Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 2151 W

Dated 6th August 97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Fortnightly narrative. Bros: Revenue Deptt
recdng Bd's Bros: Submitting to Govt
— of the Special Assistant Agents
division, Godavari district, for the
period ending 15th and 31st may
1897, comtd. to the Supty Engr: I
Circle.

DV
12-8-97

[P.W. 25. 5,000—30-11-96.]

Indexed. 7/8

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Public works (1897) department

Current-Number: 7370

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

No 1831 W dt 6-7-97
1695 W dt 25-6-97
1605 W dt 12-6-97

Recd. 26-7 } 1897.
Regd. 26-7 }

Enclosures —

Spare copies 66.

G.O., No. 557, 12th July 1897.

No 2/5/1682 6-8-97

Communicated to the S.S.I circle.

29/7/97

S.S.I circle dt 5/8

2/8/97

JULY.

Fortnightly Narratives.

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting to Government — of the Special Assistant Agent's division, Gódávari district, for the period ending 15th and 31st May 1897.

O.L.S. 331.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 18th June 1897, No. 448 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Agency division, Gódávari district, during the period ending 15th of May 1897, based on the information received up to 10th May 1897 :—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply.—

Bhadráchalam.—20 cents rain on the 1st and 2nd at Bhadráchalam. Expected rain is *nil.*

Polavaram Division.—1 inch 12 cents rain recorded on the 12th at Polavaram. In some of the villages of the division the rain on that date was very much less.

Yellavaram Division.—40 cents rain during the period against inches 1·57 expected.

Chódavaramu Division.—The rainfall during the period was inches 1·50 against expected average *nil.*

There is no supply of water for irrigation anywhere. In the interior difficulty is felt in obtaining sufficient water for drinking purposes.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—In Bhadráchalam taluk podus are being cut. In Chódavaramu and Yellavaram divisions the fields are being ploughed up to sow early dry crops. There are no standing crops.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—The cattle of some villages in Bhadráchalam taluk have been sent to the Bastar territory for want of fodder. The cattle suffer for want of sufficient fodder and water too in the interior.

In Polavaram division the condition of cattle is good. In Bolugonda Mutta in Chódavaramu division, cattle are suffering from foot and mouth diseases (Gallu వ్యాధి). In some villages of Yellavaram division there are cattle diseases. The ryots have been purchasing fodder from the Delta and storing it up.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—Podus are still being cut in the hill villages and burnt. The rain that fell has encouraged the ryots to some extent to sow early crops.

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 10th May 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		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.	
Bhadráchalam	9	9	12	12	13	..	
Kachavaram (Marrigudem range).	9	8	16	14	..	..	Rising in rice and cholam.
Waddigudem (Rekápalle range).	9	9	16	16	..	..	
Polavaram	9½	9½	15	15	14	14	Stationary.
Chódavaramu	10	10	20	20	..	..	
Yellavaram Division—							
Addategela	10	9½	13	13	13	13	Rising in rice.
Jaddangi	10	9½	12	12	13	13	
Average ..	9·5	9·1	14·8	14·6	13·25	13·3	

Activity of trade.—Active in rice and cholam. No imports or exports by sea or rail.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On works.—Silt-clearing in the Dummagudem anikat canal has been started as a test work by the Collector; from 3rd to 8th, 350 coolies have come to work but no details have been received by me as to their condition, &c.

There are very few ordinary works in progress at present.

In villages.—The condition of the people in villages is generally satisfactory. The Koyas and Reddies are living on toddy, roots and other jungle produce. They sell ippa flower and tamarind fruits and with the proceeds buy the necessaries of life. They have also got wild roots to eat.

Sickness and mortality.—There are no deaths from starvation. Cholera broke out in the village of Puchikapadu in Polavaram division. There were 25 attacks and five deaths, but the Deputy Tahsildar reports that the disease is not spreading. There is also cholera in some villages of Bhadráchalam taluk and an extra medical officer has been despatched by the District Medical Officer to cope with it.

Remarks.—The subordinate officers have again failed to report properly on the condition of the people, but so far as can be judged from their narratives and my own personal observation in Yellavaram, their condition is generally normal and they do not feel the pinch of scarcity. In the extreme north of Bhadráchalam, however, a test work appears to have attracted a fair number but no details are yet received.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

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

Taluk.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Bhadráchalam	..	350	Silt-clearing, Public Works Department, Dummagudem anikat canal. This work has been opened as a test work by the Collector.
Total ..	..	350	

Gratuitous relief.—Nil.

Private charity.—Rs. 162 have been subscribed by the merchants of Dummagudem for the relief of distress.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Rs. 2,000 have been sent by the Famine Committee and cholam depôts have been opened at Peddamattapalli, Kunavaram and Kachavaram for Koyas and Reddies. Cholam is sold at 20 seers a rupee, not exceeding 10 seers each at a time.

INSPECTION BY DISTRICT OFFICERS.

(*Taluks and places visited*).—Yellavaram division, Timmapuram and Nellipudy.

The loans statement called for is *nil.*

Endorsement by V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Gódávari, dated Cocanada, 3rd June 1897, Dis. No. 1751-Ver.

Forwarded. Except in Bhadráchalam, there is no cause whatever for anxiety, and with the recent heavy rains we have had, pasture must be coming on and agricultural operations, preliminary to sowing, be in full swing. In Bhadráchalam—even in the worst part—the people can be described more accurately as being on the verge of famine than as suffering from famine actually, or at any rate at all acutely. I saw no signs of emaciation anywhere, and Mr. Woodhouse, now at Dummagudem, has reported

none, though he has especial orders to let me know at once if the people begin to show signs of emaciation. Of course, the very old, the sick and cripples are in some cases looking thin and worn, but it is difficult to say how far this is due to the present hard times and how far to natural causes. In any case, the lepers and these kinds of people are just those who are being given gratuitous relief. The young and able bodied of both sexes were still in first rate condition when I left the taluk on the 22nd, and I do not think they are likely now to deteriorate, for, as soon as the rains set in they will not only be able to draw more abundant supplies from the jungle but I think prices will fall considerably and they will be able to get advances freely on the Vagu system from the river side Telegas, many of whom have now large supplies of grain but won't sell. I am, however, giving full particulars in a special report which I trust to be able to get off in two or three days and will therefore add nothing more here.

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Agency Division, Gódávari district, during the period ending the 31st of May 1897 based on the information received up to 25th May 1897 :—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and water-supply.—

	Rainfall during the period.	Expected rainfall.
Bhadráchalam taluk ...	1·70 on 23rd May 1897.	Is *nil*.
Polavaram division ..	One inch in Ballipadu and in a few other villages; no rain was recorded at Polavaram, the rain-registering station.	Information not given by the Deputy Tahsildar.
Chódavaramu division ...	2·03 during the fortnight.	*Nil*.
Yellavaram division ...	1·14 during the fortnight.	·46 inch of rain is expected.

There is no supply of water for irrigation purposes. Drinking water-supply is sufficient in the river-side villages of Bhadráchalam taluk and Polavaram division. In the interior villages difficulty is felt in obtaining water for drinking purposes.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops—Bhadráchalam taluk.—Podus are being burnt. *Polavaram Division.*—In a few villages the ryots began to sow "ganti." In two villages gingelly also was sown but the plants died away. *Chódavaramu Division.*—The early dry crops, viz., gingelly, ganti and chamu, have been sown. *Yellavaram Division.*—In some villages gingelly was sown. The plants are not promising. Relying on the rain that fell lately, the ryots have sown early dry crops in some villages of the three Deputy Tahsildars' divisions but the plants in some villages died altogether and in some others they are not promising.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Insufficient in the Bhadráchalam taluk. *Polavaram Division.*—The forests and the unreserved lands are dried up. Cholam stalks and branches of green trees are used in some places. Fodder is getting scarce. *Chódavaramu and Yellavaram.*—Insufficient.

Cattle of many villages of Bhadráchalam taluk have been sent to the Bastar state. Those that have been kept by the ryots are in somewhat poor condition and there is some mortality among the cattle.

Cattle diseases, foot and mouth disease, &c., are prevalent in Chódavaramu and Yellavaram divisions. The condition of cattle is getting worse in Polavaram division.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—Podus are being burnt in Bhadráchalam taluk. Early dry crops have been sown in some villages of the three Deputy Tahsildars' divisions but the crops died in almost all the villages.

There are cattle diseases in Chódavaramu and Yellavaram divisions. Fodder is getting scarce. The condition of cattle is, on the whole, not satisfactory.

The rain that has fallen should be of considerable service in making the roots in the jungles sprout. The hill people can now find them and dig them up with ease.

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 25th of May 1897.

Stations.	Rice. End of last period.	Rice. End of current period.	Cholam. End of last period.	Cholam. End of current period.	Ragi. End of last period.	Ragi. End of current period.	Remarks.
Bhadráchalam ..	9	9	12	12	..	..	Generally stationary.
Kachavaram ..	8	9	14	14	..	..	
Waddigudem ..	9	9	16	14	..	..	Cholam slightly rising.
Polavaram	9½	10	15	14½	14	..	Rising in cholam.
Chódavaramu ..	10	10	20	18	..	..	
Addatigula	9½	9½	13	14	13	14	Rice rising.
Jaddangi	9½	9	12	14	13	14	Cholam falling.
Average ..	9·2	9·4	14·6	14·3	13·3	14	

Activity of trade.—Active in Polavaram and Chódavaramu divisions in rice and cholam. Elsewhere moderate. No imports or exports either by sea or rail.

Condition of the People.

On works—Bhadráchalam taluk.—As stated in the last fortnight's report a test-work has been opened here under the supervision of the Assistant Engineer. Two-hundred and sixty persons—Malas, Koyas and Madigas are attending the work. The Tahsildar has not given any information regarding their condition.

In the three Deputy Tahsildars' divisions very few ordinary works are in progress at present.

Note.—On 29th May 1897 the attendance of relief-workers—Malas, Koyas and Madigas—was 433 as noted below :—

Males	161
Females	174
Children	98
Total ..	433

The attendance is rather on the decrease owing to the recent rain that helped to start agricultural operations.

In villages.—In Bhadráchalam taluk, the Koyas are buying small quantities of cholam from the depôts opened by the committee. They are also partly living on ippa flower, dry tuniki fruits and leaves, &c.

In Polavaram division the Deputy Tahsildar says the condition of the Koyas and Reddies has become critical and they do not look as strong as before. They are now living solely upon tamarind stones. Provided, however, the monsoon is normal, they should get on well enough. I know of no reason why the sowcars should not make them advances as usual. The Koya always lives on credit.

