

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 482

DATED 26th Jan'y 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording B.P., suby with remarks, fortnightly narrative from the Kur no. 10. for the period ending 15 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.

Revenue (1896) Department.

CURRENT No. 107

The Hon. Mr. Pore C. D. E.
The Hon. Mr. B. L. S. C. D. E.
H. E. the Governor



a.o. No. 4827 26th Jan 1897

Recorded.

[Signature]

From

The Board of Revenue

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

In Orders

In para 3 of the current, the Board comments on the orders passed in G.O. No 724 dated 17th December 1896. For orders as to whether it is necessary to notice them.

KD
9/1/97

19-1-97

I do not think it is necessary to do any thing else but record — of, as I suppose, a 20 ~~hundred~~ has been issued in the N.D. No. about 2000 being from the work done, the price, too strictly & fixing too much.

By

12/1/97

The management of famine affairs with remarks, — from in Kurnool district to have been bad but at this time not surprised. The Kurnool district for As to the price of which complaint is made, the rule (para 106) is that the period ending 15th December as a general rule, the effect of price 1896. must not be to reduce wages below the minimum presented in para 120 — But if less labourers are found to the extent shown in para 5 of the B.P. their wages are reduced to much below the minimum presented.

No. 462 Press

Dated 26th December 1896

Received 7th January 1897

Registered 8th

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Fortnightly narrative.

Submitting to Government.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
P.D.	6372	27-1-96	0
P.D.	6434	27-11-96	
P.D.	6562	27-11-96	
P.D.	6199	27-1-96	
P.D.	398	-96	80 730

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

REV
1895 - 4978-5110 - 724



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

19th Jan'y 1897.

My dear Stokes,

His Excellency de-
sires me to send you
this paper, (C.N. 107) and to en-
quire whether the order
referred to by Mr. Grose
has been sent. *sent 1/1/97*
so he would like to see it.

Yours sincerely
H. Alcock.

It does not seem to me right to
expect women & children to come
any distance to work & then to work for
1/4 of the 13 class wage, which means
the equivalent of 23 3/4 paise (monthly
wage only - 1 lb) of grain. It seems better
that if the people in Kermok have not been
working up to the standard, which seems
fair enough, it is not because they
can't do the full work but because their
energies have been exhausted by walking
long distances to & from the work spot. But
I don't think they should suffer because
arrangements have not been made to
help them on the spot. I should not go below
the minimum wage of here 120 until after
better arrangements have been made.

RD
14/1/97

It seems to me very necessary that
hacks should be insisted on from the very
commencement. I know from my ex-
perience of the big farms that
when laxity has once been introduced
it is difficult & sometimes impossible
to put an end to it.

JS
21/1/97

I quite agree with the Hon. Mr. Bliss, and as
suggested by the Hon. Mr. Bliss, shelter
should be provided. These people have to
come a long distance.

AS 24.1.97

This paper has been simply
used as the instruction to
provide shelter as works here.
Embodied in G.O. No. 43 of 26-1-97

1/27/1/97.

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

READ—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Kurnool district during the period ending 15th December 1896.

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply—

	INCHES.
Rainfall in rain-registering stations	15.66
Rainfall up to the period from 1st April 1896	27.14
Average rainfall expected in the period	
Average rainfall expected up to the period from 1st April 1896	

There was no rain during the fortnight, though the sky was cloudy in Kurnool and Cumbum divisions for some days.

Water-supply generally sufficient for drinking purposes and still insufficient for irrigation purposes. It is reported that the drinking water-supply is diminishing in Sripathirowpet, a hamlet of Atmakuru. Except a few tanks in the Nandikotkur, Nandyal and Cumbum divisions, which received small supplies during the recent rains, all the tanks have run dry.

Agricultural operations and condition of standing crops.—The agricultural operations re-commenced, though late, after the recent rains. Lands are being ploughed and seeds sown everywhere. In the Kurnool division, white cholum, Bengal-gram and horse-gram are sown generally, but in twelve * of the villages of Ramallakot taluk and two † of the Pattikonda taluk agricultural operations have not been re-commenced for want of sufficient rain.

* Peddapaud.	Markapuram
Gokulapaud.	Chanugondla.
Bodduvanipalli.	Gudipaud.
Loddipalli.	Polukallu.
Palakadoddi.	Kondapuram.
Perla.	Ballavaram.

† Hosur and Maddikera.

