

Public Works (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 2349 W

DATED 9<sup>th</sup> Sept 98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Fortnightly Narrative

From: Rev. Dep't Recording Pro.  
off<sup>d</sup> of Rev: Submitting                      of the M. & C. T.  
for the period ending 31 July 98, recorded.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. | G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
|------|-----|-------------|-------|------|-----|-------------|-------|
|      |     |             |       |      |     |             |       |

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3 No: 2349w 99.9.8

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# AUGUST

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting to Government, with remarks, — of the Nellore district for the period ending 31st July 1898.

as  
98

## GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

## REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

**READ**—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 285, dated 5th August 1898 :—

**Read**—the following Fortnightly Narrative of the Nellore District for the period ending 31st July 1898 :—

## STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

## Rainfall and water-supply.—

## Rainfall—Sub-division—

|                 | INCHES. |
|-----------------|---------|
| Kandukúr ... .. | 1.64    |
| Ongole .. ..    | 1.96    |
| Addanki ... ..  | 0.13    |
| Darsi ... ..    | 1.29    |
| Podili ... ..   | 0.53    |
| Kanigiri ... .. | 0.96    |

In Kanigiri Taluk, the Nandanavanam range in the extreme west, had only 30 cents of rain, and Pamur in the south, and its adjoining villages about 50 cents.

**Water-supply.**—The Gundlakamma, the Musi, the Páleru and the Mannéru received freshes. In the Ongole Taluk, two tanks have two months' supply, two tanks one month's, and one tank a few days' supply. Kanigiri tank has 2½ months' supply. Five tanks in Podili Division, and six tanks in Darsi Division contain a supply of one month. Six other tanks in these two Divisions contain a few days' supply. Water-supply is generally sufficient for drinking purposes, and insufficient for irrigation.

## Atmakúr Deputy Collector's Division—

## Rainfall—

|                  | INCHES. |
|------------------|---------|
| Udayagiri ... .. | 1.15    |
| Atmakúr ... ..   | 0.51    |

**Water-supply—Atmakúr Taluk.**—The Pennér received slight freshes. Water-supply is sufficient for irrigation in river channels, but insufficient in tanks. The supply in tanks is as follows :—

|                   |     |                    |
|-------------------|-----|--------------------|
| One tank contains | ... | 1½ months' supply. |
| Two tanks contain | ... | 1 month's "        |
| Five " "          | ... | 20 days' "         |
| One tank contains | ... | 15 " "             |
| One " "           | ... | 10 " "             |
| Others            | ... | Nil.               |

Water is sufficient for drinking purposes.

## Udayagiri Taluk—

|                   |     |                        |
|-------------------|-----|------------------------|
| Two tanks contain | ... | 20 days' supply.       |
| Three " "         | ... | About a week's supply. |

Supply in wells is failing for irrigation. Drinking water is failing in parts.

## AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS AND CONDITION OF THE STANDING CROPS.

2. *Sub-division.*—The rain in the fortnight enabled the ryots to sow dry crops: cholam, cumbu, indigo, castor-oil and pulses are being sown everywhere except in a few villages of Kandukúr and Kanigiri Taluks where the rainfall was deficient. Paddy is being transplanted in the villages of Gonaspudi and Timmasamudram of Ongole Taluk under the Kistna canals. In the Podili Division, paddy is being sown in seed beds under the Podili and Lakshmipuram tanks. In the South-east of the Division, the rainfall was insufficient, but dry crops are being sown in anticipation of further rain. In Darsi Division, paddy is being transplanted under a few tanks.

**Standing crops.**—The dry crops recently sown towards the close of the last fortnight or in the beginning of the current fortnight and cholam and cumbu under wells are thriving.

**Harvested crop.**—Pálápu cholam under wells has been cut in Ongole Taluk, and cholam and cumbu in Kanigiri Taluk. The Ongole crop gave no yield, while in Kanigiri, the yield was 6 annas.

**Atmakúr Division—Atmakúr Taluk.**—Lands are being ploughed for dry crops. Cumbu is being transplanted in garden lands.

**Udayagiri Taluk.**—Lands in a few villages are being ploughed for dry crops such as oil-seeds, cotton and korra. Cumbu is being transplanted in garden lands under wells containing supply.