In the other two Deputy Tahsildars' divisions, the hill people are living on toddy, roots and other jungle produce and their condition is normal.

Sickness and mortality—No deaths from starvation.

Remarks.—There has been cholera in Bhadráchalam taluk and Polavaram division. In the latter division 50 per cent. of the attacks proved fatal. The disease was imported by some beggars from the Nizam's Dominions. Measures were taken to cope with the disease and medicines were distributed :—

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed Last fortnight.	Number employed This fortnight.	Remarks.
Bhadráchalam-Dummagudem test work.	525	433	The Tahsildar of Bhadráchalam, in whose taluk a test work has been opened, has not given any information. He has been called upon to explain and supply the omission. The attendance fell from 525 on 15th May 1897 to 261 on 18th idem and rose to 433 on 29th idem.

Gratuitous relief—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise.—The Tahsildar, Bhadráchalam, has not furnished any information regarding the numbers relieved, though relief is being given in 36 villages.

Taluk.	Number of villages in which relief was given.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Bhadráchalam		36

Private charity.—The Rs. 2,000 placed at the disposal of the Collector by the Madras Famine Committee is being utilized in selling grain at reduced rates. Depôts have been opened at Peddamattapalli, Kunavaram, Kachavaram and Bhadráchalam, and the Revd. Mr. Cain is selling at the same rate as the Bhadráchalam rate at Dummagudem with Mission funds. Some 500 people a week have been thus relieved outside Dummagudem.

General Remarks.

I can unfortunately give no details with regard to the test relief work now started; it is not known what the condition of the workers is and how long they are likely to remain at it. It is pretty clear, however, that the distress is very limited at present and confined almost to the locality around Dummagudem. The whole taluk evidently wants careful watching so that the faintest signs of starvation may be detected. To this end energetic means have been adopted. There is one Deputy Collector up in the taluk already and Mr. Coleridge has just gone up to assist in the work of village inspection, &c. When the rain comes on, the work of bamboo cutting will recommence and a supply of roots will, I think, be obtainable.

Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and places visited.—None in this fortnight; the Special Assistant Agent was in charge of the Sub-Collector's division as well as his own, and hence had to remain at Rajahmundry.

Endorsement by V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Gódávari, dated Tanuku, 5th June 1897, No. 1731-Ver.

Forwarded.

2. Things outside Bhadráchalam in the agency call for no remark and give no occasion for anxiety and, even in Bhadráchalam itself, there is I think little danger, provided the monsoon sets in soon, and I trust it will now make its appearance in a day or two.

3. The worst part of the Bhadráchalam taluk is still the vicinity of Dummagudem, where there were 162 persons on gratuitous relief and 433 on relief works on the 29th ultimo. The relief-workers consist of 161 men, 174 women and 98 children. From the large number of women and children I infer that a large majority of them are Malas and Madigas whose women and children come freely to the works, whilst those of the Koyas do not, as they complain of the hard work, though they take things as easily as they can when at work. In future reports I have asked for caste particulars.

4. As soon as the monsoon bursts, the Malas and Madigas can be turned adrift as they will then have no difficulty in getting agricultural employment. Indeed they are sure to go themselves *en masse* when that event happens, and then the best course will, I think, be to close the works and put the Koyas now working, or at least most of them, on the gratuitous relief list as they will have their own cultivation to attend to. The gratuitous relief list at present appears to be very small, and I fear that none but the very old, the sick and cripples are now being admitted to this form of relief. It is of course open to abuse, but overstrictness appears to be a more serious error than overleniency, as it is better that some undeserving should get help than that one deserving man should be refused it. I have sent up orders that more liberality must be shown in the case of Koyas at any rate, especially if it be true, as Mr. Cain writes to

me under date of the 2nd, that the people are deteriorating physically. It may be so, but no one else has mentioned the fact and both the Tahsildar and Mr. Woodhouse have the strictest instructions to let me know the fact if they observe any signs of emaciation or physical deterioration.

5. Much relief has been afforded by Mr. Cain selling cholam to Koyas and Madigas at 16 seers per rupee—the cholam being purchased from the Tahsildar at cost price at Dummagudem and being part of that procured by me from Rajahmundry. During the week ending the 30th ultimo, Mr. Cain writes that he sold 2,473 seers to 700 persons and could have sold more, only his stock is exhausted and the Tahsildar had not sent him more. The great difficulty is transport from Kunavaram. Mr. Cain writes, no bandies will go from Dummagudem for grain on the excuse that fodder is not procurable on the road, whilst the Tahsildar who was at Kunavaram on the 30th, endeavouring to get bandies, writes that he could get very few, as the bandy-owners said they had sent their bullocks to Bastar to graze. I understand the Tahsildar is now getting some forward by *návas* by the river as far as Bhadráchalam, but this, of course, is slow and difficult work. I only trust that the river, which is reported to have risen a foot, may soon rise another two, when it will be possible to get boats forward to Bhadráchalam. At the same time the chief bandy-owners at Dummagudem are the well-to-do Koyas, and it is difficult to understand their unwillingness to send them for grain if they are so badly in want of it as the Revd. Mr. Cain says they are. I have sent orders to the Tahsildar to get grain forward somehow as it is required, and instructed Mr. Ward and Mr. Coleridge, the one to help him and the other to see the thing is done. No doubt, as Mr. Cain says, his difficulties are the opportunity of the Dummagudem Komatis, and I should not be surprised, if the latter had something to say to the difficulty in getting carts, for most of the cart-owners are, I imagine, in their power.

6. I have, meanwhile, called on Mr. Woodhouse, who is still detained by me at Dummagudem, to report on Mr. Cain's assertion that the people are deteriorating, and also ordered him to report if grain has come in, but I have no doubt it has by this time. I have also ordered the Tahsildar to have all the grain now stored at Kunavaram moved forward as quickly as possible to Bhadráchalam as being more central. Of course, enough for local requirements will be kept at Kunavaram, and if more is wanted there it will be got up from Rajahmundry, as the recent rise in the river renders navigation as far as Waddigudem fairly easy.

7. Rupees 1,000 towards the cost of clearing jungle in the vicinity of the graphite mines at Perakonda has been paid me by Messrs. Hall Wilson, and I have forwarded the money to Mr. Ward with orders to get the work done for the Company himself, as the Koyas have confidence in him and know him, and I do not know that this is the case with the Company's local manager.

8. Any further information I receive will be communicated to the Board on receipt.

Resolution—dated 18th June 1897, No. 448.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Famine Commissioner regrets to note the delay in the submission of these narratives from the district. The first was signed by the Special Assistant Agent on the 16th May and despatched on the 17th; it bears no date of receipt in the Collector's office; the Collector added his endorsement seventeen days later on 3rd June at head-quarters, but the paper was not despatched till the 8th. The second bears no date of despatch from the Divisional office; it contains information received up to 25th May, but was despatched from the Collector's office only on June 9th. A delay of a day or two may have been caused by the Collector being in camp, but considering that the information contained was received in Rajahmundry by May 25th, the narrative should have been despatched from the Collector's office before June 9th—fourteen days later.

3. The rainfall during the month in Bhadráchalam was nearly 2 inches, none being expected. Difficulty was experienced in obtaining drinking-water in the villages away from the river, but it does not appear that anything has been done to improve the supply. The Collector should apply for the funds he requires. Agricultural operations within the affected area consist of the cutting and burning of podus; cattle are said to be in poor condition.

4. Prices in Bhadráchalam taluk are said to be generally stationary; there appears, however, to have been a considerable rise in cholam at Kachavaram and Waddigudem. This is remarkable, as the stocks imported by the Collector lie at Kunavaram, within a few miles of these stations.

5. No report has been received by the Collector as to the condition of the people on works. Mr. Cain at Dummagudem reports that the people are deteriorating. It is not understood how this can be the case, as work is available and all those who are destitute but cannot work should be placed on gratuitous relief. It is doubtful, however, if this form of relief is being properly administered, the numbers relieved being so small. The total number on relief works on the 15th June rose to 4,674. In a demi-official received from the Collector it is suggested that Panchamas from the Nizam's Dominions are coming over for relief. No distinction should be made between them and natives of British territory. Mr. Woodhouse's report regarding gratuitous relief should be submitted for the information of the Famine Commissioner with the special report promised by the Collector in his first endorsement. The Collector should arrange for the inspection of the Polavaram division by one of his covenanted officers, or by Mr. Woodhouse, in order to verify the Deputy Tahsildar's report as to the condition of the people there. The numbers on test works had not shown much tendency to increase up to the end of the month; it is said that the recent rain has attracted some to the fields. It is not safe to count, as Mr. Brodie does, on being able to close the works when the monsoon breaks. As long as cholam stands near twelve measures at Bhadráchalam there must be distress, and the Panchamas are, probably, not land holders.

6. The report is, as usual, meagre and unsatisfactory, being based, not upon the personal knowledge of the Divisional officer, but upon the reports of subordinates. The Famine Commissioner is aware of the recent change of officers in the district. No Special Assistant Agent seems to have been appointed to succeed Mr. Hughes, but Mr. Phillips is in charge of the Special Assistant's office in addition to his own duties as Sub-Collector. Mr. Woodhouse is in Bhadráchalam and if, as is supposed, he is in charge of relief operations, it will be better for the narratives to be written by him, as he will then be able to record his own observations If Mr. Woodhouse is not in charge of the operations, Mr. Phillips should be requested to go to Bhadrá-chalam and supervise matters. The closing of relief is suggested by the Collector in paragraph 4 of his second endorsement when the monsoon comes. This will be a matter requiring local knowledge as well as discretion, and an officer of experience should be on the spot at the time.

7. The Collector is requested not to use the word "Mala" in future, and to instruct his Divisional officers accordingly. By the order of Government these classes are to be designated "Panchamas" in future.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 557, Revenue, dated 12th July 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded. √

(True Extract.)

for Ag. Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. Shaik Karim

80 Copies.

Public Works Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. Enclosures
Regd. } Spare copies

G.O., No. 557, 12th July 1897.

No 215 IV dt 6.8.97
Communicated to the
S. Ry-I-circle.

JULY.

Ry D dt-c
IV

To
The S. Ry-I circle.

Fortnightly Narratives.

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting to Government — of the Special Assistant Agent's division, Gódávari district, for the period ending 15th and 31st May 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 18th June 1897, No. 448 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Agency division, Gódávari district, during the period ending 15th of May 1897, based on the information received up to 10th May 1897 :—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply.—

Bhadráchalam.—20 cents rain on the 1st and 2nd at Bhadráchalam. Expected rain is *nil*.

