

Public Works (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 3021

DATED 25th Mar '98

Fortnightly Narrative [Despatch Abstract.]

From: Rev. Dept. & ending From:
of the Board of Rev. Submitting in _____ of the
Return for the period ending 30 Sep '98, ended.

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G.O., No. 637, 3rd November 1898.

NOVEMBER.

Fortnightly Narrative. *66*

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting — of the Nollora district for the period ending 30th September 1898.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 389, dated 10th October 1898 :—

FORTNIGHTLY Narrative for the Nellore District, during the period ending 30th September 1898.

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply—

Sub-division—Rainfall—

	INCHES.
Podili	1.75
Kanigiri	2.19

The rainfall is general throughout the taluk, though the eastern portion of the Podili division had less rain than the rest of the division.

Water-supply.—The tanks in Podili division have all received good supplies, while in Kanigiri Taluk the supplies range between 1 and 2 months, excepting the Kanigiri tank which has 5 months' supply and the Guruvajipett tank which has only 15 days' supply.

Water is generally sufficient for drinking purposes. All the rivers were in freshes.

Atmakūr Deputy Collector's division—Rainfall—

	INCHES.
Udayagiri	2.04

Water-supply—

6 tanks contain a few days' supply. 1 tank contains 15 days' supply.
2 " " 10 " " 1 " " 1 month's "

Supply in wells is sufficient for drinking purposes, but insufficient for irrigation. Drinking-water is generally sufficient.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops—Sub-division.—In Podili paddy is being transplanted under some tanks, and cumbu under wells is being cut. Dry lands are being ploughed for dry crops, such as, oil-seeds, cholam, korra, cotton and horse-gram. Cholam and cumbu under wells were harvested in Kanigiri and yielded a fair outturn.

Standing crops in Kanigiri and Podili, viz., cumbu, cholam and indigo, under wells are thriving. Paddy in Podili is in good condition.

Atmakūr division—Udayagiri taluk.—Lands are being ploughed for dry crops in most villages. Aruka, oil-seeds, korra, cotton and chitta-cholam are being sown. Cholam and cumbu under wells were harvested with a fair yield.

The standing crops—cumbu, indigo and oil-seeds—under wells are thriving.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle—Sub-division.—Fodder is insufficient and not easily procurable. Pasture is springing up and is generally sufficient. The condition of cattle is improving everywhere.

Atmakūr division.—Fodder is scarce in the Udayagiri Taluk. Pasture is springing up owing to the recent rains. The condition of cattle is still indifferent, but is improving. There is no cattle-disease anywhere.

General remarks on the previous subjects—Sub-division.—If the season is normal during the coming months, the year will be a fairly good one. There is little cause for anxiety now.

Atmakūr division.—Prospects are improving, but some rain is still wanted in parts for ploughing dry lands.

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 30th of September 1898.

Stations.	Rice.		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.	
Podili	9.40	9.40	14.48	14.48	15.30	15.30	11.48	11.48	Searcity Warning rates. rates. Rice .. 8.40 11.20 Cholam .. 13.00 19.50 Ragi .. 14.00 21.00 Cumbu .. 12.00 18.00
Kanigiri	7.52	7.99	14.48	14.98	15.30	15.30	13.20	13.20	
Udayagiri	..	..	14.03	14.48	14.87	15.30	12.71	13.12	
Average	8.46	8.69	14.33	14.63	15.15	15.30	12.46	12.60	

Activity of trade.—Prices at Podili are stationary. The prices of rice and cholam at Kanigiri and of cholam, ragi and cumbu at Udayagiri have fallen slightly owing to the recent rains. Private trade is active.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On Works.—Good.

In Villages.—Fair.

Sickness and Mortality.—No deaths from starvation.

Sub-division.—There were 84 attacks and 45 deaths from cholera in Kanigiri and Podili Taluks during the fortnight.

Atmakūr division.—There were 18 attacks and 14 deaths from cholera in the Udayagiri Taluk.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

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

Taluks.	Number employed.		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Kanigiri Taluk—			
Pamur	51	61	Closed on the 2nd October.
Udayagiri Taluk—			
Narravada	218	184	The decrease is due to the recent rains.
Total	269	245	

Gratuitous relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens—

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

Private charity.—The amount placed at the disposal of the Sub-Collector and the Deputy Collector, Atmakūr, by the Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Madras, is being disbursed for gratuitous relief and in the purchase of cattle and seed-grain for poor ryots.

General Remarks.—There has been good rain in all the affected taluks. The state of the season in Podili and Kanigiri may be considered satisfactory and unless the rainfall in the next month or two is much below the normal, no further anxiety need be felt about these Taluks. Prospects are not quite so good in parts of Udayagiri where the rainfall has been comparatively small. Pasture is abundant almost everywhere in Podili and Kanigiri and should become so in Udayagiri shortly. Prices are falling in Udayagiri and Kanigiri. Work is available for the cooly classes throughout Podili and Kanigiri and is becoming more plentiful in Udayagiri.

2. I inspected the Narravada and Pamur works last week with the District Medical Officer Lieutenant-Colonel Pemberton. A copy of his remarks on the condition of the workers will be transmitted on receipt. At Pamur there were no people on the work, but we inspected the village of Gopalapuram from which most of the coolies last on the work had come. The condition of the workers was quite satisfactory.

3. I closed the work at Pamur on the 2nd October. The attendance for a week as shown by the figures given below had been very small, and owing to the harvesting of cumbu and good rain in the neighbourhood work in the fields seems obtainable by all:—

Date.	Number of workers at Pamur.	Number of workers at Narravada.
26th September	...	...
27th "	...	...
28th "	...	...
29th "	...	...
30th "	...	...
1st October	...	...
2nd "	...	...
	25	225
	Nil.	197
	24	198
	24	198
	23	169
	Nil.	145
	Nil.	Sunday.

