Report.

Revenue (189) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 379

DATED 21 Jany 1897.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording with remark B.P. subing Fort. nightly narrative of the Anantapur Dt. for the period ending 31st Decr 1896.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

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Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 386

Dpt/1

The Hon. Mr. Grose C.I.E.

The Hon. Mr. Bliss C.I.E.

H.E. the Governor

Order Mis No. 379 dt 21. Jany 1897.

JG

20/1/97 A.E.H. 21.1.97

Recorded with the remark that section 106 of the Tamiar Code has since been modified by Govt. & now requires no report of the nature referred to in para. 4 of the Board's Resol.

To the Board (Settl) Dec. 25.1.97 LD 18.1.97

KQ 17/1/97

From

The Board of Revenue

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

Madras

No. 16 Press

Dated 8th January 97

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Enclosures

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SUBJECT.

Fortnightly narrative

Submitting to Government — of the Anantapur District for period ending 31st December 1896

C. 18/1/97.
R. 21/1/97

BACK PAPERS.

G O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

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 31st of December 1896.

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply.—Rainfall was registered during the fortnight in five stations as shown below :—

	INCHES.
Uravakonda	0·02
Anantapur	0·04
Kalyandrug	0 03
Hindupur	0·90
Madakasira	0·40
Total ...	1·39
Average for the district ...	0·14

There was thus a fall of 0·14 inch against an expected average of 0·19. The aggregate fall up to the end of December 1896 is 14·59 inches against 23·40, the average of the preceding five years, excluding the bad year 1891. Water-supply is generally sufficient for drinking purposes, except in parts of Kanaganapally and Putlur firkas of Dharmavaram and Tadpatri taluks. It is insufficient everywhere for irrigation.

Agricultural operations and condition of standing crops.—Sowings on dry lands are generally over, white cholum, Bengal gram and linseed have been extensively sown in black-cotton lands by the aid of November rains and horse-gram on red soils.

Paddy, cholum, ragi and korra are sown for the *vaisakh* in lands dependent on nallas and wells all over the district. In tank beds, cholum, Bengal gram and cucumbers are being cultivated. No sowings generally under tanks, except where some individual fields have well aid.

Weeding and transplanting of ragi is also going on in parts of Tadpatri, Gooty and Anantapur taluks under nallas and wells.

In dry lands cotton is being picked and gingelly and dholl are also being harvested. Paddy is also being harvested under nallas and wells. The outturn is poor to moderate.

Standing crops.—Early crops, such as castor, cotton and pulses, are generally improving after the November rains. Late crops sown in red and black soils, such as horse-gram, white cholum, Bengal gram, linseed, &c., are yet tender, but doing well. Indigo in Tadpatri taluk is mostly stunted but still green. More rain is, however, urgently needed for the late crops.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture is available to a very moderate extent. Fodder is procurable with difficulty everywhere. In parts of Penukonda taluk it is said to be sufficient. The condition of draught cattle is generally good, but the non-working cattle are getting emaciated for want of sufficient fodder in parts of Tadpatri. Rinderpest is prevalent in a few villages of Gooty, Dharmavaram and Kalyandrug taluks. Elsewhere the condition of cattle is generally good.

General remarks on above subjects.—It is the universal belief that the crops sown in black-cotton lands are not safe without another good shower. The prospect of any further rain is, however, very remote—white cholum, particularly, will not, it is

believed, yield even fodder if no rain falls. In parts the sowings have not even properly sprouted. In one or two villages of Kalyandrug taluk, it is reported that tank-bed cultivation was largely damaged by the scanty supplies received to tanks with the November rains.

FOOD SUPPLIES AND THE STATE OF THE MARKETS.

PRICES of principal food-grains at principal markets in the affected tracts, in seers of 80 tolas per rupee, for the period ending 31st of December 1896.