Polavaram Division.—1 inch 12 cents rain recorded on the 12th at Polavaram. In some of the villages of the division the rain on that date was very much less.

Yellavaram Division.—40 cents rain during the period against inches 1·57 expected.

Chódavaramu Division.—The rainfall during the period was inches 1·50 against expected average *nil*.

There is no supply of water for irrigation anywhere. In the interior difficulty is felt in obtaining sufficient water for drinking purposes.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—In Bhadráchalam taluk podus are being cut. In Chódavaramu and Yellavaram divisions the fields are being ploughed up to sow early dry crops. There are no standing crops.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—The cattle of some villages in Bhadráchalam taluk have been sent to the Bastar territory for want of fodder. The cattle suffer for want of sufficient fodder and water too in the interior.

In Polavaram division the condition of cattle is good. In Bolugonda Mutta in Chódavaramu division, cattle are suffering from foot and mouth diseases (Gallu రోగం). In some villages of Yellavaram division there are cattle diseases. The ryots have been purchasing fodder from the Delta and storing it up.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—Podus are still being cut in the hill villages and burnt. The rain that fell has encouraged the ryots to some extent to sow early crops.

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 10th May 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		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.	
Bhadráchalam	9	9	12	12	13	..	
Kachavaram (Marrigudem range).	9	8	16	14	..	..	Rising in rice and cholam.
Waddigudem (Rekápalle range).	9	9	16	16	..	..	
Polavaram	9½	9½	15	15	14	14	Stationary.
Chódavaramu	10	10	20	20	..	..	
Yellavaram Division—							
Addategela	10	9½	13	13	13	13	Rising in rice.
Jaddangi	10	9½	12	12	13	13	
Average ..	9·5	9·1	14·8	14·5	13·25	13·3	

Activity of trade.—Active in rice and cholam. No imports or exports by sea or rail.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On works.—Silt-clearing in the Dummagudem anikat canal has been started as a test work by the Collector; from 3rd to 8th, 350 coolies have come to work but no details have been received by me as to their condition, &c.

There are very few ordinary works in progress at present.

In villages.—The condition of the people in villages is generally satisfactory. The Koyas and Reddies are living on toddy, roots and other jungle produce. They sell ippa flower and tamarind fruits and with the proceeds buy the necessaries of life. They have also got wild roots to eat.

Sickness and mortality.—There are no deaths from starvation. Cholera broke out in the village of Puchikapadu in Polavaram division. There were 25 attacks and five deaths, but the Deputy Tahsildar reports that the disease is not spreading. There is also cholera in some villages of Bhadráchalam taluk and an extra medical officer has been despatched by the District Medical Officer to cope with it.

Remarks.—The subordinate officers have again failed to report properly on the condition of the people, but so far as can be judged from their narratives and my own personal observation in Yellavaram, their condition is generally normal and they do not feel the pinch of scarcity. In the extreme north of Bhadráchalam, however, a test work appears to have attracted a fair number but no details are yet received.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

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

Taluk.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Bhadráchalam	..	350	Silt-clearing, Public Works Department, Dummagudem anikat canal. This work has been opened as a test work by the Collector.
Total ..	..	350	

Gratuitous relief.—Nil.

Private charity.—Rs. 162 have been subscribed by the merchants of Dummagudem for the relief of distress.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Rs. 2,000 have been sent by the Famine Committee and cholam depôts have been opened at Peddamattapalli, Kunavaram and Kachavaram for Koyas and Reddies. Cholam is sold at 20 seers a rupee, not exceeding 10 seers each at a time.

INSPECTION BY DISTRICT OFFICERS.

(*Taluks and places visited*).—Yellavaram division, Timmapuram and Nellipudy.

The loans statement called for is *nil*.

Endorsement by V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Gódávari, dated Cocanada, 3rd June 1897, Dis. No. 1751-Ver.

Forwarded. Except in Bhadráchalam, there is no cause whatever for anxiety, and with the recent heavy rains we have had, pasture must be coming on and agricultural operations, preliminary to sowing, be in full swing. In Bhadráchalam—even in the worst part—the people can be described more accurately as being on the verge of famine than as suffering from famine actually, or at any rate at all acutely. I saw no signs of emaciation anywhere, and Mr. Woodhouse, now at Dummagudem, has reported

none, though he has especial orders to let me know at once if the people begin to show signs of emaciation. Of course, the very old, the sick and cripples are in some cases looking thin and worn, but it is difficult to say how far this is due to the present hard times and how far to natural causes. In any case, the lepers and these kinds of people are just those who are being given gratuitous relief. The young and able bodied of both sexes were still in first rate condition when I left the taluk on the 22nd, and I do not think they are likely now to deteriorate, for, as soon as the rains set in they will not only be able to draw more abundant supplies from the jungle but I think prices will fall considerably and they will be able to get advances freely on the Vagu system from the river side Telegas, many of whom have now large supplies of grain but won't sell. I am, however, giving full particulars in a special report which I trust to be able to get off in two or three days and will therefore add nothing more here.

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Agency Division, Gódávari district, during the period ending the 31st of May 1897 based on the information received up to 25th May 1897 :—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and water-supply.—

	Rainfall during the period.	Expected rainfall.
Bhadráchalam taluk ...	1·70 on 23rd May 1897.	Is *nil*.
Polavaram division ...	One inch in Ballipadu and in a few other villages; no rain was recorded at Polavaram, the rain-registering station.	Information not given by the Deputy Tahsildar.
Chódavaramu division ...	2·03 during the fortnight.	*Nil*.
Yellavaram division ...	1·14 during the fortnight.	·46 inch of rain is expected.

There is no supply of water for irrigation purposes. Drinking water-supply is sufficient in the river-side villages of Bhadráchalam taluk and Polavaram division. In the interior villages difficulty is felt in obtaining water for drinking purposes.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops—Bhadráchalam taluk.—Podus are being burnt. *Polavaram Division.*—In a few villages the ryots began to sow "ganti." In two villages gingelly also was sown but the plants died away. *Chódavaramu Division.*—The early dry crops, viz., gingelly, ganti and chamu, have been sown. *Yellavaram Division.*—In some villages gingelly was sown. The plants are not promising. Relying on the rain that fell lately, the ryots have sown early dry crops in some villages of the three Deputy Tahsildars' divisions but the plants in some villages died altogether and in some others they are not promising.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Insufficient in the Bhadráchalam taluk. *Polavaram Division.*—The forests and the unreserved lands are dried up. Cholam stalks and branches of green trees are used in some places. Fodder is getting scarce. *Chódavaramu and Yellavaram.*—Insufficient.

Cattle of many villages of Bhadráchalam taluk have been sent to the Bastar state. Those that have been kept by the ryots are in somewhat poor condition and there is some mortality among the cattle.

Cattle diseases, foot and mouth disease, &c., are prevalent in Chódavaramu and Yellavaram divisions. The condition of cattle is getting worse in Polavaram division.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—Podus are being burnt in Bhadráchalam taluk. Early dry crops have been sown in some villages of the three Deputy Tahsildars' divisions but the crops died in almost all the villages.

There are cattle diseases in Chódavaramu and Yellavaram divisions. Fodder is getting scarce. The condition of cattle is, on the whole, not satisfactory.

The rain that has fallen should be of considerable service in making the roots in the jungles sprout. The hill people can now find them and dig them up with ease.

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 25th of May 1897.

Stations.	Rice. End of last period.	Rice. End of current period.	Cholam. End of last period.	Cholam. End of current period.	Ragi. End of last period.	Ragi. End of current period.	Remarks.
Bhadráchalam ..	9	9	12	12	..	..	Generally stationary.
Kachavaram ..	8	9	14	14	..	..	
Waddigudem ..	9	9	16	14	..	..	Cholam slightly rising.
Polavaram	9½	10	15	14½	14	..	Rising in cholam.
Chódavaramu ..	10	10	20	18	..	..	Rice rising.
Addatigala	9½	9½	13	14	13	14	Cholam falling.
Jaddangi	9½	9	12	14	13	14	
Average ..	9·2	9·4	14·6	14·3	13·3	14	

Activity of trade.—Active in Polavaram and Chódavaramu divisions in rice and cholam. Elsewhere moderate. No imports or exports either by sea or rail.

Condition of the People.

On works—Bhadráchalam taluk.—As stated in the last fortnight's report a test-work has been opened here under the supervision of the Assistant Engineer. Two-hundred and sixty persons—Malas, Koyas and Madigas are attending the work. The Tahsildar has not given any information regarding their condition.

In the three Deputy Tahsildars' divisions very few ordinary works are in progress at present.

Note.—On 29th May 1897 the attendance of relief-workers—Malas, Koyas and Madigas—was 433 as noted below :—

Males	161
Females	174
Children	98
Total ..	433

The attendance is rather on the decrease owing to the recent rain that helped to start agricultural operations.

In villages.—In Bhadráchalam taluk, the Koyas are buying small quantities of cholam from the depôts opened by the committee. They are also partly living on ippa flower, dry tuniki fruits and leaves, &c.

In Polavaram division the Deputy Tahsildar says the condition of the Koyas and Reddies has become critical and they do not look as strong as before. They are now living solely upon tamarind stones. Provided, however, the monsoon is normal, they should get on well enough. I know of no reason why the sowcars should not make them advances as usual. The Koya always lives on credit.

In the other two Deputy Tahsildars' divisions, the hill people are living on toddy, roots and other jungle produce and their condition is normal.

Sickness and mortality—No deaths from starvation.

Remarks.—There has been cholera in Bhadráchalam taluk and Polavaram division. In the latter division 50 per cent. of the attacks proved fatal. The disease was imported by some beggars from the Nizam's Dominions. Measures were taken to cope with the disease and medicines were distributed :—

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed. Last fortnight.	Number employed. This fortnight.	Remarks.
Bhadráchalam-Dummagudem test work.	525	433	The Tahsildar of Bhadráchalam, in whose taluk a test work has been opened, has not given any information. He has been called upon to explain and supply the omission. The attendance fell from 525 on 15th May 1897 to 261 on 18th idem and rose to 433 on 29th idem.

Gratuitous relief—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise.—The Tahsildar, Bhadráchalam, has not furnished any information regarding the numbers relieved, though relief is being given in 36 villages.

