

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 355.

DATED 19<sup>th</sup> May

[Despatch Abstract.]

Fortnightly Narrative.

According to Board's Proceedings submitted the — of the Anantapur District for the period ending 15<sup>th</sup> April 1897, and stating that orders will issue in the Public Works Department in regard to the additional overseers required in Anantapur and Guntur.

# BACK PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. | G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
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# FURTHER PAPERS.

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| Ans  | 5376/97 |             |       |      |     |             |       |
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## Revenue (1897) Department.

Printed with  
for W.D. & the Board  
RS  
19-5-97

CURRENT No. 3985

The Hon. Mr. G. C. R.  
for the Governor

Order

Recorded

2. Orders will issue in the W.D.  
in regard to the additional overleaves  
required in Amudafur & Camp

Ad. Secy. of Govt. 19/5/97  
P.M.D. (with copy of 14.25 mts)  
Yours self

RS  
19-5-97

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This should not be  
forwarded  
RS  
19-5-97

From

The Board of Revenue.  
Rev. Secy.

No. 3558/19th May 1897.

28  
15/5/97

(Orders should be issued as promptly as possible)

A.H. 18.5.97

No. 355

Dated 3rd May 1897

Received 12.5.97

Registered 13.5.97

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SUBJECT.

Submitting fortnightly  
narrative of the advantages  
of the period ending  
15th April 1897

2209  
12/5

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| lv   | 272  |             | 5-4-87   |
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|      | 235  | Le. St.     | 18-11-87 |
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REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

# Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Recd.

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Regd.

1897.

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Printed May th.

Proceedings, 3rd May 1897, No. 335.

MAY.

Fortnightly Narrative.—Submitting to Government, with remarks,—of the Anantapur district for the period ending 15th April 1897.

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

READ—the following fortnightly narrative for the Anantapur district during the period ending 15th April 1897 :—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

*Rainfall and water-supply.*—The quantity of rain registered during the fortnight was 0·12 against an expected average of 0·17 inches. The showers were generally very slight and were entirely local. The state of drinking water-supply continues to be the same as in previous fortnights. In a number of cases, clearance of wells has been authorized in anticipation of Government sanction to the allotment of Rs. 3,000 applied for from Provincial funds. Available sums out of the Taluk Board funds have also been distributed for the repairs of one well in Tadpatri taluk and six in the Anantapur division and the works are in progress. In many villages, the Panchama classes are resorting to garden wells in the outside fields for fetching their drinking water.

The supply for irrigation is getting nearly exhausted everywhere, both in river channels and springs. Wells are getting dried up and the supply in them is perceptibly diminishing in most parts.

*Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.*—On dry lands unirrigated, the only standing crops are cotton and castor in parts. The latter has almost been harvested. Outturn poor to middling. On black soils the late crops such as cholam, bengal-gram and linseed have almost entirely withered. Cucumber on tank beds is being harvested, the outturn being 4 to 8 annas.

On irrigated lands, the standing crops are chiefly under wells and spring channels. Paddy, cholam, korra and chillies are doing fairly. Paddy and cholam are being harvested in parts. The outturn is reported to be 8 annas on an average in the Anantapur division and fair to average in the Gooty division. Indigo in Tadpatri taluk has withered.

*Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.*—Pasture is nowhere available. Hill grass is procurable to a moderate extent in villages adjoining reserves. Fodder is extremely dear and can be had only at exorbitant rates in some parts. The recent harvests have slightly improved the village stocks. Prickly-pear is being used as fodder in parts of Gooty taluk and “sonti” roots in most places elsewhere. The cattle used for picottas, &c., are fed with some care. For the rest there is neither sufficient food nor water and their condition is, on the whole, one of deterioration. Cattle are also being driven to the adjoining Mysore province, where the season has been more favourable. Rinderpest is prevalent in one village in Dharmavaram taluk. Attacks nine; deaths four.

*General remarks on the previous subjects.*—Distress is becoming more acute. The loans operations are affording partial relief in villages and have also served to improve their water-supply in many parts. Sundry little occupations such as cutting hill grass where available, selling firewood, repairing buckets, collection of tangedu bark, &c., are still giving employment to a few of the labourers in several parts of the district, and the agricultural classes are now mainly holding up by the hope that the coming south-west monsoon will prove abundant.

FOOD-SUPPLIES AND THE STATE OF THE MARKETS.

PRICES of principal food-grains at principal markets in the affected tracts, in seers of 80 tolahs per rupee, for the period ending 15th of April 1897.

| Stations.           | Rice.               |                        | Ragi.               |                        | Yellow cholam.      |                        | White cholam.       |                        |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
|                     | 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. |
| Tadpatri .. .. .    | 8·64                | 8·64                   | 15·52               | 15·52                  | 12·36               | 12·36                  | 11·33               | 11·33                  |
| Yadiki .. .. .      | 8·64                | 8·64                   | 15·52               | 14·55                  | 12·36               | 12·36                  | 12·36               | 12·36                  |
| Gooty .. .. .       | 9·45                | 8·92                   | 18·90               | 16·30                  | 13·39               | 12·64                  | 13·39               | 11·98                  |
| Uravakonda .. .. .  | 8·64                | 8·64                   | 16·49               | 16·49                  | 14·42               | 14·49                  | 13·90               | 14·42                  |
| Anantapur .. .. .   | 10·80               | 10·80                  | 17·46               | 17·46                  | 16·48               | 16·48                  | 13·39               | 13·39                  |
| Kalyandrug .. .. .  | 8·64                | 8·64                   | 15·52               | 15·52                  | 15·45               | 15·45                  | 14·42               | 14·42                  |
| Dharmavaram .. .. . | 9·72                | 9·72                   | 18·43               | 18·43                  | ..                  | ..                     | 15·45               | 15·45                  |
| Penukonda .. .. .   | 10·75               | 10·75                  | 23·65               | 23·65                  | ..                  | ..                     | 16·12               | 17·20                  |
| Hindupur .. .. .    | 10·80               | 10·80                  | 21·34               | 21·34                  | ..                  | ..                     | ..                  | ..                     |
| Madakasira .. .. .  | ..                  | ..                     | ..                  | ..                     | ..                  | ..                     | ..                  | ..                     |
| Average .. .. .     | 9·47                | 9·42                   | 17·83               | 17·53                  | 14·07               | 13·96                  | 13·72               | 13·56                  |

*Activity of trade.*—Private trade is very active in Tadpatri, Hindupur and Penukonda. In the former, rice is being imported from Guntur, Salem, Coimbatore and other places and cholam from Nellore, Venkatagiri, &c. From Hindupur large exports of food-grains have been made to the northern parts within and without the district. Grain has also been imported into this market largely from the Mysore province.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

*On works.*—Generally fair in the two northern taluks and good elsewhere. Some of the relief-workers, more especially girls from ten to fifteen years of age, in the Yadiki, Putlur and Kondapuram works are in a bad condition. The reasons for this have already been fully explained in previous reports. It was mainly due to the partial stinting which people preferred to working at task work rates at famine wages and to the small earnings of labourers consequent on a limited scope for employment in fields and elsewhere. In such keen struggle for existence it is the girls that always fare the worst in an Indian household.