Though the rain is not sufficient in the regar villages, white cholum is being sown in some of them in expectation of more rains. In the Nandikotkur division, white cholum, wheat, Bengal-gram and linseed are being sown to a small extent in all available waste and in some of the lands whereon the early crops have failed.

In the Nandyal division, Bengal-gram, cholum and variga are sown on wet and tank-bed lands in the Nandyal taluk and lands are being prepared for raising second crop under the Nandyal tank. Variga, linseed, horse-gram and pulses are sown in Koilkuntla taluk, except in Vallampad, Byinavemula, Chinnakopperla and Peddakopperla villages, where rain was not sufficient for any kind of sowings. Variga, wheat and Bengal-gram are sown in Sirvel taluk where weeding is carried on in fields sown with ragi, which is being transplanted. Bengal-gram, wheat, horse-gram, white cholum and variga are sown in Cumbum taluk, and horse-gram, variga and cholum in dry lands, and paddy and cholum in wet lands are sown in the Markapur taluk where lands under tanks and wells are also being prepared for ragi and paddy. Paddy is harvested with a good outturn in the canal villages of Ramallakot taluk and Nandyal division and in parts of Cumbum division. Paddy, korra and arika under canal in the Nandikotkur taluk are also being harvested.

The standing crops were much benefited by the recent rains and they are all in good condition everywhere. Horse-gram, castor, white cholum, cotton and pulses generally and paddy under canal and wells, good in Kurnool division.

Not in Kurnool
Apr 27-1897
17/11/97

12/11/97.

White cholam, cotton, Bengal-gram, horse-gram, korra, linseed and indigo good in Nandikotkur division, but paddy under tanks withering or withered already. All the dry crops: cholam, korra, horse-gram, cotton, arika and indigo—in the Sirvel taluk and along the canal and under wells and tanks in the Nandyal and Koilkuntla taluks are flourishing in the Nandyal division; but the crops that have already become stunted owing to want of rain are not expected to give any yield. Castor, cotton, paddy, horse-gram, variga, oilseeds and pulses good and ragi and arika reviving in Cumbum division.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture is available in the Cumbum division and in canal villages and has also slightly improved elsewhere. Fodder sufficient in Cumbum division and is running short elsewhere, but the stock is being replenished by withered crops. Cattle are taken to the hills in large numbers for grazing.

The condition of cattle is good in Cumbum and Nandikotkur divisions and improving elsewhere. They are still weak in Koilkuntla and in parts of Pattikonda taluks. The hill grass on which they are now fed in several parts is not nutritious and wholesome. Rinderpest prevalent in parts of Ramallakot, Nandikotkur and Nandyal taluks.

General remarks on above subjects.—The rains during the previous fortnight greatly improved the outlook. The standing crops were much benefited and promise a fair outturn.

A great portion of the lands left uncultivated and of those on which the crops withered away have been ploughed and re-sown. Demand for labour has thus increased to a certain extent in many of the villages. The rains were not however sufficient throughout the Kurnool division and in parts of Nandyal division. Unless there is some more rain in the near future, upon which the success of the late sowings mainly depends, the improvement in the situation will not be lasting.

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 week ending 15th December 1896.

Stations.	Rice.		Ragi.		Cholam.		Cumbu.		Remarks.
	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	
Pattikonda	8-64	8-64	15-48	12-90	18-54	15-45	9-40	11-30	Prices are gradually rising everywhere except at Giddalore.
Pyapalli	8-10	8-64	15-48	12-90	20-60	14-42	11-30	11-30	
Kurnool	7-88	7-88	15-48	12-90	17-81	15-75	15-00	11-87	
Nandikotkur	8-58	8-58	15-48	12-90	20-02	14-30	15-00	11-25	
Atmakur	8-58	8-58	15-48	12-90	16-40	16-44	15-00	11-25	
Nandyal	8-58	8-93	18-06	16-12	16-44	15-07	13-75	12-50	
Kalwa	7-88	7-88	15-48	12-90	19-18	16-44	12-50	12-50	
Koilkuntla	8-25	9-13	18-00	15-00	13-50	13-43	11-60	10-15	
Owk	9-13	8-30	16-50	13-50	14-20	11-06	11-60	10-15	
Allagadda	7-88	8-58	15-48	14-83	12-33	11-64	15-95	17-40	
Giddalore	9-13	9-36	16-50	21-00	15-80	18-96	18-85	15-22	
Markapur	11-62	10-79	22-5	18-75					
Average	8-63	8-77	17-50	16-01	16-80	14-81	13-70	12-98	

Activity of trade.—Trade is comparatively active and grains are freely exposed for sale except in Chagalmari and its surrounding villages in the Sirvel taluk. Prices are rising again owing to merchants from Bombay and other places trying to export grain from this district.

