

Public Works (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 2931

W

DATED

18 Nov 98

In highly Narrative

[Despatch Abstract.]

Pro: Res. Dept. → Recording Pro: of the Board
of Res: Submitting to — of the Board & for
the period ending 15 Sept 98, recorded.

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

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting — of the Nellore district for the period ending 15th September 1898.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 353, dated 21st September 1898 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Nellore District during the period ending 15th of September 1898 :—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Sub-division—Rainfall.—

	Rainfall. INCHES.
Kandukur	1.49
Ongole	1.52
Addanki	2.43
Darsi	4.57
Podili	3.95
Kanigiri	2.91

There was good rainfall throughout the sub-division, more especially the north-western portions.

Water-supply.—All the rivers in the division were in freshes. Many tanks in Podili and Darsi divisions received good supplies :

Podili tank	3 months' supply.
Kanigiri tank	2½ "
Four other tanks in Kanigiri Taluk	Small supplies.

Almost all the tanks in Ongole Taluk received supplies ranging between one and two months, and two tanks are full. In Kandukur Taluk three tanks received each a month's supply. Supply for drinking is sufficient.

Atmakur Deputy Collector's Division—Rainfall.—

	Rainfall. INCHES.
Udayagiri	3.15
Atmakur	4.13

There was good rainfall throughout this division.

Water-supply.—All the rivers received freshes. The supply in river-channels is sufficient for irrigation. The supply in tanks is reported to be as follows :—

Atmakur Taluk—

Seven tanks	15 days' supply.
Two tanks	1 month's "
Four tanks	2 months' "

Udayagiri Taluk—

Two tanks	10 days' supply.
Four tanks	15 "
One tank	1 month's "

Drinking-water is sufficient everywhere.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops—Sub-division.—Lands are everywhere being ploughed for sowing dry crops, such as arika, cholam, cambu, castor-oil seeds, cotton, korra, &c. Wet lands are also being prepared for gaddavari sowings. Arika has been sown in parts of Kanigiri Taluk. Paddy is being transplanted under some tanks.

Standing crops are reviving. Indigo in the Ongole Taluk is reported to be in poor condition. The standing crops—cambu, cholam and indigo—in Kanigiri are expected to yield a fair outturn.

Cholam and cambu were cut under wells in Kanigiri, where the yield was fair.

Atmakur division.—Lands are being ploughed vigorously everywhere in the division. Arika, oil-seeds and cotton are being sown in almost all the villages of the Atmakur Taluk and paddy is being raised under tanks where water is available. Sowings have commenced only to a small extent in the Udayagiri Taluk. Cambu was harvested in the Atmakur Taluk and cholam in the Udayagiri Taluk; the outturn is estimated at 8 to 12 annas. The standing crops in the Udayagiri Taluk, such as cambu, cholam and indigo under wells, are doing well.

A statement showing the progress of cultivation in the above Taluks during April to August, as compared with the cultivation of last year for the same period and with the average cultivation for the last five years, is enclosed :—

