

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 17

DATED 11 January 1897.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Approving the Board's proposal that wages on
ship works in Canton D. should be regulated by the prices
of unhusked rice, made in its proceedings on the
fortnightly narrative of the district for the period ending
15 December 1896

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 7

Not used
 The Hon. Mr. Fane C.S.E.
 The Hon. Mr. B. L. C.S.E.
 H. E. the Governor

11th Jan 1897, No 17.

From

The Board of Revenue

(Rev. Sett., L. R. & Agri.).

Order (Dren)

8/1/97

The Board's proposal in para 6 of its

of its Progs read above is approved.

No. 467 (Res.).

Dated 29th December 1896

Received 6th January 1897

Registered 6

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Fortnightly narrative.

Submitting to govern-
 ment with remarks —
 of the Ganjam district
 for the period ending 15/12/96.

To the Board (Settl)

P.C. 2619

2/1/97

c. 2/1/97
R. 9/1/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	O Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGRI.), 29TH DEC. 1896, No. 467.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

READ—the following Fortnightly Narrative of the District of Ganjam for the fortnight ending 15th December 1896 :—

STATE OF COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply.

District rainfall.							Actual rainfall.	Expected rainfall.
In the fortnight	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	56
Up to the fortnight from April	...	...	...	...	...	...	32.46	42.85

The expected rainfall represents the average from April to 15th December as given in the statement received with Board's Proceedings (Revenue Settlement), dated 28th November 1895, Mis. No. 6529.

Goomsur Deputy Collector's Division.—There had been no rainfall during the fortnight. Water for drinking purposes is generally available. No water for irrigation purposes available.

Berhampur Deputy Collector's Division.—No rain. No water for irrigation purposes. There is a small supply still in Tamparas in Ichchhapuram division. Most of the villages commanded by the Rushikulya canal have been supplied with water for drinking purposes before the reservoir was closed and the supply will last for three or four months. In some villages, it is reported the supply will only last a few weeks. Steps are being taken to induce the ryots to sink wells in tank-beds and the Taluk Board will provide wells in some places.

Head-quarters Deputy Collector's Division.—No rain. No water for irrigation. In a few villages, however, water is baled from private wells and pits for ragi and sugarcane cultivation. Drinking-water is getting scarce. In about six weeks scarcity of drinking-water will be felt in villages not commanded by the Rushikulya and which do not adjoin rivers.

Chicacole Division.—Rainfall nil. Water-supply in channel-fed villages is good and sufficient for drinking and for agricultural purposes. Elsewhere almost nil, notably in Pattalagam and the littoral except in the channel system area.

AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS AND CONDITION OF STANDING CROPS.

Goomsur Deputy Collector's Division.—Ripe paddy on wet lands is being harvested. Standing dry crops are poor. Red-gram is in fair condition, but horse-gram is much affected. Green-gram was sown in places where there is any moisture. Gingelly is being harvested; the outturn is poor.

Berhampur Deputy Collector's Division.—Paddy being harvested in places. In Ichchhapuram, paddy irrigated by Tampara is good. Sugarcane, horse-gram and tobacco are the standing crops in Sompeta. Water is wanted for sugarcane; the other crops are in good condition for the present. Red-gram is being harvested. In Peddakimedi, paddy, red-gram and castor are standing crops and their condition is very poor. Paddy crop entirely failed in rain-fed lands of the estate. In Berhampur, paddy under canal is in good condition and under other sources bad; but is now almost all cut. Red-gram is in poor condition.

Head-quarters Deputy Collector's Division.—Paddy is being harvested. Horse-gram not sown for want of moisture. Condition of standing crops poor.

Chicacole Division.—Horse-gram is said to be thriving in channel-fed area. Standing paddy in Parlákimedi and parts of Tekkali good. Cholum and horse-gram in Pattalagam stunted and poor. A few ryots are ploughing; the more industrious have dug temporary wells with picottas.