Taluk.	Number of villages in which relief was given.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Bhadráchalam		36

Private charity.—The Rs. 2,000 placed at the disposal of the Collector by the Madras Famine Committee is being utilized in selling grain at reduced rates. Depôts have been opened at Peddamattapalli, Kunavaram, Kachavaram and Bhadráchalam, and the Revd. Mr. Cain is selling at the same rate as the Bhadráchalam rate at Dummagudem with Mission funds. Some 500 people a week have been thus relieved outside Dummagudem.

General Remarks.

I can unfortunately give no details with regard to the test relief work now started; it is not known what the condition of the workers is and how long they are likely to remain at it. It is pretty clear, however, that the distress is very limited at present and confined almost to the locality around Dummagudem. The whole taluk evidently wants careful watching so that the faintest signs of starvation may be detected. To this end energetic means have been adopted. There is one Deputy Collector up in the taluk already and Mr. Coleridge has just gone up to assist in the work of village inspection, &c. When the rain comes on, the work of bamboo cutting will recommence and a supply of roots will, I think, be obtainable.

Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and places visited.—None in this fortnight; the Special Assistant Agent was in charge of the Sub-Collector's division as well as his own, and hence had to remain at Rajahmundry.

Endorsement by V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Gódávari, dated Tanuku, 5th June 1897, No. 1731-Ver.

Forwarded.

2. Things outside Bhadráchalam in the agency call for no remark and give no occasion for anxiety and, even in Bhadráchalam itself, there is I think little danger, provided the monsoon sets in soon, and I trust it will now make its appearance in a day or two.

3. The worst part of the Bhadráchalam taluk is still the vicinity of Dummagudem, where there were 162 persons on gratuitous relief and 433 on relief works on the 29th ultimo. The relief-workers consist of 161 men, 174 women and 98 children. From the large number of women and children I infer that a large majority of them are Malas and Madigas whose women and children come freely to the works, whilst those of the Koyas do not, as they complain of the hard work, though they take things as easily as they can when at work. In future reports I have asked for caste particulars.

4. As soon as the monsoon bursts, the Malas and Madigas can be turned adrift as they will then have no difficulty in getting agricultural employment. Indeed they are sure to go themselves *en masse* when that event happens, and then the best course will, I think, be to close the works and put the Koyas now working, or at least most of them, on the gratuitous relief list as they will have their own cultivation to attend to. The gratuitous relief list at present appears to be very small, and I fear that none but the very old, the sick and cripples are now being admitted to this form of relief. It is of course open to abuse, but overstrictness appears to be a more serious error than overleniency, as it is better that some undeserving should get help than that one deserving man should be refused it. I have sent up orders that more liberality must be shown in the case of Koyas at any rate, especially if it be true, as Mr. Cain writes to

me under date of the 2nd, that the people are deteriorating physically. It may be so, but no one else has mentioned the fact and both the Tahsildar and Mr. Woodhouse have the strictest instructions to let me know the fact if they observe any signs of emaciation or physical deterioration.

5. Much relief has been afforded by Mr. Cain selling cholam to Koyas and Madigas at 16 seers per rupee—the cholam being purchased from the Tahsildar at cost price at Dummagudem and being part of that procured by me from Rajahmundry. During the week ending the 30th ultimo, Mr. Cain writes that he sold 2,473 seers to 790 persons and could have sold more, only his stock is exhausted and the Tahsildar had not sent him more. The great difficulty is transport from Kunavaram. Mr. Cain writes, no bandies will go from Dummagudem for grain on the excuse that fodder is not procurable on the road, whilst the Tahsildar who was at Kunavaram on the 30th, endeavouring to get bandies, writes that he could get very few, as the bandy-owners said they had sent their bullocks to Bastar to graze. I understand the Tahsildar is now getting some forward by *návas* by the river as far as Bhadráchalam, but this, of course, is slow and difficult work. I only trust that the river, which is reported to have risen a foot, may soon rise another two, when it will be possible to get boats forward to Bhadráchalam. At the same time the chief bandy-owners at Dummagudem are the well-to-do Koyas, and it is difficult to understand their unwillingness to send them for grain if they are so badly in want of it as the Revd. Mr. Cain says they are. I have sent orders to the Tahsildar to get grain forward somehow as it is required, and instructed Mr. Ward and Mr. Coleridge, the one to help him and the other to see the thing is done. No doubt, as Mr. Cain says, his difficulties are the opportunity of the Dummagudem Komatis, and I should not be surprised, if the latter had something to say to the difficulty in getting carts, for most of the cart-owners are, I imagine, in their power.

6. I have, meanwhile, called on Mr. Woodhouse, who is still detained by me at Dummagudem, to report on Mr. Cain's assertion that the people are deteriorating, and also ordered him to report if grain has come in, but I have no doubt it has by this time. I have also ordered the Tahsildar to have all the grain now stored at Kunavaram moved forward as quickly as possible to Bhadráchalam as being more central. Of course, enough for local requirements will be kept at Kunavaram, and if more is wanted there it will be got up from Rajahmundry, as the recent rise in the river renders navigation as far as Waddigudem fairly easy.

7. Rupees 1,000 towards the cost of clearing jungle in the vicinity of the graphite mines at Perakonda has been paid me by Messrs. Hall Wilson, and I have forwarded the money to Mr. Ward with orders to get the work done for the Company himself, as the Koyas have confidence in him and know him, and I do not know that this is the case with the Company's local manager.

8. Any further information I receive will be communicated to the Board on receipt.

Resolution—dated 18th June 1897, No. 448.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Famine Commissioner regrets to note the delay in the submission of these narratives from the district. The first was signed by the Special Assistant Agent on the 16th May and despatched on the 17th; it bears no date of receipt in the Collector's office; the Collector added his endorsement seventeen days later on 3rd June at head-quarters, but the paper was not despatched till the 8th. The second bears no date of despatch from the Divisional office; it contains information received up to 25th May, but was despatched from the Collector's office only on June 9th. A delay of a day or two may have been caused by the Collector being in camp, but considering that the information contained was received in Rajahmundry by May 25th, the narrative should have been despatched from the Collector's office before June 9th—fourteen days later.

3. The rainfall during the month in Bhadráchalam was nearly 2 inches, none being expected. Difficulty was experienced in obtaining drinking-water in the villages away from the river, but it does not appear that anything has been done to improve the supply. The Collector should apply for the funds he requires. Agricultural operations within the affected area consist of the cutting and burning of podus; cattle are said to be in poor condition.

4. Prices in Bhadráchalam taluk are said to be generally stationary; there appears, however, to have been a considerable rise in cholam at Kachavaram and Waddigudem. This is remarkable, as the stocks imported by the Collector lie at Kunavaram, within a few miles of these stations.

5. No report has been received by the Collector as to the condition of the people on works. Mr. Cain at Dummagudem reports that the people are deteriorating. It is not understood how this can be the case, as work is available and all those who are destitute but cannot work should be placed on gratuitous relief. It is doubtful, however, if this form of relief is being properly administered, the numbers relieved being so small. The total number on relief works on the 15th June rose to 4,674. In a demi-official received from the Collector it is suggested that Panchamas from the Nizam's Dominions are coming over for relief. No distinction should be made between them and natives of British territory. Mr. Woodhouse's report regarding gratuitous relief should be submitted for the information of the Famine Commissioner with the special report promised by the Collector in his first endorsement. The Collector should arrange for the inspection of the Polavaram division by one of his covenanted officers, or by Mr. Woodhouse, in order to verify the Deputy Tahsildar's report as to the condition of the people there. The numbers on test works had not shown much tendency to increase up to the end of the month; it is said that the recent rain has attracted some to the fields. It is not safe to count, as Mr. Brodie does, on being able to close the works when the monsoon breaks. As long as cholam stands near twelve measures at Bhadráchalam there must be distress, and the Panchamas are, probably, not land holders.

6. The report is, as usual, meagre and unsatisfactory, being based, not upon the personal knowledge of the Divisional officer, but upon the reports of subordinates. The Famine Commissioner is aware of the recent change of officers in the district. No Special Assistant Agent seems to have been appointed to succeed Mr. Hughes, but Mr. Phillips is in charge of the Special Assistant's office in addition to his own duties as Sub-Collector. Mr. Woodhouse is in Bhadráchalam and if, as is supposed, he is in charge of relief operations, it will be better for the narratives to be written by him, as he will then be able to record his own observations If Mr. Woodhouse is not in charge of the operations, Mr. Phillips should be requested to go to Bhadráchalam and supervise matters. The closing of relief is suggested by the Collector in paragraph 4 of his second endorsement when the monsoon comes. This will be a matter requiring local knowledge as well as discretion, and an officer of experience should be on the spot at the time.

7. The Collector is requested not to use the word "Mala" in future, and to instruct his Divisional officers accordingly. By the order of Government these classes are to be designated "Panchamas" in future.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 557, Revenue, dated 12th July 1897.

Miscellaneous. Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. Shaik Karim.

80 Copies.

Public Works Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. Enclosures
Regd. } Spare copies

G.O., No. 557, 12th July 1897.

No. 2151/W 6.8.97
Communicated to the
S.Co. I Circle.

JULY.

/By Order
W

To
The S.Co. I Circle.

Fortnightly Narratives.

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting to Government — of the Special Assistant Agent's division, Gódávari district, for the period ending 15th and 31st May 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 18th June 1897, No. 448 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Agency division, Gódávari district, during the period ending 15th of May 1897, based on the information received up to 10th May 1897 :—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and water-supply.—

Bhadráchalam.—20 cents rain on the 1st and 2nd at Bhadráchalam. Expected rain is *nil.*

Polavaram Division.—1 inch 12 cents rain recorded on the 12th at Polavaram. In some of the villages of the division the rain on that date was very much less.

Yellavaram Division.—40 cents rain during the period against inches 1·57 expected.

Chódavaramu Division.—The rainfall during the period was inches 1·50 against expected average *nil.*

There is no supply of water for irrigation anywhere. In the interior difficulty is felt in obtaining sufficient water for drinking purposes.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—In Bhadráchalam taluk podus are being cut. In Chódavaramu and Yellavaram divisions the fields are being ploughed up to sow early dry crops. There are no standing crops.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—The cattle of some villages in Bhadráchalam taluk have been sent to the Bastar territory for want of fodder. The cattle suffer for want of sufficient fodder and water too in the interior.