Taluks.	Year.	Cultivation during											
		April.		May.		June.		July.		August.		Total.	
		Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.
Ongole	Five years' average.	ACS. 126	ACS. 6	ACS. 173	ACS. 9	ACS. 497	ACS. 22	ACS. 22,901	ACS. 142	ACS. 67,583	ACS. 198	ACS. 91,280	ACS. 377
	1896-97 ..	..	..	131	..	220	11	20,660	119	92,639	182	113,650	312
	1897-98 ..	74	11	73	3	390	83	19,781	87	71,278	301	91,596	485
	1898-99 ..	364	2	109	..	654	3	36,063	146	61,911	152	99,101	303
	Five years' average.	88	274	225	215	777	142	14,393	352	27,067	805	42,550	1,788
Kandukur	Five years' average.	13	242	156	50	486	57	12,845	116	38,059	1,298	51,559	1,763
	1896-97 ..	39	149	41	186	593	288	11,311	266	30,829	1,065	42,813	1,954
	1897-98 ..	26	29	189	14	2,903	223	12,896	570	11,662	286	27,676	1,122
	1898-99 ..	26	29	189	14	2,903	223	12,896	570	11,662	286	27,676	1,122
	Five years' average.	258	15	178	18	423	21	7,292	194	20,267	83	28,918	331
Kanigiri	Five years' average.	72	17	157	18	640	27	6,695	175	31,048	90	38,562	327
	1896-97 ..	12	..	133	23	452	24	4,886	160	15,752	65	21,235	272
	1897-98 ..	2	2	..	..	617	105	70,903	210	915	8	8,627	325
	1898-99 ..	2	2	..	..	617	105	70,903	210	915	8	8,627	325
	Five years' average.	335	53	873	117	573	94	3,791	371	5,669	356	11,241	991
Udayagiri	Five years' average.	587	37	771	66	423	123	3,055	258	5,673	384	10,509	868
	1896-97 ..	709	167	345	86	549	81	4,350	422	3,273	160	9,226	916
	1897-98 ..	266	107	910	62	616	213	3,213	377	1,234	123	6,239	882
	1898-99 ..	266	107	910	62	616	213	3,213	377	1,234	123	6,239	882
	Five years' average.	500	575	858	746	1,397	999	3,985	846	4,762	1,548	11,502	4,714
Atmakur	Five years' average.	28	289	122	143	1,918	1,253	3,814	468	5,853	788	11,735	2,941
	1896-97 ..	..	..	341	523	1,195	1,160	4,940	1,370	5,318	1,092	11,794	4,145
	1897-98 ..	105	248	441	132	1,739	1,067	4,547	1,604	5,145	2,960	11,977	6,011
	1898-99 ..	105	248	441	132	1,739	1,067	4,547	1,604	5,145	2,960	11,977	6,011
	Five years' average.	1,307	923	2,307	1,105	3,667	1,278	52,362	1,905	125,348	2,990	184,991	8,261
Total	Five years' average.	700	585	1,337	277	3,687	1,471	47,019	1,136	173,272	2,742	226,015	6,211
	1896-97 ..	834	327	933	821	3,179	1,636	45,268	2,305	126,450	2,683	176,664	7,772
	1897-98 ..	763	388	1,649	208	6,529	1,611	63,812	2,967	80,867	3,529	163,620	8,643
	1898-99 ..	763	388	1,649	208	6,529	1,611	63,812	2,967	80,867	3,529	163,620	8,643
	Five years' average.	1,307	923	2,307	1,105	3,667	1,278	52,362	1,905	125,348	2,990	184,991	8,261

The above table shows that there has been a considerable falling off in the total extent sown as compared with the five years' average and the sowings of the previous two years. Individually Ongole and Atmakur have not been affected. Kanigiri shows the largest decrease under dry, the area cultivated up to the end of August this year being only 30.35 per cent. of the five years' average and 22.37 per cent. of the sowings of 1896-97.

Udayagiri and Kandukur also contributed largely to the falling off, the cultivation being 55.50 and 65.04 per cent., respectively, as compared with the five years' average.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Sub-division.—Fodder is insufficient and not generally procurable. Green fodder is being sold in important villages. The condition of cattle is indifferent and they are underfed and weak. No cattle disease exists anywhere.

Atmakur division.—Fodder is generally available in the Atmakur Taluk and scarce in the Udayagiri Taluk. Pasture is springing up in both the taluks. The condition of cattle is bad in Udayagiri, but should now improve.

General remarks on the previous subjects—Sub-division and Atmakur division.—The recent rains have done much good to the standing crops and have revived agricultural operations. More rain is, however, needed everywhere.

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 September 1898.

Stations.	Rice.		Cholam.		Ragi.		Cambu.		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.	
Kandukur	9-64	9-64	13-58	14-48	16-15	15-30	..	14-76	Scarcity Warning rates. rates.
Ongole	9-40	10-34	14-40	15-75	15-30	16-15	13-26	13-61	
Addanki	9-40	9-40	14-40	14-40	17-00	17-00	12-38	12-38	
Darsi	9-40	9-40	14-48	14-48	15-30	15-30	11-48	11-48	
Podili	9-40	9-40	14-48	14-48	15-30	15-30	11-48	11-48	
Kanigiri	7-52	7-52	14-48	14-48	15-30	15-30	13-20	13-20	
Udayagiri	7-52	7-52	14-48	14-48	15-30	15-30	13-20	13-20	
Atmakur	7-99	7-99	12-67	12-67	15-73	15-30	12-71	12-71	Rice .. 8-40 11-20 Cholam .. 13-00 19-50 Ragi .. 14-00 21-00 Cambu .. 12-00 18-00
Average	3-96	9-10	14-12	14-35	15-67	15-56	12-47	12-80	

Activity of trade.—The prices of all the food-grains have fallen at Ongole and have risen at Udayagiri. The price of cholam has fallen at Kandukur and that of ragi has risen both at Kandukur and Atmakur. The rise in prices, wherever it occurred, is attributed to short supply and large demands from other Taluks. Trade is not very active except in Ongole.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On works.—Fair.