I give below a statement (prepared from the information furnished by the Tahsildars) showing the area cultivated with ragi and gingelly and their outturn, &c., up to the end of October 1896. I believe the outturn of ragi is under-estimated in Chicacole. The Tahsildar himself told me in October last that in many places it was a bumper crop:—

Taluk.	Area.		Total cultivated area of the taluk.	Proportion of columns 2 to 4 and 3 to 4 separately for ragi and gingelly.	Outturn of ragi and gingelly in terms of sixteen annas.
	Ragi.	Gingelly.			
1	2	3	4	5	6
Goomsur	ACS. 9,984	ACS. 8,553	ACS. 126,123	Ragi 1 to 7-91 Gingelly 1 to 6-78	Ragi four annas. Gingelly four annas.
Berhampur	20,793	5,727	157,086	Ragi 1 to 7-55 Gingelly 1 to 27-21	Four annas. Four "
Chicacole	16,581	3,212	92,485	Ragi 1 to 5-57 Gingelly 1 to 28-1..	Two " Seven " Seven "
District Total ..	47,358	17,492	375,694	Ragi 1 to 7-87 Gingelly 1 to 21-48	Ragi five annas. Gingelly five annas.

SUPPLY OF FODDER AND PASTURE AND CONDITION OF CATTLE.

Goomsur Deputy Collector's Division.—Fodder is sufficient but pasturage has become scarce, condition of cattle is generally good. The Suradá Deputy Tahsildar reports that cattle diseases exist in certain places.

Berhampur Deputy Collector's Division.—Fodder is sufficient but pasture is becoming scarce. Cattle are generally in good condition except in a very few places in Peddakimedi estate where cattle disease of a mild type prevails.

Head-quarters Deputy Collector's Division.—Pasture and fodder available. Condition of cattle good.

Chicacole Division.—Fodder and pasture still continue to be sufficient. The Principal Assistant Collector says that

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"the country looks very dry and parched round about this * camp." No noticeable deterioration of cattle. Drinking-water is not sufficient.

General remarks on the above subjects.—The Goomsur Deputy Collector reports that want of rain is very much felt. Even if it rains now it will assist the cultivation of dry crops, but all hopes of it are at an end. The Berhampur Deputy Collector says that want of water is felt much. No epidemic diseases among cattle. No remarks are given by the Head-quarters Deputy Collector, but the remarks given by the Berhampur Deputy Collector apply to this division also.

Chicacole Division.—Mr. Rice states that the most notable deficiency is water for drinking. It is too early for cattle to show signs of distress. Estimates both for drinking-water and for irrigation are being pushed forward.

We cannot in this district now expect anything more than a shower. Even this would be welcome as it would improve the pasturage, and, if heavy, would furnish some drinking-water. The weather is, however, now cold and bright and there is no likelihood of even a shower.

FOOD-SUPPLIES AND THE STATE OF THE MARKET.

Prices of principal food-grains in principal markets in seers of 80 tolas per rupee for the period ending 12th December 1896:—

Stations.	Rice.		Ragi.	
	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.
Russellkonda	11-50	11-50	15-00	15-47
Suradá	9-90	10-10	16-00	16-00
Aska	10-16	10-16	15-10	14-29
Purushottapur	12-00	12-00	19-20	19-20
Chatrapur	10-00	10-50	18-00	18-00
Berhampur	9-00	10-00	14-50	16-20
Ichchhápúram	9-40	9-40	16-00	16-00
Sompét	10-40	10-45	16-49	15-11
Parlákimedi	10-50	10-50	21-00	21-00
Tekkali	10-50	10-50	20-00	20-00
Narasannapet	10-12	10-50	18-20	18-20
Chicacole	9-71	9-71	15-58	17-06
Average	10-27	10-44	17-09	17-21

Activity of trade.—It is reported that in Goomsur private trade is not active either in rice or dry staple food-grains. The same is reported as regards the Berhampur Deputy Collector's and Head-quarters Deputy Collector's divisions except in Ichchhápúram of the former division where it is said to be active in rice. The Principal Assistant Collector says that the market at Chicacole is reported to be dull, but that the week shows a general fall; new paddy is coming into the market and the price fell at Tekkali from Rs. 85 to Rs. 65 a garce and that prices are expected to fall after the harvest.

