Public Works

Marine (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 2634 Marine

12th October 1898.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Fortnightly Narrative

Trans. Rec. Dépte — Acknowledging Trans: of the Board of Rec: Submitting the ——— of the Nelson Dt for the period ending 15th August 98, Acknowledged.

[M.—6. 300—16-7-98.]

Indexed.

[M.—6. 300—16-7-98.]

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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P. W. D.

Government (1898) of Madras.

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REVENUE.

Recd. 3rd October } 1898.
Regd. 8-10-98

Enclosures —

Spare copies —

G.O., No. 539, 20th September 1898.

No. 2634 w 32.10.98

Recorded.

SEPTEMBER. C.F.

Letter 6.10.98

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording, with remarks, Board's Proceedings submitting — of the Nellore district for the period ending 15th August 1898.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 309, dated 20th August 1898 :—

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

State of the Country.

Sub-Division—

	Rainfall. INCHES.
Kandukúr	1·15
Ongole	0·33
Addanki	0·62
Darsi	...
Podili	0·17
Kanigiri	0·41

The north-western villages of Kanigiri Taluk received about an inch, and the south-western half-an-inch. The villages in the Addanki Division received between twenty and seventy cents. Some villages in the western portion of Podili Division are reported to have had heavy rainfall.

Water-supply—is generally sufficient for drinking purposes and insufficient for irrigation. Scarcity of drinking water is, however, felt in four villages of the Kandukúr Taluk, where steps are being taken to improve the supply. The following tanks contain the supply noted against each :—

Ongole Taluk—
Four tanks, one month's supply.
Two tanks, twenty-days' supply.
One tank, seven days' supply.

Kandukúr Taluk—
Five tanks, short supply useful only for cattle.

Darsi Division—
Six tanks, fifteen days' supply.

Kanigiri Taluk—
Kanigiri tank, two months' supply.

Podili Division—
Four tanks, one month's supply.

The remaining tanks are dry.

Atmakúr Deputy Collector's Division—

	Rainfall. INCHES.
Udayagiri	0·26
Atmakúr	0·22

Water-supply—Atmakur Taluk.—The Pennér received slight freshes. Water-supply is sufficient in river channels for irrigation and insufficient in tanks. The supply in tanks is as follows :—

One tank, two months' supply.
One „ one month's supply.
One „ twenty days' supply.
Two tanks, fifteen days' supply.

A few other tanks contain short supplies useful for cattle only. Water is generally sufficient for drinking.

Udayagiri Taluk.—Two tanks contain about a fortnight's supply. The other tanks contain no supply. Supply in wells is insufficient for irrigation and sufficient for drinking purposes.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.

2. *Sub-division.*—The ploughing and sowing of dry crops continues, but is specially active in the Addanki Division.

Standing crops.—Pálápu cholam, cumbu and korra under wells are thriving as well as the crops recently sown, such as cumbu, cholam, indigo, paddy, oil-seeds and pulses. In Ongole Taluk and Darsi Division dry crops are reported to be withering for want of rain. There was no harvest during the fortnight except of pálápu cholam under wells in Kandukúr over a small extent.

Atmakúr Division—Atmakúr Taluk.—Lands are being ploughed up in some villages. Sowing of dry crops has been generally postponed for want of rain.

Udayagiri Taluk.—Dry crops, such as aruga, oil-seeds, cotton, &c., have been sown in some parts. Paddy has been sown to a limited extent under the Iskadamerla tank. Cumbu is being transplanted under wells containing supply.

Standing crops—Atmakúr Taluk.—Cholam, cumbu and indigo are thriving under garden wells. They are in need of rain.

Udayagiri Taluk.—Cumbu, cholam and indigo under wells are doing well and are expected to yield an outturn of four annas.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.

3. *Sub-division.*—Pasture is scanty in Ongole, Kandukúr, Kanigiri and Podili. Fodder is insufficient and not sold except in Ongole. Cattle, except those used for work, are under-fed and weak. Margosa, tamarind, peipul (*Ficus religiosa*) and palmyra leaves are used as fodder. Fodder is being imported into the Kandukúr Taluk, from Nellore and Kavali Taluks.