*In villages.*—Generally good. In Gooty taluk about 2,500 able-bodied labourers are employed on the works executed by the aid of State loans. Some migration is also going on from the two northern taluks to the Mysore province where there is a prospect of more remunerative wages. In some villages of Tadpatri, Gooty and Anantapur, the labourers are in need of employment, and I have already sanctioned a number of works to be opened in these localities and these will afford them the required relief.

*Sickness and mortality.*—No deaths from starvation have been reported. Cholera was prevalent in one village of the Anantapur taluk. There were two attacks and no deaths. Fever, small-pox and measles prevailing in parts of Penukonda and Madakasira taluks. Attacks twelve; deaths nil.

## 4 BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGRI.), 3RD MAY 1897, No. 335.

## MEASURES OF RELIEF.

On works.—In what taluks open and comparison of numbers.

| Taluku.                     | Number employed |                 | Remarks.                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                             | Last fortnight. | This fortnight. |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Tadpatri taluk—             |                 |                 | Fining was not inflicted in Tadpatri, Anantapur and Dharmavaram taluks so as to bring down the wage below the minimum. For Gooty taluk see under general remarks. |
| 1. Puttur .. .. .           | 814             | 843             |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2. Gudur .. .. .            | 1,910           | 2,015           |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3. Yadiki .. .. .           | 926             | 1,000           |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 4. Kondapuram .. .. .       | 587             | 1,648           |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Total .. .. .               | 4,237           | 5,506           |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Gooty taluk—                |                 |                 |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 1. Puttur .. .. .           | 860             | 1,023           |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2. Guntakal .. .. .         | 603             | 595             |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3. Karadikonda .. .. .      | ..              | 701             |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Total .. .. .               | 1,463           | 2,319           |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Anantapur taluk—            |                 |                 |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 1. Korrapaud .. .. .        | 257             | 533             |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Dharmavaram taluk—          |                 |                 |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 1. Nayanipalli road .. .. . | 546             | 937             |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Grand Total .. .. .         | 6,503           | 9,295           |                                                                                                                                                                   |

Gratuitous Relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise.

| Taluka.              | Number relieved |                 |                 |                 | Remarks.                                                                                                      |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                      | At kitchens.    |                 |                 |                 |                                                                                                               |
|                      | Dependants.     |                 | Others.         |                 |                                                                                                               |
|                      | Last fortnight. | This fortnight. | Last fortnight. | This fortnight. |                                                                                                               |
| Tadpatri--           |                 |                 |                 |                 | Grain doles to four persons in Dharmavaram taluk are being given under the orders of the Famine Commissioner. |
| 1. Puttur .. ..      | 49              | 54              | 5               | 6               |                                                                                                               |
| 2. Gudur .. ..       | 76              | 66              | 5               | 3               |                                                                                                               |
| 3. Yadiki .. ..      | 95              | 100             | 10              | 10              |                                                                                                               |
| 4. Tadpatri .. ..    | 4               | 4               | 31              | 48              |                                                                                                               |
| 5. Kondapuram .. ..  | 24              | 14              | 1               | 2               |                                                                                                               |
| Total ..             | 248             | 238             | 52              | 67              |                                                                                                               |
| Gooty taluk--        |                 |                 |                 |                 |                                                                                                               |
| 1. Puttur .. ..      | 114             | 97              | 9               | 11              |                                                                                                               |
| 2. Guntakal .. ..    | 31              | 29              | 4               | 3               |                                                                                                               |
| 3. Karadikonda .. .. | ..              | 18              | 6               | 1               |                                                                                                               |
| 4. Gooty .. ..       | ..              | ..              | ..              | 84              |                                                                                                               |
| Total ..             | 145             | 144             | 19              | 99              |                                                                                                               |
| Anantapur--          |                 |                 |                 |                 |                                                                                                               |
| Korrapud .. ..       | 14              | 19              | ..              | 3               |                                                                                                               |
| Dharmavaram .. ..    | 25              | 91              | 32              | 52              |                                                                                                               |
| Penukonda--          |                 |                 |                 |                 |                                                                                                               |
| Bukkapatnam .. ..    | ..              | ..              | 51              | 54              |                                                                                                               |
| Grand Total ..       | 432             | 492             | 154             | 275             |                                                                                                               |

| Taluku.          | Number of villages in which relief was given. |                 | Weavers' relief.            |                 |                                |             |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
|                  |                                               |                 | Number of persons relieved. |                 | Number of cloths manufactured. |             |
|                  | Last fortnight.                               | This fortnight. | Last fortnight.             | This fortnight. | In the period.                 | Up to date. |
| Tadpatri .. .. . | ..                                            | 1               | ..                          | 83              | ..                             | Not given.  |

*Private charity.*—Vide remarks in the last narrative. Meetings of taluk sub-committees have also been held during the fortnight in some of the taluk head-quarters. Particulars of the exact amount of subscriptions promised and realized have not yet been received.

## GENERAL REMARKS.

Prospects have in no way bettered since my last report. The present harvest operations are expected to continue for about a fortnight longer and there will then be an almost complete pause in the agricultural operations. The condition of the cattle is becoming more deplorable than ever; and prices have begun to show a tendency to rise. In view of the increasing demand for employment, I have lately sanctioned an expanded programme of works, consisting of about thirteen in number; to be opened in all the affected taluks as per accompanying statement and have a few more under consideration for the north-eastern portion of the Dharmavaram taluk. I have also addressed the Executive Engineer in charge of the famine sub-division to make early arrangements for starting the works but with the exception of Kondapuram work, none of them has been started up to date. The delay and difficulty in securing the required number of overseers seems somewhat considerable. The work at Korrapaud in the Anantapur taluk being urgently required, I have had it opened by a Local Fund Overseer. The Executive Engineer has written to me to say that no overseers are available and that the works if urgently wanted, should be started by the Local Fund Department. This department is now very much undermanned and even if all the overseers are set apart for famine duty, the number would considerably fall short of the requirements. But under the orders of Government, the works should be put in hand by the Public Works Department and as it is very desirable to have the beginning made under the supervision, etc., available by the employment of a special department, I would prefer to leave the commencement of the works in the hands of the Public Works Department. I would therefore request that the Board will be pleased to move the Public Works Department to make the requisite arrangements about the staff with the least possible delay. I have also addressed the Executive Engineer and the Superintending Engineer on the subject.

The number of labourers is continually on the increase on all the works except at Guntakal, where a decrease, though slight, is noticeable. The decrease in Senegala-gudur work noticed in paragraph 5 of B.P., dated 27th March 1897, No. 255, is ascribed by the Deputy Collector to the payment of the minimum wage for short work turned out by some of the gangs. A number of gangs varying from 2 to 6 were, it would appear, paid minimum wage on certain days during the fortnight in question and the attendance gradually fell down to 1,751 towards the close of that fortnight. In the second week of March, however, the number, again began to rise and during the current fortnight has steadily increased to 2,015.