Imports by rail or sea of rice or other staple food-grains.—One hundred and forty-six cwts. of paddy valued at Rs. 500 was imported from Cocanada and 426 cwts. of paddy and 5,692 cwts. of rice valued at Rs. 1,450 and Rs. 27,992, respectively, were exported to Galle by sea. Exports and imports of food-grains by train are as follows:—Exports 6,923 maunds; imports 3,389 maunds.

The prices have remained almost stationary during the fortnight. I had hoped for a fall owing to the abundant rains in the southern districts. The large export of rice from the district is noticeable, and as far as Ganjam is concerned is to be regretted. I suppose, however, it will continue until our prices for rice are levelled up to those prevailing in Vizagapatam and other affected districts. In Ganjam, however, rice is the staple food of even the poorest classes in a large part of the district while in other districts it is a luxury of the comparatively rich, who can afford to pay prices which are prohibitive to the cooly.

CONDITION OF PEOPLE.

(1) *On works.*—The Principal Assistant Collector and myself attempted to open two test works, one in Pattalagam firka, Chicacole taluk, and the other in Tekkali taluk; but the coolies refused to come for famine wages, 1 anna 1 pie, calculated on ragi basis. I made enquiries of all the coolies in the neighbourhood as to their food and they all stated they were this year living on ragi alone, as rice was so dear. In ordinary years however they mix some rice with ragi for their evening meal. It seemed to me that under the Famine Code I was bound to calculate the famine wage on a ragi basis, but as rice had been declared the staple food of this district for famine batta to Government servants, I referred the matter to the Commissioner and have received orders by wire to calculate the wage as in 1889. From Mr. Horsfall's famine report the only reference I have with me in camp it would appear that the wage was calculated on a ratio of four-fifth ragi flour and one-fifth rice at least during part of the famine of 1889. But it is not clear if after Lord Connemara's visit in June 1889, rice alone was not adopted as the

4. BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGRI.), 29TH DEC. 1896, No. 467.

standard. I am proceeding to head-quarters to-day and will have the matter cleared up. I have pointed out to the Commissioner that rice is not nearly so generally used by the Telugus as by the Uriyas. The coolies who came to the test works said they would not come for anything under two annas per diem for male cooly—the ordinary wage. They were not very numerous, not more than 100 or 150 in each place, and I believe that it is unnecessary to afford any special relief in this locality for another fortnight or three weeks. I will, however, open the same works as tests about the beginning of the year. By that time all the work in connection with harvesting will be over and work will be needed then.

(2) *In villages—Goomsur Deputy Collector's Division.*—Good at present.

Berhampur Deputy Collector's Division.—Not bad as many were employed on harvesting operations, &c.

Head-quarters Deputy Collector's Division.—Generally good for the present.

Chicacole Division.—Mr. Rice states that the condition of the people cannot be very bad as the people in the worst part of the taluk rejected famine wages with contempt. Drinking-water is required. There is scarcity and pressure but few complaints of distress. Weavers are crying out.

Sickness and Mortality—Goomsur Deputy Collector's Division.—No deaths from want of food. Public health generally good. Mortality normal. Only one cholera death was reported. Some deaths from small-pox are reported to have occurred in the village of Gothukuri.

Berhampur Deputy Collector's Division.—No deaths from want of food. Fever and small-pox are prevailing in a few villages of Peddakimedi estate. There were 18 deaths from small-pox at Digupudi (Peddakimedi estate). Cholera deaths 10.

Head-quarters Deputy Collector's Division.—No deaths from starvation and no sickness of any importance.

Chicacole Division.—Cholera continues at and around Narasarnipet and Calingapatam. Two Medical officers are on duty and antiseptic lotion has been procured. The Principal Assistant Collector says that the people will use the refuse of water left in stinking tanks. Cholera deaths 22. The Deputy Tahsildar was attacked.