Cattle disease exists in one village in the Addanki Division.

Atmakúr Division.—Fodder is available to a limited extent in Udayagiri and dear in the Atmakúr Taluk though available. Pasture is not available in the Atmakúr Taluk, while it is scarce in Udayagiri. Condition of cattle is fair in the Atmakúr Taluk and is deteriorating in the Udayagiri Taluk.

Cattle diseases exist in two villages.

General remarks on the previous subjects.

4. The Sub-Collector reports that more rain is urgently required and if rain holds off, the dry crops on the ground will fade. The Deputy Collector of Atmakúr also states that want of rain is causing anxiety.

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 August 1898.

Stations.	Rice, second sort.		Cholam.		Ragi.		Cumbu.	
	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	9·64	13·12	13·58	16·15	16·15	..	..
Ongole	10·34	10·34	14·40	14·40	15·30	15·30	12·38	12·38
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	16·15	15·30	12·30	11·48
Podili	9·40	9·40	14·03	14·03	16·15	16·15	13·12	13·12
Kanigiri	7·99	7·99	14·03	14·48	15·30	15·30	11·55	13·20
Udayagiri	..	..	15·39	14·48	16·15	15·73	14·76	14·76
Atmakúr	8·70	8·70	15·39	15·39	17·85	17·85	..	..
Average	8·96	9·27	14·40	14·40	16·25	16·09	12·75	12·89

	Scarcity rates.	Warning rates.
Rice	8·40	11·20
Cholam	13·00	19·50
Ragi	14·00	21·00
Cumbu	12·00	18·00

6. *Activity of trade.*—Private trade is generally active. The prices of ragi and cumbu in Darsi and of cholam and ragi in Udayagiri have risen; while those of rice and cholam in Kandukúr and of cholam and cumbu in Kanigiri have fallen. The rise in the prices in Darsi and Udayagiri is generally due to the holding off of rain and short supplies in the market.

Condition of the People.

7. *On Works.*—Good.

8. *In Villages.*—Good.

Sickness and Mortality.—No deaths from starvation anywhere.

Sub-Division.—There were one-hundred and sixty-six deaths from cholera out of 266 attacks, in Ongole and Kandukúr Taluks and Darsi and Podili Divisions. The disease is reported to be subsiding.

Atmakúr Division.—No diseases anywhere, except small-pox in two villages of Atmakúr Taluk.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Kanigiri Taluk.			
Pamúr	343	239	The actual numbers working on the 13th instant were as follows:— Pamúr .. .. 143 Narravada 350
Udayagiri Taluk.			
Narravada	305	293	The numbers are fluctuating owing to the unsettled state of the season.
Total ..	648	532	

10. *Gratuitous relief.*—Numbers relieved at Kitchens and otherwise—

	Number relieved at Kitchens. Dependants.	
Udayagiri Taluk—	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Narravada	25	30

11. *Private charity.*—Eighteen coolies are working on the Pamúr tank belonging to the Venkatagiri Raja in Podili Division.

Five-hundred coolies, chiefly Madigas, are employed in collecting tangedu bark in Podili Division.

General Remarks.

12. *Sub-Collector's remarks.*—"The enclosed statements showing the earnings of men, prepared by the Public Works Department Overseer, will show that the wages continued to be low. This fact and the existence of agricultural work contributed to the reduction in the number of labourers. As reported in the previous narrative there seems to be no necessity to continue this work. Able-bodied labourers are not in distress and few others go to the famine work. Other works in progress."

13. *Atmakúr Deputy Collector's remarks.*—"The relief work at Narravada was inspected by my predecessor K. Vasanta Row Pantulu Garu on the 4th idem. According to his notes of inspection there were on that date, 135 males, 120 females and 8 children on the work, all in healthy condition. In the kitchen there were one adult and twenty-three children (ten girls and thirteen boys) below seven years of age. All of them are in healthy condition."

"It will be seen from the Atmakúr Tahsildar's remarks that the condition of his Taluk is generally fair, but there does not seem to be any improvement in the state of the season of the Udayagiri Taluk."