**Standing crops—Atmakúr Taluk.**—Pálápu, cholam, cumbu, indigo are thriving under river channels and wells. Pálápu cholam is being harvested.

**Udayagiri Taluk.**—Cumbu, cholam and indigo under wells are generally in good condition.

## SUPPLY OF FODDER AND PASTURE AND CONDITION OF CATTLE.

3. *Sub-division.*—Pasture is springing up. Fodder scanty and dear. Condition of cattle is reported to be fair. No cattle disease anywhere.

**Atmakúr Division.**—Pasture is scanty in both the Taluks. Fodder is available but dear in the Atmakúr Taluk, while in the Udayagiri Taluk it is available to a very limited extent. The condition of cattle is generally fair except in parts of Udayagiri Taluk, where it is bad. No cattle-diseases except in two villages in the Atmakúr Taluk.

## GENERAL REMARKS ON THE PREVIOUS SUBJECTS.

4. The recent rain has improved the state of the season everywhere, except in parts of Udayagiri, but more rain is urgently required.

## 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 30th July 1898.

| Stations.    | Rice, 2nd 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. |                                                                                            |
| Kandukúr ..  | 7.52                | 7.52                   | 13.12               | 13.12                  | 16.15               | 16.15                  | ..                  | ..                     | Grain. ..<br>Searcity rates. ..<br>Warning rates. ..                                       |
| Ongole ..    | 9.87                | 10.34                  | 13.50               | 14.40                  | 15.30               | 15.30                  | 11.96               | 12.38                  |                                                                                            |
| Addanki ..   | 9.40                | 9.40                   | 13.95               | 14.40                  | 17.00               | 17.00                  | 11.55               | 12.38                  |                                                                                            |
| Darsi ..     | 9.40                | 9.40                   | 14.48               | 14.48                  | 15.30               | 16.15                  | 11.48               | 12.30                  |                                                                                            |
| Podili ..    | 9.40                | 9.40                   | 14.03               | 14.03                  | 16.15               | 16.15                  | 13.12               | 13.12                  |                                                                                            |
| Kanigiri ..  | 7.52                | 7.99                   | 14.48               | 14.03                  | 15.30               | 15.30                  | 11.55               | 11.55                  | Rice .. 8.40 11.20<br>Cholam .. 13.00 19.50<br>Ragi .. 14.00 21.00<br>Cumbu .. 12.00 18.00 |
| Udayagiri .. | ..                  | ..                     | 15.39               | 15.39                  | 16.15               | 16.15                  | 14.70               | 14.76                  |                                                                                            |
| Atmakúr ..   | 8.70                | 8.70                   | 15.39               | 15.39                  | 17.85               | 17.85                  | ..                  | ..                     |                                                                                            |
| Average ..   | 8.83                | 8.96                   | 14.29               | 14.40                  | 16.15               | 16.25                  | 12.39               | 12.75                  |                                                                                            |

6. *Activity of trade.*—Private trade generally active. The prices of rice in Ongole and Kanigiri, of cholam in Ongole, of ragi in Darsi, and of cumbu in Ongole, Addanki and Darsi, have fallen. There is a slight rise in the price of cholam in Kanigiri due to short supplies. The prices of food-grains in the Atmakúr Division are stationary.

## CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

7. *On works.*—Fair.

*In villages.*—Fair.

## SICKNESS AND MORTALITY.

8. No deaths from starvation anywhere.

*Sub-division.*—Cholera prevails in six villages of Ongole Taluk, six villages of Addanki Division, one village of Kandukur Taluk, three villages of Podili Division, and three villages of Darsi Division. There were 187 attacks and 64 deaths.

*Atmakur Division.*—Small-pox exists in two villages of Atmakur Taluk.