Remarks.—The Goomsur Deputy Collector states that now that new paddy is coming in, the market is dull; people are getting food-grains. The Berhampur Deputy Collector is of opinion, if season continues the same as at present for the rest of the month, relief works will have to be started in the next month. The Head-quarters Deputy Collector says that the families of the lowest castes, the managing members of which are sick and are helpless, are assisted by private charity for the present. Mr. Rice reports that the people are pinched but they can hold out and are not yet eager to work for the price of a ragi meal. As regards emigration Mr. Rice says that two villages have been decimated but that is so much gained. Meghavaram and Maruvada (Pattalagam khandam) are desolate at the best of times.

The number of people who emigrated from the district during the fortnight ending 11th instant is as follows:—

From Calingapatam	...	...	...	...	...	1,003	} To Ports in Burma.
" Baruva	...	...	...	...	...	1,061	
" Gopalpur	...	...	...	...	...	464	
Total	...	...	...	...	...	2,528	To Ports beyond the Presidency but within British India.

This emigration which is likely to increase largely will greatly relieve the situation. The coolies are going from the most affected parts of the district. I have myself seen nowhere any symptom that the population has as yet suffered from want of food. I have made careful inquiries everywhere on the point. The Medical officers state that no disease arising from insufficiency of food is prevalent.

Measures of Relief.—Two abortive attempts to open test relief works.

Gratuitous Relief.—Nil.

Private Charity.—There is no organised private charity at work. The Head-quarters Deputy Collector reports that sixteen persons are reported to be fed by private charity.

Inspections.—The Collector has inspected the following places:—

During the fortnight I proceeded by road from Berhampur southward to Ichchhapuram, Haripur, Tekkali and Pattalagam khandam in Chicacole. I daily inspected all the country in the neighbourhood of my halting place which was within rideable distance. Since the end of the fortnight I have come to Parlakimedi where I am writing this. This will complete my tour for the present. Since the beginning of November, I have visited all the taluks except Purushottapur and Surada Sub-Division of Goomsur.

The places visited by the Divisional-officers are—

Goomsur Deputy Collector visited 14 villages of Bodoborosingi firka, 11 villages of Ballipadra firka, 6 of Kullada firka, and one of Vanagiri firka. Total 32 villages.

Berhampur Deputy Collector visited 6 villages in the Peddakimedi estate, 16 in Surangi estate and 15 in Ichchhapuram firka of Berhampur taluk. Total 37 villages.

The Head-quarters Deputy Collector also visited 37 villages in Ganjam and Purushottapur firkas.

Principal Assistant Collector visited Kasibugga, Brahmana Tarla, Pallisarti and Tarlacottah, drove along the road to Kimidi, inspected crops seven miles along road to Kottur, also towards Mahendratana, rode out from Kimidi via Thembore 29 miles.

General Remarks.—There is no material change in the situation during the fortnight. I opened the test works as I had had persistently bad reports from all officers about this portion of the district. I found things in Tekkali not so bad as I had expected. There was a very good early ragi crop there and the paddy crop was not an entire failure. The large emigration to Burma had taken off many who would have needed work. The Parlakimedi estate which I have since visited has on the whole a wonderfully good crop. The Agent, Mr. Taylor, who has been round the most of it, says he expects an 8 to 10 anna crop.

Taking the district as a whole and comparing good with bad, I would estimate the outturn of the paddy crop as a 6-anna one. Except in Tekkali the lands left waste is inconsiderable.

CHATRAPUR,
17th December 1896.

(Signed) C. J. WEIR,
Collector.

Weekly season report for the Ganjam district for the week ending 19th December.

Water-supply insufficient for agricultural purposes; getting scarce in several places for drinking. Green-gram being sown in places. Sugarcane and red-gram in moderate condition in places. Paddy being harvested in places; outturn bad, except under canals, where it is average. Pasture getting scarce; fodder sufficient in places and moderate elsewhere. Cattle and public health generally good; small-pox and fever prevalent in places; cholera deaths 13. Prospects unchanged. Markets moderately supplied. Labour as yet procurable, owing to paddy harvest. There is no general distress, but Sompot Deputy Tahsildar reports he paid eight days batta to ten emaciated children in two villages, and two Sundi families in another village. Weavers will probably require advances after middle of January. No exports or imports by sea. Imports of food-grains by train 1,186 and exports 3,630 maunds. One hundred and six emigrants including children to ports beyond Presidency, but within British India under the Act, and 825 free emigrants including children to British Burma in week ending 18th instant.

