

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 509

DATED 27th Jan 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

According B.P. only with remarks fortnightly
narrative for the period ending 31st Dec 1896, of the
Vizagapatam Sh.

BACK PAPERS.

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

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

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 528

Mr. H. M. Mr. for C. & E.

Mr. H. M. Mr. O. & E.

H. E. the Governor

Order Mis No. 509727. 15 Jan 1897

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From

The Board of Revenue

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

Madras

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Dated 14th January 1897

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SUBJECT.

Fortnightly narrative for
period ending 31st December
1896 - Submitting to Government
with remarks - of the Vizagapat
District

c. 22 - 1 - 97.

27/1/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGRI.), 14TH JAN. 1897, No. 30.

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

READ—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Vizagapatam district during the period ending 31st of December 1896:—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply.—No rain. Water-supply for cultivation is available only from temporary wells, which are freely dug by the ryots. Water for drinking is generally procurable, but is extremely scarce in places. Parts of Bimlipatam, Vizagapatam and Srungavarapukota appear to be worst off in this respect. Temporary wells are being sunk where required.

Agricultural operations and condition of standing crops.—The paddy harvest in Palkonda is almost or quite completed. The outturn on the whole is poor, but in a few villages is up to the average. The estimated outturn was reported in last fortnightly narrative. In other taluks there is a little *paira* ragi, tobacco, chillies and vegetables under wells, which is thriving moderately. Sugar cane is being kept alive under wells, but in places where the water-supply is insufficient it has been cut before properly matured, and will outturn very badly.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture is obtainable only in the southern portion of the district. In the remainder everything is burnt up. Fodder is, of course, scarce and dear, but there are considerable quantities of withered crops stored as such. Cattle do not get straw. General deterioration. All the valuable cattle look quite well.

General remarks on above subjects.—Unless, as is very unlikely, rain should fall, agricultural operations are practically at an end. The scarcity of water and pasture must unavoidably become continually greater.

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 December 1896.

Stations.	Rice.		Ragi.		Cumbu.		Remarks.
	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	
1. Parvatipuram ..	9.84	9.84	18.72	18.72	16.80	16.80	Price of rice low owing to import from Jeypore.
2. Salaru ..	9.43	11.07	17.28	17.28	17.50	17.50	
3. Palkonda ..	9.04	9.60	16.16	17.17	22.77	22.77	
4. Gajapatinagar ..	9.84	9.84	17.76	17.02	17.28	17.28	
5. Chipurupalle ..	8.20	8.20	15.12	15.12	17.28	17.28	
6. Vizianagram ..	9.04	9.26	16.66	16.66	16.33	16.33	
7. Vizagapatam ..	7.91	7.91	15.15	16.66	13.86	14.85	
8. Chodavaramu ..	8.59	8.50	19.11	19.11	18.48	18.48	
9. Anakapalle ..	9.50	10.00	16.83	17.29	..	..	
10. Yellamanchilli ..	9.00	9.50	18.20	18.20	..	..	
11. Narsapatnam ..	9.40	9.40	16.80	16.80	16.20	16.20	
Average ..	9.07	9.37	17.07	17.27	17.38	17.49	

Activity of trade—Imports by rail 6,312 maunds—food-grains—for week ending 12th December 1896. Figures for the succeeding week not received.

By sea—Nil. By road from Jeypore 7,888 cart-loads for fortnight ending 26th December 1896.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

The general condition of the people is good, and is so reported by all Divisional Officers, but I have no doubt that the working classes are pinched. Some of the coolies working at quarries in Bimlipatam taluk were observed by me to be looking decidedly poor, and as the demand for employment cannot be met there by ordinary means, a test relief work will be necessary. A quarry on the road between Vizianagram and Bimlipatam has been selected for this.

The condition of people in villages continues fair, but there is little doubt that the scarcity is felt among them. No necessity for gratuitous relief has yet arisen.

Sickness and Mortality.—Normal.

Remarks.—The condition of coolies and villagers will be carefully watched. The high prices and the scarcity of employment can hardly fail to tell on them.

A test relief work will be started at Pendur in Vizagapatam taluk on January 4th and another at Dakmarri in Bimlipatam taluk very shortly.

Private charity.—There is none organized, but the larger zemindars are doing good deal for their own people in the way of supplying grain on easy terms.

INSPECTIONS OF THE COLLECTOR.

Taluks and places visited.—Portions of Vizagapatam, Bimlipatam and Vizianagram taluks; the Local Fund works at the quarries at (1) Anandapuram, (2) Valoorimetta, (3) Theegametta, (4) Dakmarri and (5) Rajapulovametta.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The outlook at present is doubtful. The opening of the test relief work at Pendur, which the Board has sanctioned, and of another at Dakmarri, which is proposed, will enable me to give a much more decided opinion in the next report. The permanent Collector, who is now in the district, is very decidedly of opinion that affairs are no worse than in 1891-92. Prices are, however, much higher than in that year. The situation is dependant on the resources which may, or may not, be latent in the labouring classes. The district is believed to be somewhat peculiar in this respect, and there is no doubt that the railway, the manganese mines, &c., have materially raised the standard of comfort.

Loan Transactions.—Nil.

READ—also the following season report of the Vizagapatam district for the week ending 2nd January 1897:—

"Water for cultivation nil except a little by baling from wells. Ragi sown in four taluks, chillies and indigo in one each; ragi transplanted in five taluks; standing wet crops none except sugarcane under wells; dry crops withered in southern taluks, bad elsewhere; horse-gram harvested in four taluks, outturn poor; cholera in three, outturn in one average, in two poor; paddy in two, outturn in one average, other poor; red-gram and ragi in two taluks each and green-gram and sugarcane in one taluk each, outturn in all poor. Pasture obtainable in southern taluks, very scarce elsewhere. Fodder decreasing, cattle not suffering. Prospects bad. Cholera prevailing in one taluk; 36 attacks and 18 deaths. Test relief works and kitchen opening to-day at Pendur, to-morrow at Dakmarri. None open yet. Food-grains exported by sea nil, imported from Jeypore 4,558 cwt., railway returns not received. Emigrants to Burma 202."

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

"Two test works opened Monday. Coolies refused terms. Report end of week."

RESOLUTION—dated 14th January 1897, No. 30.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. There has been no change in the situation in Vizagapatam, and it is reassuring to find that Mr. Willock, who knows the district thoroughly, considers the state of it no worse than in 1891-92. Prices are, however, very high, but appear to have an easier tendency, and the fact that, when the work going on at Pendur was converted to a test work under the Famine Code, the coolies refused the terms shows that there is no present distress in the district.

3. The Collector's further report may be awaited.

(True Copies and Extract.)

R. V. Srinivasan
Secretary.

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

Copy to the Collector of Ganjam.
Sanitary Commissioner.

Er. C. M. Thambusawmy.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records
and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed January 18th.

Proceedings, 14th Jan. 1897, No. 30.

Fortnightly narrative for period ending 31st
December 1896.—Submitting to Government, with
remarks, — of the Vizagapatam district.

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