In villages.—Fair. The condition of the lower classes is indifferent.

Sickness and Mortality.—No deaths from starvation.

Sub-division.—Cholera exists throughout the sub-division, except in Kanigiri Taluk. There were 89 attacks and 34 deaths. It is subsiding.

Atmakur division.—There were 61 attacks and 21 deaths from cholera.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

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

Taluks.	Number employed	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Kanigiri Taluk—		
Pamur	..	..
Udayagiri Taluk—	..	..
Narravada	..	..
Total	338	269

Gratuitous Relief.—Numbers relieved at Kitchens—

Taluks.	Dependants.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Udayagiri Taluk—		
Narravada	23	30

General Remarks.—(1) There has been some good rain in the affected parts during the fortnight and prospects are now much brighter. The sowing of dry crops is beginning everywhere, and there is consequently a greater demand for labour.

(2) Prices remained stationary except in Ongole, Kandukur, Atmakur and Udayagiri. In Ongole the prices of all grains have fallen; while in Udayagiri they have all risen. In the other two Taluks the changes are slight. There is not likely to be any appreciable change for another month.

(3) The numbers on the works do not yet show much variation as shown below:—

	Number of workers at the end of the last fortnight.	Number of workers at the end of the present fortnight.
Narravada	276	207
Pamur	62	75

I was not able to visit the Pamur work with the District Medical officer as I had intended, owing to the heavy rains which made it impossible to travel rapidly, and the District Medical officer could only spare a few days as he had arranged to leave the district on casual leave in the middle of the month. On his return I shall arrange to visit both works with him.

The decrease on the Narravada work is, no doubt, due to the favourable rain during the fortnight. The numbers on the Pamur work vary considerably from day to day as the following figures show:—

	Numbers on the work.
2nd September 1898	18
3rd	28
4th	77
5th	91
6th	45
7th	44
8th	50
9th	79
10th	62
11th	51
12th	76
13th	75

It is hardly possible to ascribe any reasons for these changes.

(4) The following statement shows the earnings of the workers at Pamur from the 2nd to 5th September. The work done was all earth work in soft soil, the rate being Rs. 1-15-0 per 1,000 cubic feet:—

Number of gang.	Number of				Number of days worked.	Total earning for period worked.	Approximate earnings per diem of each			Total wages payable at Code rates to each gang for period in column 6.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.			Man = three children.	Women = two children.	Child.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	4	4	2	10	4	RS. A. P. 2 6 3	RS. A. P. 0 1 4	RS. A. P. 0 0 10	RS. A. P. 0 0 5	RS. A. P. 2 11 4
2	15	7	2	24	3	4 9 3	0 1 2	0 0 10	0 0 5	5 4 3
3	8	3	2	8	3	0 14 2	0 0 10	0 0 7	0 0 3	1 9 3
4	12	8	1	21	2	3 3 11	0 1 5	0 1 13	0 0 5	3 1 10
5	7	4	7	18	2	1 14 10	0 1 4	0 0 10	0 0 5	2 3 0
Total	41	26	14	81	..	13 0 5	..	..	..	14 13 8

	RS. A. P.
* Per man	 0 1 3
„ woman	 0 1 2
„ child	 0 0 7

The earnings shown here are much higher than those reported in my last narrative and show that the low earnings were not due to the rates, the work done for these earnings having been also almost entirely earth-work.

(5) With reference to the concluding remark of the Board on my last narrative (*vide* paragraph 3 of Board's Proceedings, No. 337, dated 9th September 1898), the rate for "rough stone quarrying and collecting" does not, I understand, include breaking, but very little work of this kind has been done. The unit for spreading, watering and tamping was correctly given by me as 100 cubic feet; the quantity of tamping necessary varies with the depth of the gravel (see also Form F, Appendix III, of the Famine Code). The objections given by the Board to work of this nature

apply equally, I respectfully submit, to other items such, for instance, as metal-breaking. Further the work at Pamur during the past two months has been almost solely earth-work and no spreading has been done yet.

(6) The works should, I think, be allowed to continue a little longer. The coolies are not likely to stay longer than they need. The proportion of men still remains large as shown by the following figures:—

	Naravada.				Pamur.			
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Numbers on the work on the 13th September 1898.	64	77	66	207	34	27	14	75
Percentage of each class ..	31	37	32	100	45	36	19	100

LOAN TRANSACTIONS.

