Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 2152 W

DATED 6th August 97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Fortnightly Narrative. Bro. Rev. Deptt recording Bd's Proc: submitting to Govt, with remarks, — of the Vizagapatam District for the period ending 15th June 1897, comtd: to the Supdg Engineer I circ.

N
7C 6-8-97

[P. W. 24. 5,000—30-11-06.]

Indexed. 7/14

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 No: 7453

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

No. 1995 W&4 / 23-7-97

Recd. 27.7 } 1897.
Regd. 27.7. }

Enclosures –

Spare copies 66.

G.O., No. 571, 13th July 1897.

No 2152 W&6.8.97

JULY.

Communicated to the S.S.I. circle.

30/7/97

S.S.I circle No 586 dt 6/8/97

Fortnightly Narrative.

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

O.L.S. 336
R2/8

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 28th June 1897, No. 465 :—

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

State of the Country.

Rainfall and water-supply.—

District rainfall.	Actual rainfall in inches.	Expected rainfall in inches.
In the fortnight	1·15	2·74
Up to the fortnight	5·21	6·41

There has been but little rain in the fortnight, and this has been unfortunate as the very favourable weather of the latter half of May encouraged dry sowings, some of which are now in a bad way for want of rain.

Drinking water is generally sufficient, and that for cattle is everywhere procurable.

Water is not sufficient for irrigation.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—Agricultural operations are reported to be brisk in the Head Assistant Collector's division and in the Palkonda taluk. But elsewhere they are decidedly less active than at the beginning of the fortnight and at the end of last month for want of good showers. The standing crops, cumbu, ragi and gingelly are generally much in want of rain.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture generally procurable, but drying up again in parts. Fodder very scarce and dear. There is no reason for anxiety about cattle.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—The improvement in prospects which took place in the latter part of last month has hardly been maintained, except perhaps in Palkonda taluk and the Head Assistant Collector's division. There is of course no real reason for as much anxiety as exists, for it is as yet barely time for the monsoon to set in, even if it were early, but showers were expected and these have been in many places not received, and ryots who speculated in early sowings will lose. The state of the country is nothing out of the way for the season, but a most painful tension and feeling of anxiety exists among all classes.

Food supplies and the State of the Markets.

Prices of principal food-grains at principal markets in the affected tracts, in seers of 80 tolas per rupee, for the period ending 15th of June 1897.

Stations.	Rice. End of last period.	Rice. End of current period.	Ragi. End of last period.	Ragi. End of current period.	Cumbu. End of last period.	Cumbu. End of current period.	Remarks.
1. Pârvatipuram	9·43	8·61	14·65	12·63	15·40	14·00	The rise is very serious, and is, so far as I can ascertain, due almost entirely to the Komatics, who are holding back in hopes of a further rise caused by delay or failure of rain. It is expected that good rain will ease off the prices, but this may not be the case.
2. Sálúru	9·22	8·20	14·40	10·80	13·30	10·50	
3. Palkonda	9·04	8·47	13·13	12·12	13·36	11·88	
4. Gajapatinagaram ..	9·02	8·20	13·32	11·10	13·68	10·80	
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7. Vizagapatam	7·91	7·68	12·82	12·32	12·87	12·37	
8. Chódavaramu	9·50	9·00	17·29	15·47	16·72	14·96	
9. Anakápalle	9·00	8·50	14·56	12·28	..	13·20	
10. Yellamanchili ..	9·00	9·00	13·65	11·37	14·08	..	
11. Narasapatnam ..	9·40	9·00	13·44	11·76	14·58	12·96	
Average ..	9·04	8·41	13·94	11·99	14·46	12·46	

Activity of trade—

	Exports. MDS.	Imports. MDS.
By sea, for the period ending 12th June 1897	...	910
By rail, do. 12th „ „	1,269	37,197
	CARTS.	CARTS.
By road from Jeypore, for the period ending 12th June 1897.	...	4,419

Trade fairly active, less so in dry grains than in rice, but traders inclined to hold on for a rise.

Condition of the People.

On works.—Good as a rule.

In Villages.—The high prices are no doubt telling to a certain extent on the poorer classes. I am extending relief by kitchens as fast as possible and have also now issued orders for the commencement of village relief by grain doles. I sent Mr. Heaney to the north of Chípurupalle taluk—a part of which I had suspicions—to inspect the Chilakalapalem neighbourhood and thence to Pondur to enquire into the weavers again. I am glad to say he reported no distress and that the Pondur weavers, some 200 of whose houses he visited, had their looms generally full and refused relief. At Rajam, another weaving centre in south of Palkonda taluk, their condition was found less satisfactory and I have arranged to start a weavers' depôt and a kitchen there. This will be in swing this week. The attention of all Divisional Officers has been most urgently drawn to the necessity for careful enquiry and watchfulness and they have been instructed to ask for Circle Inspectors wherever wanted. Some of these I am just about to appoint. Preparation of village lists is nearly complete and there need be no delay in commencing this form of relief.

Sickness and Mortality.—Cholera is prevalent in parts. Otherwise public health is not bad.