2. Information has been received from the Board regarding the import by rail of food-grains into this district (*vide* Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 6372, dated 9th December 1896), but it appertains only to the week ending 21st November 1896. Large quantities of rice, cholam and cumbu continue to be imported into Kurnool town.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

(1) *On works.*—The condition of the people on the several relief works which were in progress during the fortnight is reported to have been good. The necessary sanitary arrangements have been made, and a Hospital Assistant with sufficient stock of medicines is attached to each of the work in progress except at Puthakayapalli where the number of coolies on work is very small and unsteady.

(2) *In villages.*—The following sanctioned test-works were either in progress or put in hand during the fortnight:—

- (1) Owk-Tadpatri frontier road in Koilkuntla taluk.
- (2) Koilkuntla-Nossam road in the Koilkuntla taluk.
- (3) Kurukunda tank work in the Nandikotkur taluk.
- (4) Guvalakunta tank work in the same taluk.
- (5) Raising canal bund from lock No. 31 to Vakiler aqueduct in Sirvel taluk.
- (6) Boyalakunta tank work in the same taluk.
- (7) Gospaud road in the same taluk.
- (8) Bellary road in Pattikonda taluk.

(1) The Owk test-work has been in progress from the 11th November 1896 and the number of coolies has again risen from 2,741 at the end of the previous fortnight to 3,332 on the 12th instant. This large increase is natural as the portion of Koilkuntla taluk around Owk is the most affected tract in the district. The coolies are now working at three different centres, viz., Owk village roads, Tadpatri road and Banganapalle road. As it has been found difficult to ensure prompt payments to these labourers, the Head Assistant Collector has been asked to appoint another Paymaster for this work. This work was transferred to the Public Works Department in accordance with G.O., No. 678, dated 30th November 1896.

No deductions are reported to have been made on the wages of the coolies on this work, below the minimum wages.

(2) All the other works were under the charge of the Public Works Department. In accordance with the instructions of the Executive Engineer issued on the 28th November after his inspection of the relief work on the canal near Chagalmari and recorded in Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 6434, dated 11th instant, the officers in charge of the several relief works enforced the task rigidly and began to fine the worst gangs according to the scale laid down in the code. These instructions are in accordance with the views of Government embodied in G.O., No. 675, dated 27th November 1896, where it is laid down, "Too much importance cannot be attached to the enforcement of the 'gang' and 'task' systems which lie at the very root of successful management of relief works. Works on which these systems are not enforced become demoralising and wasteful; and test-works fail to fulfil their object if full tasks are not exacted and wages regulated in strict accordance with the provisions of the Code." The main feature that will be noticed in the following works is that the number of coolies began either to fall off or fluctuate, immediately the code task was enforced and deductions made below the minimum wages for short work.

The Koilkuntla-Nossam road-work was opened at Puthakayapalli on the 17th November 1896 under the supervision of the Assistant Engineer, and the number of coolies was 1,760 on the 26th idem. On the 27th and 28th there was heavy rain and no coolies turned up, and the following day was a holiday. On the 30th November only 277 coolies attended. The Tahsildar reported that this large decline was due to the condition of the people having improved by the rains and accordingly recommended that the work may be closed. I however deferred orders till after personal inspection. The number rose to 819 on the 1st instant, and when I inspected the work on the 2nd instant, there were 862 coolies on work. This increase was said to be due to the expectation of getting increased wages after my inspection. But I refrained from interfering with the action of the Assistant Engineer, which was in accordance with the Code. On the following day the number of coolies fell to 352, on the 4th to 61, and on the 5th to 58. On the 10th the number again rose to 190, consisting of coolies only from Puthakayapalli and Bodiammanur which are close to the work-spot. The task enforced was the minimum prescribed in the code, viz., 1-25 cubic foot per unit; but even this the Assistant Engineer reports is too

severe; for, after a careful experiment made under his own supervision, he arrived at a unit of .87 cubic foot. In consequence of this, the Executive Engineer has issued orders reducing the unit of task to 1 cubic foot; but I have asked him how the coolies can be expected to turn out 1 cubic foot, if careful experiment shows that they can only do .87 cubic foot. The unit of task prescribed in the Code appears to be too severe, and the whole difficulty therefore lies in determining the task that can be fairly allotted to each cooly. So far this work has proved a failure, partly on account of the rain and partly on account of the severity of the task. I enclose copies of report and covering letter from the Assistant Engineer, from which it will be seen that he is very doubtful whether even the present coolies will attend, if the work is moved 2 or 3 miles. On receipt of reply from the Executive Engineer I shall decide whether the task should be further reduced to .87.