Stations.	Rice.		Ragi.		Cholum, white.		Cholum, yellow.	
	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.
Tadpatri	8·64	8·64	15·52	16·49	13·39	13·39	14·42	13·90
Yadiki	7·56	7·56	14·55	15·24	..	..	13·39	13·68
Gooty	8·10	8·64	14·13	15·52	11·33	12·36	14·70	15·45
Uravakonda	8·00	8·00	16·00	17·00	13·00	13·00	15·00	16·00
Anantapur	8·64	8·64	15·52	17·46	12·36	14·42	14·42	15·45
Kalyandrug	9·72	9·72	15·52	19·40	12·36	12·36	16·48	16·99
Dharmavaram	7·56	8·64	15·52	17·46	12·36	12·36	13·39	14·42
Penukonda	9·18	9·72	17·46	18·43	13·39	16·48	..	..
Hindupur	9·67	11·82	21·50	23·65	17·20	17·20	..	..
Madakasira	9·72	9·72	19·40	19·40	..	..	..	..
Average ..	8·60	9·11	16·50	18·00	13·20	13·94	14·50	15 13

Activity of trade—(1) *Private trade active or not.*—Prices have been almost stationary and have shown a tendency to fall. Private trade is rather stagnant and dull.

(2). *State the imports by rail or sea; of rice or other staple food-grain.*—None of any importance, except in the Gooty division, where it is reported that 236 bags of cholum, 293 bags of rice and 186 bags of ragi were imported into Gooty taluk by rail from Salem, Kadur, Nandyal and other places.

Food stocks are generally believed to be sufficient.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

(1) *On works.*—Generally good.

(2) *In villages.*—Good, but in some villages of the southern taluks, the Head Assistant Collector reports that the lower castes are stinting themselves. It would, however, appear they are not yet willing to accept work on famine wages.

Sickness and Mortality.—Cholera is prevalent in a mild form in a very few villages of Gooty and Dharmavaram taluks. Small-pox in parts of Penukonda and Dharmavaram. Elsewhere public health is generally good.

No deaths from starvation.

Remarks.—Labour is still available in garden and wet lands aided by wells and nallas where a certain amount of sowing and harvest operations are now going on.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

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

Taluks.	Number employed.		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Tadpatri	537	297	The decrease in the number of coolies is ascribed to the fall in the price of ragi which is adopted as staple grain in calculating wages.
Total ..	537	297	

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

Taluks.	Number relieved at kitchens.		Remarks.
	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	
Tadpatri	38	65	The decrease is due to the reduced number of coolies in attendance on the work.

Private charity.—As already reported in my last fortnightly narrative, grain is being sold to the poorer classes somewhat cheaper than the bazaar rates in Gooty, Hindupur and Penukonda.

Remarks.—The Head Assistant Collector has proposed the opening of a kitchen at Dharmavaram from about the 10th January. I am taking steps to see if this relief is necessary, and to have it started if required.

INSPECTIONS OF THE COLLECTOR.

Taluks and places visited—Anantapur taluk.—Kurugunta, Pompanoor and Atmakúr.

Kályandrúg taluk.—Kalonpally, Debhóvi, Golla, Boowrampully, Devadulabettu, Kályandrúg, Cherlopally, Khireon, Makadiky, Lutchampally, Kamabalpally, Apidepally, Kundurpy and Nizavalli.

Madakasira taluk.—Thournadechally, Maddanakunta, Amarapuram, Bosavanchaly, Palkur, Haronahally shrotriem, Kambernagerahally, Herethurpy, Jambulabunda, Thirumaldevarahally and Madakasíra.

For remarks on the condition of the last two taluks—*vide* under general remarks.

General remarks.—There has been no material change in the prospects of the district since the date of my last fortnightly narrative. The rains of November, as already reported, have generally been enough to start ploughing and sowing for the late crops. They have been supplemented by further showers during the current fortnight only in the Hindúpur taluk and the eastern part of Madakasíra, where I understand the rainfall has been general. Agricultural operations are confined to well lands, tank beds, and lands dependent on spring channels; but the supply in wells is said to be gradually failing. Very few tanks have any supplies, and that only in the three southern taluks. Harvesting is also going on to some extent. The outturn is poor in the case of dry crops, and poor to moderate in the case of paddy. The standing crops have revived, but the late sowings are in a precarious state and do not promise much in the long run, at least in the black cotton soil, should further rain not fall very soon.

The cattle are not yet reduced to starvation, and the supply of fodder for them, which is now scarce and procurable only with difficulty, is likely to improve with the completion of the present harvests.

Trading operations are somewhat stagnant and prices have become slightly easier since the beginning of the current fortnight, and it is evident from the now gradually decreasing numbers in attendance on the Putlur work (Tadpatri taluk), situated in the centre of the most affected part of the district, that the people have still some resources left.