Remarks.—Rain is urgently looked for, also a fall in prices. Without these the position will soon become serious.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed: Last fortnight.	Number employed: This fortnight.	Remarks.
Relief works.			
I. Vizianagram—			
(1) Pusapatirega	3,716	4,018	* Closed on the 9th June 1897. When agricultural work, and specially transplantation, became general in the neighbourhood, I closed the Kondakarla work, on which there was one man to 27 women and children. The Head Assistant has been directed to watch results carefully. Elsewhere, numbers have fluctuated with the employment available in the neighbourhood. With present high prices, of course, the wage is very high and to that extent attractive. Should the monsoon fail many more works must be opened, but there really seems, in spite of present anxiety, no reason to anticipate this calamity.
II. Bimlipatam—			
(1) Dakmarri	3,523	2,642	
(2) Padmanabham	2,429	2,796	
III. Vizagapatam—			
(1) Gazuvaka	1,158	995	
(2) Pandur	1,608	2,043	
IV. Sarvasiddhi—			
(1) Kondakarla	1,773	* ..	
Total ..	14,207	12,497	
Test-relief work.			
I. Chepurupalli—			
(1) Ranastalam	547	547	
Total ..	547	547	
Grand Total ..	14,754	13,044	

Gratuitous relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

Taluks.	Number relieved.							
	At kitchens.				In poor-houses.		In villages.	
	Dependants.		Others.					
	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.
Government.								
I. Párvatípuram taluk—								
(1) Kitchen at Párvatípuram ..	..	..	173	357	..	..	..	..
II. Chipurupalle taluk—								
(1) Kitchen at Ranastalam	79	85	192	226	..	..	..	..
III. Vizianagram taluk—								
(1) Kitchen at Pusapatirega ..	103	114	64	74	..	..	..	..
(2) Do. at Vizianagram ..	..	..	238	297	..	..	..	..
IV. Bimlipatam taluk—								
(1) Kitchen at Dakmarri	194	253	17	27	..	..	..	..
(2) Do. at Padmanabham ..	136	164	115	144	..	..	..	1
(3) Do. at Bhogapuram ..	..	..	245	165	..	..	..	..
(4) Do. at Talavalasa	..	..	..	323	..	..	..	..
V. Srungavarapukota taluk—								
(1) Kitchen at Tannikapalli ..	..	..	..	159	..	..	..	..
VI. Vizagapatam taluk—								
(1) Kitchen at Gazuvaka	187	21	39	211	..	..	..	..
(2) Do. at Pandur	198	225	43	40	..	..	..	..
VII. Sarvasiddhi taluk—								
(1) Kitchen at Kondakarla	73	..	198	336	..	..	..	..
Total ..	970	832	1,324	2,352	..	..	..	1
Rajah Gajapati Rau's kitchens.								
I. Vizagapatam taluk	..	..	233	284	..	..	..	..
II. Anakápalle taluk	..	..	146	173	..	..	..	..
III. Sarvasiddhi taluk	..	..	523	716	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	902	1,173	..	..	..	..

Note.—Kitchen-relief is being extended as much as possible and village-relief will be inaugurated immediately.

Weavers' relief—Nil. A weavers' depôt will be started this week at Rázampéta in Palkonda taluk.

Private charity.—The private charities, which I have hitherto reported, continue to be administered.

General Remarks.

The prospects have not maintained the improvement with which the fortnight opened. Rain has not fallen exactly when required. This has injured some of the early sowings—always of a speculative character—and has enabled the Komatics to raise prices to a figure not justified by anything short of the prospect of another year of failure. Needless, to say, there is no real reason to anticipate anything of the kind. The weather is very promising in appearance—generally clouded, and the official forecast for this part of the world is favourable. Looking at the gauge records I find many very prosperous years in which there was but little rain at all in the month of June. Still it is impossible to avoid sharing the feeling of strained anxiety which affects every one concerned. The high prices have of course enormously enlarged the area of distress, which is necessarily felt to that extent even in taluks not hitherto considered affected. It has been so sudden, too, that it has not been anticipated or provided against. The remedy seems to be extended relief in villages and kitchens. It is rather late to be opening new works, until or unless it is accepted that the monsoon is going to fail, which, as I said, there is no reason to suppose. I have, however, requested the Superintending Engineer not to reduce the stock of famine tools in this district, as I found he was sending them to Ganjám.

I am endeavouring to watch and keep pace with the developments of the position. Everything depends on the weather.

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

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.						Other purposes.						Total.						Number of wells	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Completed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1. Palkonda ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. Sarvasiddhi ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3. Golgonda ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4. Srungavarapukota ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Parvatipur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	3	700	1	100	4	1,900	11	1,779	11	1,775	58	13,680	14	2,479	12	1,875	67	15,580	..	1

Taluks.	Purchase of fodder.						Cattle and seed-grain.						Total.						Number of wells	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Completed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
1. Palkonda ..	(a) 15	540	(a) 15	540	..	..	226	9,976	226	9,976	..	..	194	14,662	194	10,516	194	14,662	..	..
2. Sarvasiddhi ..	1	12	1	12	..	..	86	5,880	86	5,880	..	..	1	200	1	200	1	200	..	..
3. Golgonda ..	(b) 715	13,073	(b) 684	12,675	..	..	(b) 715	16,772	(b) 681	16,382	..	..	226	44,300	87	5,892	231	44,410	..	..
4. Srungavarapukota ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(b) 715	24,453	(b) 715	29,846	(b) 470	27,446	..	..
5. Parvatipur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	731	13,625	700	13,227	473	13,174	1,037	33,629	906	32,138	953	83,444	1,028	46,354	997	45,415	995	86,818	1	..

(a) These applications are included in the figure shown in column 24.

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

Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and places visited.—The Principal Assistant Collector visited all relief works and kitchens in his division and also centres proposed for other kitchens, as well as several villages in the Bimlipatam taluk.

The Head Assistant Collector was in camp all the fortnight in the Sarvasiddhi, Anakápalle and Viravilli taluks.

The Senior Assistant Collector visited a good many villages in Párvatipur and Bobbili taluks.

The Huzur Deputy Collector visited the relief works at Pendurti and Gazuvaka, kitchen (new) at Tummikapalli and villages surrounding.

Owing to much work connected with the Vizianagram estate, the Jubilee and other pressing matters, I have been kept at head-quarters a good deal during the fortnight. I visited Vizianagram, Pendurti (work), Sontyam (new kitchen) and checked the village lists in several villages in Vizagapatam and Bimlipatam taluks.