(3) Kurukunda tank work was in progress throughout the fortnight, but most of the coolies were transferred to the Guvalakunta tank (*vide infra*) as there was water in the former tank and consequently there was not sufficient work for all the coolies. This work was attended by twelve coolies according to the latest report.

(4) The tank work at Guvalakunta was opened by the Sub-Divisional officer in charge of the test-works in Nandikotkur on the 24th November 1896, to afford relief to the villages on the foot of the Nallamalais. This work was subsequently sanctioned by me and was attended by 246 coolies on the 14th instant.

This work and the foregoing one will be excluded from list of test-works, as the Board have since accorded sanction in their Proceedings, Mis No. 6562, dated 14th December 1896, for treating all tank repairs in the Nandikotkur taluk as ordinary works.

(5) The work of raising the canal bund from lock No. 31 to Vakiler aqueduct was begun on the 19th November 1896. All the coolies that were formed on the Chagalmarri-Mutyapad road were transferred to that place. But owing to incessant rain and long distance a continuous defection took place in the number of gangs that came to work. On the 20th six gangs were absent. On the 21st five gangs were absent. 22nd was a holiday. On the 24th nine gangs were absent. On the 25th there were again twenty-three gangs, of which 3 gangs were absent. On the 26th four gangs were absent. On the 27th only eleven gangs were present, and on the 28th there were fifteen gangs. On the 30th November fifteen gangs were present and on the 1st December only ten gangs were present, and on the 1st and 2nd December only two gangs appeared and none appeared afterwards.

The work was accordingly closed on the 10th instant. The chief reason assigned for the coolies having struck work is that the Executive Engineer ordered that tasks should be rigorously enforced and deductions made in the wages of the worst gangs. The coolies were classed under B and C classes and their wages paid in strict proportion to the work turned out. The complaint of the coolies was that they could not even earn the low wages prescribed in the Code owing to the preponderance of women and children in each gang, as the hard portion of the task can only be performed by men.

The Tahsildar of Sirvel points out that the maximum wages of food-grain alone, prescribed in the code for each man, is 60, 55, 45 and 40 tolas for A, B, C and D classes, respectively; whereas the daily quantity of food required by a working man in ordinary seasons is 114 tolas. He considers the food allowance in the Code is insufficient and the task according to form F of appendix III out of all proportion, and more than an ordinary Vodda who is a typical labourer can do, which is generally 2 cubic yards at 4 annas per diem. The Tahsildar also states that, as a matter of fact, a B class cooly and a C class cooly on this work turned out only 16 and 21 cubic feet against an allotted task of 43.80 and 29.2 cubic feet, respectively, which would give him only 5 pies and 9 pies, respectively, when ragi is sold at 12 measures of 114 tolas per rupee. It is said that the Public Works Department Overseer in charge of the work is also of opinion that the wage is insufficient and the task excessive. The Tahsildar also says that the work is far off and coolies cannot be expected to come, as they can now earn 2 annas and 1 anna 4 pies for transplantation of ragi and weeding respectively with one meal, but this work will not continue for more than a fortnight.

(6) Under orders from the Commissioner, the Boyalakunta tank work was opened in Sirvel taluk on the 7th instant to give relief to the distressed people of Chennai. Hundred and fifty-six people came to work on the first day and were formed into three gangs to whom B class tasks were allotted. One of the gangs was paid minimum wages and the remaining two were fined with $\frac{1}{4}$ th and $\frac{1}{8}$ th deductions below the B class wages for short work, the nursing mothers alone being paid minimum wages according to rules. The next day there were 161 coolies and deductions varying from $\frac{1}{4}$ th to $\frac{1}{8}$ th of B class wages were made. On the third day there were 209 coolies formed into four incomplete gangs; two of them received minimum wages and the others were fined with deductions of $\frac{1}{4}$ th and $\frac{1}{8}$ th of the wages.