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

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.		C on str uct ed or re paired.	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	
Kandukur	53	Rs. 6,290	52	Rs. 5,565	1	Rs. 725	..	..	..	..	..	..	53	Rs. 6,290	52	Rs. 5,565	1	Rs. 725	..	52	
Kanigiri	33	5,340	10	1,140	23	4,200	..	..	..	..	..	..	33	5,340	10	1,140	23	4,200	..	15	
Udayagiri	83	12,745	80	9,855	26	4,240	1	250	1	125	..	..	84	12,995	81	10,020	26	4,240	..	77	
Atmakur	32	4,820	31	3,610	2	300	1	60	1	30	..	..	33	4,880	32	3,670	2	300	..	31	
Total ..	201	29,195	173	20,240	52	9,465	2	310	2	155	..	..	203	29,505	175	20,395	52	9,465	4	175	

Taluk.	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.
Kandukur ..	16	800	15	760	1	40	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	800	15	760	1	40
Kanigiri ..	..	..	..	..	2	200	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	200
Udayagiri ..	78	2,797	78	2,797	70	3,009	32	2,009	32	2,009	52	5,195	110	4,806	110	4,806	122	8,204
Atmakur ..	3	140	3	140	..	..	5	300	5	300	..	..	8	440	8	440	..	..
Total ..	97	3,737	96	3,697	73	3,249	37	2,309	37	2,309	52	5,195	134	6,046	133	6,006	125	8,444

* The amount disbursed during the fortnight relates to the second instalment.

† These figures have been adopted as reported by the Sub-Collector.

‡ The 25 applications of Kanigiri reported to be pending are under correspondence as explained below:—

4 with Revenue Inspectors.

1 with the Tahsildar of Ongole.

11 with the Registration officers for encumbrance certificates.

7 under enquiry.

2 in which the applicants have been asked to appear and receive payment.

INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT OFFICERS.

Taluk and places visited.

Sub-Collector.—Did no touring, being on casual leave for five days.

Atmakur division—

Mahammadapuram.
Prabhagiripatnam.

Virur.
Tatiparti.

Resolution—No. 353, dated 21st September 1898.

The narrative read above, which reached the Board on the 21st instant, will be submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall during the period dealt with was good throughout the affected portion of the district and has permitted a brisk resumption of ploughing and sowing. Up to the end of August, the area sown was much below the average as shown in the following statement:—

Locality.	Sown up to end of August.	
	Average.	1898.
	ACS.	ACS.
Kanigiri and { Dry	..	..
Udayagiri { Wet	..	..
Total ..	40,416	15,578

These figures, which are taken from the monthly cultivation returns, differ slightly from those given in the Collector's report. No particulars are available for the zamindari area lying in the above-mentioned taluks and to the north thereof.

The resumption of agricultural operations will, no doubt, increase the demand for labour, but there is not likely to be full employment for all daily labourers till the harvest, and the trying season when the crops are growing lies still before them.

3. Prices have shown no sign of getting cheaper in the affected parts, but have risen at Udayagiri and Atmakur. At Kanigiri and Podili, there has been no change. At Ongole, which is far outside the affected area, there has been a fall. With the improvement in the season, the hope that prices may fall is justifiable.

4. The recent rainfall should soon bring up pasturage, and thus relieve the sufferings of the cattle, which are reported to be in bad or poor condition.

5. The numbers resorting to the two relief works now open showed a further decline during the period, but the attendance was irregular. The wages earned by the relief workers at Pamur from the 2nd to 5th September compares as noted below with what would have been paid had they been paid at B class Famine Code rates:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Amount actually earned ..	13	0	5
Amount due at B class rates ..	14	13	8

The earnings have been better than those alluded to in paragraph 3 of B.P., No. 337 of 1898, though the workers have been employed on the same earth-work at a rate reduced to about 10 pies, from nearly one anna per yard. Probably even at the lower rate the piece-work has been easier owing to the softening of the soil by rain.

6. The Collector considers that the works should be allowed to continue open for some time longer, and this would seem to be the safest course. Distress in the tract is undoubtedly great: prices are close on double the normal, and have as yet shown no tendency to fall; and although the numbers on the relief works are small the wages earned show that the workers must be absolutely without other resource.

No. 587, REVENUE, 10TH OCTOBER 1898.

7. The Collector's future reports should be restricted to Podili, Kanigiri and Udayagiri. No reference to parts outside this area is required unless special reason appears for the same.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Nellore (D.Os. and Tahrs.).
Copy to the Superintending Engineer, II Circle.
" " Sanitary Commissioner.

ORDER—No. 587, Revenue, dated 10th October 1898.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture).
" the Financial Department.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Local and Municipal Department.
" the Accountant-General.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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