

Public Works (189) Department.

G.O., No. 400 W

DATED February 98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Fortnightly Narrative. In: Rev. Dept.
recording with remarks Road: In:.
Submitting the — of the — it should be for the
period ending 15 Jan^y 98, Communicated
to the Supt^y Engrs & Circle, with remark.

Dr

17250

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

Q. 18/2/98

No. 71, REVENUE, 4TH FEBRUARY 1898.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 46, dated 28th January 1898 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative of the Nellore district during the period ending 15th January 1898 :—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply—Sub-Division—Ongole taluk.—No rainfall during the fortnight. Almost all the tanks in the taluk are now dry with the exception of Ongole and Korsapadu tanks, which contain a month's supply and two other tanks which have a supply of a week or ten days. Water for drinking purposes generally sufficient.

Kandukur taluk.—No rainfall during the fortnight. Out of seventy tanks, ten have a supply of one full month, sixteen a supply of fifteen days and over, four a supply of ten days, and twenty-one below ten days. The rest have no water in them. Drinking-water sufficient.

Kanigiri taluk.—No rain during the fortnight. Kanigiri tank alone contains two months' supply which is sufficient for irrigation, while the Peda Irlapadu tank contains 10 days' supply. Water for drinking purposes generally sufficient.

Podili division.—Podili tank will become dry in four or five days. The remaining tanks have already dried up. The supply of drinking-water cannot be said to be generally sufficient as the want thereof is felt in the western portion of the division.

Darsi division.—One of the tanks contains one and a half month's supply, while two more contain a month's supply and four fifteen days. Rest getting dried up. Wells contain sufficient water to irrigate crops under them. Drinking-water generally sufficient.

Atmakur division.—Rainfall nil.

Atmakuru taluk.—The Anantasagaram tank contains three months' supply. Three other tanks contain a supply of two months' and more; one a month and ten days' supply; one a supply of twenty-five days, four fifteen days, two ten days, one eight days, five below a week and the rest empty. The supply under river-channels and in garden wells is sufficient. Drinking-water is sufficient except in five villages.

Udayagiri taluk.—Tanks contain no supply. Only two tanks have any water in them and what they have is estimated at four days' supply. Water in wells is scanty in third range and barely enough for the ragi crop in the second and first ranges where some villages felt the want of it even for the ragi crop. Water-supply generally sufficient for drinking purposes, though the supply in wells in the village-site of Udayagiri is scanty and the people there are suffering on that account. The Kona canal is supplying its share of water.

Head-quarter division.—No rainfall.

Nellore taluk.—The Kanigiri reservoir contains eight feet of water and the Nellore tank twelve days' supply. All the tanks of the Indukurpet firka except four contain about ten days' supply, while those in fifteen villages in the Alur firka contain sufficient supply. In the remaining firkas, the supply in five tanks ranges from one month to one month and twenty-one days and from ten to fifteen days in four other tanks. Drinking-water sufficient.

Kavali taluk.—The supply for irrigation is insufficient, though owing to the rainfall of the last two days of December three tanks received ten days' supply. Drinking-water sufficient.

No. 71, REVENUE, 4TH FEBRUARY 1898.

Head Assistant's division.—There was no rainfall during the fortnight.

Gudur taluk.—Water-supply is sufficient for irrigation in the Muthukur range, in the delta villages and the other villages except two or three of Kanupur range, in most of the villages of Gudur range; it has failed almost entirely in all but six villages of Kota range and also in six villages of Sriharikóta range.

Rapur taluk.—There is water for irrigation in four or five tanks, but only a nominal quantity. In *Polur division* there is still a fair supply in a few of the larger tanks and the river-channels, but none in the smaller tanks. In *Venkatagiri*, the conditions are much the same as in *Pólur*. Drinking-water sufficient generally.

AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS AND CONDITION OF STANDING CROPS.

Sub-Division, Ongole taluk.—Paddy crop under the Maddalur, Yenikapadu, Chimakurti and Meynampadu tanks has been cut with an outturn varying from 16 to 12 annas. The crop under other tanks is withering, but attempts are being made to revive them by sinking wells in wet fields and irrigating them therefrom. Such crops are fair. In Padarti and Allur, crops under private tanks are bad, while those under other tanks and the spring-fed ponds are fair. The outturn may be estimated to range from 8 to 12 annas. The wet crop in Addanki village entirely failed owing to blight and want of water supply. Paddy, cholam, cumbu, ragi and indigo already harvested gave yield varying from 16 annas to nil. Out of the standing crops, paddy, early cholam, ragi, early variga, pulses, oil-seeds and cotton are fair. Late variga and late jonna are precarious.