On the fourth day one of the gangs totally disappeared and there were 207 coolies on work. Similar deductions prevailed as in the previous days. On the 5th day the coolies refused to work on account of the very low wages they earned, which varied from 2 to 8 pies a man, from 2 to 7 pies a woman and 1 to 3 pies a child except in cases in which minimum wages were paid on the first day of formation.

The Tahsildar reports that there appears to be real distress in these parts as is proved by the fact of the coolies remaining on the work for four days in spite of the very low wages they earned and by the fact that there were 63 persons fed in the kitchen on an average during the four days. No coolies having come to work on the 11th instant and there being no prospect of any more coolies coming to work for the very low wages they are paid, the Tahsildar reports that he has closed the work and the kitchen attached to it, and requests sanction for his action. The Executive Engineer also wires for sanction to close the work as no coolies attend.

The Tahsildar points out that the rigour of the rules requiring that short work should not be excused and tasks should be rigidly enforced may be relaxed to a certain extent, especially as the people are quite unaccustomed to the method of work now expected of them.

Before passing orders on this matter, I am calling on the Executive Engineer to report exactly what tasks he imposed and whether in his opinion they are reasonable. The crux of the whole question is the correctness of the tasks, and the difficulty is to draw the line between over-severity and undue-leniency; this is enhanced by the fact that there is still some labour to be had, and though there is distress, it has not yet deepened into famine.

This question of tasks should, I think, be investigated by the Superintending Engineer.

7. In accordance with the instructions of the Commissioner, a test-work was opened at Gospaud on the Nandyal-Koilkuntla road for the people living in the tract lying between Tangatur and Deebaguntla.

The work was started on the 5th instant under the supervision of the Executive Engineer and the Tahsildar of Koilkuntla who had been specially deputed for the purpose. Sufficient arrangements were made and due publicity was given of the starting of work in all the surrounding villages. About a hundred people appeared; but when the tasks demanded of them were explained, they refused to work at famine wages and went away. On inquiry as to why only a few coolies had turned up, it was found that the people in the surrounding villages mostly situated near the canal were engaged in field work after the fall of the rains. Thus the test proved that no distress existed in those parts. The work was accordingly closed.

8. As already reported in my last narrative, no coolies turned up for the test work on the Bellary road near Kuruva-Nagalapuram in the Ramallakot taluk. The Deputy Collector accordingly opened the work at Kodumur instead, where, too, none accepted work at famine wages for the first few days. This work was accordingly ordered to be closed and the Board informed of the same in my Disposal No. 1897-Eng., dated 7th December 1896. But subsequently, 54 persons came and the number rose gradually till on the 15th instant it reached 370 consisting of 50 men 47 nursing mothers, 107 women and 166 children. All of these were from Kodumur village itself with the exception of 5 men, 19 women and 15 children from Vorakur, two miles off, and 4 men, 10 women and 5 children from other villages.

The most noticeable features are the very large number of children from Kodumur village itself and the very few coolies from surrounding villages. Notwithstanding the very large number of children, it is reported that the tasks have been performed which is due to the large quantity of small stones found on the hill close by which the children collect and stack by the side of the road; very little actual stone-breaking is done. The fact that coolies from surrounding villages have not come into this work shows that they have still means of subsistence in their villages. It remains to be seen whether they will come in as time goes on.

The work has hitherto been under the supervision of the Tahsildar and Minor Irrigation Overseer, but the Executive Engineer has been asked to depute an Engineering subordinate for the work.

(2) *In villages.*—The recent rains have generally improved the condition of the people; Cumbum division has been relieved of all anxiety. There is some demand for labour elsewhere, but not likely to continue for a long time, if no rains fall again in the near future.

The circle relief Inspector appointed for the Sirvel taluk reports after his tour of inspection in 25 of the villages around Allagadda that there is a general clamour for work everywhere, and that a relief work is necessary near Allagadda, but a poor-house is not required. The Executive Engineer has already been asked to make arrangements for the eventual re-opening of this work in accordance with the revised instructions of the Commissioner and he will be again addressed.

The Head Assistant Collector reports that the condition of the people in the southern portion of the Paniem firka is bad and that a relief work is necessary for them. The Executive Engineer has accordingly been requested to prepare for the opening of a relief work in the firka and also to report on the suitability of taking in hand the repairs of the Alamoor tank as suggested by the Head Assistant Collector.

In reply to my inquiry about the condition of the people of Mutyalpad subsequent to the recent rains, Revd. Mr. Shepherd states: "The late rains improved matters and the outlook is better there as reported elsewhere; no actual distress is apparent on the surface."