14. *Collector's Remarks.*—Prospects continue gloomy in the western Taluks. There has, however, been some good rain in parts of Podili Division and prices have risen only in Darsi and Udayagiri and there the rise is slight and in only two grains at each station. In Kanigiri the price of cholam has fallen slightly.

The numbers on the work at Pamúr have fallen, while there is no change at Narravada as shown by the following figures:—

	Numbers on works.	
	29th July 1898	13th August 1898.
Narravada	347	350
Pamúr	218	143

The Sub-Collector still advocates the closure of the Pamúr work, but it would be unwise to take this step until the season improves. The work being done is useful and would be executed in any case in the next two or three years.

15. The following figures show the earnings on the Pamúr work for the four days from the 29th July to the 1st August. Later figures are not available.

Gang number.	Numbers.				Earnings.	Daily earnings of each.		
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.		Man.	Woman.	Child.
					Rs. A. P.	Annas.	Pies.	Pies.
1	7	6	11	24	2 14 3	1	6	1
2	6	7	7	20	1 6 0 (for 2 days only)	1	7	1
					2 14 10 (for 3 days only)	1	5½	1
3	8	15	8	31	5 14 9	1	5	1
	14	21	12	47	17 3 6	1	9	4
4	37	32	25	94	11 1 5	1	9	1
5	29	19	15	63				
6								

This shows that the earnings of the coolies have been very low indeed.

16. Taking the numbers on the works from the 29th July to the 14th August it is noticeable that at Narravada 84 per cent. of the workers are men, while on the Pamúr work they form only 57 per cent. and this, probably, largely accounts for the small earnings at Pamúr as compared with those at Narravada. At the same time it shows that there is less distress at Pamúr, and I do not think the low earnings can be taken to prove that the rates ought to be higher. It would, in fact, be a great mistake to raise them unless it is found that the workers are in bad condition.

17. I do not apprehend any material addition to the numbers on the works during this month even if there be no rain.

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

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.								Other purposes.				Total.				Number of wells.	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Loans disbursed.		Applications accepted.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	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
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Kandukur	52	5,045	52	4,620	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52	5,045	52	4,620	..	..	..	..
Kanigiri	12	1,530	12	865	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	1,530	12	865	..	..	*..	*13
Udayagiri	77	11,755	74	8,105	22	3,460	1	250	1	125	..	..	78	12,005	75	8,230	22	3,460	4	71
Atmakúr	31	4,070	31	3,550	1	500	1	60	1	30	..	..	32	4,130	32	3,580	1	500	..	30
Total ..	172	22,400	169	17,140	23	3,960	2	310	2	155	..	..	174	22,710	171	17,295	23	3,960	4	114

Taluks.	Purchase of fodder.								Cattle and seed-grain.				Total.					
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Loans disbursed.		Applications accepted.		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.
1	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Kandukur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kanigiri	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Udayagiri	71	2,664	56	1,747	39	1,621	17	1,070	13	830	9	1,090	88	3,734	69	2,577	48	2,711
Atmakúr	6	265	3	140	..	..	4	250	4	220	1	60	10	515	7	360	1	60
Total ..	77	2,929	59	1,887	39	1,621	21	1,320	17	1,050	10	1,150	98	4,249	76	2,937	49	2,771

* The Sub-Collector has not furnished information in these columns.

Note.—The figures in this statement relate to transactions from March 1898.

Inspections of the District Officers—Taluks and places visited—

Sub-Collector.

Ongole Taluk.

Addanki.
Velampalli.
Timmayapalem.
Mudaramitta.
Yedugundlapad.

Pellur.
Vallur.
Naidupolem.
Tangutur.

Kandukur Taluk.

Singarayakonda.
Tettu.
Kandukur.
Boganampad.
Bitragunta.

Kalikivaya.
Rajupalem.
Chagollu.
Vagur.
Ponnalur.

Kanigiri Taluk.

Kanigiri.
Challagarigola.
Peda Alavalapad.
Sankavaram.

Podili Division.

Podili.
Pedarikatla.
Chinarikatla.
Kambalapad.

Darsi Division.

Darsi.
Mundlamur.
Sankarapuram.

Atmakúr Deputy Collector.

