25,463 (carts)
By road from Jeypore for the period ending 29th May 1897 ...		4,657

Condition of the People.

On works.—The condition of relief workers is generally good. Cases of really bad condition are very rare. During the fortnight attendance has been irregular, many people going away for a little to attend to agriculture and coming back again.

In villages.—Good, with very few exceptions. In accordance with the orders of Government detailed enquiries are now being made and village lists got ready against a possible failure of the monsoon. These have not yet disclosed any distress which is not amenable to the measures at present being taken. In Vizianagram some of the Kshatriyas, who will on no account work, consented to come to the kitchen. They did so and a cook of their own caste was provided, but after a trial they gave it up and said they would not come unless given rice to eat. In this case beggars are choosers. The weavers at Pondur have been again offered relief, but, the Principal Assistant Collector reports, "rejected it with scorn." Those at Rayavaram applied for advances of Rs. 20 or 30 per loom to be repaid like agriculturists' loans, but decline task-work.

Sickness and Mortality.—Cholera is very prevalent and getting worse in Parvatipuram, Palkonda and Viravilli taluks chiefly. It is also bad in the Gunupur hill tracts, where several villages were deserted, the inhabitants removing to the jungle and leaving corpses in the village. In several villages these were collected and buried by the local medical officer who was sent out. The District Surgeon thinks that temporary abandonment of the affected village is the best sanitary measure they can take. No deaths from starvation.

Remarks.—With the exception of cholera, health is good, and seeing that the district has now gone through a full six months of scarcity and high prices, I think it is quite remarkable that there are not more traces of its effects to be seen either in the health or condition of the population.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Relief Works.			
I. Vizianagram—			These figures show an increase over those reported last fortnight. The maximum was, however, reached in the figures reported by telegram on 17th May. There has been a progressive decrease in the two following weeks. The rain of 19th May took away a number of workers, but there has been no good rain in the affected tracts since then and some have been coming back. The decrease will be much more marked with the next useful fall of rain.
(1) Pusapatirega	3,443	3,716	
II. Bimlipatam—			
(1) Dakmarri	3,015	3,523	
(2) Padmanabham	1,487	2,429	
III. Vizagapatam—			
(1) Gazuvaka	2,174	1,158	
(2) Pendur	1,653	1,608	
IV. Sarvasiddhi—			
(1) Kondakarla	1,977	1,773	
Total ..	13,749	14,207	
Test Relief Work.			
I. Chipurupalli—			
(1) Ranastalam	526	547	
Total ..	526	547	
Grand Total ..	14,275	14,754	

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

Taluks.	Number relieved			
	At kitchens.			
	Dependants.		Others.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Government.				
I. Párvatípuram taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Párvatípuram ..	..	..	120	173
II. Chipurupalli taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Ranastalam ..	32	79	283	192
III. Vizianagram taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Pusapatirega ..	125	103	33	64
(2) ,, at Vizianagram ..	..	..	195	238
IV. Bimlipatam taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Dakmarri	81	194	19	17
(2) ,, at Padmanabham ..	116	136	36	115
(3) ,, at Bhogapuram ..	158	..	23	245
V. Vizagapatam taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Garuvaka	199	187	22	39
(2) ,, at Pendur	193	198	72	43
VI. Sarvasiddhi taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Kondakarla ..	76	73	161	198
Total ..	980	970	964	1,324
Rajah Gajapati Row's kitchens—				
1. Vizagapatam	..	..	225	233
2. Anakápalli	..	..	130	146
3. Sarvasiddhi	..	..	666	523
Total ..	..	..	1,021	902
Grand Total ..	980	970	1,985	2,226

Number of villages in which relief was given, &c.—*Nil.*

Private charity.—In spite of the lamented death of the Maharajah of Vizianagram, his charities—poor-house and Brahman chattram—are being continued. The Rajah of Bobbili, the Rani Saheb of Wadhwan, Rani Ankitam Atchayamma, Messrs. Perla Narayana Chetti, the Gopalpur Proprietor, and K. Venkanna Chetti are dispensing much private charity. *Facile princeps* in this respect is the Rajah Gajapati Row.