With regard to Kalyandrug and Madakasíra, the villages that I visited are all in purely red soil tracts varying very much in fertility from the bare gravelly lands of Anantapur and Kalyandrug taluks, where very little could be seen except red-gram and horse-gram, to the rich and pleasant gardens of Madakasíra almost rivalling those of the West Coast. Except a few in the southern parts of Kalyandrug, the

tanks are all at present dry and the beds sown with white cholum. Water for drinking purposes is at present sufficient except in wells reserved for Madigas. These will be attended to. There is a large extent of castor and red-gram in the Anantapur and Kalyandrug villages, where weeding operations are going on. There are no other agricultural operations in purely dry lands. Under wells there is ragi and cholum in almost all parts. Pasture is at present abundant in these parts and, I believe, will be available for 15 or 20 days more. The price of ragi, the general food-grain of these parts, varies from 17 seers in Atmakúr in Anantapur taluk to 22 in Madakasíra. It is offered at these prices, but as there is more than sufficient stock with the ryots, few are inclined to buy.

Amarapur firka is the only affected portion in Madakasíra and it is in every way in a more satisfactory condition than any other affected portion of the five northern taluks. The garden wells would require deepening about a month or two hence, and *taccavi* applications are being received for this purpose. At present, coolies find sufficient employment in these gardens receiving not less than 3 annas a day, or its equivalent in grain. In none of the villages that I visited in the other two taluks, are the coolies willing to come forward for less than 2 annas a day. Famine-relief works, therefore, as far as I can at present judge, will not be required in these parts till after the 20th or 25th of the next month.

In the remaining taluks, according to the latest reports to hand, the tracts, considered most affected by the Divisional Officers are: (1) Uravakonda division of the Gooty taluk, (2) Singanamala firka of the Anantapur taluk, (3) a portion of the Bukkapatnam firka of the Penukonda taluk. In the former (Uruvakonda division), the Deputy Collector reports that the dry sowings are all over, but yet the people continue to show a sort of disinclination to return to the test work already opened in the division and still kept open, viz., the Chittoor-Bombay road, partly because the work spot is nearly 10 miles distant from a few of the most affected villages, but mainly because the adjoining Mysore Province offers a more remunerative field and attracts the labourers from these (British) villages. The Deputy Collector reports that about 200 persons have migrated to Chitledrug side from Velupumadugu, Donaikal, Kadaduramanchi, and more members are to follow suit. The Head-quarter Deputy Collector also reports that coolies in the Kalyandrug taluk resort to the frontier Mysore villages.

The Deputy Collector, Gooty, has been called on to suggest works in the immediate neighbourhood of the affected parts in the Uravakonda division, and not involving "a distance test" for the labourers as at present. On receipt of his report, steps will be taken to open relief works nearer their homes. The Head-quarter Deputy Collector promises to visit the Singanamala firka very shortly, and disburse loans on a large scale for land improvements, which he considers will be the best form of relief for the present. He will also be instructed to propose a test work for this locality if his inspection proves the alleged paucity of labour. I made a tour through this firka in the earlier part of this month, and saw that sufficient employment was available. The Head Assistant Collector has proposed a work for the latter firka, to be opened by about the 12th of January, and as it is only a miscellaneous work and an estimate is not yet ready for the same, I am not certain as to its suitability for famine labour. The work proposed is the construction of a dam near Pattaparti close to the affected villages, to prevent the overflow of the Chitravati river, and is expected to afford employment for about 100 coolies for a month. There are other large road works ready at hand, to be opened as relief works, if distress is proved. I visited the firka in the middle of November and found that its condition was not then bad. (Please *vide* my remarks in the fortnightly narrative for the first fortnight of November last.) I shall shortly proceed to Penukonda, and after consultation with the Head Assistant Collector concert measures for starting a test work, and separately address the Board on the state of the taluk and the measures taken to start relief.