Resolution—No. 465, dated 28th June 1897.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall during the period under report was disappointing, being less than half the amount expected. This was most unfortunate, as the favourable fall in the latter half of May had encouraged dry sowings. These were in a bad way on June 15th, and since then there has been little or no rain in the district littoral, and the early sowings, which the Collector describes as always speculative, are probably lost. Drinking-water for man and beast was generally sufficient. Pasture was generally procurable, but fodder was scarce and dear. The Collector, however, has no anxiety about cattle.

3. Prices again rose smartly,—ragi, the staple of the district, exhibiting a rise of 25 per cent., being dearer in five out of ten stations than in the corresponding month of 1878. The cause assigned is the holding back of the Komatis in anticipation of a failure of the rain. The comparative positions of prices are shown below :—

Rate.	Measures per rupee.		
	Rice.	Ragi.	Cumbu.
Normal	15·0	28·0	30·0
Warning	12·9	21·0	22·5
Scarcity	9·0	14·0	15·0
Current	8·4	12·0	12·6
June 1892	10·1	15·8	16·5
June 1878	7·2	11·7	12·3

Trade was fairly active.

4. The condition of the people was on the whole, fairly good. The recent rise in prices has, however, increased the intensity of distress, and the Collector finds it necessary to extend considerably the administration of gratuitous relief. Since the submission of his narrative, he has found it necessary to apply for special Assistants to relieve himself and the Principal Assistant of their ordinary work, for two additional Special Magistrates and for the loan of four officers from the Salt department to work as taluk relief officers. Circumstances have changed rapidly for the worse during the past fortnight, and the future, that seemed full of promise, is now a matter of speculation and doubt. As the Collector says, "a most painful tension and feeling of anxiety exists among all classes." Mr. Horne is determined not to be caught napping; but he is no alarmist. He was through the famine of 1889 in Ganjám, and knows the foe he has to fight. The numbers on relief works show a falling off of over 11 per

cent. as compared with the figures of the previous fortnight, but this was due to the employment in the fields given by the fair rainfall of the latter half of the preceding month.

5. The progress in the disbursement of loans is shown by the following figures :—

Amount disbursed. Rs.	Up to the end of the week ending
33,689	29th May.
44,940	5th June.
48,690	12th ,,
52,633	19th ,,

The work should be expedited; there are many applications pending in Sarvasiddhi and Golgonda, and regarding the latter, the Famine Commissioner would be glad if the Collector would express his opinion as to whether they are *bonâ fide* wanted or not.

6. There need be no anxiety as to the two northern districts. They could not possibly be in safer hands than those of Messrs. Horne and Taylor.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 571, Revenue, dated 13th July 1897.

Miscellaneous. Recorded.

(True Extract.)

for Ag. Secretary to Government.

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

Ed. W. D'Mos.

80 Copies.

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.

Ind. Shaik Karim.

80 Copies.

Public Works Department

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Read. / Regd. } 1897. Enclosures / Spare copies

G.O., No. 571, 13th July 1897.

No 2152 dt 96-8-97
Communicated to the
S.G.I circle.

JULY.

Sdg D. R. C
M

To
The S.G.I. circle.

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Drinking water is generally sufficient, and that for cattle is everywhere procurable.

Water is not sufficient for irrigation.

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Condition of the People.

On works.—Good as a rule.

In Villages.—The high prices are no doubt telling to a certain extent on the poorer classes. I am extending relief by kitchens as fast as possible and have also now issued orders for the commencement of village relief by grain doles. I sent Mr. Heaney to the north of Chípurupalle taluk—a part of which I had suspicions—to inspect the Chilakalapalem neighbourhood and thence to Pondur to enquire into the weavers again. I am glad to say he reported no distress and that the Pondur weavers, some 200 of whose houses he visited, had their looms generally full and refused relief. At Rajam, another weaving centre in south of Palkonda taluk, their condition was found less satisfactory and I have arranged to start a weavers' depôt and a kitchen there. This will be in swing this week. The attention of all Divisional Officers has been most urgently drawn to the necessity for careful enquiry and watchfulness and they have been instructed to ask for Circle Inspectors wherever wanted. Some of these I am just about to appoint. Preparation of village lists is nearly complete and there need be no delay in commencing this form of relief.

Sickness and Mortality.—Cholera is prevalent in parts. Otherwise public health is not bad.

Remarks.—Rain is urgently looked for, also a fall in prices. Without these the position will soon become serious.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed: Last fortnight.	Number employed: This fortnight.	Remarks.
Relief works.			
I. Vizianagram—			
(1) Pusapatirega	3,716	4,018	* Closed on the 9th June 1897. When agricultural work, and specially transplantation, became general in the neighbourhood, I closed the Kondakarla work, on which there was one man to 27 women and children. The Head Assistant has been directed to watch results carefully. Elsewhere, numbers have fluctuated with the employment available in the neighbourhood. With present high prices, of course, the wage is very high and to that extent attractive. Should the monsoon fail many more works must be opened, but there really seems, in spite of present anxiety, no reason to anticipate this calamity.
II. Bimlipatam—			
(1) Dakmarri	3,523	2,642	
(2) Padmanabham	2,429	2,796	
III. Vizagapatam—			
(1) Gazuvaka	1,158	995	
(2) Pandur	1,608	2,043	
IV. Sarvasiddhi—			
(1) Kondakarla	1,773	* ..	
Total ..	14,207	12,497	
Test-relief work.			
I. Chepurupalli—			
(1) Ranastalam	547	547	
Total ..	547	547	
Grand Total ..	14,754	13,044	