Kandukur taluk.—Paddy is being cut. Outturn fair. The standing paddy is fair except under tanks which have no sufficient supply of water. Late cholam, cotton, oil-seeds and pulses fair. Variga in a few villages bordering the river Paleru is doing well. The harvested aruga gave a poor outturn.

Kanigiri taluk.—Ragi is under transplantation in garden lands. The standing crops are paddy under tanks ragi under wells, oil-seeds, cotton and pulses on dry lands. Paddy at Kanigiri is fair, but precarious in other places. The other crops are in a withering state. Aruga is being cut for fodder.

Podili division.—Except portions of paddy crops under the Podili and the Marripudi tanks which are being harvested with a probable outturn of 12 annas, the rest of the crops have in some parts already withered and are withering in others.

Darsi division.—Under Pulipodu tank paddy is under transplantation. Fields are being prepared for ragi crop. Variga is being harvested with an outturn of 8 annas. Paddy and ragi under wells are fair. Cotton and oil-seeds fading. Pulses fair.

Atmakur division, Atmakur taluk.—Ploughing in progress in Chejerla and Devarayapalli ranges for ragi and tobacco under wells and in a few wet fields of the Atmakur range. Kesari is being sown under the Anantasagaram tank. Ragi and tobacco being cultivated in Devarayapalli and Chejerla firkas and in a few fields under wells in the Atmakur firka. Paddy under river-channels and the Anantasagaram and Kaluvoya tanks is thriving and is expected to yield an outturn of 16 to 4 annas. Aruka, where it has not already been lost, has since improved by the December rainfall and is expected to give an outturn of 8 to 4 annas and below. Early cholam has been benefited by the recent rains and there is hope of a fair outturn. It begins to put forth ears. Late cholam, though improved by the December rain, is not likely to yield any outturn. Cotton, oil-seeds and horse-gram are fair and may yield from 8 to 4 annas. Ragi is young but is expected to give an outturn of 8 to 4 annas.

Udayagiri taluk.—Ragi is being transplanted under wells. Aruka has withered completely except in five villages in portions of which it is expected to yield an outturn of 2 to 4 annas. Paddy has withered except in five villages and the outturn in those five villages is expected to vary from 4 to 12 annas. Cholam, where it exists is fair except in parts. Oil-seeds and cotton are bad in the third range, indifferent in the second range, and fair in the 1st range. Horse-gram has withered in parts of the third range and is fading. Elsewhere it is fair. Ragi is tender and fair for the present.

Head-quarter division—Nellore taluk.—Ploughing is going on in parts for sowing ragi. Paddy in non-delta villages and also in a few delta villages has generally withered or is withering. The dry crops are in good condition.

Kavali taluk.—Ragi is being transplanted. Paddy and aruka have been harvested in ten villages with an outturn varying from 2 to 12 annas. A large extent of crop has also been lost. Cholan is bad in the north-western villages, where the ragi crop under ordinary wells and Sultan wells on the banks of the Upputeru and the Mannéru is doing well.

Head Assistant's division—Gudur taluk.—Ploughing is going on in parts of Gudur, Kota and Kanupur firkas for garden crops and in some cases for three months' paddy crop. Cutting has commenced to a small extent, the yield being from 4 to 12 annas. Paddy has withered to a large extent especially in the Kota firka and in six villages of Sriharikóta. Tahsildar estimates that about 2,500 acres have withered, exclusive of a large area which is still green, but is bound to wither if there is no rain. He puts down remissions at about Rs. 60,000 which may rise to Rs. 75,000 or more.

Rapur taluk.—Garden cultivation is going on to some extent. None of the paddy crop can possibly yield except in the village of Rapur itself. The early-sown cholam crop promises well, but the late sown will not yield without more rain. Oil-seeds, it is said, are being injured by insects.

Pólur division.—Garden cultivation going on. Crop has withered over a large area during the fortnight especially fields under small tanks situated at a distance from the tanks. The Deputy Tahsildar estimates that not more than a third of the total area will yield. Taking the division as a whole, the above is probably not too low an estimate.

Venkatagiri division.—No report has been received from Venkatagiri, but the state of things is reported to be much the same as in Pólur.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle—Sub-division.—Dried up pasture is available except in Kanigiri. Fodder is generally sufficient except in portions of Kandukur and in Podili and Kanigiri. Condition of cattle generally good except in one village in Addanki division where cattle disease is reported to be prevalent.

