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

0 L.S. 322 12/17

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 4th June 1897, No. 417:—

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

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply.—During the fortnight under report there has been slight rain as noted below:—

	INCHES.
Yemmiganuru	0.68
Adóni	0.40
Alúr	0.32
Kampli	0.14
Rayadrug	0.30
Hospet	0.23
Kúdligi	0.35

Difficulty in procuring water for drinking purposes is felt in many villages of Alúr, Kúdligi and Hadagalli, and in a few villages of Adóni, Bellary, Rayadrug, Harpanahalli and Hospet. The water-supply for irrigation purposes is sufficient in the river channels and wells. The tanks are empty except a few tanks which received some slight supply from the recent rains.

The drinking water-supply is being improved where necessary and possible by clearing out silt from wells and digging holes in the beds or on the banks of streams and tanks. In Joladarasi village of Bellary taluk where drinking water had to be brought from a distance of four miles, a water pandal has been sanctioned, water being carted from the Hagari river. To alleviate the water difficulty in Sanduru State, many wells and holes have been dug in the bed of the Nari river.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops—Adóni division.—The clearing of nuth grass, ploughing and harrowing are going on. Garden crops and the paddy under the Rampur channel are in good condition. There are no other standing crops. Bellary division.—Lands are being prepared for early crops. The removal of nuth grass with the aid of State loans and otherwise continues. The harvest of second-crop paddy under the Hagari channels has commenced. Korra is also being harvested in Rayadrug. The outturn of paddy there has been from eight to ten annas. Hospet division.—The sowing of sugarcane under river channels in Hospet is almost completed. Ploughing is proceeding in Hospet, Harpanahalli and Hadagalli. Cholan and oil-seeds are being sown in parts of the Kottur firka of Kúdligi taluk. Wet crops under river channels and Kamalapuram tank in Hospet taluk are in good condition. Crops under wells are in fairly good condition.

Sanduru State.—Lands are being prepared for the early sowings. There are no standing crops except betel which is fading for want of water.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle—Adóni division.—Fodder is scanty in Alúr but may be sufficient for about two months in Adóni. There is no pasture. The condition of stall-fed cattle is good, but that of others is deteriorating in Adóni and poor to bad in Alúr. Cattle disease is reported from the villages of Hulebedu, Tumbalapedu and Pedda Hotur. There were 28 deaths during the fortnight. There were 600 head of cattle brought to the Adóni cattle market. Of these

161 were purchased by agriculturists and 28 by butchers, while the rest found no sale. Bellary division.—Pasture is very limited and fodder is scanty except in wet villages. Prickly-pear, coarse hill grass and leaves are being used as fodder. The condition of stall-fed cattle is generally fair, but that of others is poor in Rayadrug and bad in Bellary. Hospet division.—Fodder insufficient except in Harpanahalli and Hire-Hadagalli firka of Hadagalli taluk. Pasture is said to be available to a very small extent in the villages in Hadagalli taluk which received rain lately and under the Tungabhadra channels in Hospet. The condition of cattle is deteriorating in places where fodder is insufficient.

Sanduru State.—Fodder is diminishing and pasture is scanty. The condition of the cattle is poor. It is surprising to note that the cattle in these parts are in very poor condition though so near the fodder supplies.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—The rain that fell in the beginning of the fortnight has not been followed by more showers I regret to say, and the drinking-water difficulty still exists in many parts of the district, being worst in the black cotton tracts. But, as will be seen from the foregoing abstract of Divisional Officers' reports, efforts to alleviate this distress are being made, and with fair success on the lines described in my last fortnightly narrative. Loans are being freely granted for fodder, and the District Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund has adopted a proposal of mine to make small money grants for the purchase of straw and grass to those ryots who are unable to obtain loans. The Madras Committee of the Fund is buying paddy straw and I hope to hear shortly that a supply of this has been sent to Guntakal, Aspari, Adóni and Kudutani for sale to ryots at nominal prices. In wet villages in the Bellary taluk paddy straw is obtainable at from Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 the cart-load; at Bellary the price is Rs. 9. A good deal of cholam straw is being brought from Pattikonda to Alúr and a fair quantity is forthcoming at all the large markets. At Bellary the price varies from Rs. 6½ to Rs. 8½ the cart-load. Hill grass is still obtainable but it is of poor quality and contains but little nutriment. I have at last been able to visit Sanduru and I was surprised to find the cattle there in comparatively poor condition. I have observed the same thing in the Antapur valley and the villages about Daroji, and the conclusion to which these facts point is that hill grass is not an altogether satisfactory fodder. If it is cut and dried as soon as it ripens it makes capital hay, but the grass that has been used for the past two or three months was not saved in time, and many cattle owners with whom I have spoken on the subject declare that it is not a nutritious food and is frequently injurious. My experience with my horses confirms this view. Still it is better than nothing and better than prickly-pear and date leaves which are now being used in many parts.

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.		White cholam.		Yellow cholam.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
Adóni	9.13	9.13	11.55	11.28	12.90	12.63	17.73	16.12	Prices show a tendency to rise owing to the absence of rain and diminished imports.
Alúr	8.10	7.56	10.80	10.30	11.33	11.33	..	..	
Bellary	8.64	8.64	11.33	10.82	13.39	12.86	16.49	16.49	
Rayadrug	9.72	9.72	12.58	12.36	13.91	12.58	14.55	14.55	
Hospet	8.64	8.64	11.33	11.33	13.39	13.39	15.52	15.52	
Kúdligi	8.10	7.56	..	..	12.36	12.36	13.58	14.55	
Harpanahalli	9.72	9.72	..	..	13.39	13.39	15.52	15.52	
Hadagalli	9.72	9.72	..	..	13.39	12.88	..	..	
Sanduru	9.45	9.45	..	..	13.39	12.88	17.00	16.00	
Average	9.02	8.90	11.41	11.22	13.05	12.64	15.77	15.54	

Activity of trade.—Private trade is fairly active. During the last two weeks the imports of grain by rail amounted to 14,157 maunds and the exports 10,571 maunds; thus there was a net import of 3,586 maunds only against 10,800 maunds in the previous two weeks. This continued decline in visible stocks has forced up prices, particularly in Bellary and Adóni. It is apprehended that they will rise briskly should the rain continue to hold off, but one good thunderstorm would materially alter the position.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On Works.—Generally good. One Divisional Officer reports that, owing to the scorching sun which now pours down on us, some of the relief-workers are beginning to look "faded." It is a standing surprise to me that they stand the heat so well as they do; and yet we know that numbers of those who sit breaking stones under this brazen sky, with the added torment of a blistering wind, are under no necessity to do so.

In villages.—Generally good. The carpet weavers of Bellary have asked for employment and special measures of relief on the same lines as at Adóni have been started. New works have been ordered to be started near Tekkalakota in the Bellary taluk on the Bellary-Sirugappa road and at Hampasagar in the Hadagalli taluk on the Dharwar road.

Sickness and mortality.—There was one case of cholera at Yemmiganúru in the Adóni taluk and it proved fatal. The victim was a man from the Ramallakot taluk of Kurnool and there have been no other cases. A case was reported from the Bandri work in Kúdligi taluk, but the death was probably due to eating tainted cocoanuts and not to cholera. There have been no more cases since. Small-pox is prevalent in Kúdligi and in four villages of Harpanahalli taluk. There were some cases of small-pox on the Alúr-Adóni, Adóni-Sirugappa and Alúr-Moka road works and five cases of chicken-pox on the Gowripur-Kúdligi road work. One old man was reported to have died of starvation in the Bellary-Sirugappa road work; but the enquiry held by the Tahsildar showed that the man was suffering from a chronic affection of the stomach, that he had property worth Rs. 3 with him at the time of his death, that he had relatives capable of supporting him and that he was himself earning a wage of As. 1-6 every day. The "health" conditions are unusually favourable and it is a matter for thankfulness and congratulation that so far we have escaped any serious epidemic. We are prepared for cholera on all works, but it is to be earnestly hoped that the unusual heat of this year may save us. The time of danger will be the commencement of the monsoon.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

ON WORKS.—In what taluks open and comparison of numbers.

Taluku.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fort-night.	This fortnight.	
Adóni	20,306	27,612	Four more works were opened during the fort-night— (1) Adóni-Yemmiganúru road .. 381 (2) Yemmiganúru-Koogi road .. 3,493 (3) Bellary Fort-ditch .. 1,089 (4) Ittigi road .. 66
Alúr	30,394	34,340	
Bellary	6,294	7,961	
Hospet	5,101	5,168	
Kúdligi	794	1,295	
Hadagalli	1,814	2,314	Total .. 5,029
Total	64,703	78,690	

NOTE.—The number employed on village works has not been given by the Divisional officers. The information will be obtained and reported in the next narrative.

The usual explanation of the increase is the "deepening" of distress, but I think the true cause is the ordinary cessation of agricultural work. Many of our relief-workers could get on without relief, but they argue, "prices are high, the future is uncertain and it is better to earn something instead of eating up the stock of grain which may be badly wanted hereafter."

Gratuitous relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise.

Taluku.	Number relieved							
	At kitchens.				In poor-houses.		In villages.	
	Dependants.		Others.					
	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.
Adóni	2,141	1,562	369	757	..	..	201	918
Alúr	1,691	2,010	536	277	..	..	300	1,104
Bellary	469	580	221	221	..	..	..	628
Hospet	362	416	31	22	..	..	..	..
Kúdligi	76	57	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hadagalli	65	67	10	10	..	..	..	..
Total	4,804	4,692	1,167	1,287	..	..	501	2,650

Taluku.	Weavers' relief.					
	Number of villages in which relief was given.		Number of persons relieved.		Number of cloths manufactured.	
	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.	In the period.	Up to date.
Adóni	1	30	1,820	2,370	2,053	11,966
Alúr	16	74	..	..	..	..
Bellary	..	46	..	..	..	..

The decrease in the number of dependants in kitchens in Adóni is due in part to more correct classification and in part to the starting of gratuitous relief in villages.

Private charity.—Paramma continues to feed daily about 250 persons, mostly children.

The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Committee relieved 852 cases in Adóni and 2,513 in Bellary. The number relieved in Alúr, Hospet and Hadagalli have not been stated. The arrangements for substituting grain doles for the famine fund grants in the town of Bellary were completed at the last meeting of the District Committee and grain doles were distributed from yesterday. The change has also been made in Adóni town.

GENERAL REMARKS.

As already stated, I have at last been able to visit Sanduru, and I am glad to be able to report that the demand for employment has been fairly met. Ploughing, manuring and harrowing were seen on all sides, while the Administrator had started the repair of his roads on a somewhat more extensive scale than usual and had ordered the digging and deepening of wells in order to afford employment to those who were not required in the fields. As trustee of the Kumarasami temple, he has also employed a number of persons in cutting bamboos and other produce of the forests that belong to that institution. The total number employed in these ways is reported to be about 5,000, and gratuitous relief is also being given to the helpless poor of Sanduru and Hosahalli. I found that there was a slight misunderstanding at one village, the labourers being ignorant of the fact that they would be given work on the road, but this was, promptly, set right by the Administrator, who proceeded in person to the village in question.

2. To meet the requirements of the helpless poor, central kitchens have been ordered to be opened at Hatcholli in Adóni taluk, at Ravibal, Raravi and Vandavagali in Alúr taluk and at Korlagundi in Bellary taluk. One more kitchen has been ordered to be added to the Alúr-Moka roadwork. The fact that it is often more economical to give grain doles than to open kitchens has not been lost sight of.

3. There is no good yellow cholam available in the Alúr taluk, and the relief-workers are using white cholam eked out with ragi. Orders have accordingly been issued to calculate the wages on the price of white cholam.

4. There have been complaints that many of the copper coins issued for payment of wages are so worn that no shopkeeper will receive them. These coins were received at the Bank from Madras, Cuddapah and Kurnool in sealed boxes which were forwarded to the taluk treasury without being opened. The taluk shroffs have now been directed to retain all worn coin, treating it as uncurrent.