From a report of the Deputy Collector just to hand, I understand that fining was inflicted on Guntakal work so as to bring down the wage of certain gangs below the minimum. The Deputy Collector wired to me that the alleged reason for this infliction was contumacy. I have asked him to investigate the matter fully and submit a detailed report on the subject and have also called the attention of the Executive Engineer to it. In his fortnightly narrative the Deputy Collector makes the following remarks on this head:—

“From the wages disbursement reports received from the paymaster of this work it appears that five gangs were paid less than minimum wages for three days (namely 15th, 16th and 17th March 1897), three gangs for six days (19th to 24th March 1897), two gangs for three days (25th to 27th March 1897) and one gang for three days (29th to 31st March 1897) on the ground that the short work was due to wilfulness. I can scarcely believe that the coolies at the Guntakal relief work are more contumacious than those on the other works in this division. His Excellency the Governor inspected the work and noticed the indifferent condition of some of the relief workers. The coolies on this work have, for long time past, been getting only “C” or “D” class wages. In the fortnight under reference the wages have been reduced below the minimum. If this state of things continues, I will not at all be surprised if the coolies desert the work in larger numbers.”

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In consideration of the above, I am authorizing the payment of "B" class wage for these workers pending the receipt of final report in order that the continued payment of what is but a "penal wage" might not tell on the physical condition of the workers. During the fortnight the scheme for weavers' relief was also started in Tadpatri. The number of admissions up to the 11th instant is 83. The Deputy Collector reports that some weavers applied to him for the grant of initial advances to enable them to adjust their looms so as to fit them up for the manufacture of the selected kinds of cloths and on his explaining to them that the rules do not permit such a course, some of them, he adds, refused to receive the advances of yarn. An additional kitchen for the benefit of the weavers' children and dependants was also sanctioned to be opened at Sajjaladinna in this taluk, and arrangements are being made for having this started.

The Executive Engineer reports that he has authorized the construction of 400 sheds for some of the relief works now in progress and these sheds are intended for rest of the workers during midday.

Enquiry into the cause of absence from relief works of certain workers has disclosed that it is sometimes due to domestic troubles. In some cases it has been found that the workers' absence was due to the delivery or illness of the child from small-pox or fever. In all such cases I am issuing orders for the payment of grain doles as the absence from the work was unavoidable and as the withdrawal of relief would reduce them to a miserable plight, subject however to the condition that the fact of sickness or child delivery should be verified by a reference to the village officers. I request that my action may be approved.

With regard to the Budili firka in the Hindupur taluk from which a number of petitions were presented to the Famine Commissioner during his late visit to this taluk, the Head Assistant Collector lately recommended that a test-relief work might be opened in the firka, but has since withdrawn his proposals as it is too early to expect the people to come on to relief works. I came here to ascertain the exact condition of the firka, and from what I have seen and heard, I have no reason to doubt the correctness of the Head Assistant Collector's conclusion. The firka had a fairly good season in the last fasli (1305). There was a total cultivation of 31,842 acres (dry) against an average of 23,354 acres based on the figures of the preceding two years and a total wet cultivation of 3,148 acres against an average of 2,980 acres besides a large extent of tirvajasti cultivation. The rainfall also averaged during the year from 17 to 22 padanus. Out of 106 tanks, three-fourths of the number had nearly full supply and the remainder partial supply. On an average one-eighth of the total wet assessment had to be remitted on account of wet waste only under a few tanks. The harvests were also, I understand, fairly good. The failure of one single monsoon could not have altered the conditions of firka to such an extent as to drive the coolies to the length of resorting to famine works. The comparatively better state of the taluk is evidenced by the ruling price of ragi which forms the staple grain at 23 seers per rupee, and the wage allowable by the Famine Code for a "B" class labourer at this rate would amount to less than 11 pies per diem. With reference to the Board's observation in paragraph 2 of its resolution, No. 255, dated 27th March 1897, I would respectfully invite attention to the remarks made in my reports embodied in B.P., dated 19th November 1896, No. 358 (paragraph 20), 24th November 1896, No. 370, and 8th January 1897, No. 16, &c., regarding the condition of this and the Amarapuram firka in the adjoining Madakasira taluk.

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

| Taluka.     | 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.  |                          |                               |
| Tadpatri    | 14                                | 2,650    | 10               | 1,050   | 40                    | 15,990   | 12                     | 1,280    | 4                | 430     | 36                    | 10,840   | 26                     | 3,930    | 14               | 1,480    | 76                    | 26,830   | 10                       | 10                            |
| Gooley      | 31                                | 6,465    | 20               | 2,435   | 167                   | 44,170   | 333                    | 50,223   | 210              | 34,553  | 896                   | 69,450   | 414                    | 56,718   | 310              | 36,958   | 1,063                 | 2,13,570 | 20                       | 20                            |
| Anantapur   | 287                               | 27,052   | 289              | 26,712  | 480                   | 56,505   | 7                      | 905      | 17               | 805     | 37                    | 4,620    | 294                    | 27,957   | 296              | 27,517   | 517                   | 61,125   | 190                      | 190                           |
| Kalyandrug  | 164                               | 22,135   | 146              | 11,152  | 88                    | 14,065   | 17                     | 2,220    | 2                | 400     | 35                    | 4,550    | 181                    | 21,355   | 163              | 17,762   | 123                   | 18,613   | 136                      | 136                           |
| Dharmavaram | 149                               | 17,710   | 144              | 9,600   | 115                   | 14,800   | 2                      | 400      | 2                | 400     | 12                    | 1,380    | 151                    | 18,110   | 146              | 10,000   | 127                   | 16,180   | 11                       | 135                           |
| Penakonda   | 166                               | 27,775   | 140              | 14,997  | 83                    | 22,350   | 2                      | 1,000    | 2                | 1,000   | 1                     | 600      | 168                    | 28,775   | 142              | 15,997   | 84                    | 27,850   | 34                       | 34                            |
| Hindupur    | 37                                | 6,835    | 21               | 3,585   | 26                    | 5,365    | ..                     | ..       | ..               | ..      | ..                    | ..       | 37                     | 6,835    | 21               | 3,585    | 26                    | 5,365    | 4                        | 143                           |
| Madakasira  | 848                               | 1,10,622 | 770              | 69,531  | 999                   | 1,73,195 | 423                    | 56,058   | 322              | 38,798  | 1,017                 | 1,91,340 | 1,271                  | 1,60,680 | 1,092            | 1,08,329 | 2,016                 | 3,64,535 | 1                        | 22                            |
| Total       | 1,414                             | 2,10,622 | 1,110            | 99,531  | 1,731                 | 3,16,195 | 1,043                  | 1,12,116 | 644              | 84,588  | 2,017                 | 3,16,195 | 2,368                  | 2,77,238 | 2,184            | 2,18,914 | 4,084                 | 7,64,535 | 28                       | 700                           |