This is a valuable testimony coming as it does from the Revd. Mr. Shepherd. A copy of his letter is submitted from which it will be seen that he advocates the starting of work on the Allagadda-Koilkuntla or Koilkuntla-Nandyal Road. As suggested in Board's Proceedings, No. 379, dated 1st December 1896, the District Forest Officer will be addressed to take steps to put in hand one of the forest works proposed in the famine programme near the village.

On the petition addressed to the Commissioner by a public meeting held at Nandyal praying for the opening of a relief work in the Nandyal taluk owing to the adverse state of season (*vide* Board's Proceedings, dated 4th December 1896, Mis. No. 6199), the Head Assistant Collector reports that the meeting was convened more on account of apprehensions of a serious riot in the town than of pity roused by actual distress. He states that after the fall of the recent rains the situation has materially improved and that the labourers are now engaged in harvesting paddy under the Nandyal tank and in re-sowing in some of the neighbouring villages. This will be followed by the harvesting of cholam in the neighbourhood of Nandyal. He thinks therefore that relief works are nowhere necessary in the Nandyal taluk, except in Paniem firka (*vide supra*). His report on the condition of the Uravakal and Tammaraupalle villages of Kalva division called for in Board's Proceedings, No. 361, dated 21st November 1896, is awaited.

Notwithstanding the great reductions in the task of weavers sanctioned in Board's Proceedings, No. 397, dated 5th December 1896, none have come forward in the Kurnool town to accept the relief.

A full report from the Head-Quarter Deputy Collector discussing the task and comparing it with the Salem and Adoni tasks will be submitted separately.

Sickness and Mortality.—No deaths reported from want of food. Small-pox slightly prevalent in parts.

Remarks.—One hundred and thirty persons came from the Nizam's Dominions to Nandikotkur taluk in search of a living.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

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

Taluks.	Number employed.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Koilkuntla	3,018	3,573
Sirvel	1,038	...
Nandikotkur	770	258
Pattikonda	...	370
Total	4,826	4,201

Gratuitous relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise.

Taluks.	Number relieved at kitchens.	
	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.
Koilkuntla	50	106
Sirvel	...	296
Pattikonda	18	...
Total	68	402

Private charity.—Nil.

INSPECTIONS OF THE COLLECTOR.

Taluks and places visited.—I left Owk on the 1st instant and reached Koilkuntla via Banganapalle, inspecting on the way some of the fields in the villages of Nichanametla, Gallasingavaram, Lingala, Kothpett (Banganapalle State), Amidala and Valagutur. The same night I started for Puthakayapalli and inspected the test-work there next morning and returned to Koilkuntla the same day inspecting the fields of Bodiammanoor, Rupanagudi, Mayalur and Alloor. On the 5th, I left Koilkuntla and reached Nandyal halting at Gospaud to inspect the starting of the test-work there. I also inspected the fields of Jolladarasi, Kalugotla, Revanur, Gospaud, Pasurapad, Julepalli, Chintagunta, Kavala and Nunepalli. On the 6th I returned to Kurnool. On the 14th I left Kurnool and reached Kodumur in the evening, halting at Kuruva-Nagalapuram and inspecting the fields in the villages of Peddapad, Solkapuram and Penchikalapaud. On the 15th, I inspected the test-work at Kodumur.

General remarks.—I have sanctioned the appointment of a Circle Relief Inspector for Owk to comply with the requirements of sections 55 and 118 and sections 75 to 77 of the Code.

STATEMENT showing particulars of loan transactions under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts.

Taluka.	Repair and construction of wells.						Other purposes.						Total.					
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Pattikonda	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ramalakot	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nandikotkur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Markapur ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Taluka.	Number of wells.		Purchase of fodder.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Total.	
	Under construction or repaired.		Under construction or repaired.		Number.		Amount.		Number.		Amount.		Number.		Amount.		Number.	
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
Pattikonda	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ramalakot	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nandikotkur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Markapur ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Note.—A few petitions have also been received in the Nandyal division and are pending enquiry with the Tahsildars concerned.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Report No. II.—Test Relief work, Koilkuntla-Nossam road.

In my previous letter I had reported that the number of coolies present on 30th November 1896 was 277; on the 1st December 1896 the number rose to 815; on the 3rd to 862; but on the 4th it fell down to 61, and on the 5th to 58. The main reason *alleged by the coolies* for leaving being the low wages; for instance gang No. 2, who had been working steadily and who represented themselves to be without food, left off for the reason that they were paid 11 pies per man instead of 1 anna, which, they had, it seems, fixed on in their mind as the minimum for which they would work. The task system, though explained to them every morning and as often on other occasions as possible, does not seem to be fully understood by the coolies.