Atmakúr Taluk.

Dubagunta.
Pongur Khandriga.
Pongur.
Ketugunta.
Anantasagaram.

Bedusupalli.
Nukanapalli.
Isukapalli.
Kaluvoya.
Topugunta.

Kalikivoya.
Nagulavallatur.
Chepurla.
Battepad.
Atmakúr.

Udayagiri Taluk.

Vinjamur.
Narravada.
Duttalur.

Udayagiri.
Nandipad.

Chinna Machanur.
Bhimavaram.

Resolution—No. 309, dated 20th August 1898.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. As shown in the subjoined statement, the rainfall during the first half of the current month has been very light throughout the northern portion of the Nellore District:—

Stations.	June and July.		August.		September.
	Average expected.	1898.	Average expected.	1898 up to 13th.	Average expected.
	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.
1. Atmakúr	3·15	1·48	2·56	0·22	2·93
2. Udayagiri	3·27	2·56	2·20	0·26	2·52
3. Kanigiri	4·20	2·37	2 13	0·41	3·45
4. Podili	*	2·75	*	0·17	*
5. Darsi	4·87	3·17	3·13	0·00	4·39
6. Addanki	*	4·47	*	0 62	*
7. Ongole	5·03	5·13	4·24	0·33	5·36
8. Pakala	3·87	3·30	3·35	1·31	3·90
9. Kandukur	4·53	2·49	3·19	1·15	4·70
10. Kavali	4·17	3·97	3·14	0·49	4·58
11. Iskapalli	4·02	3·33	3·35	0·04	4·51
12. Nellore	4·02	2·12	3·09	0·06	3·66
Average ..	4·11	3·44	3·04	..	4·00

* No record.

As already reported, the rainfall during July was far from favourable, and this continued holding off of the rains is seriously retarding cultivation. The standing crops are withering over the greater part of the affected area, which comprises a large part of the north-western section of the District. In regard to these matters, the Collector's report might be more condensed and more clearly expressed, but apparently the present situation does not cause him serious anxiety, and he probably looks to the

rainfall of September and during the north east monsoon to avert distress. Meanwhile rain is urgently wanted to save the standing crops, and to allow of sowings being extended. The Collector gives no statistics regarding the comparative progress of cultivation in the Government Taluks concerned. This want should be supplied when submitting his narrative for the first half of September.

3. A sharp rise in the price of ragi and cumbu occurred at Darsi and in the price of cholam and ragi at Udayagiri, whilst strangely there were marked falls in the prices of cholam and cumbu at Kanigiri, which is situated between the former stations. With the continued holding off of the rains a further rise may be anticipated, but the rates are still generally below scarcity rates, except for cumbu at Darsi.

4. The people are reported to be in good condition, and the average number of persons resorting to the relief works shows a further decrease at both works, though the actual numbers at Narravada on the 15th were larger than during the earlier part of the period. At Pamúr, however, the number had decreased to only 143, and the Sub-Collector urges that the work may be closed. The Collector, however, considers that this would be unwise, and it appears clear that the wages offered at this work are so low as to be severely deterrent. On this work, no gratuitous relief is offered to dependants on the workers, and though the proportion of men on the work is lower than it is at Narravada, it appears, from the figures given in paragraph 15 of the Collector's general remarks, to be high; the number of men being greater than that of women.

With the facts stated by the Collector before it, the Board considers that the rates offered at Pamúr must be held to be too low to constitute a real offer of relief, and it desires to be furnished with a careful report as to the present condition of the workers. The Collector should, if possible, arrange that they may be inspected at an early date by the District Medical and Sanitary Officer.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

ORDER—No. 539, Revenue, dated 20th September 1898.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The report called for by the Board in the last paragraph of its Proceedings should be forwarded for the information of Government with any Resolution which the Board may pass thereon.

(True Extract.)

for Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. W. D'Moss.

75 Copies.

G.O.P. 1681 dy 5th July 1898

Fortnightly Narrative from Rev dept, recording Board's Proc submitting G.O. thereon — of the various districts, for the period ending 15th May 1898 recorded.

file

Order at madras.
no copies have been received from madras

6/
5.Oct-98.