4. The earnings of some gangs on the work during the fortnight were very high being as much as 3 annas 4 pies per man, 2 annas 3 pies per woman, and 1 anna 2 pies per child in one gang, so that low earnings have evidently not been the cause of the small attendance.

5. The numbers on the Narravada work are decreasing, but the work must still be kept open for the reasons given in paragraph 6 of B.P., No. 353, dated 21st September 1898. Below are given the earnings on this work for three days paid for on the 22nd September:—

Number of gang.	Number of				Number of days worked by each gang.	Total earning of the gang for the days worked.	Approximate earnings per diem of each			Wages payable at the Code rates to each gang for the period in column 6.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.			Man = three children.	Woman = two children.	Child.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	4	5	5	14	3	RS. A. P. (c)	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
2	8	13	10	31	3	1 14 11 (c) (d) (e)	0 1 1	0 0 9	0 0 5	2 9 3
3	5	4	4	13	3	3 2 8 (c) (d) (e)	0 0 10	0 0 7	0 0 3½	5 13 0
4	5	4	5	14	3	2 3 7 (d) (e)	0 1 4	0 0 10½	0 0 5	2 7 9
5	6	5	4	15	3	2 4 10 (c) (d) (e)	0. 1 4	0 0 10½	0 0 5	2 9 6
6	5	4	5	14	3	2 15 3 (c) (d) (e)	0 1 5½	0 1 0	0 0 6	2 15 0
7	2	1	3	6	3	2 15 2 (c)	0 1 8	0 1 1	0 0 7	2 9 8
8	4	3	4	11	2	1 15 8 (c)	0 2 10½	0 1 11	0 0 11½	1 0 3
9	3	3	3	9	2	0 13 8 (c)	0 0 11	0 0 7	0 0 4	1 5 8
10	5	6	7	18	3	0 14 8 (a) (d) (e) (f)	0 1 2	0 0 10	0 0 5	1 2 0
11	2	3	6	11	1	2 13 9 (c)	0 1 4	0 0 11	0 0 5	3 4 0
12	3	13	..	16	3	0 7 4 (e)	0 1 2	0 0 10	0 0 5	0 9 6
13	8	9	2	19	3	2 11 10 (a) (b) (c)	0 1 3	0 0 10	..	3 8 9
14	6	3	6	15	3	5 2 11 (a) (b)	0 1 10½	0 1 3	0 0 7½	4 1 0
15	6	6	7	19	3	3 10 8 (c)	0 1 11	0 1 4	0 0 8	2 11 6
Total ..	72	82	71	225	..	2 11 10 36 14 9	0 1 2	0 0 9	0 0 5	3 7 9
							0 1 5	0 0 11½	0 0 6	40 2 5

Notes.—(a) Earthwork.
 (b) Sectioning earthwork and watering and tamping.
 (c) Carting.
 (d) Carting.
 (e) Carting.
 (f) Carting.

Notes.—(a) Earthwork.
(b) Sectioning earthwork and watering and tamping.
(c) Removing and restacking metal.

(d) Carting gravel.
(e) Repairing road.
(f) Dressing bams.

6. The condition of the people in villages is, as far as I have personally observed, satisfactory. Here and there one comes across a baby in arms in poor condition, but otherwise there is nothing noticeable in the condition of the people anywhere. There are of course the usual beggars, but as far as I have observed they are in no worse plight than usual. The Sub-Collector remarks: "The condition of the people in villages and on works is fair. In my halts in villages crowds of beggars consisting mostly of old men and women came to beg in hopes of getting a few annas out of the contribution from the Madras Famine Charitable Relief Fund. Many of these appear weak and underfed, a condition which is attributable to their poverty rather than to the season. Out of the funds at my disposal I have spent Rs. 80 in relieving above 190 poor persons. . . . The Tahsildar of Kanigiri has just returned from the southern part of his taluk and says that the state of things is satisfactory. . . . Only old or infirm persons who are unfit for work have applied to me for relief; others do not appear to be in any great distress." In Udayagiri Taluk, the Atmakur Deputy Collector reports that the condition of the people in villages is generally fair, but that it is indifferent in some villages, where those requiring assistance were aided from the Famine Relief Fund.

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

Taluku.	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
Kanigiri	*32	RS. 5,140	13	RS. 1,465	19	3,675	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	RS. 5,140	13	RS. 1,465	19	3,675	..	20
Udayagiri	97	14,955	86	11,185	15	2,520	1	250	1	125	..	..	98	15,205	87	11,310	15	2,520	8	79
Total ..	129	20,095	99	12,650	34	6,195	1	250	1	125	..	..	130	20,345	100	12,775	34	6,195	8	99

Taluks.	Purchase of fodder.						Cattle and seed grain.						Total.						
	Applica- tions accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applica- tions pending.		Applica- tions accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applica- tions pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applica- tions 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	
Kanigiri	..	2	RS. 200	..	2	RS. 200	..	38	2,484	36	2,274	50	RS. 4,486	2	RS. 200	..	2	RS. 200	
Udayagiri	..	104	3,725	101	3,585	26	1,151	38	2,484	86	2,274	50	4,486	142	6,209	137	5,859	76	5,637
Total	..	106	3,925	101	3,585	28	1,351	38	2,484	86	2,274	50	4,486	144	6,409	137	5,859	78	5,837

* One application of Rs. 200 has been rejected.