In Polavaram division the condition of cattle is good. In Bolugonda Mutta in Chódavaramu division, cattle are suffering from foot and mouth diseases (Gallu వ్యాధి). In some villages of Yellavaram division there are cattle diseases. The ryots have been purchasing fodder from the Delta and storing it up.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—Podus are still being cut in the hill villages and burnt. The rain that fell has encouraged the ryots to some extent to sow early crops.

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 10th May 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		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.	
Bhadráchalam	9	9	12	12	13	..	
Kachavaram (Marrigudem range).	9	8	16	14	..	..	
Waddigudem (Rekápalle range).	9	9	16	16	..	..	Rising in rice and cholam.
Polavaram	9½	9½	15	15	..	..	
Chódavaramu	10	10	20	20	14	14	Stationary.
Yellavaram Division—							
Addategela	10	9½	13	13	..	..	
Jaddangi	10	9½	12	12	13	13	
Average ..	9·5	9·1	14·8	14·5	13	13	Rising in rice.
					13·25	13·3	

Activity of trade.—Active in rice and cholam. No imports or exports by sea or rail.

Condition of the People.

On works.—Silt-clearing in the Dummagudem anikat canal has been started as a test work by the Collector; from 3rd to 8th, 350 coolies have come to work but no details have been received by me as to their condition, &c.

There are very few ordinary works in progress at present.

In villages.—The condition of the people in villages is generally satisfactory. The Koyas and Reddies are living on toddy, roots and other jungle produce. They sell ippa flower and tamarind fruits and with the proceeds buy the necessaries of life. They have also got wild roots to eat.

Sickness and mortality.—There are no deaths from starvation. Cholera broke out in the village of Puchikapadu in Polavaram division. There were 25 attacks and five deaths, but the Deputy Tahsildar reports that the disease is not spreading. There is also cholera in some villages of Bhadráchalam taluk and an extra medical officer has been despatched by the District Medical Officer to cope with it.

Remarks.—The subordinate officers have again failed to report properly on the condition of the people, but so far as can be judged from their narratives and my own personal observation in Yellavaram, their condition is generally normal and they do not feel the pinch of scarcity. In the extreme north of Bhadráchalam, however, a test work appears to have attracted a fair number but no details are yet received.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluk.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Bhadráchalam	..	350	Silt-clearing, Public Works Department, Dummagudem anikat canal. This work has been opened as a test work by the Collector.
Total ..	..	350	

Gratuitous relief.—Nil.

Private charity.—Rs. 162 have been subscribed by the merchants of Dummagudem for the relief of distress.

General Remarks.

Rs. 2,000 have been sent by the Famine Committee and cholam depôts have been opened at Peddamattapalli, Kunavaram and Kachavaram for Koyas and Reddies. Cholam is sold at 20 seers a rupee, not exceeding 10 seers each at a time.

Inspection by District Officers.

(*Taluks and places visited*).—Yellavaram division, Timmapuram and Nellipudy.

The loans statement called for is *nil.*

Endorsement by V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Gódávari, dated Cocanada, 3rd June 1897, Dis. No. 1751-Ver.

Forwarded. Except in Bhadráchalam, there is no cause whatever for anxiety, and with the recent heavy rains we have had, pasture must be coming on and agricultural operations, preliminary to sowing, be in full swing. In Bhadráchalam—even in the worst part—the people can be described more accurately as being on the verge of famine than as suffering from famine actually, or at any rate at all acutely. I saw no signs of emaciation anywhere, and Mr. Woodhouse, now at Dummagudem, has reported

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 18th June 1897, No. 448 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Agency division, Gódávari district, during the period ending 15th of May 1897, based on the information received up to 10th May 1897 :—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and water-supply.—

Bhadráchalam.—20 cents rain on the 1st and 2nd at Bhadráchalam. Expected rain is *nil.*

Polavaram Division.—1 inch 12 cents rain recorded on the 12th at Polavaram. In some of the villages of the division the rain on that date was very much less.

Yellavaram Division.—40 cents rain during the period against inches 1·57 expected.

Chódavaramu Division.—The rainfall during the period was inches 1·50 against expected average *nil.*

There is no supply of water for irrigation anywhere. In the interior difficulty is felt in obtaining sufficient water for drinking purposes.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—In Bhadráchalam taluk podus are being cut. In Chódavaramu and Yellavaram divisions the fields are being ploughed up to sow early dry crops. There are no standing crops.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—The cattle of some villages in Bhadráchalam taluk have been sent to the Bastar territory for want of fodder. The cattle suffer for want of sufficient fodder and water too in the interior.

In Polavaram division the condition of cattle is good. In Bolugonda Mutta in Chódavaramu division, cattle are suffering from foot and mouth diseases (Gallu వ్యాధి). In some villages of Yellavaram division there are cattle diseases. The ryots have been purchasing fodder from the Delta and storing it up.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—Podus are still being cut in the hill villages and burnt. The rain that fell has encouraged the ryots to some extent to sow early crops.

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 10th May 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		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.	
Bhadráchalam	9	9	12	12	13	..	Rising in rice and cholam.
Kachavaram (Marrigudem range).	9	8	16	14	..	..	
Waddigudem (Rekápalle range).	9	9	16	16	..	..	
Polavaram	9½	9½	15	15	..	..	
Chódavaramu	10	10	20	20	14	14	Stationary.
Yellavaram Division—					..	..	
Addategela	10	9½	13	13	13	13	Rising in rice.
Jaddangi	10	9½	12	12	13	13	
Average ..	9·5	9·1	14·8	14·5	13·25	13·3	

Activity of trade.—Active in rice and cholam. No imports or exports by sea or rail.

Condition of the People.

On works.—Silt-clearing in the Dummagudem anikat canal has been started as a test work by the Collector; from 3rd to 8th, 350 coolies have come to work but no details have been received by me as to their condition, &c.

There are very few ordinary works in progress at present.

In villages.—The condition of the people in villages is generally satisfactory. The Koyas and Reddies are living on toddy, roots and other jungle produce. They sell ippa flower and tamarind fruits and with the proceeds buy the necessaries of life. They have also got wild roots to eat.

Sickness and mortality.—There are no deaths from starvation. Cholera broke out in the village of Puchikapadu in Polavaram division. There were 25 attacks and five deaths, but the Deputy Tahsildar reports that the disease is not spreading. There is also cholera in some villages of Bhadráchalam taluk and an extra medical officer has been despatched by the District Medical Officer to cope with it.

Remarks.—The subordinate officers have again failed to report properly on the condition of the people, but so far as can be judged from their narratives and my own personal observation in Yellavaram, their condition is generally normal and they do not feel the pinch of scarcity. In the extreme north of Bhadráchalam, however, a test work appears to have attracted a fair number but no details are yet received.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluk.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Bhadráchalam	..	350	Silt-clearing, Public Works Department, Dummagudem anikat canal. This work has been opened as a test work by the Collector.
Total ..	..	350	

Gratuitous relief.—Nil.

Private charity.—Rs. 162 have been subscribed by the merchants of Dummagudem for the relief of distress.

General Remarks.

Rs. 2,000 have been sent by the Famine Committee and cholam depôts have been opened at Peddamattapalli, Kunavaram and Kachavaram for Koyas and Reddies. Cholam is sold at 20 seers a rupee, not exceeding 10 seers each at a time.

Inspection by District Officers.

(*Taluks and places visited*).—Yellavaram division, Timmapuram and Nellipudy.

The loans statement called for is *nil.*

Endorsement by V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Gódávari, dated Cocanada, 3rd June 1897, Dis. No. 1751-Ver.

Forwarded. Except in Bhadráchalam, there is no cause whatever for anxiety, and with the recent heavy rains we have had, pasture must be coming on and agricultural operations, preliminary to sowing, be in full swing. In Bhadráchalam—even in the worst part—the people can be described more accurately as being on the verge of famine than as suffering from famine actually, or at any rate at all acutely. I saw no signs of emaciation anywhere, and Mr. Woodhouse, now at Dummagudem, has reported

none, though he has especial orders to let me know at once if the people begin to show signs of emaciation. Of course, the very old, the sick and cripples are in some cases looking thin and worn, but it is difficult to say how far this is due to the present hard times and how far to natural causes. In any case, the lepers and these kinds of people are just those who are being given gratuitous relief. The young and able bodied of both sexes were still in first rate condition when I left the taluk on the 22nd, and I do not think they are likely now to deteriorate, for, as soon as the rains set in they will not only be able to draw more abundant supplies from the jungle but I think prices will fall considerably and they will be able to get advances freely on the Vagu system from the river side Telegas, many of whom have now large supplies of grain but won't sell. I am, however, giving full particulars in a special report which I trust to be able to get off in two or three days and will therefore add nothing more here.

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Agency Division, Gódávari district, during the period ending the 31st of May 1897 based on the information received up to 25th May 1897 :—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and water-supply.—

		Rainfall during the period.	Expected rainfall.
Bhadráchalam taluk	...	1·70 on 23rd May 1897.	Is *nil*.
Polavaram division	...	One inch in Ballipadu and in a few other villages; no rain was recorded at Polavaram, the rain-registering station.	Information not given by the Deputy Tahsildar.
Chódavaramu division	...	2·03 during the fortnight.	*Nil.*
Yellavaram division	...	1·14 during the fortnight.	·46 inch of rain is expected.

There is no supply of water for irrigation purposes. Drinking water-supply is sufficient in the river-side villages of Bhadráchalam taluk and Polavaram division. In the interior villages difficulty is felt in obtaining water for drinking purposes.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops—Bhadráchalam taluk.—Podus are being burnt. *Polavaram Division.*—In a few villages the ryots began to sow "ganti." In two villages gingelly also was sown but the plants died away. *Chódavaramu Division.*—The early dry crops, viz., gingelly, ganti and chamu, have been sown. *Yellavaram Division.*—In some villages gingelly was sown. The plants are not promising. Relying on the rain that fell lately, the ryots have sown early dry crops in some villages of the three Deputy Tahsildars' divisions but the plants in some villages died altogether and in some others they are not promising.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Insufficient in the Bhadráchalam taluk. *Polavaram Division.*—The forests and the unreserved lands are dried up. Cholam stalks and branches of green trees are used in some places. Fodder is getting scarce. *Chódavaramu and Yellavaram.*—Insufficient.

Cattle of many villages of Bhadráchalam taluk have been sent to the Bastar state. Those that have been kept by the ryots are in somewhat poor condition and there is some mortality among the cattle.

Cattle diseases, foot and mouth disease, &c., are prevalent in Chódavaramu and Yellavaram divisions. The condition of cattle is getting worse in Polavaram division.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—Podus are being burnt in Bhadráchalam taluk. Early dry crops have been sown in some villages of the three Deputy Tahsildars' divisions but the crops died in almost all the villages.