RESOLUTION—dated 29th December 1896, No. 467.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. As there was no rain, the water-supplies continued to decrease, and in some places the supplies of drinking-water are very low, and such steps as are possible to relieve this want are being taken.

3. Out of a total area of 376,000 acres of crop sown in the Government taluks, the Tahsildars' reports show that 47,400 acres of ragi and 17,500 acres of gingelly yielded five-anna crops, but this is believed to be an under-estimate, and the Board fears that but little reliance can be placed on the figures. In Chicacole, where the crops are now put at 7 annas, the Tahsildar estimated the ragi crop as a bumper (20 anna) one in October last. In Parlákimedi, it is estimated that an 8-10 anna crop, all round, will be obtained. Detailed information regarding the outturn of the paddy crop is not yet available, but it is put by the Collector, all round, at 6 annas, and, as will be seen from the subjoined abstract, the favourable commencement of the season led to early sowings, so that there is but little actual waste:—

Taluka.	First crop sown or planted.					
	Dry.			Wet.		
	Up to November		Average area annually.	Up to November		Average area annually.
	1896.	Average.		1896.	Average.	
Goomsur	ACS. 86,185	ACS. 85,092	ACS. 96,624	ACS. 45,409	ACS. 44,732	ACS. 45,939
Berhampur	83,937	78,670	92,371	83,810	74,285	87,238
Chicacole	30,659	31,028	31,368	46,493	58,760	59,286
District Total ..	200,781	194,790	220,363	178,712	177,777	192,461

4. After so long a drought, pasturage is naturally scarce, and the chance of rain falling to refresh the pastures is very slight, but the fodder supplies appear to suffice for the present.

Grains.	Prices in Seers of 80 tolas per rupee on			
	November 28th.	December 12th.	December 19th.	Scarcity rates.
Rice	10-3	10-4	10-6	10-2
Ragi	17-1	17-2	16-8	15-0

5. Prices became slightly easier during the period under report, but though rice was again cheaper on the 19th, ragi was dearer. They are still materially cheaper than in Vizagapatam, and now that the district is in railway communication with the rest of the Presidency, they must be expected to level up. This will be brought about by the considerable exports that are going on.

6. The people appear to be in good condition and have so far not needed any relief. They have in fact shown no inclination to accept employment at wages calculated under the Famine Code. The Collector, however, anticipates that they will need employment shortly. In view of the fact now reported that the labouring classes are this year living on ragi alone, the Collector will be informed that the wages on relief works should therefore be regulated by the price of that grain—unhusked—and not as proposed in B. P., dated 12th December 1896, No. 426, on a mixed ragi and rice basis. Meanwhile, the orders of Government on the subject will be solicited.

Brisk emigration is going on, and this will tend to relieve the pressure. The weavers are reported to be in a bad way in the sub-division, and their condition should be specially enquired into.

(True Copy and Extract.)

R. V. Srinivasan
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

„ Collector of Ganjam.

Copy to the Collector of Vizagapatam.

„ „ Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. Md. Fahlvan.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1896.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records,
and Agriculture),

MADRAS.



Printed January th, 1897.

Proceedings, 29th Dec. 1896, No. 467.

Fortnightly Narrative.—Submitting to Govern-
ment, with remarks, — of the Ganjam district for
the period ending 15th December 1896.

Government {1897} of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

Enclosures

1897.

Regd.

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G.O., No. 17, 11th January 1897.