Atmakúr division.—Fodder is quite insufficient especially in Atmakúr firka. Pasture is not also available. Cattle are being fed on withered pasture scraped and upon withered paddy and aruka stalks. Condition of cattle generally fair, but cattle diseases prevail in fourteen villages.

Head-quarter division.—Pasture scarce. Fodder insufficient in Nellore and sufficient in Kavali taluks. Condition of cattle generally good but there were 55 attacks from Pedda cheeda in two villages of the Kavali taluk.

Head Assistant's division.—Pasture is being exhausted. Supplies of fodder are also getting low. Condition of cattle generally good, though cattle diseases prevail in some villages of Kota firka.

General remarks on the previous subjects—Sub-division.—Situation unchanged. Matters gradually getting worse. In Ongole crops are fair except in a few villages and in the Addanki division. Elsewhere things are very bad.

Atmakúr division.—In the Atmakúr taluk, the dry crops have all improved by late rains, while in Udayagiri the outlook is bad. The standing crops except ragi are, generally speaking, not likely to yield any outturn. There is no hope of ragi yielding a fair outturn in all villages as supply in wells is limited.

Head Assistant's division.—In the Kota firka of the Gudur taluk the villages of Sriharikóta west of the canal and the zamindari have suffered most from want of rain. In some villages of the Kota firka and the zamindari tracts, there is fair amount of garden cultivation but not to such an extent as to afford any appreciable alleviation. In Rapur, the small proportion which the wet crop bears to the total cultivated area makes its loss not so serious, except in a few particular villages. Much also depends on the state of the late-sown cholam which cannot yield without more rain.

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 January 1898.

Stations.	Rice, second sort.		Cholan.		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.		
1. Ongole ..	8-46	8-46	10-80	10-80	12-33	12-75	10-31	9-90	Scar-	Warn-
2. Addanki ..	7-52	7-52	11-70	11-70	12-75	12-75	10-73	9-90	city	ing
3. Darsi ..	9-40	9-40	..	..	12-75	12-75	12-30	12-30	rate.	rate.
4. Podili ..	8-46	8-46	10-86	10-86	12-75	12-75	13-12	13-12	Rice ..	8-40 11-20
5. Kandukur ..	7-99	7-99	10-41	11-31	12-33	12-33	10-46	10-46	Cholan ..	13-00 19-50
6. Kanigiri ..	7-52	7-52	..	..	12-75	11-90	9-90	9-90	Ragi ..	14-00 21-00
7. Atmakúr ..	8-46	8-46	11-77	10-86	11-90	11-90	..	..	Cumbu ..	12-00 18-00
8. Udayagiri ..	..	..	10-86	10-86	11-90	11-90	10-66	10-66	..	..
9. Kavali ..	8-46	9-40	10-86	10-86	11-90	11-90	10-66	10-66	..	..
10. Nellore ..	9-28	9-01	10-30	11-33	11-28	12-48	11-28	11-28	..	..
11. Allúr ..	8-48	8-48	..	..	12-48	11-52	..	..	..	..
12. Gudur ..	9-54	8-48	..	12-36	..	12-48	..	10-34	..	..
13. Kota ..	10-60	9-54	..	..	16-80	16-89	..	..	..	..
14. Pólur ..	9-01	8-48	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15. Rapur ..	..	..	..	..	11-52	13-44	11-28	11-75	..	..
16. Venkatagiri ..	8-48	8-22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Average ..	8-69	8-63	10-95	11-22	12-57	12-68	11-11	10-92	..	..

Activity of trade—Sub-division.—Private trade is active. Rice is being imported by canal and the other food-grains from Bellary and Madras.

Atmakúr division.—Private trade is active in Udayagiri taluk, while in Atmakúr it is indifferent. Trade in staple food-grains, viz., cumbu and cholam, is going on between Cuddapah and Madras on the one side and Udayagiri on the other. Paddy is being imported from the Nellore taluk. The quantity of imports into the Udayagiri taluk is as shown below :—

	Patties.
Ragi ...	400
Cumbu ...	150
Cholan ...	50
Broken rice ...	7
Paddy ...	100

Head-quarter division.—Private trade is active. There are some exports from Nellore taluk to Madras and northern taluks. Paddy is largely imported from the Kistna district into the Kavali taluk; the dry grains from Rénigunta, Madras, &c.

Head Assistant's division.—There has been export of rice to Madras from Gudur taluk and import in turn from Madras of cholam and Rangoon rice. The latter has also been imported into Pólur and Sriharikóta and has somewhat reduced prices. But it is doubtful whether it can be imported at so low a rate and in such quantities as to materially lower prices for any length of time. Rapur receives some grain from Nellore.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On works.—Condition of people on works generally healthy.