#### MEASURES OF RELIEF.

##### 9. Works.—

| Taluks.           | Number employed. |                 | Remarks.                                                                                                               |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                   | Last fortnight.  | This fortnight. |                                                                                                                        |
| <i>Kanigiri.</i>  |                  |                 |                                                                                                                        |
| Pamur .. .. .     | 459              | 343             | The fall in the numbers is attributed to the rainfall in the fortnight, and to the low wages earned.                   |
| <i>Udayagiri.</i> |                  |                 |                                                                                                                        |
| Narravada .. .. . | 342              | 305             | Probably the decrease on both works is due to some families having migrated towards the coast for work on the Railway. |
| Total .. .. .     | 801              | 648             |                                                                                                                        |

##### 10. Gratuitous relief.—

| Taluk.            | Number relieved at kitchens. |                 |            |
|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
|                   | Dependants.                  |                 | Otherwise. |
|                   | Last fortnight.              | This fortnight. |            |
| Udayagiri.        |                              |                 |            |
| Narravada .. .. . | 22                           | 25              | Nil.       |

#### PRIVATE CHARITY.

11. *Venkatagiri zemindari.*—One hundred and seventy-six coolies are employed on the repairs to the tank at Kankanampad of Kanigiri Taluk and twelve on Punnur tank in the Podili Division.

#### GENERAL REMARKS.

12. *Sub-Collector's Remarks.*—"The rain during this fortnight has done much good. Labourers can now find employment in preparing the land for cultivation, and I think the work near Pamur need not be continued any longer as a famine work. In case it is decided to discontinue it as a famine work, I propose to ask the Taluk Board to complete the earth-work at least as far as the Pamur tank-bund. Later on the Taluk Board may also be willing to spread the metal which has been collected."

13. *Collector's Remarks.*—There was slight rainfall in all the affected Taluks. The Sub-Collector states it has improved prospects considerably in his Division, but on a recent visit to the Udayagiri Taluk, I could not see that it had had any appreciable effect in the centre and south-east of that Taluk.

Prices generally remain stationary.

The numbers at work on both the Pamur and Narravada works have decreased slightly during the fortnight. The actual figures for the last five days of the fortnight are as follows:—

|                   | Narravada. | Pamur. |
|-------------------|------------|--------|
| July 26th .. .. . | 340        | 410    |
| " 27th .. .. .    | 340        | 290    |
| " 28th .. .. .    | 344        | 359    |
| " 29th .. .. .    | 341        | 313    |
| " 30th .. .. .    | 347        | 218    |

14. The Overseer in charge considers that the number at Pamur has decreased partly owing to the low wages. If this is correct it merely shows that those who have left the work are not really in need of relief. The rates are the same at Pamur as at Narravada and when I inspected this work last week I found that the coolies there could earn very good wages if they chose. It is true that many of them are not earning very much but they have only themselves to blame. For three days paid for on the 18th July, 166 men, 166 women and 18 children earned Rs. 62-12-11, so that roughly each adult earned 1 anna per diem. The earnings of the several gangs were however very unequal. For instance, one gang composed of 10 men, 5 women and 1 child earned as much as Rs. 6-8-1 which gives As. 2-4 per man, As. 2 per woman, and As. 1-4 per child per diem or very good wages. The same gang for the next three days earned, however, Rs. 3-3-0 or As. 1-2 per man, 1 anna per woman, and 4 pies per child per diem. Again for the next three days the same gang earned Rs. 8-12-6 or As. 3-2 per man, As. 2-8 per woman, and As. 1-10 per child per diem. The work done was of course not always of the same nature, but the great difference in the earnings of the several gangs and of each gang from day to day only shows that no gang will always do the same amount of work each day, and that the intermediate system is an excellent system. On the 23rd July, 176 men, 180 women and 19 children were paid for three days Rs. 58-8-11, or, roughly each man earned 1 anna, each woman 10 pies and each child 6 pies per diem.

On the 25th July the payments for three days' work to 169 men, 172 women and 18 children aggregated Rs. 82-1-9 which gives an average of As. 1-6 per man, 1 anna per woman and 9 pies per child per diem. These earnings compare favourably with the rate of As. 1-2 per diem for each B class adult male or female allowable under the Famine Code with the price of ragi at the price now current in Udayagiri.