JANUARY.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Approving the Board's proposal, that wages on relief works in the Ganjam district should be regulated by the price of unhusked ragi, made in its Proceedings on the — of the district for the period ending 15th December 1896.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 29th December 1896, No. 467 :—

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Chatrapur	10-00	10-50	18-00	18-00
Berhampur	9-00	10-00	14-50	16-20
Ichchhapuram	9-40	9-40	16-00	16-00
Sompot	10-40	10-45	16-49	15-11
Parlakimedi	10-50	10-50	21-00	21-00
Tekkali	10-50	10-50	20-00	20-00
Narasannapet	10-12	10-50	18-20	18-20
Chicacole	9-71	9-71	15-58	17-06
Average	10-27	10-44	17-09	17-21

Activity of trade.—It is reported that in Goomsur private trade is not active either in rice or dry staple food-grains. The same is reported as regards the Berhampur Deputy Collector's and Head-quarters Deputy Collector's divisions except in Ichchhapuram of the former division where it is said to be active in rice. The Principal Assistant Collector says that the market at Chicacole is reported to be dull, but that the week shows a general fall; new paddy is coming into the market and the price fell at Tekkali from Rs. 85 to Rs. 65 a garce and that prices are expected to fall after the harvest.

Imports by rail or sea of rice or other staple food-grains.—One hundred and forty-six cwts. of paddy valued at Rs. 500 was imported from Cocanada and 426 cwts. of paddy and 5,692 cwts. of rice valued at Rs. 1,450 and Rs. 27,992, respectively, were exported to Galle by sea. Exports and imports of food-grains by train are as follows:—Exports 6,923 maunds; imports 3,389 maunds.

The prices have remained almost stationary during the fortnight. I had hoped for a fall owing to the abundant rains in the southern districts. The large export of rice from the district is noticeable, and as far as Ganjam is concerned is to be regretted. I suppose, however, it will continue until our prices for rice are levelled up to those prevailing in Vizagapatam and other affected districts. In Ganjam, however, rice is the staple food of even the poorest classes in a large part of the district while in other districts it is a luxury of the comparatively rich, who can afford to pay prices which are prohibitive to the cooly.

CONDITION OF PEOPLE.

(1) *On works.*—The Principal Assistant Collector and myself attempted to open two test works, one in Pattalagam firka, Chicacole taluk, and the other in Tekkali taluk; but the coolies refused to come for famine wages, 1 anna 1 pie, calculated on ragi basis. I made enquiries of all the coolies in the neighbourhood as to their food and they all stated they were this year living on ragi alone, as rice was so dear. In ordinary years however they mix some rice with ragi for their evening meal. It seemed to me that under the Famine Code I was bound to calculate the famine wage on a ragi basis, but as rice had been declared the staple food of this district for famine batta to Government servants, I referred the matter to the Commissioner and have received orders by wire to calculate the wage as in 1889. From Mr. Horsfall's famine report the only reference I have with me in camp it would appear that the wage was calculated on a ratio of four-fifth ragi flour and one-fifth rice at least during part of the famine of 1889. But it is not clear if after Lord Connemara's visit in June 1889, rice alone was not adopted as the

standard. I am proceeding to head-quarters to-day and will have the matter cleared up. I have pointed out to the Commissioner that rice is not nearly so generally used by the Telugus as by the Uriyas. The coolies who came to the test works said they would not come for anything under two annas per diem for male cooly—the ordinary wage. They were not very numerous, not more than 100 or 150 in each place, and I believe that it is unnecessary to afford any special relief in this locality for another fortnight or three weeks. I will, however, open the same works as tests about the beginning of the year. By that time all the work in connection with harvesting will be over and work will be needed then.

(2) *In villages—Goomsur Deputy Collector's Division.*—Good at present.

Berhampur Deputy Collector's Division.—Not bad as many were employed on harvesting operations, &c.

Head-quarters Deputy Collector's Division.—Generally good for the present.

Chicacole Division.—Mr. Rice states that the condition of the people cannot be very bad as the people in the worst part of the taluk rejected famine wages with contempt. Drinking-water is required. There is scarcity and pressure but few complaints of distress. Weavers are crying out.

Sickness and Mortality—Goomsur Deputy Collector's Division.—No deaths from want of food. Public health generally good. Mortality normal. Only one cholera death was reported. Some deaths from small-pox are reported to have occurred in the village of Gothukuri.

Berhampur Deputy Collector's Division.—No deaths from want of food. Fever and small-pox are prevailing in a few villages of Poddakimedi estate. There were 18 deaths from small-pox at Digupudi (Poddakimedi estate). Cholera deaths 10.