The following are significant facts which have to be brought prominently to notice:—

(1) Gang No. 2 leaving off for being paid 1 pie less than they wished to have as explained above.

(2) The people at work on the 4th and 5th instants are entirely those belonging to the village of Puthakayapalli; thereby it is clear that people of other villages do not think it worth their while to walk even two or three miles and come in for this work.

(3) The people now continuing in the work have the advantage of free feeding to their children afforded by the kitchen near their own houses.

(4) Coolies on inquiry represent that by working hard they require considerably more food than they would if they sat idle in their houses. In the latter case they say that whatever little they have at house will suffice; thereby I presume that such coolies have something to fall back upon.

(5) On account of the recent fall of rains the people of Nossam and other big villages have found some occupation in cutting and selling grass, selling vegetables, &c.

A small number I am told have also gone to Nandyal and other places to seek employment in the fields under the tanks.

Added to the above are the broad facts that on account of the recent rains the crops are much better off than before and that one great cause of anxiety to the ryots (namely) finding fodder for their cattle has been allayed to a large extent.

Hence I think I can safely conclude that there is not starvation among the people at present to any appreciable extent. If there were, they are sure to stick to this work steadily. The people of Puthakayapalli and those of Bodiammanoor seem to be the poorest of the whole lot, such people are *about* 210 in number (*i.e.*) about 60 of Puthakayapalli and 150 of Bodiammanoor, but even these do not seem to be in quite a reduced state; the people of Puthakayapalli represent that they can find work in the fields under the ryots after *fifteen* days (*about*) and the others *after a month or so*. If work be kept open here, the former will be regular attendants for about fifteen days and the latter will be coming and going for about a month or more.

(Signed) R. SRINIVASA AIYANGAR,
Assistant Engineer.

5th December 1896.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From M.R.Ry. R. SRINIVASA AIYANGAR, Avergall, Assistant Engineer, Nandyal Sub-Division, to the Collector of Kurnool, dated Puthakayapalli, 5th December 1896, F. No. 97.

In submitting my second report on the test-relief work on the Koilkuntla-Nossam road, I have the honour to inform that the state of the people has improved considerably on account of the recent rains, and that the relief works here, if kept open, will be availed of by about 60 men of this village and occasionally by another 150 men of Bodiammanoor village.

But it is extremely doubtful whether even the 60 men of this village will attend if the works were removed about 2 or 3 miles away from their village instead of being conducted near their houses as at present.

Under these circumstances, I leave it to you to decide whether work should be continued here or not.

In the report as well as in this letter I have stated the circumstances and the conclusions to be drawn therefrom, so far as my present information goes. If additional information be available about the state of the adjacent villages from the Tahsildars, &c., of course my views are liable to modification.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From Rev. R. D. SHEPHERD, Mutyalpad, to the Collector of Kurnool, dated Kolugotla, dated 8th December 1896.

In answer to your enquiry as to the state of things round about Mutyalpad, I have nothing special to report. The late rains doubtless improved matters and the outlook is better there as it is reported elsewhere. No actual distress is apparent on the surface, but with corn still at famine prices—ragulu 8 or 9, and cholam 6 or 7 measures the rupee—you can judge for yourself the condition of the ordinary cooly man who is not getting work except to a very limited extent. The works on the Chagalmari road were, I consider, taken off too soon. People cannot be expected to go 8 or 10 miles (to the canal) to earn the miserable dole of 10 pies a man, 7 a woman, and 6 a boy. I would advise some works of a more necessary kind being started, as, the road from Allagadda to Koilkuntla and that from Koilkuntla to Nandyal, which latter is in places in a very bad condition, even dangerous for horse-riding as I have seen to-day coming from Ontelayalu to Kolugotla. People here and of Nakkaladenne and Allagadda, as well as further north, Biroli and elsewhere, require work. But for such work they must have enough to keep soul and body together and also clothe themselves. I think you will agree with me, 1 lb. of raw grain with 1 pie to spare for condiments, salt and clothes—not to mention dependants—is wholly inadequate. If aid is to be rendered, it must be efficient aid.