15. The following are the rates in force at Narravada and Pamur for the various kinds of work. Opposite each rate is noted as far as can be ascertained the ordinary Local Fund rates:—

|                                                | Local Fund rate. |    |                          | Local Fund rate. |     |                                     |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------|----|--------------------------|------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|
|                                                | RS.              | A. | P.                       | RS.              | A.  | A.                                  |
| Earth-work .. .. .                             | 2                | 4  | 9 for 1,000 c. ft.       | 2                | 8   | 0 for 1,000 c. ft.                  |
| Sectioning .. .. .                             | 0                | 6  | 0 for do.                | 0                | 5   | 0 do.                               |
| Rough stone packing .. .. .                    | 0                | 14 | 9 for 100 c. ft.         | 0                | 6   | 9 for 100 c. ft.                    |
| Gravel carting .. .. .                         | 0                | 10 | 4 do. (lead 5 furlongs.) | 0                | 6   | 9 for 100 c. ft. (lead 5 furlongs.) |
| Rough stone quarrying and collecting .. .. .   | 1                | 11 | 9 do.                    | ...              | ... | ...                                 |
| Watering and tamping over metal .. .. .        | 0                | 4  | 9 do.                    | 0                | 7   | 6                                   |
| Gravel spreading, watering and tamping .. .. . | 0                | 5  | 6 do.                    | 0                | 6   | 0 for 100 c. ft.                    |
| Metal spreading, watering and tamping .. .. .  | 0                | 7  | 0 do.                    | 0                | 12  | 0 do.                               |
| Spreading metal .. .. .                        | 0                | 2  | 3 do.                    | 0                | 4   | 6                                   |
| Gravel digging and scrining .. .. .            | 0                | 5  | 6 do.                    | 0                | 8   | 0                                   |

16. I do not consider it advisable to close either work yet. Practically no agricultural work of any description is going on in the villages round about Udayagiri and Narravada, and I cannot believe that there is much difference in the south of Kanigiri Taluk where there has been very little rain. The Sub-Collector who recommends the closing of the Pamur work has not been there within the fortnight. The condition of the villagers at Udayagiri and the neighbourhood is beginning to give cause for anxiety, and I noticed a distinct change for the worse in the general condition of the people and I was entreated by many at Udayagiri to open a work there. It seems almost impossible to get many villagers in need of work to go over 5 or 6 miles to Narravada, but I consider that it would be a great mistake to allow them to force us to open other works for their benefit. I have issued instructions that they are to be told distinctly that no other work will be opened and that accommodation will be provided on the work at Narravada for their families and themselves if they so desire.

*Note.*—As regards the Kanigiri Taluk, the Sub-Collector says that no loans were granted during the fortnight and that it has been reported by the Tahsildar that this was due to the want of encumbrance certificates, which, he says, have since been received and that the Tahsildar has promised to dispose of pending applications as early as possible.

\* Payment of second instalments in cases in which first instalment was paid in previous fortnights.

† In fourteen out of these cases enquiry was completed but pending for encumbrance certificates, sub-division, &c.

‡ Of these enquiry was completed in 29 cases.

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† In fourteen out of these cases enquiry was completed but pending for encumbrance certificates, sub-division, &c.

‡ Of these enquiry was completed in 29 cases.

*Taluks and places visited.*

*Sub-Collector.*

Ongole Taluk—  
Chimakurti.  
Pernamitta.  
Santhanutalapad.  
Podili Division—  
Podili.  
Pedarikatla.  
Uppalapad.

Podili Division—*cont.*  
Talamalla.  
Kambalapad.  
China Arikatla.  
Kanigiri Taluk—  
Kanigiri.  
Challogarigala.

*Atmakúr Deputy Collector.*

Udayagiri Taluk—  
 Yepelagunta.  
 Timmayapalem.  
 Bhatrapoliem.  
 Gangulanaricheruvupalli.  
 Cherlopalli.  
 Bandaganipalli.  
 Bijjampalli.  
 Depurpalli.  
 Ayyanaripalli.  
 Kampasamudram.  
 Brahmanapalli.  
 Nagineenigunta.  
 Bhata.  
 Yerripalli.  
 Timmanayudupett.  
 Kadirinenipalli.  
 Padamatinayunipalli.

Udayagiri Taluk—*cont.*  
 Chunchulur.  
 Atmakūr Taluk—  
 Gogulapalli.  
 Bommavaram.  
 Mangupalli.  
 Agouravaram.  
 Anantasagaram.  
 Patadevarayapalli.  
 Muthukur.  
 Patimidipalli.  
 Kothapalli.  
 Minagallu.  
 Revur.  
 Iskapalli.  
 Depur.  
 Jangelapalli.  
 Atmakūr.