5. There has been also great difficulty in procuring a sufficiency of small silver and copper coins in Alūr taluk. From the beginning of October 1896 up to the end of April indents have been made on the Accountant-General for Rs. 3,05,000 worth of small silver and Rs. 95,500 worth of copper. Of this amount only Rs. 2,53,000 of small silver and Rs. 72,000 of copper have been received up to date. The present stock of small silver is only Rs. 3,500 and that of copper Rs. 360. It is curious that the large quantity already issued has not, in some shape or other, been received back into the treasury. A circular has since been issued inviting the public to bring to the treasury any amount of copper and small silver for free exchange with whole rupees, and the Accountant-General has been asked to comply with my indent in full as also with a further indent for Rs. 50,000 of small silver and Rs. 21,000 of copper.

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

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Note.—The figures for the Hospet division for this fortnight not having been received, the previous fortnight's figures have been adopted.

During this fortnight the Special Tahsildar of Aldar has disbursed Rs. 19,527 and the Special Tahsildar of Bellary Rs. 15,686. It is satisfactory to note that the Tahsildar of Rayadrug continues to show good results, having disbursed Rs. 7,105 without any additional help, while the Tahsildar of Adoni has disbursed only Rs. 2,125. Although he has two Special Revenue Inspectors at work and a third lately appointed. His failure to disburse any fodder loans is very disappointing. I beg to point out that the rule requiring notice of seven days before payment of a loan seriously interferes with the progress of the work. If a Tahsildar could dispose of all cases in a village at once, without waiting for the expiry of this period, rapid and prompt disposal of applications would be possible, without such additional risk of loss to the Government.

TALUKS AND PLACES VISITED.

By the Collector.—Alúr-Adóni, Alúr-Moka, Bellary-Moka and Bandri road-works with the kitchens attached to them; Bellary and Alúr kitchens, Kuditini, Yettinahatti, Nagalapuram, Bannihatti, Gangalapuram, Gouripuram, Sandur, Banihalli, Bahihalli, Kannihalli, Somalapuram, Nagar, Sivapuram.

Deputy Collector, Adóni.—Adóni section of Adóni-Madavaram roadwork, including the Adóni water-supply reservoir and the three kitchens at Adóni, Aspari, Chippigiri, Beldona, Namakallu, Nagardona, Alúr, Holalgundi, Kammarchedu, Manikunta, the Aspari section of Alúr-Aspari work, the Alúr-Chippigiri (both sections), Holalgundi and Alúr-Adóni roadworks and the kitchens at Aspari on the roadwork at Chippigiri, Námakkalu, Nagardona, Alúr and Holalgundi.

Deputy Collector, Bellary.—Karur, Mélur, Uttanuru, Gosuhal, Budiguppa, Tekkalakota, Upporahosakotta, Nadini, Balakundi, Myalapuram, Udagolam, Kenchana-guddam, Devalapuram, Siruguppa, Hirehal, Holakundi, Kammarchedu, Sankarabanda, Rupanagadi, Nittur and Hirakal and the relief works on the Siruguppa road and in the Bellary town and the kitchens near Somasamudram, Dammur, Kolur and Bellary.

Mr. Lloyd in charge of Rayadrug taluk.—Malyam, Sallapuram, Honnur, Sidaramapuram, Nutakal, Nagalapuram, Rayadrug and Avuladetta.

Head Assistant Collector.—Hospet, Gouripur, Moriammanahalle, Nandibanda, Kenchaganahalli, Marabhihal, Naraindevarkeri, Bellahunsi, Tambrahalli, Gaddikera, Kodohalli, Bannikallu, Holalgundi, Huvinahadagalli, Magalam, Rangapuram and the relief works at Moriammanahalli, Naraindevarkeri, Bellahunsi and Devagondanahalli.

Resolution—dated 4th June 1897, No. 417.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall during the fortnight was slight, and insufficient to improve the supply of drinking-water. The Collector, however, is fully alive to the wants of the people in this direction, and he and his officers are doing their best to alleviate the difficulty.

3. The scanty standing crops are said to be thriving, and a certain area has been harvested, while lands are being prepared in parts for early crops. But in the absence of any statement as to the extent of these operations, it is impossible to judge of their value either in affording employment, or in increasing stocks.

4. Pasture is virtually non-existent, and fodder is generally insufficient. The condition of the poorer classes of cattle is deteriorating. The following consignments of fodder for sale at Rs. 12-8-0 a ton have already been made to the district:—

	TONS.
From Madras to Nancherla	20½
„ to Aspari	17¼

5. Prices rose: the rises being most marked in the case of yellow cholam at Bellary and Rayadrug; and in the case of ragi at Adóni and Sandur. The position of prices is shown in the accompanying statement:—

Rate.	Measures per rupee.	
	Rice.	Cholam (mixed).
Standard	13.2	30.0
Warning	10.6	22.5
Scarcity	7.9	15.0
Current	8.8	11.7
May 1892	9.0	15.3
May 1877	7.2	7.5

The rise is ascribed to the holding off of rains, and decreased imports.

6. The condition of the people is reported to be generally good. The numbers on works increased by 22 per cent. The Collector remarks, "Numbers of those who sit breaking stones under this brazen sky, with the added torment of a blistering wind, are under no necessity to do so", and again, "The usual explanation of the increase is the deepening of distress, but I think the true cause is the ordinary cessation of agricultural work. Many of our relief-workers could get on without relief, but they argue, 'prices are high, the future is uncertain, and it is better to earn something instead of eating up the stock of grain which may be badly wanted hereafter.' No doubt the cessation of ordinary agricultural operations, which were practically over three months ago, tends to swell the numbers on relief, but the Famine Commissioner has no reason to believe that the conditions offered are sufficiently attractive to draw to the works any but those whom necessity compels to find a constant daily employment, and would be glad to believe that the ordinary ryot is gifted with the keen sense of providence for which the Collector gives him credit. There are villages in Bellary still béchirák, or unpopulated, since the famine of 1877-78. There was famine again in 1891-92. The district as a rule has to import food. On the average the Deccan districts are importers, not exporters, of grain, and the net imports for the six months, ending March 1897, were 6,35,153 maunds. It is an exceptional year in which one or other of the two monsoons is not in deficiency. Stocks are, admittedly, nearing exhaustion. The position of the poorer ryot is this. If the south-west monsoon fails this year he is utterly ruined. If it does not fail, he has, for four months to come, to maintain his cattle, and it costs, now, more to feed a bullock than a man. He has to maintain himself for four months after he leaves the works, unless, which is probable and proper, he returns to them after ploughing and sowing are over, and until harvest comes. He may, or may not, leave his family on the works; but he is unlikely to leave all, and those whom he takes home have to be fed. He has to feed his agricultural labourers, who must be paid in grain. He has to sow his land. It would probably be no exaggeration to assess the requirements for seed-grain in the affected taluks of Bellary at six lakhs of rupees. Supposing that the ryot should stay at home and exhaust his resources to the last farthing, what would be his position when the rains come? The whole machinery of the district would not be equal to advancing loans for seed-corn alone, and the process would extend over months, the present average of advances of all kinds being only about Rs. 17,000 a week. The sowing season would be lost. It is true that the ryot might—and would—go to the sowcar; but it is not the object of Government to drive the ryot into the arms of the sowcar. The stock of seed-corn is limited, especially in the present year, and the price is high; and, if the ryot exhausts his petty store, he has to go into the market, and buy an inferior article, to the lasting damage of the district staples. The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Committee would be quite unequal to the task of setting him on his legs again. As an embarrassed borrower, he would be a less valuable member of the body politic. He would, too, if he stayed at home, be obliged to stint himself, and would be less fit for the arduous labours of agriculture. If, therefore, he submits to the test of a relief work, and spends the day for a pittance of three half-pence, breaking stones under a sun into which no humane person would thrust a dog, his doing so need not cause any anxiety to the relief officer.

7. The administration of gratuitous relief in villages is progressing, the numbers having risen during the fortnight from 501 to 2,650. The Collector's remark about the substitution of grain-doles for Famine Fund grants in Bellary town is not quite clear; it is, however, presumed that the grain-doles are given by Government, and not at the expense of the Fund. Early arrangements should be made in all cases to take all the recipients of the Fund charity into the Government lists; if there are undeserving cases, they may be drafted out afterwards.

8. It is satisfactory to find that the Administrator of Sandur has provided work for the people within the State.

9. The attention of the Accountant-General will be drawn to the Collectors' remarks about the condition of copper coins and the failure to comply in full with the

indents for copper and small silver. It is hoped that he will be able to place, not only in Bellary, but in all other affected districts, a sufficient quantity of such coins to meet all requirements.

10 There has been fair progress in the disposal of applications for loans, as is shown by the following figures:—

Up to the end of the week ending—

									Amount advanced. RS.
1st May	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,04,582
8th "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,19,164
15th "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,55,569
22nd "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,74,727

The Tahsildar of Rayadrug and the special Tahsildars of Bellary and Alur have continued to show good work. The Tahsildar of Adoni, with his three Special Revenue Inspectors, should turn out more work. The Collector points out that the rule requiring seven days' notice before payment of a loan seriously interferes with the disposal of applications, and suggests that it would be well if this rule were abolished. No such notice is necessary under the special well rules; but, under the ordinary well rules and the rules framed under Act XII of 1884, such notice is imperative. As these rules have been published with the sanction of the Government of India, they cannot be altered without reference to that authority. There appears to be no need for such notice in the case of loans for the purchase of fodder, and it is submitted that the suggestion of abolishing the rule in the case of such loans is worthy of consideration. If the Government approve, the matter might be settled by telegram, in communication with the Government of India.

11. The wave of distress is now nearly at its highest. Another week or so will probably see the culminating point. The work in Bellary has been severe and harassing, and the Famine Commissioner is glad to note how well the call has been responded to by the District staff. In years to come, it will be an ever-increasing satisfaction to all of them to remember that they have spent, and been spent, for the people.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

ORDER—No. 548, Revenue, dated 9th July 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The recommendation in paragraph 10 of the Board's Proceedings to abolish the rule requiring seven days' notice before payment in the case of certain loans will be disposed of by separate orders.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]
for Ag. Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. Shalk Karim.
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Government { 1897 } of Madras.
REVENUE.

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G.O., No. 548, 9th July 1897.

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Communicated to the

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JULY.

Ho D. H. C.

To

The S. & T. Circle.

Fortnightly Narrative.

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

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Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops—Adóni division.—The clearing of nuth grass, ploughing and harrowing are going on. Garden crops and the paddy under the Rampur channel are in good condition. There are no other standing crops. **Bellary division.**—Lands are being prepared for early crops. The removal of nuth grass with the aid of State loans and otherwise continues. The harvest of second-crop paddy under the Hagari channels has commenced. Korra is also being harvested in Rayadrug. The outturn of paddy there has been from eight to ten annas. **Hospet division.**—The sowing of sugarcane under river channels in Hospet is almost completed. Ploughing is proceeding in Hospet, Harpanahalli and Hadagalli. Cholan and oil-seeds are being sown in parts of the Kottur firka of Kúdligi taluk. Wet crops under river channels and Kamalapuram tank in Hospet taluk are in good condition. Crops under wells are in fairly good condition.

Sanduru State.—Lands are being prepared for the early sowings. There are no standing crops except betel which is fading for want of water.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle—Adóni division.—Fodder is scanty in Alúr but may be sufficient for about two months in Adóni. There is no pasture. The condition of stall-fed cattle is good, but that of others is deteriorating in Adóni and poor to bad in Alúr. Cattle disease is reported from the villages of Hulebedu, Tumbalapedu and Pedda Hotur. There were 28 deaths during the fortnight. There were 600 head of cattle brought to the Adóni cattle market. Of these

161 were purchased by agriculturists and 28 by butchers, while the rest found no sale. **Bellary division.**—Pasture is very limited and fodder is scanty except in wet villages. Prickly-pear, coarse hill grass and leaves are being used as fodder. The condition of stall-fed cattle is generally fair, but that of others is poor in Rayadrug and bad in Bellary. **Hospet division.**—Fodder insufficient except in Harpanahalli and Hire-Hadagalli firka of Hadagalli taluk. Pasture is said to be available to a very small extent in the villages in Hadagalli taluk which received rain lately and under the Tungabhadra channels in Hospet. The condition of cattle is deteriorating in places where fodder is insufficient.