  

| Taluka.     | Purchase of fodder.    |         |                  |         |                       |         | Cattle and seed-grain. |         |                  |         |                       |         | 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. |                          |                               |
| Tadpatri    | 97                     | 6,551   | 62               | 6,910   | 42                    | 1,808   | ..                     | ..      | ..               | ..      | ..                    | ..      | 97                     | 6,551   | 62               | 6,910   | ..                    | ..      | ..                       | ..                            |
| Gooley      | 19                     | 1,240   | 14               | 1,000   | ..                    | 9,445   | ..                     | ..      | ..               | ..      | ..                    | ..      | 19                     | 1,240   | 14               | 1,000   | ..                    | ..      | ..                       | ..                            |
| Anantapur   | ..                     | ..      | ..               | ..      | ..                    | ..      | ..                     | ..      | ..               | ..      | ..                    | ..      | ..                     | ..      | ..               | ..      | ..                    | ..      | ..                       | ..                            |
| Kalyandrug  | ..                     | ..      | ..               | ..      | ..                    | ..      | ..                     | ..      | ..               | ..      | ..                    | ..      | ..                     | ..      | ..               | ..      | ..                    | ..      | ..                       | ..                            |
| Dharmavaram | ..                     | ..      | ..               | ..      | ..                    | ..      | ..                     | ..      | ..               | ..      | ..                    | ..      | ..                     | ..      | ..               | ..      | ..                    | ..      | ..                       | ..                            |
| Penakonda   | ..                     | ..      | ..               | ..      | ..                    | ..      | ..                     | ..      | ..               | ..      | ..                    | ..      | ..                     | ..      | ..               | ..      | ..                    | ..      | ..                       | ..                            |
| Hindupur    | ..                     | ..      | ..               | ..      | ..                    | ..      | ..                     | ..      | ..               | ..      | ..                    | ..      | ..                     | ..      | ..               | ..      | ..                    | ..      | ..                       | ..                            |
| Madakasira  | ..                     | ..      | ..               | ..      | ..                    | ..      | ..                     | ..      | ..               | ..      | ..                    | ..      | ..                     | ..      | ..               | ..      | ..                    | ..      | ..                       | ..                            |
| Total       | 116                    | 7,791   | 76               | 6,910   | 196                   | 11,273  | 43                     | 2,540   | 88               | 2,200   | 106                   | 8,555   | 159                    | 10,631  | 114              | 9,110   | 302                   | 19,828  | 38                       | 39                            |

## INSPECTIONS—TALUKS AND PLACES VISITED.

## Head Assistant Collector—

|                          |   |                   |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Dharmavaram taluk ... .. | { | Nagasamudram.     |
|                          |   | Pagadindi.        |
|                          |   | Gother.           |
|                          |   | Potlamari.        |
|                          |   | Dharmavaram.      |
|                          |   | Bethlapalle.      |
|                          |   | Guntapuram.       |
|                          |   | Gummelagunta.     |
|                          |   | Thammapuram.      |
|                          |   | Apparascheruvu.   |
|                          |   | Chennakuntapalli. |
|                          |   | Obalapuram.       |
|                          |   | Kodakondla.       |
|                          |   | Sanjala.          |
|                          |   | Ravalcheruvu.     |
|                          |   | Dharmapuri.       |
|                          |   | Akukotapalli.     |
|                          |   | Botlapalli.       |
|                          |   | Mellakalva.       |

## Head-quarter Deputy Collector—

|                        |   |                    |
|------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Anantapur taluk ... .. | { | Garladinna.        |
|                        |   | Talagitapalli.     |
|                        |   | Thimmampeta.       |
|                        |   | Kandukur.          |
|                        |   | Hampapuram.        |
|                        |   | Jangalapalli.      |
|                        |   | Gangalakunta.      |
|                        |   | Itkalapalli.       |
|                        |   | Akuthotapalli.     |
|                        |   | Bodiganadoddi.     |
|                        |   | Korrapaud.         |
|                        |   | Sivapuram.         |
|                        |   | Chekrayapet.       |
|                        |   | Bandamidapalli.    |
|                        |   | Bukkarayasamudram. |

## Gooty Deputy Collector—

|                       |   |                   |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------|
| Gooty taluk ... ..    | { | Gooty.            |
|                       |   | Guntakal.         |
|                       |   | Thimmancherla.    |
|                       |   | Karadikonda.      |
|                       |   | Ubicherla.        |
| Tadpatri taluk ... .. | { | Tadpatri.         |
|                       |   | Nandalapaud.      |
|                       |   | Yadiki.           |
|                       |   | Ravalcheruvu.     |
|                       |   | Narasapuram.      |
|                       |   | Chimalavagapally. |
|                       |   | Igudur.           |
|                       |   | Puliprodattur.    |
|                       |   | Chakkalur.        |
|                       |   | Senegalagudur.    |

## Collector—

|                        |   |                 |
|------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Hindupur taluk ... ..  | { | Hindupur.       |
|                        |   | Sreekantapuram. |
|                        |   | Hulikunta.      |
|                        |   | Cholasamudram.  |
|                        |   | Lepakshi.       |
|                        |   | Demakethapalli. |
|                        |   | Chelamatur.     |
|                        |   | Maravapalli.    |
|                        |   | Kodikonda.      |
|                        |   | Kodur.          |
|                        |   | Palasamudram.   |
|                        |   | Vadijepalli.    |
| Penukonda taluk ... .. | { | Somandepalli.   |
|                        |   | Chakerlapalli.  |

## STATEMENT showing the particulars of additional relief works sanctioned in the Anantapur district.

| Taluk.            | Name of the work sanctioned with reference to the locality.          | Number and date of the order communicating the sanction to the Executive Engineer or Assistant Engineer in charge of Famine Sub-division. | Remarks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tadpatri ..       | 1. Penner feeder road .. ..                                          | Dis. No. 1567, dated 26th March 1897.                                                                                                     | Collection of materials. •                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                   | 2. Anantapur-Tadpatri road (Kondapuram).                             | Dis. No. 1265, dated 10th March 1897.                                                                                                     | Do.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                   | 3. Veerapuram channel .. ..                                          | Dis. No. 1567, dated 26th March 1897.                                                                                                     | Repairs of existing channels. The opinion of the Public Works Department was invited in regard to the advisability of taking them up for famine labour, and this having been unfavourable, further reference has been made and the matter is under correspondence. Work No. 5 has been authorized for the present. |
|                   | 4. Kummeltha channel .. ..                                           |                                                                                                                                           | ....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Gooty taluk.      | 5. Collection of materials on Cuddapah-Bellary road near Veerapuram. | C. No. 1585, dated 10th April 1897.                                                                                                       | Repairs of tanks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                   | 6. Sheiksanipally tank .. ..                                         | C. No. 1300, dated 21st March 1897.                                                                                                       | Collection of materials.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                   | 7. Anantapuram tank .. ..                                            |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Anantapur ..      | 8. Korrapaud .. ..                                                   | C. No. 1431, dated 27th March 1897.                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                   | 9. Garladinna-Singanamala road.                                      | Ref. on C. No. 1493, dated 5th April 1897.                                                                                                | Repairs of supply channel.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Dharma-<br>varam. | 10. Nadimidoddi .. ..                                                | Ref. on C. Nos. 1278 and 1493, dated 10th April 1897.                                                                                     | Repairs of tank. This was opened in November last as a test work and had to be closed as the labourers deserted the work with the fall of November rains.                                                                                                                                                          |
|                   | 11. handukur .. ..                                                   |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                   | 12. Anantapur-Penukonda road.                                        |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                   | 13. Ravalcheruvu .. ..                                               |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                   | 14. Elakuntla .. ..                                                  |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

## RESOLUTION—dated 3rd May 1897, No. 335.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The light showers that fell during the fortnight have been of no service; the condition of the district is growing worse, and distress is becoming more acute. The Collector has taken steps to improve the supplies of drinking water in anticipation of the allotment of Rs. 3,000 applied for. This allotment has since been sanctioned in G.O., No. 286, Financial, dated 29th March 1897. The supplies of water for irrigation are nearly exhausted, but the crops on irrigated lands are reported to be doing fairly, those already harvested having yielded an average outturn. Except cucumbers on tank-beds, and small areas of cotton and castor, crops on dry unirrigated lands have been lost.