RESOLUTION—dated 26th December 1896, No. 462.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. As usual, the first half of December has been rainless, and although the November rain has encouraged sowings, it yet remains to be seen how extensive they were, and how far they will prove successful, especially in the more affected parts of the district. The crops sown have not been, for the most part, such as produce large supplies of food-grains, and even these depend for success on the very unlikely fall of later rain.

As to the outturn obtained from the early sowings, the Collector has as yet given no definite statistics. They were due in the ordinary course on the 15th current and should be expedited.

The area sown up to November showed a deficiency of about 137,000 acres of dry land, of which the greatest short-falls occurred in Sirvel, Koilkuntla, Nandyal, Nandikotkur and Pattikonda.

3. Prices rose very sharply during the fortnight but have since fallen again somewhat, but when the Collector wrote were excessive, especially in Koilkuntla and Sirvel. The Collector again gives very full notes regarding each of the relief works that was open, but has since closed all these in Sirvel. This appears to have been done because the people deserted the works when unrestricted fining was resorted to. It is clear that the tasks were excessive, and that fining was carried far beyond the provisions of the code. The Board's Proceedings, dated 12th December 1896, No. 6527, called for a special report regarding the desertion of the works by the coolies in Sirvel, a tract where the Commissioner satisfied himself that distress existed, and where the Tahsildar and Relief Inspector both report—*vide supra*—that relief is required. Government in its Proceedings, No. 724, Press, dated 17th December 1896, has observed that "His Excellency the Governor in Council does not consider it necessary or expedient to make inquiries in such cases as a general rule. When labourers will not work on the famine relief conditions, it is not now necessary in any way to endeavour to induce them to do so since they cannot really need relief." The Board fears that the spirit of this order may be misinterpreted to mean that Government is satisfied that distress does not exist in Sirvel. The results of such a misinterpretation might be very serious; for, if relief is withheld beyond a certain point, mortality is certain to follow later on. The Board has already stated—Board's Proceedings, No. 398 of 1896,—its opinion that the Executive Engineer in charge of works at Sirvel does not possess the qualifications necessary in a relief officer; and considers that the defection of the coolies is partly due to unsympathetic treatment, and not to any unwillingness on the part of the coolies to work under "famine relief conditions." It was for this reason that the Board called for the report to which, apparently, Government objects.

4. Although a relief work has been opened in the Pattikonda taluk, the narrative contains no specific information regarding that portion of the taluk that borders on the Alur taluk of Bellary, where the numbers on relief works are so large, and where the Commissioner has satisfied himself by personal inspection that the condition of the people is serious.

5. The remarks of the Tahsildar of Sirvel regarding the adequacy of the grain portion of the wage allowed, appear to be based on the table contained in Board's Proceedings, No. 366 of 1896, which was prepared to show district officers when the provisions of clauses 3 and 4 of section 120 may be acted upon; and the Government of India has laid it down—*vide memorandum in Board's Proceedings, No. 287 of 1896*—that the margin between this and the total wage permitted—table H of Appendix III to the Famine Code—is liberal, whilst experience has shown that the grain portion is sufficient—*vide circular (paragraph 9) read in G.O., No. 685, Revenue, dated 24th September 1894.*

6. It is to be regretted that the Collector is unable to report any satisfactory progress in loan operations.

7. The extract from Mr. Shepherd's letter quoted by the Collector is slightly misleading. The letter, as a whole, does not justify the inference which might be drawn from the extract.

(True Copy and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Collector of Kurnool.

Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

APPENDIX.

STATEMENT comparing the area of land cultivated in 1896 up to November with the average—Kurnool district.

Taluka.	First crop.					
	Dry.			Wet.		
	Up to November.		Average annual cultivation.	Up to November.		Average annual cultivation.
	1896.	Average.		1896.	Average.	
Markapur	106,709	113,094	128,142	1,269	3,517	5,444
Cumbum	104,600	106,571	118,596	10,489	10,910	13,286
Sirvel	158,918	172,199	177,209	3,350	3,335	3,483
Koilkuntla	165,644	201,270	212,883	3,636	3,339	3,980
Nandyal	179,645	194,470	207,297	5,485	5,482	5,929
Nandikotkur	217,443	232,534	238,666	4,725	4,487	4,610
Ramallakota	263,070	289,000	306,435	1,269	1,797	2,108
Pattikonda	322,988	346,848	363,482	3,606	3,233	4,375
District Total	1,519,017	1,655,986	1,752,710	33,829	36,100	43,215

* Averages worked out in the Board's office.

Exd. Md Pahlvan.