There are cattle diseases in Chódavaramu and Yellavaram divisions. Fodder is getting scarce. The condition of cattle is, on the whole, not satisfactory.

The rain that has fallen should be of considerable service in making the roots in the jungles sprout. The hill people can now find them and dig them up with ease.

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 25th of May 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		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.	
Bhadráchalam ..	9	9	12	12	..	..	Generally stationary.
Kachavaram ..	8	9	14	14	..	..	
Waddigudem ..	9	9	16	14	..	..	Cholam slightly rising.
Polavaram	9½	10	15	14½	14	..	Rising in cholam.
Chódavaramu ..	10	10	20	18	..	..	
Addatigala	9½	9½	13	14	13	14	Rice rising.
Jaddangi	9½	9	12	14	13	14	Cholam falling.
Average ..	9·2	9·4	14·6	14·3	13·3	14	

Activity of trade.—Active in Polavaram and Chódavaramu divisions in rice and cholam. Elsewhere moderate. No imports or exports either by sea or rail.

Condition of the People.

On works—Bhadráchalam taluk.—As stated in the last fortnight's report a test-work has been opened here under the supervision of the Assistant Engineer. Two-hundred and sixty persons—Malas, Koyas and Madigas are attending the work. The Tahsildar has not given any information regarding their condition.

In the three Deputy Tahsildars' divisions very few ordinary works are in progress at present.

Note.—On 29th May 1897 the attendance of relief-workers—Malas, Koyas and Madigas—was 433 as noted below :—

Males	161
Females	174
Children	98
Total ..	433

The attendance is rather on the decrease owing to the recent rain that helped to start agricultural operations.

In villages.—In Bhadráchalam taluk, the Koyas are buying small quantities of cholam from the depôts opened by the committee. They are also partly living on ippa flower, dry tuniki fruits and leaves, &c.

In Polavaram division the Deputy Tahsildar says the condition of the Koyas and Reddies has become critical and they do not look as strong as before. They are now living solely upon tamarind stones. Provided, however, the monsoon is normal, they should get on well enough. I know of no reason why the sowcars should not make them advances as usual. The Koya always lives on credit.

In the other two Deputy Tahsildars' divisions, the hill people are living on toddy, roots and other jungle produce and their condition is normal.

Sickness and mortality—No deaths from starvation.

Remarks.—There has been cholera in Bhadráchalam taluk and Polavaram division. In the latter division 50 per cent. of the attacks proved fatal. The disease was imported by some beggars from the Nizam's Dominions. Measures were taken to cope with the disease and medicines were distributed :—

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Bhadráchalam-Dummagudem test work.	525	433	The Tahsildar of Bhadráchalam, in whose taluk a test work has been opened, has not given any information. He has been called upon to explain and supply the omission. The attendance fell from 525 on 15th May 1897 to 261 on 18th idem and rose to 433 on 29th idem.

Gratuitous relief—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise.—The Tahsildar, Bhadráchalam, has not furnished any information regarding the numbers relieved, though relief is being given in 36 villages.

Taluk.	Number of villages in which relief was given.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Bhadráchalam		36

Private charity.—The Rs. 2,000 placed at the disposal of the Collector by the Madras Famine Committee is being utilized in selling grain at reduced rates. Depôts have been opened at Peddamattapalli, Kunavaram, Kachavaram and Bhadráchalam, and the Revd. Mr. Cain is selling at the same rate as the Bhadráchalam rate at Dummagudem with Mission funds. Some 500 people a week have been thus relieved outside Dummagudem.

General Remarks.

I can unfortunately give no details with regard to the test relief work now started; it is not known what the condition of the workers is and how long they are likely to remain at it. It is pretty clear, however, that the distress is very limited at present and confined almost to the locality around Dummagudem. The whole taluk evidently wants careful watching so that the faintest signs of starvation may be detected. To this end energetic means have been adopted. There is one Deputy Collector up in the taluk already and Mr. Coleridge has just gone up to assist in the work of village inspection, &c. When the rain comes on, the work of bamboo cutting will recommence and a supply of roots will, I think, be obtainable.

Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and places visited.—None in this fortnight; the Special Assistant Agent was in charge of the Sub-Collector's division as well as his own, and hence had to remain at Rajahmundry.

Endorsement by V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Gódávari, dated Tanuku, 5th June 1897, No. 1731-Ver.

Forwarded.

2. Things outside Bhadráchalam in the agency call for no remark and give no occasion for anxiety and, even in Bhadráchalam itself, there is I think little danger, provided the monsoon sets in soon, and I trust it will now make its appearance in a day or two.

3. The worst part of the Bhadráchalam taluk is still the vicinity of Dummagudem, where there were 162 persons on gratuitous relief and 433 on relief works on the 29th ultimo. The relief-workers consist of 161 men, 174 women and 98 children. From the large number of women and children I infer that a large majority of them are Malas and Madigas whose women and children come freely to the works, whilst those of the Koyas do not, as they complain of the hard work, though they take things as easily as they can when at work. In future reports I have asked for caste particulars.

4. As soon as the monsoon bursts, the Malas and Madigas can be turned adrift as they will then have no difficulty in getting agricultural employment. Indeed they are sure to go themselves *en masse* when that event happens, and then the best course will, I think, be to close the works and put the Koyas now working, or at least most of them, on the gratuitous relief list as they will have their own cultivation to attend to. The gratuitous relief list at present appears to be very small, and I fear that none but the very old, the sick and cripples are now being admitted to this form of relief. It is of course open to abuse, but overstrictness appears to be a more serious error than overleniency, as it is better that some undeserving should get help than that one deserving man should be refused it. I have sent up orders that more liberality must be shown in the case of Koyas at any rate, especially if it be true, as Mr. Cain writes to

me under date of the 2nd, that the people are deteriorating physically. It may be so, but no one else has mentioned the fact and both the Tahsildar and Mr. Woodhouse have the strictest instructions to let me know the fact if they observe any signs of emaciation or physical deterioration.

5. Much relief has been afforded by Mr. Cain selling cholam to Koyas and Madigas at 16 seers per rupee—the cholam being purchased from the Tahsildar at cost price at Dummagudem and being part of that procured by me from Rajahmundry. During the week ending the 30th ultimo, Mr. Cain writes that he sold 2,473 seers to 790 persons and could have sold more, only his stock is exhausted and the Tahsildar had not sent him more. The great difficulty is transport from Kunavaram. Mr. Cain writes, no bandies will go from Dummagudem for grain on the excuse that fodder is not procurable on the road, whilst the Tahsildar who was at Kunavaram on the 30th, endeavouring to get bandies, writes that he could get very few, as the bandy-owners said they had sent their bullocks to Bastar to graze. I understand the Tahsildar is now getting some forward by *návas* by the river as far as Bhadráchalam, but this, of course, is slow and difficult work. I only trust that the river, which is reported to have risen a foot, may soon rise another two, when it will be possible to get boats forward to Bhadráchalam. At the same time the chief bandy-owners at Dummagudem are the well-to-do Koyas, and it is difficult to understand their unwillingness to send them for grain if they are so badly in want of it as the Revd. Mr. Cain says they are. I have sent orders to the Tahsildar to get grain forward somehow as it is required, and instructed Mr. Ward and Mr. Coleridge, the one to help him and the other to see the thing is done. No doubt, as Mr. Cain says, his difficulties are the opportunity of the Dummagudem Komatis, and I should not be surprised, if the latter had something to say to the difficulty in getting carts, for most of the cart-owners are, I imagine, in their power.

6. I have, meanwhile, called on Mr. Woodhouse, who is still detained by me at Dummagudem, to report on Mr. Cain's assertion that the people are deteriorating, and also ordered him to report if grain has come in, but I have no doubt it has by this time. I have also ordered the Tahsildar to have all the grain now stored at Kunavaram moved forward as quickly as possible to Bhadráchalam as being more central. Of course, enough for local requirements will be kept at Kunavaram, and if more is wanted there it will be got up from Rajahmundry, as the recent rise in the river renders navigation as far as Waddigudem fairly easy.

7. Rupees 1,000 towards the cost of clearing jungle in the vicinity of the graphite mines at Perakonda has been paid me by Messrs. Hall Wilson, and I have forwarded the money to Mr. Ward with orders to get the work done for the Company himself, as the Koyas have confidence in him and know him, and I do not know that this is the case with the Company's local manager.

8. Any further information I receive will be communicated to the Board on receipt.

Resolution—dated 18th June 1897, No. 448.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Famine Commissioner regrets to note the delay in the submission of these narratives from the district. The first was signed by the Special Assistant Agent on the 16th May and despatched on the 17th; it bears no date of receipt in the Collector's office; the Collector added his endorsement seventeen days later on 3rd June at head-quarters, but the paper was not despatched till the 8th. The second bears no date of despatch from the Divisional office; it contains information received up to 25th May, but was despatched from the Collector's office only on June 9th. A delay of a day or two may have been caused by the Collector being in camp, but considering that the information contained was received in Rajahmundry by May 25th, the narrative should have been despatched from the Collector's office before June 9th—fourteen days later.

3. The rainfall during the month in Bhadráchalam was nearly 2 inches, none being expected. Difficulty was experienced in obtaining drinking-water in the villages away from the river, but it does not appear that anything has been done to improve the supply. The Collector should apply for the funds he requires. Agricultural operations within the affected area consist of the cutting and burning of podus; cattle are said to be in poor condition.

4. Prices in Bhadráchalam taluk are said to be generally stationary; there appears, however, to have been a considerable rise in cholam at Kachavaram and Waddigudem. This is remarkable, as the stocks imported by the Collector lie at Kunavaram, within a few miles of these stations.

5. No report has been received by the Collector as to the condition of the people on works. Mr. Cain at Dummagudem reports that the people are deteriorating. It is not understood how this can be the case, as work is available and all those who are destitute but cannot work should be placed on gratuitous relief. It is doubtful, however, if this form of relief is being properly administered, the numbers relieved being so small. The total number on relief works on the 15th June rose to 4,674. In a demi-official received from the Collector it is suggested that Panchamas from the Nizam's Dominions are coming over for relief. No distinction should be made between them and natives of British territory. Mr. Woodhouse's report regarding gratuitous relief should be submitted for the information of the Famine Commissioner with the special report promised by the Collector in his first endorsement. The Collector should arrange for the inspection of the Polavaram division by one of his covenanted officers, or by Mr. Woodhouse, in order to verify the Deputy Tahsildar's report as to the condition of the people there. The numbers on test works had not shown much tendency to increase up to the end of the month; it is said that the recent rain has attracted some to the fields. It is not safe to count, as Mr. Brodie does, on being able to close the works when the monsoon breaks. As long as cholam stands near twelve measures at Bhadráchalam there must be distress, and the Panchamas are, probably, not land holders.