Sanduru State.—Fodder is diminishing and pasture is scanty. The condition of the cattle is poor. It is surprising to note that the cattle in these parts are in very poor condition though so near the fodder supplies.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—The rain that fell in the beginning of the fortnight has not been followed by more showers I regret to say, and the drinking-water difficulty still exists in many parts of the district, being worst in the black cotton tracts. But, as will be seen from the foregoing abstract of Divisional Officers' reports, efforts to alleviate this distress are being made, and with fair success on the lines described in my last fortnightly narrative. Loans are being freely granted for fodder, and the District Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund has adopted a proposal of mine to make small money grants for the purchase of straw and grass to those ryots who are unable to obtain loans. The Madras Committee of the Fund is buying paddy straw and I hope to hear shortly that a supply of this has been sent to Guntakal, Aspari, Adóni and Kudutani for sale to ryots at nominal prices. In wet villages in the Bellary taluk paddy straw is obtainable at from Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 the cart-load; at Bellary the price is Rs. 9. A good deal of cholam straw is being brought from Pattikonda to Alúr and a fair quantity is forthcoming at all the large markets. At Bellary the price varies from Rs. 6½ to Rs. 8½ the cart-load. Hill grass is still obtainable but it is of poor quality and contains but little nutriment. I have at last been able to visit Sanduru and I was surprised to find the cattle there in comparatively poor condition. I have observed the same thing in the Antapur valley and the villages about Daroji, and the conclusion to which these facts point is that hill grass is not an altogether satisfactory fodder. If it is cut and dried as soon as it ripens it makes capital hay, but the grass that has been used for the past two or three months was not saved in time, and many cattle owners with whom I have spoken on the subject declare that it is not a nutritious food and is frequently injurious. My experience with my horses confirms this view. Still it is better than nothing and better than prickly-pear and date leaves which are now being used in many parts.

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.		White cholam.		Yellow cholam.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
Adóni	9.13	9.13	11.55	11.28	12.90	12.63	17.73	16.12	Prices show a tendency to rise owing to the absence of rain and diminished imports.
Alúr	8.10	7.56	10.30	10.30	11.33	11.33	..	..	
Bellary	8.64	8.64	11.33	10.82	13.39	12.36	16.49	16.49	
Rayadrug	9.72	9.72	12.58	12.36	13.91	12.58	14.55	14.55	
Hospet	8.64	8.64	11.33	11.33	13.39	13.39	15.52	15.52	
Kúdligi	8.10	7.56	..	..	12.36	12.36	13.58	14.55	
Harpanahalli	9.72	9.72	..	..	13.39	13.39	15.52	15.52	
Hadagalli	9.72	9.72	..	..	13.39	12.88	..	..	
Sanduru	9.45	9.45	..	..	13.39	12.88	17.00	16.00	
Average	9.02	8.90	11.41	11.22	13.05	12.64	15.77	15.54	

Activity of trade.—Private trade is fairly active. During the last two weeks the imports of grain by rail amounted to 14,157 maunds and the exports 10,571 maunds; thus there was a net import of 3,586 maunds only against 10,800 maunds in the previous two weeks. This continued decline in visible stocks has forced up prices, particularly in Bellary and Adóni. It is apprehended that they will rise briskly should the rain continue to hold off, but one good thunderstorm would materially alter the position.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On Works.—Generally good. One Divisional Officer reports that, owing to the scorching sun which now pours down on us, some of the relief-workers are beginning to look "faded." It is a standing surprise to me that they stand the heat so well as they do; and yet we know that numbers of those who sit breaking stones under this brazen sky, with the added torment of a blistering wind, are under no necessity to do so.

In villages.—Generally good. The carpet weavers of Bellary have asked for employment and special measures of relief on the same lines as at Adóni have been started. New works have been ordered to be started near Tekkalakota in the Bellary taluk on the Bellary-Sirugappa road and at Hampasagar in the Hadagalli taluk on the Dharwar road.

Sickness and mortality.—There was one case of cholera at Yemmiganúru in the Adóni taluk and it proved fatal. The victim was a man from the Ramallakot taluk of Kurnool and there have been no other cases. A case was reported from the Bandri work in Kúdligi taluk, but the death was probably due to eating tainted cocoanuts and not to cholera. There have been no more cases since. Small-pox is prevalent in Kúdligi and in four villages of Harpanahalli taluk. There were some cases of small-pox on the Alúr-Adóni, Adóni-Sirugappa and Alúr-Moka road works and five cases of chicken-pox on the Gowripur-Kúdligi road work. One old man was reported to have died of starvation in the Bellary-Sirugappa road work; but the enquiry held by the Tahsildar showed that the man was suffering from a chronic affection of the stomach, that he had property worth Rs. 3 with him at the time of his death, that he had relatives capable of supporting him and that he was himself earning a wage of As. 1-6 every day. The "health" conditions are unusually favourable and it is a matter for thankfulness and congratulation that so far we have escaped any serious epidemic. We are prepared for cholera on all works, but it is to be earnestly hoped that the unusual heat of this year may save us. The time of danger will be the commencement of the monsoon.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

ON WORKS.—In what taluks open and comparison of numbers.

Taluku.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fort-night.	This fortnight.	
Adóni	20,306	27,612	Four more works were opened during the fort-night— (1) Adóni-Yemmiganúru road .. 381 (2) Yemmiganúru-Kosgi road .. 3,493 (3) Bellary Fort-ditch .. 1,089 (4) Ittigi road .. 66
Alúr	30,394	34,340	
Bellary	6,294	7,961	
Hospet	5,101	5,168	
Kúdligi	794	1,295	
Hadagalli	1,814	2,814	Total .. 5,029
Total	64,703	78,690	

NOTE.—The number employed on village works has not been given by the Divisional officers. The information will be obtained and reported in the next narrative.

The usual explanation of the increase is the "deepening" of distress, but I think the true cause is the ordinary cessation of agricultural work. Many of our relief-workers could get on without relief, but they argue, "prices are high, the future is uncertain and it is better to earn something instead of eating up the stock of grain which may be badly wanted hereafter."

Gratuitous relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise.

Taluku.	Number relieved							
	At kitchens.				In poor-houses.		In villages.	
	Dependants.		Others.					
	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.
Adóni	2,141	1,562	369	757	..	..	201	918
Alúr	1,691	2,010	536	277	..	..	300	1,104
Bellary	469	580	221	221	..	..	..	628
Hospet	362	416	31	22	..	..	..	..
Kúdligi	76	67	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hadagalli	65	67	10	10	..	..	..	..
Total	4,804	4,692	1,167	1,287	..	..	501	2,650

Taluku.	Number of villages in which relief was given.		Weavers' relief.			
			Number of persons relieved.		Number of cloths manufactured.	
	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.	In the period.	Up to date.
Adóni	1	30	1,820	2,370	2,053	11,966
Alúr	16	74	..	..	..	..
Bellary	..	46	..	..	..	..

The decrease in the number of dependants in kitchens in Adóni is due in part to more correct classification and in part to the starting of gratuitous relief in villages.

Private charity.—Paramma continues to feed daily about 250 persons, mostly children.

The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Committee relieved 852 cases in Adóni and 2,513 in Bellary. The number relieved in Alúr, Hospet and Hadagalli have not been stated. The arrangements for substituting grain doles for the famine fund grants in the town of Bellary were completed at the last meeting of the District Committee and grain doles were distributed from yesterday. The change has also been made in Adóni town.

GENERAL REMARKS.

As already stated, I have at last been able to visit Sanduru, and I am glad to be able to report that the demand for employment has been fairly met. Ploughing, manuring and harrowing were seen on all sides, while the Administrator had started the repair of his roads on a somewhat more extensive scale than usual and had ordered the digging and deepening of wells in order to afford employment to those who were not required in the fields. As trustee of the Kumarasami temple, he has also employed a number of persons in cutting bamboos and other produce of the forests that belong to that institution. The total number employed in these ways is reported to be about 5,000, and gratuitous relief is also being given to the helpless poor of Sanduru and Hosahalli. I found that there was a slight misunderstanding at one village, the labourers being ignorant of the fact that they would be given work on the road, but this was, promptly, set right by the Administrator, who proceeded in person to the village in question.

2. To meet the requirements of the helpless poor, central kitchens have been ordered to be opened at Hatcholli in Adóni taluk, at Ravibal, Raravi and Vandavagali in Alúr taluk and at Korlagundi in Bellary taluk. One more kitchen has been ordered to be added to the Alúr-Moka roadwork. The fact that it is often more economical to give grain doles than to open kitchens has not been lost sight of.

3. There is no good yellow cholam available in the Alúr taluk, and the relief-workers are using white cholam eked out with ragi. Orders have accordingly been issued to calculate the wages on the price of white cholam.

4. There have been complaints that many of the copper coins issued for payment of wages are so worn that no shopkeeper will receive them. These coins were received at the Bank from Madras, Cuddapah and Kurnool in sealed boxes which were forwarded to the taluk treasury without being opened. The taluk shroffs have now been directed to retain all worn coin, treating it as uncurrent.

5. There has been also great difficulty in procuring a sufficiency of small silver and copper coins in Alúr taluk. From the beginning of October 1896 up to the end of April indents have been made on the Accountant-General for Rs. 3,05,000 worth of small silver and Rs. 95,500 worth of copper. Of this amount only Rs. 2,53,000 of small silver and Rs. 72,000 of copper have been received up to date. The present stock of small silver is only Rs. 3,500 and that of copper Rs. 360. It is curious that the large quantity already issued has not, in some shape or other, been received back into the treasury. A circular has since been issued inviting the public to bring to the treasury any amount of copper and small silver for free exchange with whole rupees, and the Accountant-General has been asked to comply with my indent in full as also with a further indent for Rs. 50,000 of small silver and Rs. 21,000 of copper.

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

Taluka.	Repair and construction of wells.						Other purposes.						Total.						Number of wells.	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.			
	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
Alúr	33	8,820	29	4,310	49	16,830	1,331	1,37,675	1,140	1,18,485	984	1,63,880	1,384	1,46,495	1,169	1,22,795	1,033	1,80,710	..	29
Adóni	8	1,560	7	530	80	18,396	135	10,320	111	8,415	516	56,906	143	11,880	118	8,945	566	75,302	..	3
Bellary	17	1,960	17	1,960	40	10,030	520	49,620	517	49,320	800	1,19,620	537	51,880	534	51,280	840	1,29,660	..	17
Ráyadrag	49	10,575	49	5,413	52	14,100	201	26,200	201	26,200	131	21,720	250	36,775	250	31,613	183	35,820	..	49
Hospet	15	2,800	7	700	21	4,410	25	2,200	9	650	19	2,400	40	5,000	16	1,350	40	6,810	..	7
Kúddigi	1	160	..	..	8	1,450	..	..	..	..	8	450	1	160	..	..	11	1,900	..	..
Harpanahalli	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hadagalli	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	125	26,075	111	13,013	287	74,866	2,285	2,35,660	2,041	2,11,440	2,651	3,96,891	2,410	2,61,735	2,162	2,24,453	2,538	4,71,197	..	105

Taluka.	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
Alór	157	6,386	132	4,104	600	37,773	RS.	RS.	..	RS.	24	2,746	157	6,386	132	4,104	624	40,519
Adoni	16	358	..	..	322	11,512	..	..	..	..	94	3,070	16	358	..	..	416	14,582
Bellary	130	4,947	130	4,947	67	26,896	..	..	..	..	..	..	130	4,947	130	4,947	617	26,896
Ráyadrag	..	..	..	..	41	3,140	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46	8,490
Hospet	..	..	..	..	32	1,700	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	1,700
Kúddigi	..	..	..	..	58	1,623	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	58	1,623
Harpanahalli	..	..	..	..	35	2,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35	2,000
Hadagalli	..	..	..	..	76	3,249	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	76	3,249
Total	372	14,262	328	11,542	1,781	87,893	1	60	1	60	123	6,166	373	14,322	329	11,602	1,904	94,059

Note.—The figures for the Hospet division for this fortnight not having been received, the previous fortnight's figures have been adopted. During this fortnight the Special Tahsildar of Alúr has disbursed Rs. 19,527 and the Special Tahsildar of Bellary Rs. 15,066. It is satisfactory to note that the Tahsildar of Ráyadrag continues to show good results, having disbursed Rs. 7,105 without any additional help, while the Tahsildar of Adóni has disbursed only Rs. 2,126, although he has two Special Revenue Inspectors at work and a third lately appointed. His failure to disburse any fodder loans is very disappointing. I beg to point out that the rule requiring notice of seven days before payment of a loan seriously interferes with the progress of the work. If a Tahsildar could dispose of all cases in a village at once, without waiting for the expiry of this period, rapid and prompt disposal of applications would be possible, without much additional risk of loss to the Government.

