

Public Works (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 1681 W

DATED 5 July 98

[Despatch Abstract.]
Fortnightly Narrative : Res. Dept. Reading
Board's Order: Submitting to Govt. the — of the MS. line
It for the period ending 15th May 98, recorded

[illegible]

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

Recording Board's Proceedings (Revenue Settlement) submitting to Government — of the Nellore district for the period ending 15th May 1898.

$$\frac{as}{57}$$

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 188, dated 25th May 1898:—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative of the Nellore district for the period ending 15th May 1898:—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply—Sub-division—Rainfall.—The rainfall registered during the fortnight was as shown below:—

	INCHES.
Kanigiri	2.65
Podili	0.86
Darsi	0.10

The rainfall in Kanigiri was local and almost confined to Kanigiri town and the surrounding villages. Some of the southern villages of the taluk had slight rain, the heaviest fall being one inch at Musunur. The rain in Podili division is reported to have been general. North-west of Darsi some villages received half an inch. Water-supply.—The Kanigiri tank received over one month's supply. Five tanks in the Podili division also received supplies varying from one month to two weeks. There were slight freshes down the Palér, the Mannér and the Musi rivers. The irrigation wells generally contain sufficient water for the limited extent of crops under then. Drinking water is generally sufficient except in the villages in the west of Kanigiri taluk and Podili division. The necessary steps are being taken by the Taluk Board to improve the supply.

Atmakúr division.—Rainfall—

	INCHES.
Atmakúr	0.26
Udayagiri	0.35

The following shows the rainfall in non-registering stations in the Udayagiri taluk so far as information is available:—

One village (Dattalur)	Two inches.
Ten villages	Between one and two inches.
Six villages	Between 50 cents and one inch.
Eight villages	Below 50 cents.

Water-supply—Atmakúr taluk.—Supply for irrigation is nil in tanks but sufficient in the river channels. The Atmakúr, Anantasagaram and Mahimalur tanks received four days' supply. Water for drinking purposes is sufficient. Udayagiri taluk.—Two tanks contain about twenty days' supply and ten tanks about ten days' supply. Supply in wells is insufficient for irrigation. Drinking water generally sufficient.

2. Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops—Sub-division.—No agricultural operations are in progress except the ploughing of small areas in Kandukur and Kanigiri. Standing crops.—Pálápu cholam and korra under wells in Ongole taluk and Addanki division are thriving.

Kandukur taluk.—Cumbu, cholam and korra under wells in small extents thriving.

Kanigiri taluk.—Cholam under wells on 250 acres is estimated to yield from four to eight annas. On 500 acres the crop is still young.

Cumbu under wells on 800 acres tender.

Cumbu on 850 acres estimated to yield between two and eight annas.

Podili and Darsi divisions.—Cholam, cumbu and korra under wells are thriving.

Atmakúr division—Atmakúr taluk.—No agricultural operations in this taluk. The standing crops are paddy (2nd crop), pálápu cholam, cumbu and indigo, which are thriving under river channels and garden wells. The estimated outturn of these crops is four to eight annas, but it will probably be more. Udayagiri taluk.—Owing to the rainfall on the 4th instant, lands in some villages are being prepared for cumbu cultivation. Some lands are also being ploughed up for cholam and aruka.

The standing crops are indigo, tobacco, pálápu cholam and pitchika cumbu under wells which are thriving.

3. Supply of fodder and pasture, and condition of cattle—Sub-division.—As reported in the last fortnightly narrative fodder is available but is becoming scanty. Pasture is scarce. Foot and mouth disease prevails in four villages of the Darsi division.

Atmakúr division.—Fodder is sufficient and pasture scarce in the Atmakúr taluk. In the Udayagiri taluk fodder is available to a limited extent, but there is very little pasture.

The condition of cattle is fair in the Atmakúr taluk where rinderpest prevails only in two villages. Their condition in the Udayagiri taluk is reported to be indifferent owing to absence of pasture and insufficiency of fodder. There are no cattle diseases in this taluk.

4. General remarks on the previous subjects—Sub-division.—The Sub-Collector remarks that the water in wells is drying up rapidly owing to the excessive heat.

FOOD SUPPLIES AND THE STATE OF THE MARKETS.