6. The report is, as usual, meagre and unsatisfactory, being based, not upon the personal knowledge of the Divisional officer, but upon the reports of subordinates. The Famine Commissioner is aware of the recent change of officers in the district. No Special Assistant Agent seems to have been appointed to succeed Mr. Hughes, but Mr. Phillips is in charge of the Special Assistant's office in addition to his own duties as Sub-Collector. Mr. Woodhouse is in Bhadráchalam and if, as is supposed, he is in charge of relief operations, it will be better for the narratives to be written by him, as he will then be able to record his own observations If Mr. Woodhouse is not in charge of the operations, Mr. Phillips should be requested to go to Bhadrá-chalam and supervise matters. The closing of relief is suggested by the Collector in paragraph 4 of his second endorsement when the monsoon comes. This will be a matter requiring local knowledge as well as discretion, and an officer of experience should be on the spot at the time.

7. The Collector is requested not to use the word "Mala" in future, and to instruct his Divisional officers accordingly. By the order of Government these classes are to be designated "Panchamas" in future.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 557, Revenue, dated 12th July 1897.

Miscellaneous. Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. Shaik Karim.

80 Copies.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies* 16

OW 2370/97.

G.O., No. 557, 12th July 1897.

JULY.

Fortnightly Narratives.

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting to Government — of the Special Assistant Agent's division, Gódávari district, for the period ending 15th and 31st May 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 18th June 1897, No. 448 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Agency division, Gódávari district, during the period ending 15th of May 1897, based on the information received up to 10th May 1897 :—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and water-supply.—

Bhadráchalam.—20 cents rain on the 1st and 2nd at Bhadráchalam. Expected rain is *nil.*

Polavaram Division.—1 inch 12 cents rain recorded on the 12th at Polavaram. In some of the villages of the division the rain on that date was very much less.

Yellavaram Division.—40 cents rain during the period against inches 1·57 expected.

Chódavaramu Division.—The rainfall during the period was inches 1·50 against expected average *nil.*

There is no supply of water for irrigation anywhere. In the interior difficulty is felt in obtaining sufficient water for drinking purposes.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—In Bhadráchalam taluk podus are being cut. In Chódavaramu and Yellavaram divisions the fields are being ploughed up to sow early dry crops. There are no standing crops.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—The cattle of some villages in Bhadráchalam taluk have been sent to the Bastar territory for want of fodder. The cattle suffer for want of sufficient fodder and water too in the interior.

In Polavaram division the condition of cattle is good. In Bolugonda Mutta in Chódavaramu division, cattle are suffering from foot and mouth diseases (Gallu వ్యాధి). In some villages of Yellavaram division there are cattle diseases. The ryots have been purchasing fodder from the Delta and storing it up.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—Podus are still being cut in the hill villages and burnt. The rain that fell has encouraged the ryots to some extent to sow early crops.

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 10th May 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		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.	
Bhadráchalam	9	9	12	12	13	..	
Kachavaram (Marrigudem range).	9	8	16	14	..	..	
Waddigudem (Rekápalle range).	9	9	16	16	..	..	Rising in rice and cholam.
Polavaram	9½	9½	15	15	..	..	
Chódavaramu	10	10	20	20	14	14	Stationary.
Yellavaram Division—							
Addategela	10	9½	13	13	..	..	
Jaddangi	10	9½	12	12	13	13	
Average ..	9·5	9·1	14·8	14·5	13·25	13·3	Rising in rice.

Activity of trade.—Active in rice and cholam. No imports or exports by sea or rail.

Condition of the People.

On works.—Silt-clearing in the Dummagudem anikat canal has been started as a test work by the Collector; from 3rd to 8th, 350 coolies have come to work but no details have been received by me as to their condition, &c.

There are very few ordinary works in progress at present.

In villages.—The condition of the people in villages is generally satisfactory. The Koyas and Reddies are living on toddy, roots and other jungle produce. They sell ippa flower and tamarind fruits and with the proceeds buy the necessaries of life. They have also got wild roots to eat.

Sickness and mortality.—There are no deaths from starvation. Cholera broke out in the village of Puchikapadu in Polavaram division. There were 25 attacks and five deaths, but the Deputy Tahsildar reports that the disease is not spreading. There is also cholera in some villages of Bhadráchalam taluk and an extra medical officer has been despatched by the District Medical Officer to cope with it.

Remarks.—The subordinate officers have again failed to report properly on the condition of the people, but so far as can be judged from their narratives and my own personal observation in Yellavaram, their condition is generally normal and they do not feel the pinch of scarcity. In the extreme north of Bhadráchalam, however, a test work appears to have attracted a fair number but no details are yet received.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluk.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Bhadráchalam	..	350	Silt-clearing, Public Works Department, Dummagudem anikat canal. This work has been opened as a test work by the Collector.
Total ..	..	350	

Gratuitous relief.—Nil.

Private charity.—Rs. 162 have been subscribed by the merchants of Dummagudem for the relief of distress.

General Remarks.

Rs. 2,000 have been sent by the Famine Committee and cholam depôts have been opened at Peddamattapalli, Kunavaram and Kachavaram for Koyas and Reddies. Cholam is sold at 20 seers a rupee, not exceeding 10 seers each at a time.

Inspection by District Officers.

(*Taluks and places visited*).—Yellavaram division, Timmapuram and Nellipudy.

The loans statement called for is *nil.*

Endorsement by V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Gódávari, dated Cocanada, 3rd June 1897, Dis. No. 1751-Ver.

Forwarded. Except in Bhadráchalam, there is no cause whatever for anxiety, and with the recent heavy rains we have had, pasture must be coming on and agricultural operations, preliminary to sowing, be in full swing. In Bhadráchalam—even in the worst part—the people can be described more accurately as being on the verge of famine than as suffering from famine actually, or at any rate at all acutely. I saw no signs of emaciation anywhere, and Mr. Woodhouse, now at Dummagudem, has reported

none, though he has especial orders to let me know at once if the people begin to show signs of emaciation. Of course, the very old, the sick and cripples are in some cases looking thin and worn, but it is difficult to say how far this is due to the present hard times and how far to natural causes. In any case, the lepers and these kinds of people are just those who are being given gratuitous relief. The young and able bodied of both sexes were still in first rate condition when I left the taluk on the 22nd, and I do not think they are likely now to deteriorate, for, as soon as the rains set in they will not only be able to draw more abundant supplies from the jungle but I think prices will fall considerably and they will be able to get advances freely on the Vagu system from the river side Telegas, many of whom have now large supplies of grain but won't sell. I am, however, giving full particulars in a special report which I trust to be able to get off in two or three days and will therefore add nothing more here.

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Agency Division, Gódávari district, during the period ending the 31st of May 1897 based on the information received up to 25th May 1897 :—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and water-supply.—

		Rainfall during the period.	Expected rainfall.
Bhadráchalam taluk	...	1·70 on 23rd May 1897.	Is *nil*.
Polavaram division	...	One inch in Ballipadu and in a few other villages; no rain was recorded at Polavaram, the rain-registering station.	Information not given by the Deputy Tahsildar.
Chódavaramu division	...	2·03 during the fortnight.	*Nil.*
Yellavaram division	...	1·14 during the fortnight.	·46 inch of rain is expected.

There is no supply of water for irrigation purposes. Drinking water-supply is sufficient in the river-side villages of Bhadráchalam taluk and Polavaram division. In the interior villages difficulty is felt in obtaining water for drinking purposes.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops—Bhadráchalam taluk.—Podus are being burnt. *Polavaram Division.*—In a few villages the ryots began to sow "ganti." In two villages gingelly also was sown but the plants died away. *Chódavaramu Division.*—The early dry crops, viz., gingelly, ganti and chamu, have been sown. *Yellavaram Division.*—In some villages gingelly was sown. The plants are not promising. Relying on the rain that fell lately, the ryots have sown early dry crops in some villages of the three Deputy Tahsildars' divisions but the plants in some villages died altogether and in some others they are not promising.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Insufficient in the Bhadráchalam taluk. *Polavaram Division.*—The forests and the unreserved lands are dried up. Cholam stalks and branches of green trees are used in some places. Fodder is getting scarce. *Chódavaramu and Yellavaram.*—Insufficient.

Cattle of many villages of Bhadráchalam taluk have been sent to the Bastar state. Those that have been kept by the ryots are in somewhat poor condition and there is some mortality among the cattle.

Cattle diseases, foot and mouth disease, &c., are prevalent in Chódavaramu and Yellavaram divisions. The condition of cattle is getting worse in Polavaram division.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—Podus are being burnt in Bhadráchalam taluk. Early dry crops have been sown in some villages of the three Deputy Tahsildars' divisions but the crops died in almost all the villages.

There are cattle diseases in Chódavaramu and Yellavaram divisions. Fodder is getting scarce. The condition of cattle is, on the whole, not satisfactory.

The rain that has fallen should be of considerable service in making the roots in the jungles sprout. The hill people can now find them and dig them up with ease.

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 25th of May 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		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.	
Bhadráchalam ..	9	9	12	12	..	..	Generally stationary.
Kachavaram ..	8	9	14	14	..	..	
Waddigudem ..	9	9	16	14	..	..	
Polavaram	9½	10	15	14½	14	..	Cholam slightly rising.
Chódavaramu ..	10	10	20	18	..	..	Rising in cholam.
Addatigala	9½	9½	13	14	13	14	Rice rising.
Jaddangi	9½	9	12	14	13	14	Cholam falling.
Average ..	9·2	9·4	14·6	14·3	13·3	14	

Activity of trade.—Active in Polavaram and Chódavaramu divisions in rice and cholam. Elsewhere moderate. No imports or exports either by sea or rail.

Condition of the People.

On works—Bhadróchalam taluk.—As stated in the last fortnight's report a test-work has been opened here under the supervision of the Assistant Engineer. Two-hundred and sixty persons—Malas, Koyas and Madigas are attending the work. The Tahsildar has not given any information regarding their condition.

In the three Deputy Tahsildars' divisions very few ordinary works are in progress at present.