TALUKS AND PLACES VISITED.

By the Collector.—Alúr-Adóni, Alúr-Moka, Bellary-Moka and Bandri roadworks with the kitchens attached to them; Bellary and Alúr kitchens, Kuditini, Yettinahatti, Nagalapuram, Bannihatti, Gangalapuram, Gouripuram, Sandur, Banihalli, Bahihalli, Kannihalli, Somalapuram, Nagar, Sivapuram.

Deputy Collector, Adóni.—Adóni section of Adóni-Madavaram roadwork, including the Adóni water-supply reservoir and the three kitchens at Adóni, Aspari, Chippigiri, Beldona, Namakallu, Nagardona, Alúr, Holalgundi, Kammarchedu, Manikunta, the Aspari section of Alúr-Aspari work, the Alúr-Chippigiri (both sections), Holalgundi and Alúr-Adóni roadworks and the kitchens at Aspari on the roadwork at Chippigiri, Námakkalu, Nagardona, Alúr and Holalgundi.

Deputy Collector, Bellary.—Karur, Mélur, Uttanuru, Gosuhal, Budiguppa, Tekalakota, Upporahosakotta, Nadini, Balakundi, Myalapuram, Udagolam, Kenchanguddam, Devalapuram, Siruguppa, Hirehal, Holakundi, Kammarachedu, Sankarabanda, Rupanagadi, Nittur and Hirakal and the relief works on the Siruguppa road and in the Bellary town and the kitchens near Somasamudram, Dammur, Kolar and Bellary.

Mr. Lloyd in charge of Rayadrug taluk.—Malyam, Sallapuram, Honnur, Sidaramapuram, Nutakal, Nagalapuram, Rayadrug and Avuladetta.

Head Assistant Collector.—Hospet, Gouripur, Moriammanahalle, Nandibanda, Kenchaganahalli, Marabhihal, Naraindevarkeri, Bellahunsi, Tambrahalli, Gaddikera, Kodohalli, Bannikallu, Holalgundi, Huvinahadagalli, Magalam, Rangapuram and the relief works at Moriammanahalli, Naraindevarkeri, Bellahunsi and Devagondanahalli.

Resolution—dated 4th June 1897, No. 417.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall during the fortnight was slight, and insufficient to improve the supply of drinking-water. The Collector, however, is fully alive to the wants of the people in this direction, and he and his officers are doing their best to alleviate the difficulty.

3. The scanty standing crops are said to be thriving, and a certain area has been harvested, while lands are being prepared in parts for early crops. But in the absence of any statement as to the extent of these operations, it is impossible to judge of their value either in affording employment, or in increasing stocks.

4. Pasture is virtually non-existent, and fodder is generally insufficient. The condition of the poorer classes of cattle is deteriorating. The following consignments of fodder for sale at Rs. 12-8-0 a ton have already been made to the district:—

From Madras to Nancherla	TONS.
... ..	20½
... .. to Aspari	17¼

5. Prices rose: the rises being most marked in the case of yellow cholam at Bellary and Rayadrug; and in the case of ragi at Adóni and Sandur. The position of prices is shown in the accompanying statement:—

Rate.	Measures per rupee.	
	Rice.	Cholam (mixed).
Standard	...	...
Warning	13.2	30.0
Scarcity	10.6	22.5
Current	7.9	15.0
May 1892	8.8	11.7
May 1877	9.0	15.3
	7.2	7.5

The rise is ascribed to the holding off of rains, and decreased imports.

6. The condition of the people is reported to be generally good. The numbers on works increased by 22 per cent. The Collector remarks, "Numbers of those who sit breaking stones under this brazen sky, with the added torment of a blistering wind, are under no necessity to do so", and again, "The usual explanation of the increase is the deepening of distress, but I think the true cause is the ordinary cessation of agricultural work. Many of our relief-workers could get on without relief, but they argue, 'prices are high, the future is uncertain, and it is better to earn something instead of eating up the stock of grain which may be badly wanted hereafter.' No doubt the cessation of ordinary agricultural operations, which were practically over three months ago, tends to swell the numbers on relief, but the Famine Commissioner has no reason to believe that the conditions offered are sufficiently attractive to draw to the works any but those whom necessity compels to find a constant daily employment, and would be glad to believe that the ordinary ryot is gifted with the keen sense of providence for which the Collector gives him credit. There are villages in Bellary still béchirák, or unpopulated, since the famine of 1877-78. There was famine again in 1891-92. The district as a rule has to import food. On the average the Deccan districts are importers, not exporters, of grain, and the net imports for the six months, ending March 1897, were 6,35,153 maunds. It is an exceptional year in which one or other of the two monsoons is not in deficiency. Stocks are, admittedly, nearing exhaustion. The position of the poorer ryot is this. If the south-west monsoon fails this year he is utterly ruined. If it does not fail, he has, for four months to come, to maintain his cattle, and it costs, now, more to feed a bullock than a man. He has to maintain himself for four months after he leaves the works, unless, which is probable and proper, he returns to them after ploughing and sowing are over, and until harvest comes. He may, or may not, leave his family on the works; but he is unlikely to leave all, and those whom he takes home have to be fed. He has to feed his agricultural labourers, who must be paid in grain. He has to sow his land. It would probably be no exaggeration to assess the requirements for seed-grain in the affected taluks of Bellary at six lakhs of rupees. Supposing that the ryot should stay at home and exhaust his resources to the last farthing, what would be his position when the rains come? The whole machinery of the district would not be equal to advancing loans for seed-corn alone, and the process would extend over months, the present average of advances of all kinds being only about Rs. 17,000 a week. The sowing season would be lost. It is true that the ryot might—and would—go to the sowcar; but it is not the object of Government to drive the ryot into the arms of the sowcar. The stock of seed-corn is limited, especially in the present year, and the price is high; and, if the ryot exhausts his petty store, he has to go into the market, and buy an inferior article, to the lasting damage of the district staples. The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Committee would be quite unequal to the task of setting him on his legs again. As an embarrassed borrower, he would be a less valuable member of the body politic. He would, too, if he stayed at home, be obliged to stint himself, and would be less fit for the arduous labours of agriculture. If, therefore, he submits to the test of a relief work, and spends the day for a pittance of three half-pence, breaking stones under a sun into which no humane person would thrust a dog, his doing so need not cause any anxiety to the relief officer.

7. The administration of gratuitous relief in villages is progressing, the numbers having risen during the fortnight from 501 to 2,650. The Collector's remark about the substitution of grain-doles for Famine Fund grants in Bellary town is not quite clear; it is, however, presumed that the grain-doles are given by Government, and not at the expense of the Fund. Early arrangements should be made in all cases to take all the recipients of the Fund charity into the Government lists; if there are undeserving cases, they may be drafted out afterwards.

8. It is satisfactory to find that the Administrator of Sandur has provided work for the people within the State.

9. The attention of the Accountant-General will be drawn to the Collectors' remarks about the condition of copper coins and the failure to comply in full with the

indents for copper and small silver. It is hoped that he will be able to place, not only in Bellary, but in all other affected districts, a sufficient quantity of such coins to meet all requirements.

10. There has been fair progress in the disposal of applications for loans, as is shown by the following figures:—

Up to the end of the week ending—

	Amount advanced. RS.
1st May	2,04,582
8th „	2,19,164
15th „	2,55,569
22nd „	2,74,727

The Tahsildar of Ráyadrug and the special Tahsildars of Bellary and Alúr have continued to show good work. The Tahsildar of Adóni, with his three Special Revenue Inspectors, should turn out more work. The Collector points out that the rule requiring seven days' notice before payment of a loan seriously interferes with the disposal of applications, and suggests that it would be well if this rule were abolished. No such notice is necessary under the special well rules; but, under the ordinary well rules and the rules framed under Act XII of 1884, such notice is imperative. As these rules have been published with the sanction of the Government of India, they cannot be altered without reference to that authority. There appears to be no need for such notice in the case of loans for the purchase of fodder, and it is submitted that the suggestion of abolishing the rule in the case of such loans is worthy of consideration. If the Government approve, the matter might be settled by telegram, in communication with the Government of India.

11. The wave of distress is now nearly at its highest. Another week or so will probably see the culminating point. The work in Bellary has been severe and harassing, and the Famine Commissioner is glad to note how well the call has been responded to by the District staff. In years to come, it will be an ever-increasing satisfaction to all of them to remember that they have spent, and been spent, for the people.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

ORDER—No. 548, Revenue, dated 9th July 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The recommendation in paragraph 10 of the Board's Proceedings to abolish the rule requiring seven days' notice before payment in the case of certain loans will be disposed of by separate orders.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. Shaik Karim.
50 Copies.

Government (1897) of Madras. REVENUE.

Recd.

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G.O., No. 548, 9th July 1897.

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To the circle.

JULY.

for due
m

To
The S. R. circle.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording, with remark, Board's Proceedings submitting to Government — of the Bellary 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 4th June 1897, No. 417 :—

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

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply.—During the fortnight under report there has been slight rain as noted below :—

	INCHES.
Yemmiganuru	0.68
Adóni	0.40
Alúr	0.32
Kampli	0.44
Rayadrug	0.30
Hospet	0.23
Kúdligi	0.35

Difficulty in procuring water for drinking purposes is felt in many villages of Alúr, Kúdligi and Hadagalli, and in a few villages of Adóni, Bellary, Rayadrug, Harpanahalli and Hospet. The water-supply for irrigation purposes is sufficient in the river channels and wells. The tanks are empty except a few tanks which received some slight supply from the recent rains.

The drinking water-supply is being improved where necessary and possible by clearing out silt from wells and digging holes in the beds or on the banks of streams and tanks. In Joladarasi village of Bellary taluk where drinking water had to be brought from a distance of four miles, a water pandal has been sanctioned, water being carted from the Hagari river. To alleviate the water difficulty in Sanduru State, many wells and holes have been dug in the bed of the Nari river.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops—*Adóni division*.—The clearing of nuth grass, ploughing and harrowing are going on. Garden crops and the paddy under the Rampur channel are in good condition. There are no other standing crops. *Bellary division*.—Lands are being prepared for early crops. The removal of nuth grass with the aid of State loans and otherwise continues. The harvest of second-crop paddy under the Hagari channels has commenced. Korra is also being harvested in Rayadrug. The outturn of paddy there has been from eight to ten annas. *Hospet division*.—The sowing of sugarcane under river channels in Hospet is almost completed. Ploughing is proceeding in Hospet, Harpanahalli and Hadagalli. Cholam and oil-seeds are being sown in parts of the Kottur firka of Kúdligi taluk. Wet crops under river channels and Kamalapuram tank in Hospet taluk are in good condition. Crops under wells are in fairly good condition.