Head-quarters Deputy Collector's Division.—No deaths from starvation and no sickness of any importance.

Chicacole Division.—Cholera continues at and around Narasannapet and Calingapatam. Two Medical officers are on duty and antiseptic lotion has been procured. The Principal Assistant Collector says that the people will use the refuse of water left in stinking tanks. Cholera deaths 22. The Deputy Tahsildar was attacked.

Remarks.—The Goomsur Deputy Collector states that now that new paddy is coming in, the market is dull; people are getting food-grains. The Berhampur Deputy Collector is of opinion, if season continues the same as at present for the rest of the month, relief works will have to be started in the next month. The Head-quarters Deputy Collector says that the families of the lowest castes, the managing members of which are sick and are helpless, are assisted by private charity for the present. Mr. Rice reports that the people are pinched but they can hold out and are not yet eager to work for the price of a ragi meal. As regards emigration Mr. Rice says that two villages have been decimated but that is so much gained. Meghavaram and Maruvada (Pattalagam khandam) are desolate at the best of times.

The number of people who emigrated from the district during the fortnight ending 11th instant is as follows:—

From Calingapatam	1,003	} To Ports in Burma. To Ports beyond the Presidency but within British India.
„ Baruva	1,061	
„ Gopalpur	464	
Total	2,528	

This emigration which is likely to increase largely will greatly relieve the situation. The coolies are going from the most affected parts of the district. I have myself seen nowhere any symptom that the population has as yet suffered from want of food. I have made careful inquiries everywhere on the point. The Medical officers state that no disease arising from insufficiency of food is prevalent.

Measures of Relief.—Two abortive attempts to open test relief works.

Gratuitous Relief.—Nil.

Private Charity.—There is no organised private charity at work. The Headquarters Deputy Collector reports that sixteen persons are reported to be fed by private charity.

Inspections.—The Collector has inspected the following places :—

During the fortnight I proceeded by road from Berhampur southward to Ichchhāpuram, Haripur, Tekkali and Pattalagam khandam in Chicacole. I daily rideable distance. Since the end of the fortnight I have come to Parlakimedi where I am writing this. This will complete my tour for the present. Since the beginning of November, I have visited all the taluks except Purushottapur and Suradā Sub-Division of Goomsur.

The places visited by the Divisional-officers are—

Goomsur Deputy Collector visited 14 villages of Bodoborosingi firka, 11 villages of Ballipadra firka, 6 of Kullada firka, and one of Vanagiri firka. Total 32 villages.

Berhampur Deputy Collector visited 6 villages in the Peddakimedi estate, 16 in Surangi estate and 15 in Ichchhāpuram firka of Berhampur taluk. Total 37 villages.

The Headquarters Deputy Collector also visited 37 villages in Ganjam and Purushottapur firkas.

Principal Assistant Collector visited Kasibugga, Brahmana Tarla, Pallisarti and Tarlacottah, drove along the road to Kimidi, inspected crops seven miles along road to Kottur, also towards Mahendratana, rode out from Kimidi via Thembo 29 miles.

General Remarks.—There is no material change in the situation during the fortnight. I opened the test works as I had had persistently bad reports from all officers about this portion of the district. I found things in Tekkali not so bad as I had expected. There was a very good early ragi crop there and the paddy crop was not an entire failure. The large emigration to Burma had taken off many who would have needed work. The Parlakimedi estate which I have since visited has on the whole a wonderfully good crop. The Agent, Mr. Taylor, who has been round the most of it, says he expects an 8 to 10 anna crop.

Taking the district as a whole and comparing good with bad, I would estimate the outturn of the paddy crop as a 6-anna one. Except in Tekkali the lands left waste is inconsiderable.

CHATRAPUR,
17th December 1896.

(Signed) C. J. WEIR,
Collector.

READ—also weekly season report for the Ganjam district for the week ending 19th December.