Note.—On 29th May 1897 the attendance of relief-workers—Malas, Koyas and Madigas—was 433 as noted below :—

Males	161
Females	174
Children	98
Total ..	433

The attendance is rather on the decrease owing to the recent rain that helped to start agricultural operations.

In villages.—In Bhadráchalam taluk, the Koyas are buying small quantities of cholam from the depôts opened by the committee. They are also partly living on ippa flower, dry tuniki fruits and leaves, &c.

In Polavaram division the Deputy Tahsildar says the condition of the Koyas and Reddies has become critical and they do not look as strong as before. They are now living solely upon tamarind stones. Provided, however, the monsoon is normal, they should get on well enough. I know of no reason why the sowcars should not make them advances as usual. The Koya always lives on credit.

In the other two Deputy Tahsildars' divisions, the hill people are living on toddy, roots and other jungle produce and their condition is normal.

Sickness and mortality—No deaths from starvation.

Remarks.—There has been cholera in Bhadráchalam taluk and Polavaram division. In the latter division 50 per cent. of the attacks proved fatal. The disease was imported by some beggars from the Nizam's Dominions. Measures were taken to cope with the disease and medicines were distributed :—

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Bhadráchalam-Dummagudem test work.	525	433	The Tahsildar of Bhadráchalam, in whose taluk a test work has been opened, has not given any information. He has been called upon to explain and supply the omission. The attendance fell from 525 on 15th May 1897 to 261 on 18th idem and rose to 433 on 29th idem.

Gratuitous relief—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise.—The Tahsildar, Bhadráchalam, has not furnished any information regarding the numbers relieved, though relief is being given in 36 villages.

Taluk.	Number of villages in which relief was given.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Bhadráchalam		36

Private charity.—The Rs. 2,000 placed at the disposal of the Collector by the Madras Famine Committee is being utilized in selling grain at reduced rates. Depôts have been opened at Peddamattapalli, Kunavaram, Kachavaram and Bhadráchalam, and the Revd. Mr. Cain is selling at the same rate as the Bhadráchalam rate at Dummagudem with Mission funds. Some 500 people a week have been thus relieved outside Dummagudem.

General Remarks.

I can unfortunately give no details with regard to the test relief work now started; it is not known what the condition of the workers is and how long they are likely to remain at it. It is pretty clear, however, that the distress is very limited at present and confined almost to the locality around Dummagudem. The whole taluk evidently wants careful watching so that the faintest signs of starvation may be detected. To this end energetic means have been adopted. There is one Deputy Collector up in the taluk already and Mr. Coleridge has just gone up to assist in the work of village inspection, &c. When the rain comes on, the work of bamboo cutting will recommence and a supply of roots will, I think, be obtainable.

Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and places visited.—None in this fortnight; the Special Assistant Agent was in charge of the Sub-Collector's division as well as his own, and hence had to remain at Rajahmundry.

Endorsement by V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Gódávari, dated Tanuku, 5th June 1897, No. 1731-Ver.

Forwarded.

2. Things outside Bhadráchalam in the agency call for no remark and give no occasion for anxiety and, even in Bhadráchalam itself, there is I think little danger, provided the monsoon sets in soon, and I trust it will now make its appearance in a day or two.

3. The worst part of the Bhadráchalam taluk is still the vicinity of Dummagudem, where there were 162 persons on gratuitous relief and 433 on relief works on the 29th ultimo. The relief-workers consist of 161 men, 174 women and 98 children. From the large number of women and children I infer that a large majority of them are Malas and Madigas whose women and children come freely to the works, whilst those of the Koyas do not, as they complain of the hard work, though they take things as easily as they can when at work. In future reports I have asked for caste particulars.

4. As soon as the monsoon bursts, the Malas and Madigas can be turned adrift as they will then have no difficulty in getting agricultural employment. Indeed they are sure to go themselves *en masse* when that event happens, and then the best course will, I think, be to close the works and put the Koyas now working, or at least most of them, on the gratuitous relief list as they will have their own cultivation to attend to. The gratuitous relief list at present appears to be very small, and I fear that none but the very old, the sick and cripples are now being admitted to this form of relief. It is of course open to abuse, but overstrictness appears to be a more serious error than overleniency, as it is better that some undeserving should get help than that one deserving man should be refused it. I have sent up orders that more liberality must be shown in the case of Koyas at any rate, especially if it be true, as Mr. Cain writes to

me under date of the 2nd, that the people are deteriorating physically. It may be so, but no one else has mentioned the fact and both the Tahsildar and Mr. Woodhouse have the strictest instructions to let me know the fact if they observe any signs of emaciation or physical deterioration.

5. Much relief has been afforded by Mr. Cain selling cholam to Koyas and Madigas at 16 seers per rupee—the cholam being purchased from the Tahsildar at cost price at Dummagudem and being part of that procured by me from Rajahmundry. During the week ending the 30th ultimo, Mr. Cain writes that he sold 2,473 seers to 700 persons and could have sold more, only his stock is exhausted and the Tahsildar had not sent him more. The great difficulty is transport from Kunavaram. Mr. Cain writes, no bandies will go from Dummagudem for grain on the excuse that fodder is not procurable on the road, whilst the Tahsildar who was at Kunavaram on the 30th, endeavouring to get bandies, writes that he could get very few, as the bandy-owners said they had sent their bullocks to Bastar to graze. I understand the Tahsildar is now getting some forward by *návas* by the river as far as Bhadráchalam, but this, of course, is slow and difficult work. I only trust that the river, which is reported to have risen a foot, may soon rise another two, when it will be possible to get boats forward to Bhadráchalam. At the same time the chief bandy-owners at Dummagudem are the well-to-do Koyas, and it is difficult to understand their unwillingness to send them for grain if they are so badly in want of it as the Revd. Mr. Cain says they are. I have sent orders to the Tahsildar to get grain forward somehow as it is required, and instructed Mr. Ward and Mr. Coleridge, the one to help him and the other to see the thing is done. No doubt, as Mr. Cain says, his difficulties are the opportunity of the Dummagudem Komatis, and I should not be surprised, if the latter had something to say to the difficulty in getting carts, for most of the cart-owners are, I imagine, in their power.

6. I have, meanwhile, called on Mr. Woodhouse, who is still detained by me at Dummagudem, to report on Mr. Cain's assertion that the people are deteriorating, and also ordered him to report if grain has come in, but I have no doubt it has by this time. I have also ordered the Tahsildar to have all the grain now stored at Kunavaram moved forward as quickly as possible to Bhadráchalam as being more central. Of course, enough for local requirements will be kept at Kunavaram, and if more is wanted there it will be got up from Rajahmundry, as the recent rise in the river renders navigation as far as Waddigudem fairly easy.

7. Rupees 1,000 towards the cost of clearing jungle in the vicinity of the graphite mines at Perakonda has been paid me by Messrs. Hall Wilson, and I have forwarded the money to Mr. Ward with orders to get the work done for the Company himself, as the Koyas have confidence in him and know him, and I do not know that this is the case with the Company's local manager.

8. Any further information I receive will be communicated to the Board on receipt.

Resolution—dated 18th June 1897, No. 448.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Famine Commissioner regrets to note the delay in the submission of these narratives from the district. The first was signed by the Special Assistant Agent on the 16th May and despatched on the 17th; it bears no date of receipt in the Collector's office; the Collector added his endorsement seventeen days later on 3rd June at head-quarters, but the paper was not despatched till the 8th. The second bears no date of despatch from the Divisional office; it contains information received up to 25th May, but was despatched from the Collector's office only on June 9th. A delay of a day or two may have been caused by the Collector being in camp, but considering that the information contained was received in Rajahmundry by May 25th, the narrative should have been despatched from the Collector's office before June 9th—fourteen days later.

3. The rainfall during the month in Bhadráchalam was nearly 2 inches, none being expected. Difficulty was experienced in obtaining drinking-water in the villages away from the river, but it does not appear that anything has been done to improve the supply. The Collector should apply for the funds he requires. Agricultural operations within the affected area consist of the cutting and burning of podus; cattle are said to be in poor condition.

4. Prices in Bhadráchalam taluk are said to be generally stationary; there appears, however, to have been a considerable rise in cholam at Kachavaram and Waddigudem. This is remarkable, as the stocks imported by the Collector lie at Kunavaram, within a few miles of these stations.

5. No report has been received by the Collector as to the condition of the people on works. Mr. Cain at Dummagudem reports that the people are deteriorating. It is not understood how this can be the case, as work is available and all those who are destitute but cannot work should be placed on gratuitous relief. It is doubtful, however, if this form of relief is being properly administered, the numbers relieved being so small. The total number on relief works on the 15th June rose to 4,674. In a demi-official received from the Collector it is suggested that Panchamas from the Nizam's Dominions are coming over for relief. No distinction should be made between them and natives of British territory. Mr. Woodhouse's report regarding gratuitous relief should be submitted for the information of the Famine Commissioner with the special report promised by the Collector in his first endorsement. The Collector should arrange for the inspection of the Polavaram division by one of his covenanted officers, or by Mr. Woodhouse, in order to verify the Deputy Tahsildar's report as to the condition of the people there. The numbers on test works had not shown much tendency to increase up to the end of the month; it is said that the recent rain has attracted some to the fields. It is not safe to count, as Mr. Brodie does, on being able to close the works when the monsoon breaks. As long as cholam stands near twelve measures at Bhadráchalam there must be distress, and the Panchamas are, probably, not land holders.

6. The report is, as usual, meagre and unsatisfactory, being based, not upon the personal knowledge of the Divisional officer, but upon the reports of subordinates. The Famine Commissioner is aware of the recent change of officers in the district. No Special Assistant Agent seems to have been appointed to suceeed Mr. Hughes, but Mr. Phillips is in charge of the Special Assistant's office in addition to his own duties as Sub-Collector. Mr. Woodhouse is in Bhadráchalam and if, as is supposed, he is in charge of relief operations, it will be better for the narratives to be written by him, as he will then be able to record his own observations If Mr. Woodhouse is not in charge of the operations, Mr. Phillips should be requested to go to Bhadrá-chalam and supervise matters. The closing of relief is suggested by the Collector in paragraph 4 of his second endorsement when the monsoon comes. This will be a matter requiring local knowledge as well as discretion, and an officer of experience should be on the spot at the time.

7. The Collector is requested not to use the word "Mala" in future, and to instruct his Divisional officers accordingly. By the order of Government these classes are to be designated "Panchamas" in future.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 557, Revenue, dated 12th July 1897.

Miscellaneous. Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. Shaik Karim.

80 Copies.