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

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.						Other purposes.						Total.						Number of wells.	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Tadpatri	3	560	2	810	30	6,920			8	1,850	7	2,600					37	9,520	2	
Gooty	210	20,898	131	12,830	183	48,480	18	3,700	962	1,69,775	11	2,125	21	4,260	10	2,160	1,145	2,18,255	71	
Anantapur	60	8,300	11	2,400	245	33,472			11	2,125	60	8,946	210	20,898	131	12,830	256	35,697	10	
Kalyandrug	8	950	14	935	209	31,680			60	8,946	2	500	60	8,300	11	2,400	269	40,625	9	
Dharmavaram	6	870	not given	655	26	3,370			2	500			8	950	14	935	28	3,870	10	
Penukonda					11	1,700							6	870	not given	655	11	1,700	4	
Hindupur	33	5,675	24	2,725	65	15,375							33	5,675	24	2,725	65	15,375	24	1
Madakasira					80	6,550							30				30	6,550	1	
Total	310	37,253	182	19,855	799	1,46,547	18	3,700	1,042	1,83,945	80	14,071	328	40,953	190	21,705	1,841	3,30,492	127	1

Taluks.	Purchase of fodder.						Cattle and seed-grains.						Total.							
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications pending.		Loans disbursed.		Applications accepted.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.			
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
1	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39		
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Tadpatri	1	100			69	5,922											69	5,922		
Gooty			1	100	150	13,000							1	100	1	100	150	13,000		
Anantapur							2	40									12	550		
Kalyandrug																	3	180		
Dharmavaram																	6	395		
Penukonda																	11	720		
Hindupur																				
Madakasira	1	100	1	100	221	18,962	30	1,805			29	2,071	1	100	1	100	251	20,767	20	2
Total	1	100	1	100	221	18,962	30	1,805			29	2,071	1	100	1	100	251	20,767	20	2

READ—also the following telegram from the Collector of Anantapur, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated 6th January 1897 :—

"Condition of relief workers—composed mainly Malas, Madigas, Boyas, other low caste labourers—fair. General condition of these classes for district, north-east and north-west, fair, but more relief works required and will be opened immediately. Centre containing Anantapur, Kalyandrug, Dharmavaram and Penukonda East satisfactory at present. Penukonda East, Hindupur and Madakasíra good. Centre and south, labourers unwilling to receive State relief. Gathering of *tangédu* bark, cutting grass, tank-bed cultivation, well cultivation and well-sinking give sufficient and employment : at present earnings small but labourers dislike steady continuous hard work on relief works generally. All low classes are stinting in their meals. No distress yet among cultivators."

RESOLUTION—dated 8th January 1897, No. 16.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The few trivial showers that fell in parts of the district during the latter part of December, made no change in the out-look. Sowings have ceased generally, except on limited areas under channels and wells. The latter, with weeding and watering the crops on such land, continue to afford a certain amount of employment, and here, as in Bellary, cotton-picking has already begun at a most abnormally early date. This employment is not likely to serve the people for long, and the water-supply in wells is said to be failing. The prospect of harvest from the crop sown in November is poor, and such dry crops as are being harvested are giving a poor outturn.

3. Prices became materially easier during the period, but again appear to be hardening, but trade is very dull.

4. The people are generally in good condition, and on the only relief work open there was a considerable falling off in the number of workers. This is ascribed to the lowering of the wage, with cheaper prices, but the Collector does not state, as required in section 106 of the Famine Code, how far fining has been carried beyond the minimum wage.

5. Except in Tadpatri and Dharmavaram, there is a large number of Land Improvement Loan applications pending, and application has been made for special Inspectors to facilitate the disposal of these applications. Already a considerable amount of work has been done in the Anantapur taluk, though there appears to be considerable delay in disbursing the loans.

6. The improvement in the condition of the Carnatic and Southern districts has for the time worked favourably in Anantapur. Everything depends on the course of prices, which in the present season, it is not possible to forecast. In ordinary years they would rise slowly, and, in a famine year, would rise quickly, but in the present year, the rise in November being to a great extent artificially caused by the Komaties and distress elsewhere, it is possible that, as the harvest in districts, which richly profited by the November and December rains, comes in, prices in the affected tracts may fall still lower. It is, however, impossible, in this year, to forecast the course of prices.

(True Copies and Extract.)

R. J. Srinivasan
Secretary.

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

Exd. T. K. Narayana Aiyangar.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed January th.

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Fortnightly Narrative.—Submitting to Government — of the Anantapur district for period ending 31st December 1896.

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