General remarks.

Prospects have somewhat brightened during the fortnight, but whether distress is to increase or gradually to disappear depends on the weather of the next three weeks. The numbers on works have fallen off a little and with more good rain will do so still more. If there is no more rain before the monsoon breaks, the numbers will go up again, but if there is and if the monsoon opens favourably, there will be no need of works by the last week of the month, as employment will be amply available and the workers have been kept in good enough condition and spirits to be ready to resume their normal avocations. Women, however, will be in no hurry to leave the works where they are better paid than they will be anywhere else. The only disquieting feature in the situation at present is the somewhat rapid rise in prices. In the north of the district it is stated that fear of cholera has paralysed trade. Elsewhere the demand for seed-grain is large, and stocks of dry grains are perhaps not very extensive. Besides prices must perforce level up to those of the Gódávari district. This rise in prices may render necessary some extension of gratuitous relief, since the monsoon, which brings employment to workers, will do nothing for the helpless. Only a fall in prices can affect them. I may therefore have to open more kitchens, especially in parts not hitherto affected. I expect that the provision of plenty of kitchens will amply meet the distress if there is a fair monsoon, and in any case the enquiries now being conducted will show if any other form of gratuitous relief is called for. This I do not expect, except perhaps in a few isolated cases. The next fortnight or three weeks will be a period of painful anxiety.

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

Taluks.	Other purposes.								Total.				Number of wells.	
	Repair and construction of wells.													
	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.		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1. Palkonda ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	Rs. 1,000	7	Rs. 1,000	10	Rs. 1,970	212	..
2. Sarvasiddhi ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	4,300	257	..
3. Golgonda ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	375	2	375	14	3,120	(b) 719	..
4. Srungavarapukota ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	400	2	400	..	2,300	..	..
5. Párvatípuram ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	7	11	1,775	11	1,775	40	11,690	1,188	..

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
1. Palkonda ..	(a) 15	Rs. 540	15	Rs. 540	..	Rs. ..	164	Rs. 7,476	164	Rs. 7,476	212	Rs. 12,757	168	Rs. 8,016	168	Rs. 8,016	212	Rs. 12,757
2. Sarvasiddhi ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	63	3,475	63	3,475	254	41,005	53	3,475	53	3,475	257	41,215
3. Golgonda ..	(b) 438	8,826	(b) 438	8,826	(b) 719	18,649	(b) 438	11,072	(b) 438	11,072	(b) 719	43,429	(b) 438	19,598	(b) 438	19,598	(b) 719	67,078
4. Srungavarapukota ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Párvatípuram ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	453	9,366	453	9,366	722	13,859	655	22,023	655	22,023	1,185	97,191	659	31,389	659	31,389	1,188	1,11,050

(a) Includes eleven applications shown in column 28.

(b) In all these cases fodder, seed-grain and cattle were applied for in one and the same application.

Inspections—Taluks and places visited.

Principal Assistant Collector.

Bimlipatam taluk ... ... Chittivalasa. Bimlipatam. Padmanabham.

Vizianagram taluk ... ... Vizianagram, to which he was called in on account of the Maharaja's death.

Chipurupalle taluk ... ... Ranastalam, Pondar and surrounding villages.

Head Assistant Collector.

Sarvasiddhi taluk ... ... Uppavaram. Jaganadhapuram. Melupaka. Ramarayadupalem. Yellamanchilli. Panchadarla. Kondakarla. Nakkapalli. Bhimavaram. Lakkavaram. Timmarajupeta. Kokkirapalli. Peddapalli.

Anakápalle taluk ... ... Munagapaka and Anakápalle.