Udayagiri Taluk —  
Duttalur.  
Narravada.

*Collector.*

Udayagiri Taluk—*cont.*  
 Dasarapalli.  
 Udayagiri.

*Resolution*—No. 285, dated 5th August 1898.

Submitted for the information of Government.

| Stations. | June.             |         | July.             |         |
|-----------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
|           | Average expected. | 1898.   | Average expected. | 1898.   |
|           | INCHES.           | INCHES. | INCHES.           | INCHES. |
| ri .. ..  | 2·67              | 2·20    | 2·20              | 1·52    |
| ili .. .. | *                 | 1·99    | *                 | 1·63    |
| nigiri .. | 1·78              | 1·09    | 2·42              | 1·14    |
| yagiri .. | 1·35              | 1·00    | 1·92              | 1·20    |
| akúr ..   | 1·15              | 1·63    | 2·00              | 0·77    |

\* No previous record.

\* No previous record.

are doing well. In the former area, some pasture is springing up, in the latter it is scanty; whilst in both fodder is dear. In part of Udayagiri, the cattle are reported to be in bad condition; but elsewhere their condition is fair. On the whole prospects improved slightly during the period covered by the report, but the improvement has not been great.

3. Prices remained almost stationary, but there was a slight fall at Darsi in the price of ragi and cumbu, and in that of cumbu at Udayagiri; on the other hand the price of cholam at Kanigiri rose by nearly half a seer. Trade is reported to be active.

4. The people are in fair condition and the numbers seeking employment on the two works now open have again decreased, and during the closing days of the month fell off very largely at Pamur in Kanigiri. The Collector considers that, at the rates at present allowed, it is possible for the workers to earn very good wages on the works. He gives instances of several gangs whose earnings he states were as follows:—

| Gang.                          | For men. | For women. | For children.     |
|--------------------------------|----------|------------|-------------------|
|                                | As. P.   | As. P.     | As. P.            |
| A-1 .. .. .                    | 2 4      | 2 0        | 1 4               |
| A-2 .. .. .                    | 1 2      | 1 0        | 0 4               |
| A-3 .. .. .                    | 3 2      | 2 8        | 1 10              |
| B .. .. .                      | 1 0      | 0 10       | 0 6               |
| C .. .. .                      | 1 6      | 1 0        | 0 9               |
| B-class wages of Famine Code . | 1 2      | 1 1        | 0 9<br>to<br>0 10 |

The variations in the earnings of the gang A-1 may perhaps be due to differences in the work they were employed upon in the three periods, for it appears that the rates allowed are in some cases higher and in others lower than Local Fund rates. As regards the payments made to groups B and C, they may be compared as follows with the wages that the same numbers would have been paid in class B of the Famine Code:—

|                               |     |     | Actual. |       | Code wages. |       |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|---------|-------|-------------|-------|
|                               |     |     | RS.     | A. P. | RS.         | A. P. |
| B—On July 23rd for three days | ... | ... | 58      | 8 11  | 77          | 11 9  |
| C—On July 25th do.            | ... | ... | 82      | 1 9   | 74          | 7 0   |
|                               |     |     | 140     | 10 8  | 152         | 3 9   |

Under the Code, a majority of the workers would receive a Sunday wage in addition, and their dependants would fall on gratuitous relief.

5. In these circumstances, the Board is not satisfied that the rates are such as would, in all cases, enable a worker to earn a reasonable wage, and it is of opinion that the works must be kept open for sometime longer, especially as the Collector considers that the condition of the people, in Udayagiri, has deteriorated.

6. The loan's statement again shows want of care in its preparation. The figures under Land Improvement Loans are incomplete owing to the omission of Kanigiri and are less than those for the preceding period for Udayagiri and Kandukur. The Collector is requested to see that the information is made as complete as possible in future and brought up to date.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. BENSON,  
Dy. Dir., L. Rds. and Agri.

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

ORDER—No. 477, Revenue, dated 25th August 1898.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

for Secretary to Government.

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

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

Exd. T. K. Narayana Aiyangar.

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