3. Pasture is non-existent, and fodder is procurable only at very high prices, though the recent harvests are said to have slightly improved the stock. Hill-grass, prickly-pear, and *sonti* roots are being used for fodder. All, save the most valuable cattle, are falling off, and a very considerable loss must be expected.

4. Prices are reported to show a tendency to rise. The district average for all grains has risen; but prices seem to be generally stationary except at Yadiki, Gooty and Uravakonda. It is only ragi that has risen in the first named station, while the rise in cholam, the staple food-grain of the district at Gooty and Uravakonda, is nearly counterbalanced by a fall at Anantapur and Hindupur. Private trade is said to be very active, but this does not appear to be altogether correct, for seventeen measures of cholam are obtainable for a rupee in Hindupur, and only eleven or twelve in Tadpatri and Gooty taluks.

5. The condition of the people is reported to be generally fair, though in some cases, the relief workers, especially young girls, show signs of privation. The numbers on relief works increased during the fortnight by 43 per cent., but there is reason to believe that the numbers would be much greater, if work was more easily

accessible to all. A considerable number of persons is, no doubt, employed upon works that are being executed with the aid of State loans, which have been advanced to a total of more than a lakh, while labourers hold off from relief works as long as they can, and will go long distances, even to Mysore, in the hope of securing more attractive employment. But it is beyond doubt that field labour has practically come to an end, and that a larger number of relief works is necessary at once. The Board notes that the Collector has sanctioned the opening of several new works, and regrets that owing to the undermanning of the Public Works Department it has been impossible to act upon this sanction. The attention of Government is drawn to the matter, and it is requested to issue orders for a sufficient number of overseers to be sent to the district without delay. The same want exists in Ganjam. Meanwhile, the Collector should place as many Local Fund Overseers as he can spare under orders of the Executive Engineer, so that works may be begun at once in the places where they are most urgently required. The Board agrees with the Collector that all relief works should be solely under the direction of the Public Works Department.

The decrease in the numbers on the Senegalagudur work during the fortnight ending 15th March is now reported to be due to payment of the minimum wage for several days from the 15th onwards for short work. It is obvious that the explanation now offered is no explanation at all for the falling off up to the 15th. There is, however, no use in pursuing the matter further now. It appears also that fining so as to reduce the wage below the minimum, has been inflicted on several dates in the Guntakal work, and that the coolies in this work have received only C or D class wages for a long time past. The Board agrees with the Deputy Collector in thinking that it is not likely that the coolies on this work are more contumacious than elsewhere in the division, and considers that these two instances show that the officers of the Public Works Department have been inclined to be somewhat too severe with the coolies and to demand a task beyond their powers. This, however, occurred before the receipt of G.O., No. 216, dated 30th March 1897. The Collector's action in ordering the payment of B class wage to the Guntakal workers is approved, and he is requested to satisfy himself that the principles of paragraph 3 of G.O., No. 216 of 1897, are properly acted up to in fixing tasks in future. The Board also approves of his action in granting grain doles to persons prevented from their usual attendance at works by domestic troubles.

6. The Board is not satisfied that the Collector is right in his opinion that relief works are not yet necessary in the Budili firka of Hindupur taluk. The acreage of cultivation was, no doubt, in excess of the normal, but a mere examination of statistics is not a sure guide for determining the existence of distress. The larger the cultivation the larger the loss, if crops fail, and though a certain number of "Padanus" may have fallen, the important thing is in which months did they fall and at what intervals. The Collector does not say how the cooly classes are employed at the present time; if they can find no employment in their ordinary avocations, it is probable that, with the present prices, lower though they are than in other parts of the district, a certain amount of distress must exist, and relief works may be necessary.

7. The statement showing particulars of loan transactions does not appear to be correct. The number of applications for loans for repair and construction of wells up to the end of the current fortnight is given as 848, whereas the figure entered in the preceding fortnightly narrative was 872. The difference, however, may be due to the absence of any figures for Penukonda taluk.

(True Copy and Extract.)

*Anchor* 11/5.  
Famine Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

" Collector of Anantapur.

Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

" " Collectors of other affected districts.

Exd. I' Seetharam.

# Government (1897) of Madras. REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 355, 19th May 1897.

MAY.

## Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting the — of the Anantapur district for the period ending 15th April 1897, and stating that orders will issue in the Public Works Department in regard to the additional overseers required in Anantapur and Ganjam.

## GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

## REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 3rd May 1897, No. 335 :—

Read—the following fortnightly narrative for the Anantapur district during the period ending 15th April 1897 :—

## STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

*Rainfall and water-supply.*—The quantity of rain registered during the fortnight was 0·12 against an expected average of 0·17 inches. The showers were generally very slight and were entirely local. The state of drinking water-supply continues to be the same as in previous fortnights. In a number of cases, clearance of wells has been authorized in anticipation of Government sanction to the allotment of Rs. 3,000 applied for from Provincial funds. Available sums out of the Taluk Board funds have also been distributed for the repairs of one well in Tadpatri taluk and six in the Anantapur division and the works are in progress. In many villages, the Panchama classes are resorting to garden wells in the outside fields for fetching their drinking water.

The supply for irrigation is getting nearly exhausted everywhere, both in river channels and springs. Wells are getting dried up and the supply in them is perceptibly diminishing in most parts.

*Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.*—On dry lands unirrigated, the only standing crops are cotton and castor in parts. The latter has almost been harvested. Outturn poor to middling. On black soils the late crops such as cholam, bengal-gram and linseed have almost entirely withered. Cucumber on tank beds is being harvested, the outturn being 4 to 8 annas.

On irrigated lands, the standing crops are chiefly under wells and spring channels. Paddy, cholam, korra and chillies are doing fairly. Paddy and cholam are being harvested in parts. The outturn is reported to be 8 annas on an average in the Anantapur division and fair to average in the Gooty division. Indigo in Tadpatri taluk has withered.

*Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.*—Pasture is nowhere available. Hill grass is procurable to a moderate extent in villages adjoining reserves. Fodder is extremely dear and can be had only at exorbitant rates in some parts. The recent harvests have slightly improved the village stocks. Prickly-pear is being used as fodder in parts of Gooty taluk and “sonti” roots in most places elsewhere. The cattle used for picottas, &c., are fed with some care. For the rest there is neither sufficient food nor water and their condition is, on the whole, one of deterioration. Cattle are also being driven to the adjoining Mysore province, where the season has been more favourable. Rinderpest is prevalent in one village in Dharmavaram taluk. Attacks nine; deaths four.

*General remarks on the previous subjects.*—Distress is becoming more acute. The loans operations are affording partial relief in villages and have also served to improve their water-supply in many parts. Sundry little occupations such as cutting hill grass where available, selling firewood, repairing buckets, collection of tangedu bark, &c., are still giving employment to a few of the labourers in several parts of the district, and the agricultural classes are now mainly holding up by the hope that the coming south-west monsoon will prove abundant.