Gratuitous relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

Taluks.	Number relieved.							
	At kitchens.				In poor-houses.		In villages.	
	Dependants.		Others.					
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Government.								
I. Párvatípuram taluk—								
(1) Kitchen at Párvatípuram	..	..	173	357	..	..	..	..
II. Chipurupalle taluk—								
(1) Kitchen at Ranastalam	..	79	85	192	226	..	..	..	..
III. Vizianagram taluk—								
(1) Kitchen at Pusapatirega	..	103	114	64	74	..	..	..	..
(2) Do. at Vizianagram	..	..	..	238	297	..	..	..	..
IV. Bimlipatam taluk—								
(1) Kitchen at Dakmarri	..	194	253	17	27	..	..	..	..
(2) Do. at Padmanabham	..	136	154	115	144	..	..	..	..
(3) Do. at Bhogapuram	..	..	..	245	165	..	..	..	1
(4) Do. at Talavalasa	..	..	..	..	323	..	..	..	..
V. Srungavarapukota taluk—								
(1) Kitchen at Tunnikapalli	..	..	..	..	152	..	..	..	..
VI. Vizagapatam taluk—								
(1) Kitchen at Gazuvaka	..	187	21	39	211	..	..	..	..
(2) Do. at Pandur	..	198	225	43	40	..	..	..	..
VII. Sarvasiddhi taluk—								
(1) Kitchen at Kondakarla	..	73	..	198	336	..	..	..	..
Total	..	970	832	1,324	2,352	..	..	..	1
Rajah Gajapati Rao's kitchens.								
I. Vizagapatam taluk	.. .. ..	..	..	233	284	..	..	..	..
II. Anakápalle taluk	.. .. ..	..	..	146	173	..	..	..	..
III. Sarvasiddhi taluk	.. .. ..	..	..	523	716	..	..	..	..
Total	..	..	..	902	1,173	..	..	..	..

Note.—Kitchen-relief is being extended as much as possible and village-relief will be inaugurated immediately.

Weavers' relief—Nil. A weavers' depôt will be started this week at Rázampéta in Palkonda taluk.

Private charity.—The private charities, which I have hitherto reported, continue to be administered.

General Remarks.

The prospects have not maintained the improvement with which the fortnight opened. Rain has not fallen exactly when required. This has injured some of the early sowings—always of a speculative character—and has enabled the Komaties to raise prices to a figure not justified by anything short of the prospect of another year of failure. Needless, to say, there is no real reason to anticipate anything of the kind. The weather is very promising in appearance—generally clouded, and the official forecast for this part of the world is favourable. Looking at the gauge records I find many very prosperous years in which there was but little rain at all in the month of June. Still it is impossible to avoid sharing the feeling of strained anxiety which affects every one concerned. The high prices have of course enormously enlarged the area of distress, which is necessarily felt to that extent even in taluks not hitherto considered affected. It has been so sudden, too, that it has not been anticipated or provided against. The remedy seems to be extended relief in villages and kitchens. It is rather late to be opening new works, until or unless it is accepted that the monsoon is going to fail, which, as I said, there is no reason to suppose. I have, however, requested the Superintending Engineer not to reduce the stock of famine tools in this district, as I found he was sending them to Ganjám.

I am endeavouring to watch and keep pace with the developments of the position. Everything depends on the weather.

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

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.						Other purposes.						Total.				Number of wells	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
1. Palkonda	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1,000	7	1,000	11	2,070	7	1,000	7	1,000	11	2,070	..	..
2. Sarvasiddhi	3	700	1	100	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	5,410	3	700	1	100	20	5,410	..	1
3. Golgonda	..	..	..	..	4	1,900	2	375	2	375	16	3,800	2	375	2	375	16	3,800	..	..
4. Srungavarapukota ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	400	2	400	2	100	2	400	2	400	2	100	..	..
5. Parvatipur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	2,300	..	..	..	..	4	2,300	..	..
Total ..	3	700	1	100	4	1,900	11	1,775	11	1,775	53	13,680	14	2,475	12	1,875	57	16,680	..	1

Taluks.	Purchase of fodder.						Cattle and seed-grain.						Total.							
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.			
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39		
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
1. Palkonda	(a) 16	640	(a) 15	540	..	..	226	9,976	226	9,976	{ 194 / 1	{ 14,662 / 300	{ 226 / 87	10,516 / 5,892	226	10,516	{ 194 / 1	{ 14,662 / 300		
2. Sarvasiddhi	..	..	..	..	..	..	86	5,880	86	5,880	288	44,200	(b) 715	29,846	(b) 684	5,892 / 29,007	291	44,410 / 37,446		
3. Golgonda	(b) 715	13,073	12 / (b) 684	12,675	3 / (b) 470	210 / 12,964	(b) 715	16,773	(b) 684	16,332	(b) 470	24,482	..	..	..	..	(b) 470	37,446		
4. Srungavarapukota ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
5. Parvatipur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Total ..	731	13,625	700	13,227	473	13,174	1,027	32,629	996	32,188	963	83,644	1,028	46,264	997	45,415	955	96,818		

(a) These applications are included in the figure shown in column 28.

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

Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and places visited.—The Principal Assistant Collector visited all relief works and kitchens in his division and also centres proposed for other kitchens, as well as several villages in the Bimlipatam taluk.

The Head Assistant Collector was in camp all the fortnight in the Sarvasiddhi, Anakápalle and Viravilli taluks.

The Senior Assistant Collector visited a good many villages in Párvatipur and Bobbili taluks.

The Huzur Deputy Collector visited the relief works at Pendurti and Gazuvaka, kitchen (new) at Tummikapalli and villages surrounding.

Owing to much work connected with the Vizianagram estate, the Jubilee and other pressing matters, I have been kept at head-quarters a good deal during the fortnight. I visited Vizianagram, Pendurti (work), Sontyam (new kitchen) and checked the village lists in several villages in Vizagapatám and Bimlipatam taluks.