In villages.—Generally good.

Sickness and Mortality.—No deaths from starvation anywhere.

Sub-division—Kandukur.—Cholera prevalent; five deaths out of ten attacks. The Special Hospital Assistant is on duty visiting the affected villages.

Darsi.—Cholera prevalent—three deaths out of six attacks.

Atmakúr division—Atmakúr taluk.—Cholera is prevalent in two villages. There were eighteen attacks and six deaths. Small-pox and measles prevail in four villages.

Udayagiri taluk.—Cholera prevails in four villages—35 attacks and 20 deaths. Fever is prevalent in a mild form in half the number of villages. Small-pox also prevails.

Head-quarter division.—Cholera is prevalent in few villages in both taluks in a mild form.

Head Assistant's division.—Cholera prevails in both the taluks of Gudur and Rapur.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

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

Taluku.					Number employed		Remarks.
					Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Kanigiri Taluk.							
Nararamella near Pamur					530	388	On 14th January 1898. On 13th do.
Nandanavanam					..	1,496	
Podili Division.							
Pedarikatla					325	1,882	On 15th do.
Udayagiri Taluk.							
Udayagiri					491	342	} The decrease was due to ragi transplantation which will be over in about a week. This work was started and closed on the 12th instant, as the labourers refused to work at the rates offered under the intermediate system.
Naravada					1,150	925	
Sitarampuram					..	469	
					2,496	5,502	

Gratuitous Relief

Gratuitous Relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise:—

Taluks.	Number relieved							
	At kitchens.				In poor-houses.		In villages.	
	Dependents.		Others.					
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
<i>Kanigiri Taluk.</i>								
Narramarella	30	4	..	19	..	..	..	..
Nandanavanam	..	45	..	1	..	..	..	..
<i>Podili Division.</i>								
Pedarikatla	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Udayagiri Taluk.</i>								
Udayagiri	98	144	..	5	..	..	..	..
Narravada	46	44	* 14	11	..	..	..	..

* Not reported in the last fortnightly narrative.

Private charity.—Nil.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Sub-Collector's remarks.—The state of the people especially in Darsi division is bad. The lower classes which form the majority are suffering from want of sufficient food. Want of work in certain portions of the sub-division has resulted in the

migration of poorer classes to Kistna and Kurnool districts. Podili and Darsi feel the greatest want and Kandukur to some extent. The Kanigiri Tahsildar's report not having been received, details could not be given, but the situation remains unchanged.

Head Assistant Collector's remarks.—"There are no indications that distress has become acute anywhere except possibly in the Penubarti firka of Rapur taluk. As far as the Gudur taluk is concerned, it is perhaps now possible to fix positively where there is likely to be distress. In most parts of the Kota firka and in the villages of the Sriharikota firka west of the canal, the failure of crop seems to be so complete as to call for measures of relief. In the zamindari the bad tracts have not yet been properly localized, but the Raja is having a crop inspection made village by village, and the results of this along with the observations made by the Deputy Tahsildar ought to enable more precise information to be given next fortnight. In the five or six villages south of Tada, the failure of crop is complete and would call for some steps being taken at once, but for the railway works in progress close by, which employ a considerable amount of labour. In Rapur taluk the poorer classes are having a trying time, especially in the Penubarti firka and are likely to have for another month when they will find employment at the cholam harvest. Whether the crop will be sufficient to take them over till the next harvest will probably depend largely on whether late-sown cholam yields.