Sanduru State.—Lands are being prepared for the early sowings. There are no standing crops except betel which is fading for want of water.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle—*Adóni division*.—Fodder is scanty in Alúr but may be sufficient for about two months in Adóni. There is no pasture. The condition of stall-fed cattle is good, but that of others is deteriorating in Adóni and poor to bad in Alúr. Cattle disease is reported from the villages of Hulebedu, Tumbalapedu and Pedda Hotur. There were 28 deaths during the fortnight. There were 600 head of cattle brought to the Adóni cattle market. Of these

161 were purchased by agriculturists and 28 by butchers, while the rest found no sale. *Bellary division*.—Pasture is very limited and fodder is scanty except in wet villages. Prickly-pear, coarse hill grass and leaves are being used as fodder. The condition of stall-fed cattle is generally fair, but that of others is poor in Rayadrug and bad in Bellary. *Hospet division*.—Fodder insufficient except in Harpanahalli and Hire-Hadagalli firka of Hadagalli taluk. Pasture is said to be available to a very small extent in the villages in Hadagalli taluk which received rain lately and under the Tungabhadra channels in Hospet. The condition of cattle is deteriorating in places where fodder is insufficient.

Sanduru State.—Fodder is diminishing and pasture is scanty. The condition of the cattle is poor. It is surprising to note that the cattle in these parts are in very poor condition though so near the fodder supplies.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—The rain that fell in the beginning of the fortnight has not been followed by more showers I regret to say, and the drinking-water difficulty still exists in many parts of the district, being worst in the black cotton tracts. But, as will be seen from the foregoing abstract of Divisional Officers' reports, efforts to alleviate this distress are being made, and with fair success on the lines described in my last fortnightly narrative. Loans are being freely granted for fodder, and the District Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund has adopted a proposal of mine to make small money grants for the purchase of straw and grass to those ryots who are unable to obtain loans. The Madras Committee of the Fund is buying paddy straw and I hope to hear shortly that a supply of this has been sent to Guntakal, Aspari, Adóni and Kudutani for sale to ryots at nominal prices. In wet villages in the Bellary taluk paddy straw is obtainable at from Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 the cart-load; at Bellary the price is Rs. 9. A good deal of cholam straw is being brought from Pattikonda to Alúr and a fair quantity is forthcoming at all the large markets. At Bellary the price varies from Rs. 6½ to Rs. 8½ the cart-load. Hill grass is still obtainable but it is of poor quality and contains but little nutriment. I have at last been able to visit Sanduru and I was surprised to find the cattle there in comparatively poor condition. I have observed the same thing in the Antapur valley and the villages about Daroji, and the conclusion to which these facts point is that hill grass is not an altogether satisfactory fodder. If it is cut and dried as soon as it ripens it makes capital hay, but the grass that has been used for the past two or three months was not saved in time, and many cattle owners with whom I have spoken on the subject declare that it is not a nutritious food and is frequently injurious. My experience with my horses confirms this view. Still it is better than nothing and better than prickly-pear and date leaves which are now being used in many parts.

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.		White cholam.		Yellow cholam.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
Adóni	9.13	9.13	11.55	11.28	12.90	12.63	17.73	16.12	Prices show a tendency to rise owing to the absence of rain and diminished imports.
Alúr	8.10	7.56	10.30	10.30	11.33	11.33	..	..	
Bellary	8.64	8.64	11.33	10.82	13.39	12.36	16.49	16.49	
Rayadrug	9.72	9.72	12.58	12.36	13.91	12.58	14.55	14.55	
Hospet	8.64	8.64	11.33	11.33	13.39	13.39	15.52	15.52	
Kúdligi	8.10	7.56	..	..	12.36	12.36	13.58	14.55	
Harpanahalli	9.72	9.72	..	..	13.39	13.39	15.52	15.52	
Hadagalli	9.72	9.72	..	..	13.39	12.88	..	..	
Sanduru	9.45	9.45	..	..	13.39	12.88	17.00	16.00	
Average ..	9.02	8.90	11.41	11.22	13.05	12.64	15.77	15.54	

Activity of trade.—Private trade is fairly active. During the last two weeks the imports of grain by rail amounted to 14,157 maunds and the exports 10,571 maunds; thus there was a net import of 3,586 maunds only against 10,800 maunds in the previous two weeks. This continued decline in visible stocks has forced up prices, particularly in Bellary and Adóni. It is apprehended that they will rise briskly should the rain continue to hold off, but one good thunderstorm would materially alter the position.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On Works.—Generally good. One Divisional Officer reports that, owing to the scorching sun which now pours down on us, some of the relief-workers are beginning to look "faded." It is a standing surprise to me that they stand the heat so well as they do; and yet we know that numbers of those who sit breaking stones under this brazen sky, with the added torment of a blistering wind, are under no necessity to do so.

In villages.—Generally good. The carpet weavers of Bellary have asked for employment and special measures of relief on the same lines as at Adóni have been started. New works have been ordered to be started near Tekkalakota in the Bellary taluk on the Bellary-Sirugappa road and at Hampasagar in the Hadagalli taluk on the Dharwar road.

Sickness and mortality.—There was one case of cholera at Yemmiganúru in the Adóni taluk and it proved fatal. The victim was a man from the Ramallakot taluk of Kurnool and there have been no other cases. A case was reported from the Bandri work in Kúdligi taluk, but the death was probably due to eating tainted cocoanuts and not to cholera. There have been no more cases since. Small-pox is prevalent in Kúdligi and in four villages of Harpanahalli taluk. There were some cases of small-pox on the Alúr-Adóni, Adóni-Sirugappa and Alúr-Moka road works and five cases of chicken-pox on the Gowripur-Kúdligi road work. One old man was reported to have died of starvation in the Bellary-Sirugappa road work; but the enquiry held by the Tahsildar showed that the man was suffering from a chronic affection of the stomach, that he had property worth Rs. 3 with him at the time of his death, that he had relatives capable of supporting him and that he was himself earning a wage of As. 1-6 every day. The "health" conditions are unusually favourable and it is a matter for thankfulness and congratulation that so far we have escaped any serious epidemic. We are prepared for cholera on all works, but it is to be earnestly hoped that the unusual heat of this year may save us. The time of danger will be the commencement of the monsoon.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

ON WORKS.—In what taluks open and comparison of numbers.

Taluku.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Adóni	20,306	27,612	Four more works were opened during the fortnight— (1) Adóni-Yemmiganúru road .. 381 (2) Yemmiganúru-Kosgi road .. 3,493 (3) Bellary Fort-ditch .. 1,089 (4) Ittigi road .. 66
Alúr	30,394	34,340	
Bellary	6,294	7,961	
Hospet	5,101	5,168	
Kúdligi	794	1,295	
Hadagalli	1,814	2,314	Total .. 5,029
Total	64,703	78,690	

NOTE.—The number employed on village works has not been given by the Divisional officers. The information will be obtained and reported in the next narrative.

The usual explanation of the increase is the "deepening" of distress, but I think the true cause is the ordinary cessation of agricultural work. Many of our relief-workers could get on without relief, but they argue, "prices are high, the future is uncertain and it is better to earn something instead of eating up the stock of grain which may be badly wanted hereafter."

Gratuitous relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise.

Taluku.	Number relieved							
	At kitchens.				In poor-houses.		In villages.	
	Dependants.		Others.					
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Adóni	2,141	1,562	369	757	..	..	201	918
Alúr	1,691	2,010	536	277	..	..	300	1,104
Bellary	469	580	221	221	..	..	..	628
Hospet	362	416	31	22	..	..	..	..
Kúdligi	76	57	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hadagalli	65	67	10	10	..	..	..	..
Total	4,804	4,692	1,167	1,287	..	..	501	2,650

Taluku.	Number of villages in which relief was given.		Weavers' relief.			
			Number of persons relieved.		Number of cloths manufactured.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	In the period.	Up to date.
Adóni	1	30	1,820	2,370	2,053	11,966
Alúr	16	74	..	..	..	..
Bellary	..	46	..	..	..	..

The decrease in the number of dependants in kitchens in Adóni is due in part to more correct classification and in part to the starting of gratuitous relief in villages.

Private charity.—Paramma continues to feed daily about 250 persons, mostly children.

The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Committee relieved 852 cases in Adóni and 2,513 in Bellary. The number relieved in Alúr, Hospet and Hadagalli have not been stated. The arrangements for substituting grain doles for the famine fund grants in the town of Bellary were completed at the last meeting of the District Committee and grain doles were distributed from yesterday. The change has also been made in Adóni town.

GENERAL REMARKS.

As already stated, I have at last been able to visit Sanduru, and I am glad to be able to report that the demand for employment has been fairly met. Ploughing, manuring and harrowing were seen on all sides, while the Administrator had started the repair of his roads on a somewhat more extensive scale than usual and had ordered the digging and deepening of wells in order to afford employment to those who were not required in the fields. As trustee of the Kumarasami temple, he has also employed a number of persons in cutting bamboos and other produce of the forests that belong to that institution. The total number employed in these ways is reported to be about 5,000, and gratuitous relief is also being given to the helpless poor of Sanduru and Hosahalli. I found that there was a slight misunderstanding at one village, the labourers being ignorant of the fact that they would be given work on the road, but this was, promptly, set right by the Administrator, who proceeded in person to the village in question.

2. To meet the requirements of the helpless poor, central kitchens have been ordered to be opened at Hatcholli in Adóni taluk, at Ravibal, Raravi and Vandavagali in Alúr taluk and at Korlagundi in Bellary taluk. One more kitchen has been ordered to be added to the Alúr-Moka roadwork. The fact that it is often more economical to give grain doles than to open kitchens has not been lost sight of.

3. There is no good yellow cholam available in the Alúr taluk, and the relief-workers are using white cholam eked out with ragi. Orders have accordingly been issued to calculate the wages on the price of white cholam.

4. There have been complaints that many of the copper coins issued for payment of wages are so worn that no shopkeeper will receive them. These coins were received at the Bank from Madras, Cuddapah and Kurnool in sealed boxes which were forwarded to the taluk treasury without being opened. The taluk shroffs have now been directed to retain all worn coin, treating it as uncurrent.

5. There has been also great difficulty in procuring a sufficiency of small silver and copper coins in Alúr taluk. From the beginning of October 1896 up to the end of April indents have been made on the Accountant-General for Rs. 3,05,000 worth of small silver and Rs. 95,500 worth of copper. Of this amount only Rs. 2,53,000 of small silver and Rs. 72,000 of copper have been received up to date. The present stock of small silver is only Rs. 3,500 and that of copper Rs. 360. It is curious that the large quantity already issued has not, in some shape or other, been received back into the treasury. A circular has since been issued inviting the public to bring to the treasury any amount of copper and small silver for free exchange with whole rupees, and the Accountant-General has been asked to comply with my indent in full as also with a further indent for Rs. 50,000 of small silver and Rs. 21,000 of copper.