Resolution—No. 465, dated 28th June 1897.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall during the period under report was disappointing, being less than half the amount expected. This was most unfortunate, as the favourable fall in the latter half of May had encouraged dry sowings. These were in a bad way on June 15th, and since then there has been little or no rain in the district littoral, and the early sowings, which the Collector describes as always speculative, are probably lost. Drinking-water for man and beast was generally sufficient. Pasture was generally procurable, but fodder was scarce and dear. The Collector, however, has no anxiety about cattle.

3. Prices again rose smartly,—ragi, the staple of the district, exhibiting a rise of 25 per cent., being dearer in five out of ten stations than in the corresponding month of 1878. The cause assigned is the holding back of the Komatis in anticipation of a failure of the rain. The comparative positions of prices are shown below :—

Rate.	Measures per rupee.		
	Rice.	Ragi.	Cumbu.
Normal	15·0	28·0	30·0
Warning	12·0	21·0	22·5
Scarcity	9·0	14·0	15·0
Current	8·4	12·0	12·5
June 1892	10·1	15·8	16·5
June 1878	7·2	11·7	12·3

Trade was fairly active.

4. The condition of the people was on the whole, fairly good. The recent rise in prices has, however, increased the intensity of distress, and the Collector finds it necessary to extend considerably the administration of gratuitous relief. Since the submission of his narrative, he has found it necessary to apply for special Assistants to relieve himself and the Principal Assistant of their ordinary work, for two additional Special Magistrates and for the loan of four officers from the Salt department to work as taluk relief officers. Circumstances have changed rapidly for the worse during the past fortnight, and the future, that seemed full of promise, is now a matter of speculation and doubt. As the Collector says, "a most painful tension and feeling of anxiety exists among all classes." Mr. Horne is determined not to be caught napping; but he is no alarmist. He was through the famine of 1889 in Ganjám, and knows the foe he has to fight. The numbers on relief works show a falling off of over 11 per

cent. as compared with the figures of the previous fortnight, but this was due to the employment in the fields given by the fair rainfall of the latter half of the preceding month.

5. The progress in the disbursement of loans is shown by the following figures :—

Amount disbursed. Rs.	Up to the end of the week ending
33,689	29th May.
44,940	5th June.
48,690	12th „
52,633	19th „

The work should be expedited : there are many applications pending in Sarvasiddhi and Golgonda, and regarding the latter, the Famine Commissioner would be glad if the Collector would express his opinion as to whether they are *bonâ fide* wanted or not.

6. There need be no anxiety as to the two northern districts. They could not possibly be in safer hands than those of Messrs. Horne and Taylor.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 571, Revenue, dated 13th July 1897.

Miscellaneous. Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. W. D'Moss.

60 Copies.

Public Works Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. Enclosures

Regd. } Spare copies

G.O., No. 571, 13th July 1897.

P. 2152 W 26.8.97
Communicated to the
S.E.-I circle.

JULY.

Ltg Dte. c
W

To
The S.E.-I circle.

Fortnightly Narrative.

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

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 28th June 1897, No. 465 :—

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

State of the Country.

Rainfall and water-supply.—

District rainfall.	Actual rainfall in inches.	Expected rainfall in inches.
In the fortnight	1·15	2·74
Up to the fortnight	5·21	6·41

There has been but little rain in the fortnight, and this has been unfortunate as the very favourable weather of the latter half of May encouraged dry sowings, some of which are now in a bad way for want of rain.

Drinking water is generally sufficient, and that for cattle is everywhere procurable.

Water is not sufficient for irrigation.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—Agricultural operations are reported to be brisk in the Head Assistant Collector's division and in the Palkonda taluk. But elsewhere they are decidedly less active than at the beginning of the fortnight and at the end of last month for want of good showers. The standing crops, cumbu, ragi and gingelly are generally much in want of rain.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture generally procurable, but drying up again in parts. Fodder very scarce and dear. There is no reason for anxiety about cattle.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—The improvement in prospects which took place in the latter part of last month has hardly been maintained, except perhaps in Palkonda taluk and the Head Assistant Collector's division. There is of course no real reason for as much anxiety as exists, for it is as yet barely time for the monsoon to set in, even if it were early, but showers were expected and these have been in many places not received, and ryots who speculated in early sowings will lose. The state of the country is nothing out of the way for the season, but a most painful tension and feeling of anxiety exists among all classes.

Food supplies and the State of the Markets.

Prices of principal food-grains at principal markets in the affected tracts, in seers of 80 tolas per rupee, for the period ending 15th of June 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		Ragi.		Cumbu.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
1. Párvatipuram	9·43	8·61	14·65	12·63	15·40	14·00	The rise is very serious, and is, so far as I can ascertain, due almost entirely to the Komatics, who are holding back in hopes of a further rise caused by delay or failure of rain. It is expected that good rain will ease off the prices, but this may not be the case.
2. Sáluru	9·22	8·20	14·40	10·80	13·30	10·50	
3. Palkonda	9·04	8·47	13·13	12·12	13·86	11·88	
4. Gajapatinagaram ..	9·02	8·20	13·32	11·10	13·68	10·80	
5. Chipurupalle	9·84	7·79	14·04	11·52	17·28	11·52	
6. Vizianagram	8·13	8·13	12·12	10·60	12·87	..	
7. Vizagapatam	7·91	7·68	12·82	12·32	12·87	12·37	
8. Chódavaramu	9·50	9·00	17·29	15·47	16·72	14·96	
9. Anakápalle	9·00	8·50	14·56	12·28	..	13·20	
10. Yellamanchili ..	9·00	9·00	13·65	11·37	14·08	..	
11. Narasapatnam ..	9·40	9·00	13·44	11·76	14·58	12·96	
Average ..	9·04	8·41	13·94	11·99	14·46	12·46	

Activity of trade—

	Exports.	Imports.
	MDS.	MDS.
By sea, for the period ending 12th June 1897	...	910
By rail, do. 12th „ „	1,269	37,197
	CARTS.	CARTS.
By road from Jeypore, for the period ending 12th June 1897.	...	4,419

Trade fairly active, less so in dry grains than in rice, but traders inclined to hold on for a rise.