## FOOD-SUPPLIES AND THE STATE OF THE MARKETS.

PRICES of principal food-grains at principal markets in the affected tracts, in seers of 80 tola per rupee, for the period ending 15th of April 1897.

| Stations.         | Rice.               |                        | • Ragi.             |                        | Yellow cholam.      |                        | White cholam.       |                        |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
|                   | 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. |
| Tadpatri .. ..    | 8·64                | 8·64                   | 15·52               | 15·52                  | 12·36               | 12·36                  | 11·33               | 11·33                  |
| Yadiki .. ..      | 8·64                | 8·64                   | 15·52               | 14·55                  | 12·36               | 12·36                  | 12·36               | 12·36                  |
| Gooty .. ..       | 8·64                | 8·64                   | 15·52               | 15·52                  | 13·39               | 12·64                  | 13·39               | 11·98                  |
| Uravakonda .. ..  | 9·45                | 8·92                   | 18·90               | 16·80                  | ..                  | ..                     | 13·12               | 11·55                  |
| Anantapur .. ..   | 8·64                | 8·64                   | 16·49               | 16·49                  | 14·42               | 14·49                  | 13·90               | 14·42                  |
| Kalyandrug .. ..  | 10·80               | 10·80                  | 17·46               | 17·46                  | 16·48               | 16·48                  | 13·39               | 13·39                  |
| Dharmavaram .. .. | 8·64                | 8·64                   | 15·52               | 15·52                  | 15·45               | 15·45                  | 14·42               | 14·42                  |
| Penukonda .. ..   | 9·72                | 9·72                   | 18·43               | 18·43                  | ..                  | ..                     | 15·45               | 15·45                  |
| Hindupur .. ..    | 10·75               | 10·75                  | 23·65               | 23·65                  | ..                  | ..                     | 16·12               | 17·20                  |
| Madakasira .. ..  | 10·80               | 10·80                  | 21·34               | 21·34                  | ..                  | ..                     | ..                  | ..                     |
| Average .. ..     | 9·47                | 9·42                   | 17·83               | 17·63                  | 14·07               | 13·96                  | 13·72               | 13·56                  |

*Activity of trade.*—Private trade is very active in Tadpatri, Hindupur and Penukonda. In the former, rice is being imported from Guntur, Salem, Coimbatore and other places and cholam from Nellore, Venkatagiri, &c. From Hindupur large exports of food-grains have been made to the northern parts within and without the district. Grain has also been imported into this market largely from the Mysore province.

## CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

*On works.*—Generally fair in the two northern taluks and good elsewhere. Some of the relief-workers, more especially girls from ten to fifteen years of age, in the Yadiki, Puttur and Kondapuram works are in a bad condition. The reasons for this have already been fully explained in previous reports. It was mainly due to the partial stinting which people preferred to working at task work rates at famine wages and to the small earnings of labourers consequent on a limited scope for employment in fields and elsewhere. In such keen struggle for existence it is the girls that always fare the worst in an Indian household.

*In villages.*—Generally good. In Gooty taluk about 2,500 able-bodied labourers are employed on the works executed by the aid of State loans. Some migration is also going on from the two northern taluks to the Mysore province where there is a prospect of more remunerative wages. In some villages of Tadpatri, Gooty and Anantapur, the labourers are in need of employment, and I have already sanctioned a number of works to be opened in these localities and these will afford them the required relief.

*Sickness and mortality.*—No deaths from starvation have been reported. Cholera was prevalent in one village of the Anantapur taluk. There were two attacks and no deaths. Fever, small-pox and measles prevailing in parts of Penukonda and Madakasira taluks. Attacks twelve; deaths nil.

## MEASURES OF RELIEF.

On works.—In what taluks open and comparison of numbers.

| Taluks.                     | Number employed |                 | Remarks.                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                             | Last fortnight. | This fortnight. |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Tadpatri taluk—             |                 |                 | Fining was not inflicted in Tadpatri, Anantapur and Dharmavaram taluks so as to bring down the wage below the minimum. For Gooty taluk see under general remarks. |
| 1. Puttur .. .. .           | 814             | 843             |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2. Gudur .. .. .            | 1,910           | 2,015           |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3. Yadiki .. .. .           | 926             | 1,000           |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 4. Kondapuram .. .. .       | 687             | 1,648           |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Total ..                    | 4,237           | 5,506           |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Gooty taluk—                |                 |                 |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 1. Patlur .. .. .           | 860             | 1,023           |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2. Guntakal .. .. .         | 603             | 595             |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3. Karadikonda .. .. .      | ..              | 701             |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Total ..                    | 1,463           | 2,319           |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Anantapur taluk—            |                 |                 |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 1. Korrapaud .. .. .        | 257             | 533             |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Dharmavaram taluk—          |                 |                 |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 1. Nayanipalli road .. .. . | 546             | 937             |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Grand Total ..              | 6,503           | 9,295           |                                                                                                                                                                   |

Gratuitous Relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise.

| Taluka.              | Number relieved |                 |                 |                 | Remarks.                                                                                                      |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                      | At kitchens.    |                 |                 |                 |                                                                                                               |
|                      | Dependants.     |                 | Others.         |                 |                                                                                                               |
|                      | Last fortnight. | This fortnight. | Last fortnight. | This fortnight. |                                                                                                               |
| Tadpatri--           |                 |                 |                 |                 | Grain doles to four persons in Dharmavaram taluk are being given under the orders of the Famine Commissioner. |
| 1. Putlur .. ..      | 49              | 54              | 5               | 6               |                                                                                                               |
| 2. Gudur .. ..       | 76              | 66              | 5               | 3               |                                                                                                               |
| 3. Yadiki .. ..      | 95              | 100             | 10              | 10              |                                                                                                               |
| 4. Tadpatri .. ..    | 4               | 4               | 31              | 46              |                                                                                                               |
| 5. Kondaparam .. ..  | 24              | 14              | 1               | 2               |                                                                                                               |
| Total ..             | 248             | 238             | 52              | 67              |                                                                                                               |
| Gooty taluk--        |                 |                 |                 |                 |                                                                                                               |
| 1. Patlur .. ..      | 114             | 97              | 9               | 11              |                                                                                                               |
| 2. Guntakal .. ..    | 31              | 29              | 4               | 3               |                                                                                                               |
| 3. Karadikonda .. .. | ..              | 18              | 6               | 1               |                                                                                                               |
| 4. Gooty .. ..       | ..              | ..              | ..              | 84              |                                                                                                               |
| Total ..             | 145             | 144             | 19              | 99              |                                                                                                               |
| Anantapur--          |                 |                 |                 |                 |                                                                                                               |
| Korrapaud .. ..      | 14              | 19              | ..              | 3               |                                                                                                               |
| Dharmavaram .. ..    | 25              | 91              | 32              | 52              |                                                                                                               |
| Penukonda--          |                 |                 |                 |                 |                                                                                                               |
| Bukkapatnam .. ..    | ..              | ..              | 51              | 54              |                                                                                                               |
| Grand Total ..       | 432             | 492             | 154             | 275             |                                                                                                               |

| Taluka.          | Number of villages in which relief was given. |                 | Weavers' relief.            |                 |                                |             |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
|                  |                                               |                 | Number of persons relieved. |                 | Number of cloths manufactured. |             |
|                  | Last fortnight.                               | This fortnight. | Last fortnight.             | This fortnight. | In the period.                 | Up to date. |
| Tadpatri .. .. . | ..                                            | 1               | ..                          | 83              | ..                             | Not given.  |

*Private charity.*—Vide remarks in the last narrative. Meetings of taluk sub-committees have also been held during the fortnight in some of the taluk head-quarters. Particulars of the exact amount of subscriptions promised and realized have not yet been received.