5. Prices of principal food-grains at principal markets in the affected tracts, in seers of 80 tolas per rupee, for the period ending 15th of May 1898:—

Stations.	Rice, second sort.		Cholam.		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.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
Ongole	9.40	10.34	12.60	13.50	13.60	15.30	11.55	12.38	Scar- Warn- city ing rates. rates.
Addanki	8.93	8.93	13.95	14.85	16.57	16.58	11.14	11.55	
Darsi	9.40	9.40	12.67	13.58	15.30	15.30	11.48	11.48	Rice .. 8.40 11.20 Cholam. 13.00 19.50 Ragi .. 14.00 21.00 Cumbu. 12.00 18.00
Podili	8.93	8.93	13.57	13.58	15.30	16.15	11.07	11.07	
Kandukur	7.99	7.52	13.12	13.12	15.30	16.15	13.12	..	Rice .. 8.40 11.20 Cholam. 13.00 19.50 Ragi .. 14.00 21.00 Cumbu. 12.00 18.00
Kanigiri	7.52	7.52	13.57	14.48	14.45	14.45	11.55	11.55	
Atmakúr	8.68	8.70	14.48	14.48	14.45	15.30	..	..	Rice .. 8.40 11.20 Cholam. 13.00 19.50 Ragi .. 14.00 21.00 Cumbu. 12.00 18.00
Udayagiri	7.52	7.52	14.93	14.48	15.30	16.15	13.12	13.12	
Average	8.54	8.61	13.61	14.01	15.03	15.67	11.86	11.86	

6. Activity of trade—Sub-division.—Private trade generally active. The fall in the prices of all the food-grains in Ongole, of cholam in Addanki, Darsi and Kanigiri, and of ragi in Podili and Kandukur, is attributed to the importation of food-grains from the adjoining districts and from villages into the market. The rise in the price of rice in Kandukur is due to the short supply of that grain in the market. Cholam and cumbu were imported into Addanki from Kistna district and into Podili from Cumbum in Kurnool district. Prices generally show an inclination to fall.

Atmakúr division.—The market is well supplied with dry food-grains in both the taluks. Dry grains such as ragi and cholam are being imported from the Cuddapah district. Udayagiri gets its supply of paddy from Nellore, Atmakúr and Kavali taluks. The fall in the price of ragi in Atmakúr taluk is due to the large supply in the market. The slight fall in the price of ragi in Udayagiri taluk is due to recent harvests, and to large importation from the Cuddapah district. Cholam in Udayagiri shows a slight rise again, due to short supplies from outside.

7. *Condition of the people—On works.*—Generally fair. The Sub-Collector remarks under this head: "In all the villages I visited, I questioned the poorer classes as to their means of livelihood. Their reply which was uniform throughout was that they had no work to do and that they depended on alms. They appeared as a rule to be fairly well fed. They would not go to the works, but preferred to live as best they could in their own homes rather than to work on the road in the hot sun. They further added that the wages given at the works would not be enough for two meals. The males as in ordinary seasons live partly by weaving. The Madigas have sufficient for the whole community and many people have less food than in ordinary seasons and supplement the little grain they are able to earn by large quantities of a curry which they prepare of the leaves of the Devadaru (*Polyalthia Longifolia*), Boddi (*Macaranga Roxburghii*), Kalisa (*Leptadenia Reticulata*) and Pala (*Mimusops Hexandra*) plants."

In villages.—Good.

8. *Sickness and Mortality.*—No deaths from starvation anywhere.

Sub-division.—There is cholera in two villages in the Ongole taluk.

Atmakur division.—Small-pox exists in one village of the Atmakur taluk and in Udayagiri town where it is beginning to subside.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

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

Taluk.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
<i>Kanigiri Taluk.</i>			
Narramarella near Pamur	202	(a) 395	* The figures shown here represent averages as per B.P., No 166, dated 2nd May 1898, instead of actuals on any one day of the fortnight. (a) The increase is said to be due to the coolies becoming accustomed to the Intermediate system. All the works are under the Intermediate system. The decrease is attributed by the Sub-Collector to the fact that the coolies object to go long distances from their villages, and to the heat.
<i>Podili Division.</i>			
Podili-Cumbum road	666	407	
<i>Udayagiri Taluk.</i>			
Narravada	420	426	Is worked under the Intermediate system with a kitchen, the increase is slight and calls for no special remarks.
Total ..	1,288	1,228	

10. *Gratuitous Relief.*—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise —

Taluk.	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.
<i>Podili Division.</i>								
Podili-Cumbum road ..	27	14	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Udayagiri Taluk.</i>								
Narravada	43	42	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	70	56	..	..	..	..	..	..

11. *Private charity.*—Two works in the Venkatagiri Estate are employing a few coolies. The Sub-Collector has not reported what works these are.

12. *General remarks.*—There has been a satisfactory fall in prices during the fortnight, though there was slight rise in the price of cholam at Udayagiri, and I believe conditions will continue much as they now are until the middle of June. The average number on the works has fallen slightly owing to a decrease of 259 on the Podili-Cumbum road work. In explanation for this decrease the Sub-Collector remarks "The decrease is, I think, due chiefly to the fact that, as the work progresses along the road, the workers have to come further from their villages. The discomfort of working in the hot wind prevailing at present may also have had some effect." The Sub-Collector inspected all the works in his division during the fortnight. Some of his remarks are quoted below:—

"On the 30th ultimo I visited Pamur relief work; there were about 500 workers present at the time of inspection; some of them appeared to be over-worked and distressed, more so than the workers in Podili. From figures supplied by the overseer it appears that—

Men	44
Nursing mothers	26
Other women	104
Boys	26
Girls	62

Total ... 272 workers.

earned Rs. 17-4-8 for their work on the 28th April. This is almost exactly at the rate of one anna a head. Residents of villages within a few miles alone come to either work. The rate earned at Pamur was considerably better than that at Pathapad (*i.e.*, the Podili-Cumbum road work). This is partly due, I think, to the allowance for lead which seems to be more liberal than the rate for breaking metal.