Condition of the People.

On works.—Good as a rule.

In Villages.—The high prices are no doubt telling to a certain extent on the poorer classes. I am extending relief by kitchens as fast as possible and have also now issued orders for the commencement of village relief by grain doles. I sent Mr. Heaney to the north of Chípurupalle taluk—a part of which I had suspicions—to inspect the Chilakalapalem neighbourhood and thence to Pondur to enquire into the weavers again. I am glad to say he reported no distress and that the Pondur weavers, some 200 of whose houses he visited, had their looms generally full and refused relief. At Rajam, another weaving centre in south of Palkonda taluk, their condition was found less satisfactory and I have arranged to start a weavers' depôt and a kitchen there. This will be in swing this week. The attention of all Divisional Officers has been most urgently drawn to the necessity for careful enquiry and watchfulness and they have been instructed to ask for Circle Inspectors wherever wanted. Some of these I am just about to appoint. Preparation of village lists is nearly complete and there need be no delay in commencing this form of relief.

Sickness and Mortality.—Cholera is prevalent in parts. Otherwise public health is not bad.

Remarks.—Rain is urgently looked for, also a fall in prices. Without these the position will soon become serious.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Relief works.			
I. Vizianagram—			
(1) Pusapatire	3,716	4,018	* Closed on the 9th June 1897. When agricultural work, and specially transplantation, became general in the neighbourhood, I closed the Kondakarla work, on which there was one man to 27 women and children. The Head Assistant has been directed to watch results carefully. Elsewhere, numbers have fluctuated with the employment available in the neighbourhood. With present high prices, of course, the wage is very high and to that extent attractive. Should the monsoon fail many more works must be opened, but there really seems, in spite of present anxiety, no reason to anticipate this calamity.
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(1) Dakmarri	3,523	2,642	
(2) Padmanabha	2,429	2,796	
III. Vizagapatam—			
(1) Gazuvaka	1,158	995	
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Total ..	14,207	12,497	
Test-relief work.			
I. Chepurupalli—			
(1) Ranastalam	547	547	
Total ..	547	547	
Grand Total ..	14,754	13,044	

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Taluks.	Number relieved.							
	At kitchens.				In poor-houses.		In villages.	
	Dependants.		Others.					
	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.	Last fort-night.	This fort-night.
Government.								
I. Párvatípuram taluk—								
(1) Kitchen at Párvatípuram ..	..	..	173	357	..	..	..	..
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(1) Kitchen at Ranastalam ..	79	85	192	226	..	..	..	..
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(3) Do. at Bhogapuram ..	..	..	245	165	..	..	..	1
(4) Do. at Talavalasa ..	..	..	..	323	..	..	..	..
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(1) Kitchen at Tunnikapalli ..	..	..	..	152	..	..	..	..
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III. Sarvasiddhi taluk	..	..	523	716	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	902	1,173	..	..	..	..

Note.—Kitchen-relief is being extended as much as possible and village-relief will be inaugurated immediately.

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

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.								Other purposes.								Total.				Number of wells	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.				Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.				Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.			Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.			Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13			14	15	16	17	20	21
1. Palkonda	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		7	1,000	7	1,000	11	2,070			7	1,000	7	1,000	..	..
2. Sarvasiddhi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		..	..	..	..	20	6,410			7	700	7	700	..	1
3. Golgonda	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		2	375	2	375	16	3,800			2	375	2	375	..	..
4. Srungavarapukota	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		2	400	2	400	2	100			2	400	2	400	..	..
5. Parvátipur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		..	..	..	..	4	2,300			..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		11	1,900	11	1,775	53	13,680			14	2,475	12	1,875	..	1

Taluks.	Cattle and seed-grain.								Total.							
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.				Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.			
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.			Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
	28	27	30	31	32	33			34	35	36	37	38	39		
1. Palkonda	226	Rs. 9,976	226	Rs. 9,976	194	Rs. 14,662			226	Rs. 10,516	226	Rs. 10,516	194	Rs. 14,662		
2. Sarvasiddhi	..	..	..	..	1	300			..	..	..	..	1	300		
3. Golgonda	86	5,880	86	5,880	258	44,200			87	5,892	87	5,892	291	44,410		
4. Srungavarapukota	210 (*b*)	16,773	(*b*) 684	16,332	(*b*) 470	24,452			(*b*) 715	29,846	(*b*) 684	29,007	(*b*) 470	37,446		
5. Parvátipur	12,964	..	..	..	..	..			..	..	..	..	..	..		
Total ..	13,174	1,027	32,629	996	32,188	953	83,644	1,028	46,254	997	45,415	955	96,818			

Taluks.	Purchase of fodder.							
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.			
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
	22	23	24	25	26	27		
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2. Sarvasiddhi	1	12	1	12	..	..		
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5. Parvátipur	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Total ..	731	13,625	700	13,227	473	13,170		

(*a*) These applications are included in the figure shown in column 28.

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

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The Head Assistant Collector was in camp all the fortnight in the Sarvasiddhi, Anakápalle and Viravilli taluks.

The Senior Assistant Collector visited a good many villages in Párvatipur and Bobbili taluks.

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Owing to much work connected with the Vizianagram estate, the Jubilee and other pressing matters, I have been kept at head-quarters a good deal during the fortnight. I visited Vizianagram, Pendurti (work), Sontyam (new kitchen) and checked the village lists in several villages in Vizagapatam and Bimlipatam taluks.

Resolution—No. 465, dated 28th June 1897.

Submitted for the information of Government.