## GENERAL REMARKS.

Prospects have in no way bettered since my last report. The present harvest operations are expected to continue for about a fortnight longer and there will then be an almost complete pause in the agricultural operations. The condition of the cattle is becoming more deplorable than ever; and prices have begun to show a tendency to rise. In view of the increasing demand for employment, I have lately sanctioned an expanded programme of works, consisting of about thirteen in number; to be opened in all the affected taluks as per accompanying statement and have a few more under consideration for the north-eastern portion of the Dharmavaram taluk. I have also addressed the Executive Engineer in charge of the famine sub-division to make early arrangements for starting the works but with the exception of Kondapuram work, none of them has been started up to date. The delay and difficulty in securing the required number of overseers seems somewhat considerable. The work at Korrapaud in the Anantapur taluk being urgently required, I have had it opened by a Local Fund Overseer. The Executive Engineer has written to me to say that no overseers are available and that the works if urgently wanted, should be started by the Local Fund Department. This department is now very much undermanned and even if all the overseers are set apart for famine duty, the number would considerably fall short of the requirements. But under the orders of Government, the works should be put in hand by the Public Works Department and as it is very desirable to have the beginning made under the supervision, etc., available by the employment of a special department, I would prefer to leave the commencement of the works in the hands of the Public Works Department. I would therefore request that the Board will be pleased to move the Public Works Department to make the requisite arrangements about the staff with the least possible delay. I have also addressed the Executive Engineer and the Superintending Engineer on the subject.

The number of labourers is continually on the increase on all the works except at Guntakal, where a decrease, though slight, is noticeable. The decrease in Senegalagudur work noticed in paragraph 5 of B.P., dated 27th March 1897, No. 255, is ascribed by the Deputy Collector to the payment of the minimum wage for short work turned out by some of the gangs. A number of gangs varying from 2 to 6 were, it would appear, paid minimum wage on certain days during the fortnight in question and the attendance gradually fell down to 1,751 towards the close of that fortnight. In the second week of March, however, the number, again began to rise and during the current fortnight has steadily increased to 2,015.

From a report of the Deputy Collector just to hand, I understand that fining was inflicted on Guntakal work so as to bring down the wage of certain gangs below the minimum. The Deputy Collector wired to me that the alleged reason for this infliction was contumacy. I have asked him to investigate the matter fully and submit a detailed report on the subject and have also called the attention of the Executive Engineer to it. In his fortnightly narrative the Deputy Collector makes the following remarks on this head:—

"From the wages disbursement reports received from the paymaster of this work it appears that five gangs were paid less than minimum wages for three days (namely 15th, 16th and 17th March 1897), three gangs for six days (19th to 21st March 1897), two gangs for three days (25th to 27th March 1897) and one gang for three days (29th to 31st March 1897) on the ground that the short work was due to wilfulness. I can scarcely believe that the coolies at the Guntakal relief work are more contumacious than those on the other works in this division. His Excellency the Governor inspected the work and noticed the indifferent condition of some of the relief workers. The coolies on this work have, for long time past, been getting only "C" or "D" class wages. In the fortnight under reference the wages have been reduced below the minimum. If this state of things continues, I will not at all be surprised if the coolies desert the work in larger numbers."

With regard to the Budili firka in the Hindupur taluk from which a number of petitions were presented to the Famine Commissioner during his late visit to this taluk, the Head Assistant Collector lately recommended that a test-relief work might be opened in the firka, but has since withdrawn his proposals as it is too early to expect the people to come on to relief works. I came here to ascertain the exact condition of the firka, and from what I have seen and heard, I have no reason to doubt the correctness of the Head Assistant Collector's conclusion. The firka had a fairly good season in the last fasli (1305). There was a total cultivation of 31,842 acres (dry) against an average of 23,354 acres based on the figures of the preceding two years and a total wet cultivation of 3,148 acres against an average of 2,980 acres besides a large extent of tirvajasti cultivation. The rainfall also averaged during the year from 17 to 22 padanus. Out of 106 tanks, three-fourths of the number had nearly full supply and the remainder partial supply. On an average one-eighth of the total wet assessment had to be remitted on account of wet waste only under a few tanks. The harvests were also, I understand, fairly good. The failure of one single monsoon could not have altered the conditions of firka to such an extent as to drive the coolies to the length of resorting to famine works. The comparatively better state of the taluk is evidenced by the ruling price of ragi which forms the staple grain at 23 seers per rupee, and the wage allowable by the Famine Code for a "B" class labourer at this rate would amount to less than 11 pies per diem. With reference to the Board's observation in paragraph 2 of its resolution, No. 255, dated 27th March 1897, I would respectfully invite attention to the remarks made in my reports embodied in B.P., dated 19th November 1896, No. 358 (paragraph 20), 24th November 1896, No. 370, and 8th January 1897, No. 16, &c., regarding the condition of this and the Amarapuram firka in the adjoining Madakasira taluk.

[illegible]

8

No. 355, REVENUE, 19TH MAY 1897.

## INSPECTIONS—TALUKS AND PLACES VISITED.

Head Assistant Collector—

Dharmavaram taluk ... .. { Nagasamudram.  
Pagadindi.  
Gother.  
Potlamari.  
Dharmavaram.  
Bethlapalle.  
Guntapuram.  
Gummelagunta.  
Thammapuram.  
Apparascheruvu.  
Chennakuntapalli.  
Obalapuram.  
Kodakondla.  
Sanjala.  
Ravalcheruvu.  
Dharmapuri.  
Akukotapalli.  
Botlapalli.  
Mellakalva.

Head-quarter Deputy Collector—

Anantapur taluk ... .. { Garladinna.  
Talagitapalli.  
Thimmampeta.  
Kandukur.  
Hampapuram.  
Jangalapalli.  
Gangalakunta.  
Itkalapalli.  
Akuthotapalli.  
Bodiganadoddi.  
Korrapaud.  
Sivapuram.  
Chekrayapet.  
Bandamidapalli.  
Bukkarayasamudram.

Gooty Deputy Collector—

Gooty taluk ... .. { Gooty.  
Guntakal.  
Thimmancherla.  
Karadikonda.  
Ubicherla.  
Tadpatri.  
Nandalapaud.  
Yadiki.  
Rayalcheruvu.  
Narasapuram.  
Chimalavagapally.  
Igadur.  
Puliprodattur.  
Chakkalur.  
Senegalagudur.

Collector—

Hindupur taluk ... .. { Hindupur.  
Sreekantapuram.  
Hulikunta.  
Cholasamudram.  
Lepakshi.  
Demakethapalli.  
Chelamatur.  
Maravapalli.  
Kodikonda.  
Kodur.  
Palasamudram.  
Vadijapalli.  
Somandepalli.  
Chakerlapalli.