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

Taluka.	Repair and construction of wells.						Other purposes.						Total.						Number of wells.	
	Applications accepted.			Loans disbursed.			Applications pending.			Loans disbursed.			Applications accepted.			Loans disbursed.			Number.	Amount.
	Number.	Amount.	Rs.	Number.	Amount.	Rs.	Number.	Amount.	Rs.	Number.	Amount.	Rs.	Number.	Amount.	Rs.	Number.	Amount.	Rs.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Alúr	33	8,820	Rs.	29	4,310	Rs.	1,331	1,37,675	Rs.	1,140	1,18,485	Rs.	1,364	1,46,495	Rs.	1,169	1,22,795	Rs.	1,033	1,80,710
Adóni	8	1,560	Rs.	7	530	Rs.	135	10,320	Rs.	111	8,415	Rs.	143	11,880	Rs.	118	5,945	Rs.	596	75,392
Bellary	17	1,960	Rs.	17	1,960	Rs.	620	49,620	Rs.	517	49,320	Rs.	537	51,580	Rs.	534	51,280	Rs.	840	1,29,050
Rayadrug	49	10,575	Rs.	49	5,413	Rs.	201	26,200	Rs.	201	26,200	Rs.	250	36,775	Rs.	250	31,613	Rs.	183	35,820
Hospet	15	2,800	Rs.	7	700	Rs.	25	2,200	Rs.	9	650	Rs.	40	5,000	Rs.	16	1,350	Rs.	40	6,810
Kulligi	1	160	Rs.	8	1,450	Rs.	39	4,755	Rs.	30	3,730	Rs.	39	4,755	Rs.	30	3,730	Rs.	11	1,900
Harpanahalli	2	200	Rs.	1	100	Rs.	34	4,890	Rs.	33	4,640	Rs.	36	5,090	Rs.	35	4,740	Rs.	10	1,275
Hadagalli	125	26,075	Rs.	111	13,013	Rs.	2,285	2,35,660	Rs.	2,041	2,11,440	Rs.	2,410	2,61,735	Rs.	2,152	2,24,453	Rs.	295	39,780
Total	125	26,075	Rs.	111	13,013	Rs.	2,285	2,35,660	Rs.	2,041	2,11,440	Rs.	2,410	2,61,735	Rs.	2,152	2,24,453	Rs.	2,983	4,71,197

Taluka.	Purchase of fodder.			Applications pending.			Loans disbursed.			Applications accepted.			Total.			Applications pending.			Number of wells.	
	Applications accepted.			Loans disbursed.			Applications pending.			Loans disbursed.			Applications accepted.			Loans disbursed.			Number.	Amount.
	Number.	Amount.	Rs.	Number.	Amount.	Rs.	Number.	Amount.	Rs.	Number.	Amount.	Rs.	Number.	Amount.	Rs.	Number.	Amount.	Rs.		
Alúr	157	6,386	Rs.	132	4,104	Rs.	600	37,473	Rs.	24	2,746	Rs.	157	6,386	Rs.	132	4,104	Rs.	624	40,519
Adóni	16	358	Rs.	130	4,947	Rs.	322	11,512	Rs.	94	3,070	Rs.	16	358	Rs.	130	4,947	Rs.	416	14,582
Bellary	130	4,947	Rs.	130	4,947	Rs.	617	26,896	Rs.	1	60	Rs.	130	4,947	Rs.	130	4,947	Rs.	617	26,896
Rayadrug	7	345	Rs.	7	345	Rs.	41	3,140	Rs.	1	60	Rs.	8	405	Rs.	8	405	Rs.	46	8,480
Hospet	42	1,370	Rs.	41	1,350	Rs.	32	1,700	Rs.	1	60	Rs.	42	1,370	Rs.	41	1,350	Rs.	32	1,700
Kulligi	3	150	Rs.	3	150	Rs.	35	2,000	Rs.	1	60	Rs.	3	150	Rs.	3	150	Rs.	35	2,000
Harpanahalli	17	706	Rs.	15	646	Rs.	76	3,249	Rs.	1	60	Rs.	17	706	Rs.	15	646	Rs.	76	3,249
Hadagalli	372	14,262	Rs.	328	11,542	Rs.	1,781	87,893	Rs.	60	1	60	373	14,322	Rs.	329	11,602	Rs.	1,904	94,059
Total	372	14,262	Rs.	328	11,542	Rs.	1,781	87,893	Rs.	60	1	60	373	14,322	Rs.	329	11,602	Rs.	1,904	94,059

Note.—The figures for the Hospet division for this fortnight not having been received, the previous fortnight's figures have been adopted. During this fortnight the Special Tahsildar of Alúr has disbursed Rs. 19,527 and the Special Tahsildar of Bellary Rs. 15,666. It is satisfactory to note that the Tahsildar of Rayadrug continues to show good results, having disbursed Rs. 7,105 without any additional help, while the Tahsildar of Adóni has disbursed only Rs. 2,125, although he has two Special Revenue Inspectors at work and a third lately appointed. His failure to disburse any fodder loans is very disappointing. I beg to point out that the rule requiring notice of seven days before payment of a loan seriously interferes with the progress of the work. If a Tahsildar could dispose of all cases in a village at once, without waiting for the expiry of this period, rapid and prompt disposal of applications would be possible, without much additional risk of loss to the Government.

TALUKS AND PLACES VISITED.

By the Collector.—Alúr-Adóni, Alúr-Moka, Bellary-Moka and Bandri road-works with the kitchens attached to them; Bellary and Alúr kitchens, Kuditini, Yettinahatti, Nagalapuram, Bannihatti, Gangalapuram, Gouripuram, Sandur, Banihalli, Bahihalli, Kannihalli, Somalapuram, Nagar, Sivapuram.

Deputy Collector, Adóni.—Adóni section of Adóni-Madavaram roadwork, including the Adóni water-supply reservoir and the three kitchens at Adóni, Aspari, Chippigiri, Beldona, Namakallu, Nagardona, Alúr, Holalgundi, Kammarchedu, Manikunta, the Aspari section of Alúr-Aspari work, the Alúr-Chippigiri (both sections), Holalgundi and Alúr-Adóni roadworks and the kitchens at Aspari on the roadwork at Chippigiri, Námakkalu, Nagardona, Alúr and Holalgundi.

Deputy Collector, Bellary.—Karur, Mélur, Uttanuru, Gosuhal, Budiguppa, Tekkalakota, Upporahosakotta, Nadini, Balakundi, Myalapuram, Udagolam, Kenchana-guddam, Devalapuram, Siruguppa, Hirehal, Holakundi, Kammarchedu, Sankara-banda, Rupanagadi, Nittur and Hirakal and the relief works on the Siruguppa road and in the Bellary town and the kitchens near Somasamudram, Dammur, Kolur and Bellary.

Mr. Lloyd in charge of Rayadrug taluk.—Malyam, Sallapuram, Honnur, Sid-darampuram, Nutakal, Nagalapuram, Rayadrug and Avuladetta.

Head Assistant Collector.—Hospet, Gouripur, Moriammanshalle, Nandibanda, Kenchaganahalli, Marabhihal, Naraindevarkeri, Bellahunsi, Tambrahalli, Gaddikera, Kodohalli, Bannikallu, Holalgundi, Huvinahadagalli, Magalam, Rangapuram and the relief works at Moriammanahalli, Naraindevarkeri, Bellahunsi and Devagondanahalli.

Resolution—dated 4th June 1897, No. 417.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall during the fortnight was slight, and insufficient to improve the supply of drinking-water. The Collector, however, is fully alive to the wants of the people in this direction, and he and his officers are doing their best to alleviate the difficulty.

3. The scanty standing crops are said to be thriving, and a certain area has been harvested, while lands are being prepared in parts for early crops. But in the absence of any statement as to the extent of these operations, it is impossible to judge of their value either in affording employment, or in increasing stocks.

4. Pasture is virtually non-existent, and fodder is generally insufficient. The condition of the poorer classes of cattle is deteriorating. The following consignments of fodder for sale at Rs. 12-8-0 a ton have already been made to the district:—

						TONS.
From Madras to Nancherla	...	...	...	...	...	20½
„ to Aspari	...	...	...	...	...	17½

5. Prices rose: the rises being most marked in the case of yellow cholam at Bellary and Rayadrug; and in the case of ragi at Adóni and Sandur. The position of prices is shown in the accompanying statement:—

Rate.							Measures per rupee.	
							Rice.	Cholam (mixed).
Standard	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.2	30.0
Warning	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.6	22.5
Scarcity	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.9	15.0
Current	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.8	11.7
May 1892	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.0	15.3
May 1877	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.2	7.5

The rise is ascribed to the holding off of rains, and decreased imports.

6. The condition of the people is reported to be generally good. The numbers on works increased by 22 per cent. The Collector remarks, "Numbers of those who sit breaking stones under this brazen sky, with the added torment of a blistering wind, are under no necessity to do so", and again, "The usual explanation of the increase is the deepening of distress, but I think the true cause is the ordinary cessation of agricultural work. Many of our relief-workers could get on without relief, but they argue, 'prices are high, the future is uncertain, and it is better to earn something instead of eating up the stock of grain which may be badly wanted hereafter.' No doubt the cessation of ordinary agricultural operations, which were practically over three months ago, tends to swell the numbers on relief, but the Famine Commissioner has no reason to believe that the conditions offered are sufficiently attractive to draw to the works any but those whom necessity compels to find a constant daily employment, and would be glad to believe that the ordinary ryot is gifted with the keen sense of providence for which the Collector gives him credit. There are villages in Bellary still béchirák, or unpopulated, since the famine of 1877-78. There was famine again in 1891-92. The district as a rule has to import food. On the average the Deccan districts are importers, not exporters, of grain, and the net imports for the six months, ending March 1897, were 6,35,153 maunds. It is an exceptional year in which one or other of the two monsoons is not in deficiency. Stocks are, admittedly, nearing exhaustion. The position of the poorer ryot is this. If the south-west monsoon fails this year he is utterly ruined. If it does not fail, he has, for four months to come, to maintain his cattle, and it costs, now, more to feed a bullock than a man. He has to maintain himself for four months after he leaves the works, unless, which is probable and proper, he returns to them after ploughing and sowing are over, and until harvest comes. He may, or may not, leave his family on the works; but he is unlikely to leave all, and those whom he takes home have to be fed. He has to feed his agricultural labourers, who must be paid in grain. He has to sow his land. It would probably be no exaggeration to assess the requirements for seed-grain in the affected taluks of Bellary at six lakhs of rupees. Supposing that the ryot should stay at home and exhaust his resources to the last farthing, what would be his position when the rains come? The whole machinery of the district would not be equal to advancing loans for seed-corn alone, and the process would extend over months, the present average of advances of all kinds being only about Rs. 17,000 a week. The sowing season would be lost. It is true that the ryot might—and would—go to the sowcar; but it is not the object of Government to drive the ryot into the arms of the sowcar. The stock of seed-corn is limited, especially in the present year, and the price is high; and, if the ryot exhausts his petty store, he has to go into the market, and buy an inferior article, to the lasting damage of the district staples. The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Committee would be quite unequal to the task of setting him on his legs again. As an embarrassed borrower, he would be a less valuable member of the body politic. He would, too, if he stayed at home, be obliged to stint himself, and would be less fit for the arduous labours of agriculture. If, therefore, he submits to the test of a relief work, and spends the day for a pittance of three half-pence, breaking stones under a sun into which no humane person would thrust a dog, his doing so need not cause any anxiety to the relief officer.

7. The administration of gratuitous relief in villages is progressing, the numbers having risen during the fortnight from 501 to 2,650. The Collector's remark about the substitution of grain-doles for Famine Fund grants in Bellary town is not quite clear; it is, however, presumed that the grain-doles are given by Government, and not at the expense of the Fund. Early arrangements should be made in all cases to take all the recipients of the Fund charity into the Government lists; if there are undeserving cases, they may be drafted out afterwards.

8. It is satisfactory to find that the Administrator of Sandur has provided work for the people within the State.

9. The attention of the Accountant-General will be drawn to the Collectors' remarks about the condition of copper coins and the failure to comply in full with the

indents for copper and small silver. It is hoped that he will be able to place, not only in Bellary, but in all other affected districts, a sufficient quantity of such coins to meet all requirements.

10. There has been fair progress in the disposal of applications for loans, as is shown by the following figures:—

Up to the end of the week ending—

	Amount advanced. RS.
1st May	2,04,582
8th „	2,19,164
15th „	2,55,569
22nd „	2,74,727

The Tahsildar of Ráyadrug and the special Tahsildars of Bellary and Alúr have continued to show good work. The Tahsildar of Adóni, with his three Special Revenue Inspectors, should turn out more work. The Collector points out that the rule requiring seven days' notice before payment of a loan seriously interferes with the disposal of applications, and suggests that it would be well if this rule were abolished. No such notice is necessary under the special well rules; but, under the ordinary well rules and the rules framed under Act XII of 1884, such notice is imperative. As these rules have been published with the sanction of the Government of India, they cannot be altered without reference to that authority. There appears to be no need for such notice in the case of loans for the purchase of fodder, and it is submitted that the suggestion of abolishing the rule in the case of such loans is worthy of consideration. If the Government approve, the matter might be settled by telegram, in communication with the Government of India.

11. The wave of distress is now nearly at its highest. Another week or so will probably see the culminating point. The work in Bellary has been severe and harassing, and the Famine Commissioner is glad to note how well the call has been responded to by the District staff. In years to come, it will be an ever-increasing satisfaction to all of them to remember that they have spent, and been spent, for the people.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

ORDER—No. 548, Revenue, dated 9th July 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The recommendation in paragraph 10 of the Board's Proceedings to abolish the rule requiring seven days' notice before payment in the case of certain loans will be disposed of by separate orders.