Golgonda taluk ... ... Makarapalem, Gangavaram and Narsapatam.

Senior Assistant Collector.

Párvatípuram taluk ... ... Kurupam and twenty other villages.

Hosúr Deputy Collector.

Vizagapatam taluk ... ... Adivinaram, Narayanapuram, Pendurti, Gazavaka and other villages.

Collector.

I was in camp 13 days out of the fortnight. Inspected Gazavaka and Kondakarla relief works and kitchens at these places—Anakápalle, Vizagapatam and Vizianagram. I was called in to Vizianagaram by the death of the Maharaja, which interrupted my famine inspections on the 23rd.

Resolution—dated 15th June 1897, No. 436.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall of the fortnight was generally good and all apprehensions as to want of water for drinking are now removed. Irrigation tanks also received supplies. Dry cultivation was proceeding briskly.

Pasture is above the average, and, although fodder is scarce, there need be no anxiety for the present about cattle.

3. Prices rose smartly throughout the district, and ragi is now above the scarcity rate. The rise is due to the influence of prices in the adjoining districts. The relative position of prices is shown by the following figures:—

Rate.	Measures per rupee.		
	Rice.	Ragi.	Cumbu.
Normal	15·0	28·0	30·0
Warning	12·0	21·0	22·5
Scarcity	9·0	14·0	15·0
Current	9·0	13·9	14·5
May 1892	10·0	15·7	16·6
May 1878	7·6	12·5	12·1

Trade was fairly active.

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4. The condition of the people was generally good. In former years it used to be a common expectation that cholera would spread down from the north, and, in view of its prevalence in the two northern districts, the Sanitary Commissioner will be asked to consider whether all necessary precautions have been taken to prevent its spread to the south. The Deccan districts have been singularly exempt this year; but if the germs of the disease once spread, the harvest will be terrible, and, now that the Presidency is knit up with railways, the danger is much greater than in former years.

5. The numbers on works increased but very slightly, and it is reported that many absented themselves for short periods for work in the fields. The falling off has continued since the close of the period reported on.

The Kshatriyas in Vizianagaram should not be relieved by doles. It is evident that they have no objection to attending kitchens, and if they refuse to accept ragi food or to work, they must, for the present, be left to themselves. They should be made to understand, however, that work or ragi cakes in kitchens are available for them, if they choose to apply.

6. The following disbursements have been made under the Loans Acts in the past four weeks:—

Week ending—

	Rs.
May 8th	2,470
„ 15th	6,456
„ 22nd	6,406
„ 29th	2,502

Progress during the last week has not been so satisfactory as in the preceding two weeks. There are many applications pending, and they should be disposed of without delay.

7. The report strikes the first note of cheerfulness from the affected districts since the commencement of distress. It is to be trusted that the fair prospects may not be belied by a failure or delay of the monsoon.

8. The Collector is right in saying that gratuitous relief would have to be kept up for some time after works are closed. He should consider, in case the season should distinctly improve, how works can best be closed. Vizagapatam is different from the other affected districts, in that relief has not been found necessary there within the memory of the present generation; and, if the season improve, it is the first district in which relief, and especially works, can be closed. The difficulty, as he foreshadows, will be to get rid of the women. The weakly men and women might hang on a little longer; there are few of the former; but the question is how, when the time comes, to weed out the stronger and less needy women, for, wages being what they are in the two northern districts, the famine wage, to the women, is always a temptation. It might be advisable to depart somewhat from the strict letter of section 97 of the Famine Code, and weed the women into gangs according to their physique, without reference to their villages or relationships. It would then be possible to require of the really able-bodied, of whom there are so many in Vizagapatam, a task calculated without any reference to the weaker members of a gang, and this, duly enforced, will soon eliminate all who can really afford to go. The really destitute could then be left on relief for a month or two longer. The Collector will bear the matter in mind so as to be able to act when the time comes.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 525, Revenue, dated 2nd July 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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