Water-supply insufficient for agricultural purposes; getting scarce in several places for drinking. Green-gram being sown in places. Sugarcane and red-gram in moderate condition in places. Paddy being harvested in places; outturn bad, except under canals, where it is average. Pasture getting scarce; fodder sufficient in places and moderate elsewhere. Cattle and public health generally good; small-pox and fever prevalent in places; cholera deaths 13. Prospects unchanged. Markets moderately supplied. Labour as yet procurable, owing to paddy harvest. There is no general distress, but Sompot Deputy Tahsildar reports he paid eight days batta to ten emaciated children in two villages, and two Sundi families in another village. Weavers will probably require advances after middle of January. No exports or imports by sea. Imports of food-grains by train 1,186 and exports 3,630 maunds. One hundred and six emigrants including children to ports beyond Presidency, but within British India under the Act, and 825 free emigrants including children to British Burma in week ending 18th instant.

Resolution—dated 29th December 1896, No. 467.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. As there was no rain, the water-supplies continued to decrease, and in some places the supplies of drinking-water are very low, and such steps as are possible to relieve this want are being taken.

3. Out of a total area of 376,000 acres of crop sown in the Government taluks, the Tahsildars' reports show that 47,400 acres of ragi and 17,500 acres of gingelly yielded five-anna crops, but this is believed to be an under-estimate, and the Board fears that but little reliance can be placed on the figures. In Chicacole, where the crops are now put at 7 annas, the Tahsildar estimated the ragi crop as a bumper (20 anna) one in October last. In Parlakimedi, it is estimated that an 8-10 anna crop, all round, will be obtained. Detailed information regarding the outturn of the paddy crop is not yet available, but it is put by the Collector, all round, at 6 annas, and, as will be seen from the subjoined abstract, the favourable commencement of the season led to early sowings, so that there is but little actual waste :—

Taluks.	First crop sown or planted.					
	Dry.			Wet.		
	Up to November		Average area annually.	Up to November		Average area annually.
	1896.	Average.		1896.	Average.	
Goomsur	ACS. 86,185	ACS. 85,092	ACS. 96,624	ACS. 45,409	ACS. 44,732	ACS. 45,939
Berhampur	83,937	78,670	92,371	83,810	74,285	87,236
Chicacole	30,659	31,028	31,368	49,493	58,760	59,286
District Total	200,781	194,790	220,363	178,712	177,777	192,461

4. After so long a drought, pasturage is naturally scarce, and the chance of rain falling to refresh the pastures is very slight, but the fodder supplies appear to suffice for the present.

Grins.	Prices in Seers of 80 tolas per rupee on			
	November 28th.	December 12th.	December 19th.	Scarcity rates.
Rice ..	10-3	10-4	10-6	10-2
Ragi ..	17-1	17-2	16-8	15-0

5. Prices became slightly easier during the period under report, but though rice was again cheaper on the 19th, ragi was dearer. They are still materially cheaper than in Vizagapatam, and now that the district is in railway communication with the rest of the Presidency, they must be expected to level up. This will be brought about by the considerable exports that are going on.

6. The people appear to be in good condition and have so far not needed any relief. They have in fact shown no inclination to accept employment at wages calculated under the Famine Code. The Collector, however, anticipates that they will need employment shortly. In view of the fact now reported that the labouring classes are this year living on ragi alone, the Collector will be informed that the wages on relief works should therefore be regulated by the price of that grain—unhusked—and not as proposed in B. P., dated 12th December 1896, No. 426, on a mixed ragi and rice basis. Meanwhile, the orders of Government on the subject will be solicited.

Brisk emigration is going on, and this will tend to relieve the pressure.

The weavers are reported to be in a bad way in the sub-division, and their condition should be specially enquired into.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASA AIYAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department
Collector of Ganjam.

" Copy to the Collector of Vizagapatam.
" " Sanitary Commissioner.

8

No. 17, REVENUE, 11TH JANUARY 1897.

ORDER—No. 17, Revenue, dated 11th January 1897.

Miscellaneous.

The Board's proposal in paragraph
6 of its Proceedings read above is approv-
ed.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Settlement).

Exd. Md. Pahlvan.

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ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DIET.

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