On the work on the Cumbum road the gangs earn from 6 pies a head to more than one anna. For the work turned out on the 5th, 6th, 7th instants, Rs. 54-14-7 were earned by 142 men, 51 nursing mothers, 228 other women, 44 boys and 37 girls; some of the gangs were paid for two days and some for one; by multiplying the workers by the days worked by each gang it is found that the payment is at the rate of Rs. 54-14-7 for—

Men	346
Nursing mothers	130
Other women	505
Boys	111
Girls	91

Total ... 1183 workers.

for one day or at the rate of rather less than 9 pies a head.

The workers do not show much signs of being underfed or of weakness, and it is difficult to understand why they cannot turn out more work, but it is certainly not due to laziness and, as I reported last fortnight, I think the rate should be raised to at least Rs. 2 per 100 cubic feet.

The Mahammadan gang on the Pamur work appeared to be very much distressed and the rate of payment should, I think, be raised in its case, if it cannot be raised for all. After obtaining the figures giving the present constitution of this gang and amount earned I will report further on this point." The report referred to has not been received yet, but I intend inspecting the Pamur work before the end of this month and will then deal with the matter.

The Narravada work was last inspected by the Deputy Collector in the latter part of April. He states "the condition of the labourers is fair, and there are no cases of emaciation. There is a general complaint as to the wages being low. Payment is made twice a week. The labourers are mostly from Duttalur and its hamlets, Mandallanayudupalli and Narravada. The inmates of the kitchen are in good state."

But little progress has, I regret, been made in the Atmakur division in the disposal of loans applications. I have taken steps to remedy this.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
 " Collector of Nellore (Divisional officers—Tahsildars).
 Copy to the Superintending Engineer, II Circle.
 " " Sanitary Commissioner.

(Talukhs and places visited.)

Sub-Collector—

Kanigiri Taluk.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Pamúr. | 12. Hanumanthupad. |
| 2. Immerla. | 13. Doddichintola. |
| 3. Chintalapallem. | 14. Hajipuram. |
| 4. Kottakindipalli. | 15. Hajisapuram. |
| 5. Musunur. | 16. Chinnaalavapad. |
| 6. Gogulapalli. | 17. Raviguntapalli. |
| 7. Immedicheruvu. | 18. Rallapalli. |
| 8. Panduvanagulavaram. | 19. Veerarampuram. |
| 9. Vedullacheruvu. | 20. Tenimareddipalli. |
| 10. Nandanavanam. | 21. Hanumanthapuram. |
| 11. Vemulapad. | |

DEPUTY COLLECTOR, ATMAKÚR.

Atmakūr Taluk.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1. Mahmodapuram. | 4. Yadavalli. |
| 2. Virúr. | 5. Mahimalur. |
| 3. Nagulapad. | |

Resolution—No. 188, dated 25th May 1898.

Submitted to Government.

Submitted to Government.

2. There was rain during the fortnight in the affected tracts. The fall was over two inches in and about Kanigiri town and two inches in one village in Udayagiri. Water-supply and pasture are reported to be still insufficient.

3. The soil is naturally little at this season. Ploughing for the

3. Of field work, there is naturally little at this season. Ploughing for the next early crops has begun in some places where rain has fallen. There are standing crops on small areas under wells, and these are reported to be thriving.

4. Prices of dry grains remained stationary or fell except in Udayagiri where there was a slight rise in the price of cholam. At all stations the price of either cholam or ragi fell by more than three-quarters of a seer per rupee. The average prices of rice, cholam and ragi were cheaper than the scarcity rates.

5. The numbers on works fell from 1,288 to 1,228. The decrease is ascribed to the unwillingness of labourers to go long distances from their villages and to work in scorching winds and burning sun for an inadequate wage. The special attention of the Superintending Engineer is invited to the remarks of the Sub-Collector quoted in paragraph 12 of the Collector's report. The condition of the people on the works in villages is stated to be fair. The Collector considers that the present situation will remain unchanged until the middle of June, when, if the rains are favourable, there will be a demand for labour, and hoarded grain is likely to be brought into the market. The Collector promises to inspect the relief works before the end of the month, and the Board will be glad to receive his remarks founded on his personal observation.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

ORDER—No. 347, Revenue, dated 16th June 1898.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

A. Russell
for Secretary to Government.

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

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

Exd. Shaik Karim.

75 Copies.