## STATEMENT showing the particulars of additional relief works sanctioned in the Anantapur district.

| Taluk.              | Name of the work sanctioned with reference to the locality.          | Number and date of the order communicating the sanction to the Executive Engineer or Assistant Engineer in charge of Famine Sub-division. | Remarks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                     | 1. Penner feeder road .. ..                                          | Dis. No. 1567, dated 26th March 1897.                                                                                                     | Collection of materials.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                     | 2. Anantapur-Tadpatri road (Kondapuram).                             | Dis. No. 1265, dated 10th March 1897.                                                                                                     | Do.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                     | 3. Veerapuram channel .. ..                                          | Dis. No. 1567, dated 26th March 1897.                                                                                                     | Repairs of existing channels. The opinion of the Public Works Department was invited in regard to the advisability of taking them up for famine labour, and this having been unfavourable, further reference has been made and the matter is under correspondence. Work No. 5 has been authorized for the present. |
|                     | 4. Kummetha channel .. ..                                            |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Tadpatri ..         |                                                                      |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                     | 5. Collection of materials on Cuddapah-Bellary road near Veerapuram. | ....                                                                                                                                      | ....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Gooty taluk. {      | 6. Sheiksanipally tank .. ..                                         | C. No. 1585, dated 10th April 1897.                                                                                                       | Repairs of tanks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                     | 7. Anantapuram tank .. ..                                            |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                     | 8. Korrapaud .. ..                                                   | C. No. 1300, dated 21st March 1897.                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Anantapur ..        | 9. Garladinna-Singanamala road.                                      |                                                                                                                                           | Collection of materials.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                     | 10. Nadimidoddi .. ..                                                | C. No. 1431, dated 27th March 1897.                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                     | 11. Kandukur .. ..                                                   |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                     | 12. Anantapur-Penukonda road.                                        | Ref. on C. No. 1493, dated 5th April 1897.                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Dharma-<br>varam. { | 13. Ravalcheruvu .. ..                                               | Ref. on C. Nos. 1278 and 1493, dated 10th April 1897.                                                                                     | Repairs of supply channel. Repairs of tank. This was opened in November last as a test work and had to be closed as the labourers deserted the work with the fall of November rains.                                                                                                                               |
|                     | 14. Elakuntla .. ..                                                  |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

Resolution—dated 3rd May 1897, No. 335.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The light showers that fell during the fortnight have been of no service; the condition of the district is growing worse, and distress is becoming more acute. The Collector has taken steps to improve the supplies of drinking water in anticipation of the allotment of Rs. 3,000 applied for. This allotment has since been sanctioned in G.O., No. 286, Financial, dated 29th March 1897. The supplies of water for irrigation are nearly exhausted, but the crops on irrigated lands are reported to be doing fairly, those already harvested having yielded an average outturn. Except cucumbers on tank-beds, and small areas of cotton and castor, crops on dry unirrigated lands have been lost.

3. Pasture is non-existent, and fodder is procurable only at very high prices, though the recent harvests are said to have slightly improved the stock. Hill-grass, prickly-pear, and *sonti* roots are being used for fodder. All, save the most valuable cattle, are falling off, and a very considerable loss must be expected.

4. Prices are reported to show a tendency to rise. The district average for all grains has risen; but prices seem to be generally stationary except at Yadiki, Gooty and Uravakonda. It is only ragi that has risen in the first named station, while the rise in cholam, the staple food-grain of the district at Gooty and Uravakonda, is nearly counterbalanced by a fall at Anantapur and Hindupur. Private trade is said to be very active, but this does not appear to be altogether correct, for seventeen measures of cholam are obtainable for a rupee in Hindupur, and only eleven or twelve in Tadpatri and Gooty taluks.

5. The condition of the people is reported to be generally fair, though in some cases, the relief workers, especially young girls, show signs of privation. The

numbers on relief works increased during the fortnight by 43 per cent., but there is reason to believe that the numbers would be much greater, if work was more easily accessible to all. A considerable number of persons is, no doubt, employed upon works that are being executed with the aid of State loans, which have been advanced to a total of more than a lakh, while labourers hold off from relief works as long as attractive employment. But it is beyond doubt that field labour has practically come to an end, and that a larger number of relief works is necessary at once. The Board notes that the Collector has sanctioned the opening of several new works, and regrets that owing to the undermanning of the Public Works Department it has been impossible to act upon this sanction. The attention of Government is drawn to the matter, and it is requested to issue orders for a sufficient number of overseers to be sent to the district without delay. The same want exists in Ganjám. Meanwhile, the Collector should place as many Local Fund Overseers as he can spare under orders of the Executive Engineer, so that works may be begun at once in the places where they are most urgently required. The Board agrees with the Collector that all relief works should be solely under the direction of the Public Works Department.

The decrease in the numbers on the Senegalagudur work during the fortnight ending 15th March is now reported to be due to payment of the minimum wage for several days from the 15th onwards for short work. It is obvious that the explanation now offered is no explanation at all for the falling off up to the 15th. There is, however, no use in pursuing the matter further now. It appears also that fixing so as to reduce the wage below the minimum, has been inflicted on several dates in the Guntakal work, and that the coolies in this work have received only C or D class wages for a long time past. The Board agrees with the Deputy Collector in thinking that it is not likely that the coolies on this work are more contumacious than elsewhere in the division, and considers that these two instances show that the officers of the Public Works Department have been inclined to be somewhat too severe with the coolies and to demand a task beyond their powers. This, however, occurred before the receipt of G.O., No. 216, dated 30th March 1897. The Collector's action in ordering the payment of B class wage to the Guntakal workers is approved, and he is requested to satisfy himself that the principles of paragraph 3 of G.O., No. 216 of 1897, are properly acted up to in fixing tasks in future. The Board also approves of his action in granting grain doles to persons prevented from their usual attendance at works by domestic troubles.

6. The Board is not satisfied that the Collector is right in his opinion that relief works are not yet necessary in the Budili firka of Hindupur taluk. The acreage of cultivation was, no doubt, in excess of the normal, but a mere examination of statistics is not a sure guide for determining the existence of distress. The larger the cultivation the larger the loss, if crops fail, and though a certain number of "Padanus" may have fallen, the important thing is in which months did they fall and at what intervals. The Collector does not say how the cooly classes are employed at the present time; if they can find no employment in their ordinary avocations, it is probable that with the present prices, lower though they are than in other parts of the district, a certain amount of distress must exist, and relief works may be necessary.

7. The statement showing particulars of loan transactions does not appear to be correct. The number of applications for loans for repair and construction of wells up to the end of the current fortnight is given as 848, whereas the figure entered in the preceding fortnightly narrative was 872. The difference, however, may be due to the absence of any figures for Penukonda taluk.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) L. E. BUCKLEY,  
Famine Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.  
" Collector of Anantapur.

Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

" " Collectors of other affected districts.

ORDER—No. 355, Revenue, dated 19th May 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. Orders will issue in the Public Works Department in regard to the

additional overseers required in Anantapur and Ganjám.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. C. M. Thambuswamy.

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