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3. Prices again rose smartly,—ragi, the staple of the district, exhibiting a rise of 25 per cent., being dearer in five out of ten stations than in the corresponding month of 1878. The cause assigned is the holding back of the Komatis in anticipation of a failure of the rain. The comparative positions of prices are shown below :—

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Trade was fairly active.

4. The condition of the people was on the whole, fairly good. The recent rise in prices has, however, increased the intensity of distress, and the Collector finds it necessary to extend considerably the administration of gratuitous relief. Since the submission of his narrative, he has found it necessary to apply for special Assistants to relieve himself and the Principal Assistant of their ordinary work, for two additional Special Magistrates and for the loan of four officers from the Salt department to work as taluk relief officers. Circumstances have changed rapidly for the worse during the past fortnight, and the future, that seemed full of promise, is now a matter of speculation and doubt. As the Collector says, "a most painful tension and feeling of anxiety exists among all classes." Mr. Horne is determined not to be caught napping; but he is no alarmist. He was through the famine of 1889 in Ganjám, and knows the foe he has to fight. The numbers on relief works show a falling off of over 11 per

cent. as compared with the figures of the previous fortnight, but this was due to the employment in the fields given by the fair rainfall of the latter half of the preceding month.

5. The progress in the disbursement of loans is shown by the following figures :—

Amount disbursed. Rs.	Up to the end of the week ending
33,689	29th May.
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The work should be expedited : there are many applications pending in Sarvasiddhi and Golgonda, and regarding the latter, the Famine Commissioner would be glad if the Collector would express his opinion as to whether they are *bonâ fide* wanted or not.

6. There need be no anxiety as to the two northern districts. They could not possibly be in safer hands than those of Messrs. Horne and Taylor.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 571, Revenue, dated 13th July 1897.

Recorded.

Miscellaneous.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. W. D'Moss.

80 Copies.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd.
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G.O., No. 571, 13th July 1897.

JULY.

Fortnightly Narrative.

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

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 28th June 1897, No. 465 :—

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

State of the Country.

Rainfall and water-supply.—

District rainfall.	Actual rainfall in inches.	Expected rainfall in inches.
In the fortnight	1·15	2·74
Up to the fortnight	5·21	6·41

There has been but little rain in the fortnight, and this has been unfortunate as the very favourable weather of the latter half of May encouraged dry sowings, some of which are now in a bad way for want of rain.

Drinking water is generally sufficient, and that for cattle is everywhere procurable.

Water is not sufficient for irrigation.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—Agricultural operations are reported to be brisk in the Head Assistant Collector's division and in the Palkonda taluk. But elsewhere they are decidedly less active than at the beginning of the fortnight and at the end of last month for want of good showers. The standing crops, cumbu, ragi and gingelly are generally much in want of rain.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture generally procurable, but drying up again in parts. Fodder very scarce and dear. There is no reason for anxiety about cattle.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—The improvement in prospects which took place in the latter part of last month has hardly been maintained, except perhaps in Palkonda taluk and the Head Assistant Collector's division. There is of course no real reason for as much anxiety as exists, for it is as yet barely time for the monsoon to set in, even if it were early, but showers were expected and these have been in many places not received, and ryots who speculated in early sowings will lose. The state of the country is nothing out of the way for the season, but a most painful tension and feeling of anxiety exists among all classes.

Food supplies and the State of the Markets.

Prices of principal food-grains at principal markets in the affected tracts, in seers of 80 tolas per rupee, for the period ending 15th of June 1897.

Stations.	Rice. End of last period.	Rice. End of current period.	Ragi. End of last period.	Ragi. End of current period.	Cumbu. End of last period.	Cumbu. End of current period.	Remarks.
1. Pârvatipuram	9·43	8·61	14·65	12·63	15·40	14·00	The rise is very serious, and is, so far as I can ascertain, due almost entirely to the Komaties, who are holding back in hopes of a further rise caused by delay or failure of rain. It is expected that good rain will ease off the prices, but this may not be the case.
2. Bâlûru	9·22	8·20	14·40	10·80	13·30	10·50	
3. Palkonda	9·04	8·47	13·13	12·12	13·86	11·88	
4. Gajapatinagaram ..	9·02	8·20	13·32	11·10	13·68	10·80	
5. Chipurupalle	9·84	7·79	14·04	11·52	17·28	11·52	
6. Vizianagram	8·13	8·13	12·12	10·60	12·87	..	
7. Vizagapatam	7·91	7·68	12·82	12·32	12·87	12·37	
8. Chódavaramu	9·50	9·00	17·29	15·47	16·72	14·96	
9. Anakâpalle	9·00	8·50	14·56	12·28	..	13·20	
10. Yellamanchili ..	9·00	9·00	13·65	11·37	14·08	..	
11. Narasapatnam ..	9·40	9·00	13·44	11·76	14·58	12·96	
Average ..	9·04	8·41	13·94	11·99	14·46	12·46	

Activity of trade—

	Exports. MDS.	Imports. MDS.
By sea, for the period ending 12th June 1897	...	910
By rail, do. 12th „ „	1,269	37,197
	CARTS.	CARTS.
By road from Jeypore, for the period ending 12th June 1897. ...		4,419

Trade fairly active, less so in dry grains than in rice, but traders inclined to hold on for a rise.

Condition of the People.

On works.—Good as a rule.

In Villages.—The high prices are no doubt telling to a certain extent on the poorer classes. I am extending relief by kitchens as fast as possible and have also now issued orders for the commencement of village relief by grain doles. I sent Mr. Heaney to the north of Chîpurupalle taluk—a part of which I had suspicions—to inspect the Chilakalapalem neighbourhood and thence to Pondur to enquire into the weavers again. I am glad to say he reported no distress and that the Pondur weavers, some 200 of whose houses he visited, had their looms generally full and refused relief. At Rajam, another weaving centre in south of Palkonda taluk, their condition was found less satisfactory and I have arranged to start a weavers' depôt and a kitchen there. This will be in swing this week. The attention of all Divisional Officers has been most urgently drawn to the necessity for careful enquiry and watchfulness and they have been instructed to ask for Circle Inspectors wherever wanted. Some of these I am just about to appoint. Preparation of village lists is nearly complete and there need be no delay in commencing this form of relief.