Collector's remarks.—The above remarks show that the situation remains unchanged, except perhaps that there is a prospect of the affected area becoming larger. As reported in the last fortnightly narrative, I called upon the Sub-Collector to propose works to be started in the Darsi division and in the Kandukur taluk. I have just ordered the starting of two road works in the Darsi and the Podili divisions as shown below; and have written to the Executive Engineer to open the works as soon as possible under the intermediate system. I am also giving orders for the opening of a work near Chundi in the Kandukur taluk. The Sub-Collector has not as yet reported definitely on the state of Addanki, but promises to do so shortly. The two works in the Kanigiri taluk are still going on, the Nandanavanam tank work having been converted into one under the intermediate system. I have not yet received any information as to how this system is working. Of the other works the Narramarella work in Kanigiri, the Peddarikatla work in Podili division and the Narravada work in the Udayagiri taluk are still being continued on the task-work system with attached kitchens as reported in this office letter, No. 11-G.B. Ver., dated 11th January 1898. An attempt was made to move the Udayagiri work to Nellatur under the intermediate system, but the Assistant Collector in charge reports that coolies declined to work on the terms offered. I have, however, directed the closing of the Udayagiri work with instructions to keep the Nellatur work open. Another work was started at Sitarampuram on the 9th instant. The coolies worked there for the first three days and left the work on the 12th morning saying that they would not work for the famine wages. The work is, however, kept open for such of those as may resort to it. With reference to the Head Assistant Collector's remarks, the Executive Engineer has already been addressed to start the repairs to the Penubarti Nalla tank. The Head Assistant Collector is of opinion that measures of relief are required in portions of Kota and Sriharikota firkas of the Gudur taluk, but I doubt if any State relief can yet be necessary in those parts. I shall visit the locality myself as soon as possible. The Raja of Venkatagiri has been addressed to put the tank-restoration works in the Venkatagiri division in hand at once. The Raja of Kalahasti has furnished me a list of 42 works estimated to cost Rs. 16,230 as available in the portion of his zamindari situated in this district, viz., Pamur and Sitarampuram taluks. I have requested him to start the works as soon as possible especially in the Sitarampuram firka. A number of minor irrigation works have been started in the Kavali taluk. The Head-quarter Deputy Collector reports that coolies in his division find employment in preparing railway ballast and other works. The delay in the submission of this report is due to the Sub-Collector's report having been received only to-day. I have drawn his attention to the late submission of his reports.

LOAN TRANSACTIONS.—Nil.

INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT OFFICERS.
(Taluk and places visited.)

By the Sub-Collector—

Kanigiri taluk ... { Nandanavanam.
Timmareddipalli.
Kanigiri.

Podili division

Ongole taluk

... { Pedarikatla.
Chinnakurti.
Santanutalapodu.

By the Head-quarter Deputy Collector—

Nellore taluk ... { Kondlapudi.
Mulumudi.
Komarapudi.
South Mopur.
Kandamur.

Nellore taluk—cont.

{ Gollakandukur.
Vellanti.
Peda Vellanti.
Amencherla.

By the Head Assistant Collector—

Gudur taluk ... { Naidupett.
Sulurpett.
Tada.
Arambaka.

Gudur taluk—cont.

{ Beripett.
Dugarajupatam.
Kota.Resolution—No. 46, dated 28th January 1898.
Submitted to Government.

2. There was no rainfall during the fortnight. Want of drinking water is stated to be felt in parts of Podili, Atmakur and Udayagiri; the supply for irrigation, except under a few of the larger tanks and channels, is nearly exhausted everywhere.
3. There is some work in the fields still. Paddy has withered on a large extent in the Gudur taluk and aruga (kado millet) has failed everywhere. The standing late crops in most parts are poor, and must largely fail, unless unusual rain should fall.
4. Prices are fluctuating. The average district price for the chief dry grains is considerably dearer than the scarcity rate, and rice is at the scarcity rate as shown below:—

Rates.					Rice.	Cholam.	Ragi.	Cumbu.
Normal	..	..	..	..	14.0	26.0	28.0	24.0
Warning	..	..	..	..	11.2	19.5	21.0	18.0
Scarcity	..	..	..	..	8.4	13.0	14.0	12.0
Current	..	..	..	..	8.5	11.2	12.7	10.9
January 1897	..	..	..	..	11.7	19.6	20.8	16.2
Do. 1892	..	..	..	..	9.5	13.0	13.6	11.8
Do. 1877	..	..	..	..	7.0	8.0	8.1	7.3

Trade continues active.

5. The health of people both on works and in villages is generally good. The numbers on works rose during the fortnight from 2,496 to 5,502 or by 120 per cent. On two of the works opened under the intermediate system, the labourers are reported to have refused to work at the rates offered. The Collector is requested to report how the terms offered compare with the usual conditions of employment on such works.
6. The Collector appears to have made no inspection during the fortnight. The Famine Commissioner is on tour in the district.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed)

L. E. BUCKLEY,
Famine Secretary.To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with a proof copy of the fortnightly narrative.

OR

Revenue, dated 4th February 1898.

aneous.

Recorded with the remark that the appointment of Famine Commissioner ceased on the 31st December 1897, and that there is now no officer of that designation.

2. The Collector reports that labourers have refused to accept employment on the intermediate system at Nellatur and Sitarampuram, and it is understood that those on the Nandanavanam tank repairs also struck work when the system was introduced there under the Public Works Department. The Government desires to have a full and detailed report as to the piece-work rates offered at these three places, and how they compare with the ordinary rates of the Public Works Department and the rates under the task-work system.

(True Extract.)

Ag. Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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