(True Extract.)

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

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

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G.O., No. 548, 9th July 1897.

JULY.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording, with remark, Board's Proceedings submitting to Government — of the Bellary 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 4th June 1897, No. 417 :—

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

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply.—During the fortnight under report there has been slight rain as noted below :—

	INCHES.
Yemmiganuru	0.68
Adóni	0.40
Alúr	0.32
Kampli	0.44
Rayadrug	0.30
Hospet	0.23
Kúdligi	0.35

Difficulty in procuring water for drinking purposes is felt in many villages of Alúr, Kúdligi and Hadagalli, and in a few villages of Adóni, Bellary, Rayadrug, Harpanahalli and Hospet. The water-supply for irrigation purposes is sufficient in the river channels and wells. The tanks are empty except a few tanks which received some slight supply from the recent rains.

The drinking water-supply is being improved where necessary and possible by clearing out silt from wells and digging holes in the beds or on the banks of streams and tanks. In Joladarasi village of Bellary taluk where drinking water had to be brought from a distance of four miles, a water pandal has been sanctioned, water being carted from the Hagari river. To alleviate the water difficulty in Sanduru State, many wells and holes have been dug in the bed of the Nari river.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops—*Adóni division*.—The clearing of nuth grass, ploughing and harrowing are going on. Garden crops and the paddy under the Rampur channel are in good condition. There are no other standing crops. *Bellary division*.—Lands are being prepared for early crops. The removal of nuth grass with the aid of State loans and otherwise continues. The harvest of second-crop paddy under the Hagari channels has commenced. Korra is also being harvested in Rayadrug. The outturn of paddy there has been from eight to ten annas. *Hospet division*.—The sowing of sugarcane under river channels in Hospet is almost completed. Ploughing is proceeding in Hospet, Harpanahalli and Hadagalli. Cholan and oil-seeds are being sown in parts of the Kottur firka of Kúdligi taluk. Wet crops under river channels and Kamalapuram tank in Hospet taluk are in good condition. Crops under wells are in fairly good condition.

Sanduru State.—Lands are being prepared for the early sowings. There are no standing crops except betel which is fading for want of water.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle—*Adóni division*.—Fodder is scanty in Alúr but may be sufficient for about two months in Adóni. There is no pasture. The condition of stall-fed cattle is good, but that of others is deteriorating in Adóni and poor to bad in Alúr. Cattle disease is reported from the villages of Hulebedu, Tumbalapedu and Pedda Hotur. There were 28 deaths during the fortnight. There were 600 head of cattle brought to the Adóni cattle market. Of these

161 were purchased by agriculturists and 28 by butchers, while the rest found no sale. *Bellary division*.—Pasture is very limited and fodder is scanty except in wet villages. Prickly-pear, coarse hill grass and leaves are being used as fodder. The condition of stall-fed cattle is generally fair, but that of others is poor in Rayadrug and bad in Bellary. *Hospet division*.—Fodder insufficient except in Harpanahalli and Hire-Hadagalli firka of Hadagalli taluk. Pasture is said to be available to a very small extent in the villages in Hadagalli taluk which received rain lately and under the Tungabhadra channels in Hospet. The condition of cattle is deteriorating in places where fodder is insufficient.

Sanduru State.—Fodder is diminishing and pasture is scanty. The condition of the cattle is poor. It is surprising to note that the cattle in these parts are in very poor condition though so near the fodder supplies.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—The rain that fell in the beginning of the fortnight has not been followed by more showers I regret to say, and the drinking-water difficulty still exists in many parts of the district, being worst in the black cotton tracts. But, as will be seen from the foregoing abstract of Divisional Officers' reports, efforts to alleviate this distress are being made, and with fair success on the lines described in my last fortnightly narrative. Loans are being freely granted for fodder, and the District Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund has adopted a proposal of mine to make small money grants for the purchase of straw and grass to those ryots who are unable to obtain loans. The Madras Committee of the Fund is buying paddy straw and I hope to hear shortly that a supply of this has been sent to Guntakal, Aspari, Adóni and Kudutani for sale to ryots at nominal prices. In wet villages in the Bellary taluk paddy straw is obtainable at from Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 the cart-load; at Bellary the price is Rs. 9. A good deal of cholam straw is being brought from Pattikonda to Alúr and a fair quantity is forthcoming at all the large markets. At Bellary the price varies from Rs. 6½ to Rs. 8½ the cart-load. Hill grass is still obtainable but it is of poor quality and contains but little nutriment. I have at last been able to visit Sanduru and I was surprised to find the cattle there in comparatively poor condition. I have observed the same thing in the Antapur valley and the villages about Daroji, and the conclusion to which these facts point is that hill grass is not an altogether satisfactory fodder. If it is cut and dried as soon as it ripens it makes capital hay, but the grass that has been used for the past two or three months was not saved in time, and many cattle owners with whom I have spoken on the subject declare that it is not a nutritious food and is frequently injurious. My experience with my horses confirms this view. Still it is better than nothing and better than prickly-pear and date leaves which are now being used in many parts.

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.		White cholam.		Yellow cholam.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
Adóni	9.13	9.13	11.55	11.28	12.90	12.63	17.73	16.12	Prices show a tendency to rise owing to the absence of rain, and diminished imports.
Alúr	8.10	7.56	10.30	10.30	11.33	11.33	..	16.49	
Bellary	8.64	8.64	11.33	10.82	13.39	12.36	16.49	16.49	
Rayadrug	9.72	9.72	12.58	12.36	13.91	12.58	14.55	14.55	
Hospet	8.64	8.64	11.33	11.33	13.39	13.39	15.52	15.52	
Kúdligi	8.10	7.56	..	..	12.36	12.36	13.58	14.55	
Harpanahalli	9.72	9.72	..	..	13.39	13.39	15.52	15.52	
Hadagalli	9.72	9.72	..	..	13.39	12.88	..	..	
Sanduru	9.45	9.45	..	..	13.39	12.88	17.00	16.00	
Average	9.02	8.90	11.41	11.22	13.05	12.64	15.77	15.54	

Activity of trade.—Private trade is fairly active. During the last two weeks the imports of grain by rail amounted to 14,157 maunds and the exports 10,571 maunds; thus there was a net import of 3,586 maunds only against 10,800 maunds in the previous two weeks. This continued decline in visible stocks has forced up prices, particularly in Bellary and Adóni. It is apprehended that they will rise briskly should the rain continue to hold off, but one good thunderstorm would materially alter the position.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On Works.—Generally good. One Divisional Officer reports that, owing to the scorching sun which now pours down on us, some of the relief-workers are beginning to look "faded." It is a standing surprise to me that they stand the heat so well as they do; and yet we know that numbers of those who sit breaking stones under this brazen sky, with the added torment of a blistering wind, are under no necessity to do so.

In villages.—Generally good. The carpet weavers of Bellary have asked for employment and special measures of relief on the same lines as at Adóni have been started. New works have been ordered to be started near Tekkalakota in the Bellary taluk on the Bellary-Sirugappa road and at Hampasagar in the Hadagalli taluk on the Dharwar road.

Sickness and mortality.—There was one case of cholera at Yemmiganúru in the Adóni taluk and it proved fatal. The victim was a man from the Ramallakot taluk of Kurnool and there have been no other cases. A case was reported from the Bandri work in Kúdligi taluk, but the death was probably due to eating tainted cocoanuts and not to cholera. There have been no more cases since. Small-pox is prevalent in Kúdligi and in four villages of Harpanahalli taluk. There were some cases of small-pox on the Alúr-Adóni, Adóni-Sirugappa and Alúr-Moka road works and five cases of chicken-pox on the Gowripur-Kúdligi road work. One old man was reported to have died of starvation in the Bellary-Sirugappa road work; but the enquiry held by the Tahsildar showed that the man was suffering from a chronic affection of the stomach, that he had property worth Rs. 3 with him at the time of his death, that he had relatives capable of supporting him and that he was himself earning a wage of As. 1-6 every day. The "health" conditions are unusually favourable and it is a matter for thankfulness and congratulation that so far we have escaped any serious epidemic. We are prepared for cholera on all works, but it is to be earnestly hoped that the unusual heat of this year may save us. The time of danger will be the commencement of the monsoon.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

ON WORKS.—In what taluks open and comparison of numbers.

Taluku.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Adóni	20,306	27,612	Four more works were opened during the fortnight— (1) Adóni-Yemmiganúru road .. 381 (2) Yemmiganúru-Kosgi road .. 3,493 (3) Bellary Fort-ditch .. 1,089 (4) Ittigi road .. 66
Alúr	30,394	34,340	
Bellary	6,294	7,961	
Hospet	5,101	5,168	
Kúdligi	794	1,295	
Hadagalli	1,814	2,814	
Total	64,703	78,690	Total .. 5,029

NOTE.—The number employed on village works has not been given by the Divisional officers. The information will be obtained and reported in the next narrative.

The usual explanation of the increase is the "deepening" of distress, but I think the true cause is the ordinary cessation of agricultural work. Many of our relief-workers could get on without relief, but they argue, "prices are high, the future is uncertain and it is better to earn something instead of eating up the stock of grain which may be badly wanted hereafter."

Gratuitous relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise.

Taluku.	Number relieved							
	At kitchens.				In poor-houses.		In villages.	
	Dependants.		Others.					
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Adóni	2,141	1,562	389	757	..	..	201	918
Alúr	1,691	2,010	536	277	..	..	300	1,104
Bellary	469	580	221	221	..	..	..	628
Hospet	362	416	31	22	..	..	..	..
Kúdligi	76	57	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hadagalli	65	67	10	10	..	..	..	..
Total	4,804	4,692	1,167	1,287	..	..	501	2,650

Taluku.	Number of villages in which relief was given.		Weavers' relief.			
			Number of persons relieved.		Number of cloths manufactured.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	In the period.	Up to date.
Adóni	1	30	1,820	2,370	2,053	11,966
Alúr	16	74	..	..	..	..
Bellary	..	46	..	..	..	..

The decrease in the number of dependants in kitchens in Adóni is due in part to more correct classification and in part to the starting of gratuitous relief in villages.

Private charity.—Paramma continues to feed daily about 250 persons, mostly children.

The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Committee relieved 852 cases in Adóni and 2,513 in Bellary. The number relieved in Alúr, Hospet and Hadagalli have not been stated. The arrangements for substituting grain doles for the famine fund grants in the town of Bellary were completed at the last meeting of the District Committee and grain doles were distributed from yesterday. The change has also been made in Adóni town.

GENERAL REMARKS.

As already stated, I have at last been able to visit Sanduru, and I am glad to be able to report that the demand for employment has been fairly met. Ploughing, manuring and harrowing were seen on all sides, while the Administrator had started the repair of his roads on a somewhat more extensive scale than usual and had ordered the digging and deepening of wells in order to afford employment to those who were not required in the fields. As trustee of the Kumarasami temple, he has also employed a number of persons in cutting bamboos and other produce of the forests that belong to that institution. The total number employed in these ways is reported to be about 5,000, and gratuitous relief is also being given to the helpless poor of Sanduru and Hosahalli. I found that there was a slight misunderstanding at one village, the labourers being ignorant of the fact that they would be given work on the road, but this was, promptly, set right by the Administrator, who proceeded in person to the village in question.

2. To meet the requirements of the helpless poor, central kitchens have been ordered to be opened at Hatcholli in Adóni taluk, at Ravibal, Raravi and Vandavagali in Alúr taluk and at Korlagundi in Bellary taluk. One more kitchen has been ordered to be added to the Alúr-Moka roadwork. The fact that it is often more economical to give grain doles than to open kitchens has not been lost sight of.

3. There is no good yellow cholam available in the Alúr taluk, and the relief-workers are using white cholam eked out with ragi. Orders have accordingly been issued to calculate the wages on the price of white cholam.

4. There have been complaints that many of the copper coins issued for payment of wages are so worn that no shopkeeper will receive them. These coins were received at the Bank from Madras, Cuddapah and Kurnool in sealed boxes which were forwarded to the taluk treasury without being opened. The taluk shroffs have now been directed to retain all worn coin, treating it as uncurrent.