Sickness and Mortality.—Cholera is prevalent in parts. Otherwise public health is not bad.

Remarks.—Rain is urgently looked for, also a fall in prices. Without these the position will soon become serious.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed: Last fortnight.	Number employed: This fortnight.	Remarks.
Relief works.			
I. Vizianagram—			
(1) Pusapatirega	3,716	4,018	* Closed on the 9th June 1897. When agricultural work, and specially transplantation, became general in the neighbourhood, I closed the Kondakarla work, on which there was one man to 27 women and children. The Head Assistant has been directed to watch results carefully. Elsewhere, numbers have fluctuated with the employment available in the neighbourhood. With present high prices, of course, the wage is very high and to that extent attractive. Should the monsoon fail many more works must be opened, but there really seems, in spite of present anxiety, no reason to anticipate this calamity.
II. Bimlipatam—			
(1) Dakmarri	3,523	2,642	
(2) Padmanabham	2,429	2,796	
III. Vizagapatam—			
(1) Gazuvaka	1,158	995	
(2) Pandur	1,608	2,045	
IV. Sarvasiddhi—			
(1) Kondakarla	1,773	* ..	
Total ..	14,207	12,497	
Test-relief work.			
I. Chepurupalli—			
(1) Ranastalam	547	547	
Total ..	547	547	
Grand Total ..	14,754	13,044	

Gratuitous relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

Taluks.	Number relieved.							
	At kitchens.				In poor-houses.		In villages.	
	Dependants.		Others.					
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Government.								
I. Párvatípuram taluk—								
(1) Kitchen at Párvatípuram	..	..	173	357	..	..	..	..
II. Chipurupalle taluk—								
(1) Kitchen at Ranastalam ..	79	85	192	226	..	..	..	..
III. Vizianagram taluk—								
(1) Kitchen at Pusapatirega	103	114	64	74	..	..	..	..
(2) Do. at Vizianagram ..	..	..	238	297	..	..	..	..
IV. Bimlipatam taluk—								
(1) Kitchen at Dakmarri ..	194	253	17	27	..	..	..	..
(2) Do. at Padmanabham ..	136	154	115	144	..	..	..	..
(3) Do. at Bhogapuram ..	..	..	245	165	..	..	..	1
(4) Do. at Talavalasa ..	..	..	..	323	..	..	..	..
V. Srungavarapukota taluk—								
(1) Kitchen at Tunnikapalli	..	..	..	152	..	..	..	..
VI. Vizagapatam taluk—								
(1) Kitchen at Gazuvaka	187	21	39	211	..	..	..	..
(2) Do. at Pandur ..	198	225	43	40	..	..	..	..
VII. Sarvasiddhi taluk—								
(1) Kitchen at Kondakarla ..	73	..	198	336	..	..	..	..
Total ..	970	832	1,324	2,352	..	..	..	1
Rajah Gajapati Rao's kitchens.								
I. Vizagapatam taluk	..	..	233	284	..	..	..	..
II. Anakápalle taluk	..	..	146	173	..	..	..	..
III. Sarvasiddhi taluk	..	..	523	716	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	902	1,173	..	..	..	..

NOTE.—Kitchen-relief is being extended as much as possible and village-relief will be inaugurated immediately.

Weavers' relief—Nil. A weavers' depôt will be started this week at Rázampéta in Palkonda taluk.

Private charity.—The private charities, which I have hitherto reported, continue to be administered.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The prospects have not maintained the improvement with which the fortnight opened. Rain has not fallen exactly when required. This has injured some of the early sowings—always of a speculative character—and has enabled the Komaties to raise prices to a figure not justified by anything short of the prospect of another year of failure. Needless, to say, there is no real reason to anticipate anything of the kind. The weather is very promising in appearance—generally clouded, and the official forecast for this part of the world is favourable. Looking at the gauge records I find many very prosperous years in which there was but little rain at all in the month of June. Still it is impossible to avoid sharing the feeling of strained anxiety which affects every one concerned. The high prices have of course enormously enlarged the area of distress, which is necessarily felt to that extent even in taluks not hitherto considered affected. It has been so sudden, too, that it has not been anticipated or provided against. The remedy seems to be extended relief in villages and kitchens. It is rather late to be opening new works, until or unless it is accepted that the monsoon is going to fail, which, as I said, there is no reason to suppose. I have, however, requested the Superintending Engineer not to reduce the stock of famine tools in this district, as I found he was sending them to Ganjám.

I am endeavouring to watch and keep pace with the developments of the position. Everything depends on the weather.

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

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.						Other purposes.						Total.						Number of wells	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
1. Palkonda	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1,000	7	1,000	11	2,070	7	1,000	7	1,000	11	2,070	..	1
2. Sarvasiddhi	3	700	1	100	..	..	3	1,400	1	100	20	5,410	3	700	1	100	20	5,410	..	..
3. Golgonda	..	..	..	..	4	1,900	2	375	2	375	16	3,800	2	375	2	375	16	3,800	1	..
4. Srungavarapukota ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	400	2	400	2	100	2	400	2	400	2	100	..	..
5. Parvatipur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	2,300	..	..	..	..	4	2,300	..	..
Total ..	3	700	1	100	4	1,900	14	3,175	12	1,875	53	13,680	14	2,475	12	1,875	57	15,580	..	1

Taluks.	Purchase of fodder.						Cattle and seed-grain.						Total.							
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.			
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39		
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.			
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