5. There has been also great difficulty in procuring a sufficiency of small silver and copper coins in Alúr taluk. From the beginning of October 1896 up to the end of April indents have been made on the Accountant-General for Rs. 3,05,000 worth of small silver and Rs. 95,500 worth of copper. Of this amount only Rs. 2,53,000 of small silver and Rs. 72,000 of copper have been received up to date. The present stock of small silver is only Rs. 3,500 and that of copper Rs. 360. It is curious that the large quantity already issued has not, in some shape or other, been received back into the treasury. A circular has since been issued inviting the public to bring to the treasury any amount of copper and small silver for free exchange with whole rupees, and the Accountant-General has been asked to comply with my indent in full as also with a further indent for Rs. 50,000 of small silver and Rs. 21,000 of copper.

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

Taluka.	Repair and construction of wells.						Other purposes.						Total.						Number 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.			
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			20
1																					
Alúr	33	8,820	29	4,310	49	16,880	1,331	1,37,675	1,140	1,18,485	984	1,63,880	1,364	1,46,495	1,169	1,22,795	1,033	1,80,710	..	29	
Adóni	8	1,560	7	580	80	18,396	135	10,320	111	8,415	516	56,906	143	11,880	118	5,945	696	75,302	..	3	
Bellary	17	1,960	17	1,960	40	10,680	520	49,620	517	49,320	800	1,19,620	637	51,850	634	51,280	840	1,29,650	..	17	
Ráyadrug	49	10,575	49	5,413	52	14,100	201	26,200	201	26,200	131	21,720	250	36,775	260	31,613	183	35,820	..	49	
Hospet	15	2,800	7	700	21	4,410	25	2,200	9	650	19	2,400	40	5,000	16	1,350	40	6,810	..	7	
Kédligi	1	160	..	..	8	1,460	..	..	..	..	8	450	1	160	..	..	11	1,900	..	..	
Harpanahalli	..	..	..	..	1	250	39	4,755	30	3,730	9	1,025	39	4,755	30	3,730	10	1,275	..	..	
Hadagalli	..	200	2	100	36	8,900	34	4,890	33	4,640	189	30,830	35	6,090	35	4,740	225	39,780	..	..	
Total	125	26,075	111	13,013	287	74,366	2,285	2,35,660	2,041	2,11,440	2,651	3,96,831	2,410	2,61,735	2,152	2,24,453	2,938	4,71,197	..	105	

Taluka.	Purchase of fodder.						Cattle and seed-grain.						Total.						Applications pending.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
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Note.—The figures for the Hospet division for this fortnight not having been received, the previous fortnight's figures have been adopted. During this fortnight the Special Tahsildar of Alúr has disbursed Rs. 19,527 and the Special Tahsildar of Bellary Rs. 15,966. It is satisfactory to note that the Tahsildar of Rayadung continues to show good results, having disbursed Rs. 7,105 without any additional help, while the Tahsildar of Adóni has disbursed only Rs. 2,126 although he has two Special Revenue Inspectors at work and a third lately appointed. His failure to disburse any fodder loans is very disappointing. I beg to point out that the rule requiring notice of seven days before payment of a loan seriously interferes with the progress of the work. If a Tahsildar could dispose of all cases in a village at once, without waiting for the expiry of this period, rapid and prompt disposal of applications would be possible, without much additional risk of loss to the Government.

TALUKS AND PLACES VISITED.

By the Collector.—Alúr-Adóni, Alúr-Moka, Bellary-Moka and Bandri road-works with the kitchens attached to them; Bellary and Alúr kitchens, Kuditini, Yettinahatti, Nagalapuram, Bannihatti, Gangalapuram, Gouripuram, Sandur, Banihalli, Bahihalli, Kannihalli, Somalapuram, Nagar, Sivapuram.

Deputy Collector, Adóni.—Adóni section of Adóni-Madavaram roadwork, including the Adóni water-supply reservoir and the three kitchens at Adóni, Aspari, Chippigiri, Beldona, Namakallu, Nagardona, Alúr, Holalgundi, Kammarchedu, Manikunta, the Aspari section of Alúr-Aspari work, the Alúr-Chippigiri (both sections), Holalgundi and Alúr-Adóni roadworks and the kitchens at Aspari on the roadwork at Chippigiri, Námakkalu, Nagardona, Alúr and Holalgundi.

Deputy Collector, Bellary.—Karur, Mélúr, Uttanuru, Gosuhal, Budiguppa, Tekkalakota, Upparahosakotta, Nadini, Balakundi, Myalapuram, Udagolam, Kenchanguddam, Devalapuram, Siruguppa, Hirehal, Holakundi, Kammarchedu, Sankarabanda, Rupanagadi, Nittur and Hirakal and the relief works on the Siruguppa road and in the Bellary town and the kitchens near Somasamudram, Dammur, Kolur and Bellary.

Mr. Lloyd in charge of Ráyadrug taluk.—Malyam, Sallapuram, Honnur, Sidaramapuram, Nutakal, Nagalapuram, Ráyadrug and Avuladetta.

Head Assistant Collector.—Hospet, Gouripur, Moriammanahalli, Nandibanda, Kenchaganahalli, Marabhihal, Naraindevarkeri, Bellahunsi, Tambrahalli, Gaddikera, Kodohalli, Bannikallu, Holalgundi, Huvinahadagalli, Magalam, Rangapuram and the relief works at Moriammanahalli, Naraindevarkeri, Bellahunsi and Devagondanahalli.

Resolution—dated 4th June 1897, No. 417.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall during the fortnight was slight, and insufficient to improve the supply of drinking-water. The Collector, however, is fully alive to the wants of the people in this direction, and he and his officers are doing their best to alleviate the difficulty.

3. The scanty standing crops are said to be thriving, and a certain area has been harvested, while lands are being prepared in parts for early crops. But in the absence of any statement as to the extent of these operations, it is impossible to judge of their value either in affording employment, or in increasing stocks.

4. Pasture is virtually non-existent, and fodder is generally insufficient. The condition of the poorer classes of cattle is deteriorating. The following consignments of fodder for sale at Rs. 12-8-0 a ton have already been made to the district:—

	TONS.
From Madras to Nancherla	20½
„ to Aspari	17½

5. Prices rose: the rises being most marked in the case of yellow cholam at Bellary and Ráyadrug; and in the case of ragi at Adóni and Sandur. The position of prices is shown in the accompanying statement:—

Rate.	Measures per rupee.	
	Rice.	Cholam (mixed).
Standard	13.2	30.0
Warning	10.6	22.5
Scarcity	7.9	15.0
Current	8.8	11.7
May 1892	9.0	15.3
May 1877	7.2	7.5

The rise is ascribed to the holding off of rains, and decreased imports.

6. The condition of the people is reported to be generally good. The numbers on works increased by 22 per cent. The Collector remarks, "Numbers of those who sit breaking stones under this brazen sky, with the added torment of a blistering wind, are under no necessity to do so", and again, "The usual explanation of the increase is the deepening of distress, but I think the true cause is the ordinary cessation of agricultural work. Many of our relief-workers could get on without relief, but they argue, 'prices are high, the future is uncertain, and it is better to earn something instead of eating up the stock of grain which may be badly wanted hereafter.' No doubt the cessation of ordinary agricultural operations, which were practically over three months ago, tends to swell the numbers on relief, but the Famine Commissioner has no reason to believe that the conditions offered are sufficiently attractive to draw to the works any but those whom necessity compels to find a constant daily employment, and would be glad to believe that the ordinary ryot is gifted with the keen sense of providence for which the Collector gives him credit. There are villages in Bellary still béchirák, or unpopulated, since the famine of 1877-78. There was famine again in 1891-92. The district as a rule has to import food. On the average the Deccan districts are importers, not exporters, of grain, and the net imports for the six months, ending March 1897, were 6,35,153 maunds. It is an exceptional year in which one or other of the two monsoons is not in deficiency. Stocks are, admittedly, nearing exhaustion. The position of the poorer ryot is this. If the south-west monsoon fails this year he is utterly ruined. If it does not fail, he has, for four months to come, to maintain his cattle, and it costs, now, more to feed a bullock than a man. He has to maintain himself for four months after he leaves the works, unless, which is probable and proper, he returns to them after ploughing and sowing are over, and until harvest comes. He may, or may not, leave his family on the works; but he is unlikely to leave all, and those whom he takes home have to be fed. He has to feed his agricultural labourers, who must be paid in grain. He has to sow his land. It would probably be no exaggeration to assess the requirements for seed-grain in the affected taluks of Bellary at six lakhs of rupees. Supposing that the ryot should stay at home and exhaust his resources to the last farthing, what would be his position when the rains come? The whole machinery of the district would not be equal to advancing loans for seed-corn alone, and the process would extend over months, the present average of advances of all kinds being only about Rs. 17,000 a week. The sowing season would be lost. It is true that the ryot might—and would—go to the sowcar; but it is not the object of Government to drive the ryot into the arms of the sowcar. The stock of seed-corn is limited, especially in the present year, and the price is high; and, if the ryot exhausts his petty store, he has to go into the market, and buy an inferior article, to the lasting damage of the district staples. The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Committee would be quite unequal to the task of setting him on his legs again. As an embarrassed borrower, he would be a less valuable member of the body politic. He would, too, if he stayed at home, be obliged to stint himself, and would be less fit for the arduous labours of agriculture. If, therefore, he submits to the test of a relief work, and spends the day for a pittance of three half-pence, breaking stones under a sun into which no humane person would thrust a dog, his doing so need not cause any anxiety to the relief officer.

7. The administration of gratuitous relief in villages is progressing, the numbers having risen during the fortnight from 501 to 2,650. The Collector's remark about the substitution of grain-doles for Famine Fund grants in Bellary town is not quite clear; it is, however, presumed that the grain-doles are given by Government, and not at the expense of the Fund. Early arrangements should be made in all cases to take all the recipients of the Fund charity into the Government lists; if there are undeserving cases, they may be drafted out afterwards.

8. It is satisfactory to find that the Administrator of Sandur has provided work for the people within the State.

9. The attention of the Accountant-General will be drawn to the Collectors' remarks about the condition of copper coins and the failure to comply in full with the

indents for copper and small silver. It is hoped that he will be able to place, not only in Bellary, but in all other affected districts, a sufficient quantity of such coins to meet all requirements.

10. There has been fair progress in the disposal of applications for loans, as is shown by the following figures:—

Up to the end of the week ending—

									Amount advanced. RS.
1st May	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,04,582
8th "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,19,164
15th "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,55,569
22nd "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,74,727

The Tahsildar of Rayadurg and the special Tahsildars of Bellary and Alur have continued to show good work. The Tahsildar of Adoni, with his three Special Revenue Inspectors, should turn out more work. The Collector points out that the rule requiring seven days' notice before payment of a loan seriously interferes with the disposal of applications, and suggests that it would be well if this rule were abolished. No such notice is necessary under the special well rules; but, under the ordinary well rules and the rules framed under Act XII of 1884, such notice is imperative. As these rules have been published with the sanction of the Government of India, they cannot be altered without reference to that authority. There appears to be no need for such notice in the case of loans for the purchase of fodder, and it is submitted that the suggestion of abolishing the rule in the case of such loans is worthy of consideration. If the Government approve, the matter might be settled by telegram, in communication with the Government of India.

11. The wave of distress is now nearly at its highest. Another week or so will probably see the culminating point. The work in Bellary has been severe and harassing, and the Famine Commissioner is glad to note how well the call has been responded to by the District staff. In years to come, it will be an ever-increasing satisfaction to all of them to remember that they have spent, and been spent, for the people.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

„ Collector of Bellary.

Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

ORDER—No. 548, Revenue, dated 9th July 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The recommendation in paragraph 10 of the Board's Proceedings to abolish the rule requiring seven days' notice before payment in the case of certain loans will be disposed of by separate orders.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.

„ the Public Works Department.

„ the Local and Municipal Department.

„ the Financial Department.

„ the Public Department.

„ the Accountant-General.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

40 Copies.