

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 517

Dated 2nd July 1897.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Fortnightly Narrative.

Passing orders on Board's Progs. submitting
the — of the Ganjam district for the period
ending 15th May 1897.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 5019

The Hon. ^{Mr. G. S. G. G.} ~~Mr. G. S. G. G.~~ ^{Mr. G. S. G. G.} ~~Mr. G. S. G. G.~~
The Hon. ^{Mr. G. S. G. G.} ~~Mr. G. S. G. G.~~ ^{Mr. G. S. G. G.} ~~Mr. G. S. G. G.~~
for the Governor

From
The Board of Rev.
Rev. Sekt.

for Order &

11/17/1897

the points requiring notice
or orders are:

(i) the proposal to ~~the~~
the distribution of grain sales
at central depots.

(ii) The ~~the~~ proposal to
leave the gratuitous relief
of able-bodied females of Prana
to some other cashes to the
Tamil charitable relief fund.

(iii) Para 8 of the B.P. which ap-
proves the action of the collector
who ~~sent~~ a dumb and
half-muddled boy of 12 to the
Rambha kitchen apparently
against the wish of the boy's
parents. The question of
dealing with parents who

Dated 8th June 1897

Received 16.6.97

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Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Submitting fortnightly
narrative of the Ganyam St
for the period ending 15th
May 1897

C 24/16/97
11/17/97

Fortnightly narrative.—Submitting to Government, with remarks, — of the Ganjām district for the period ending 15th May 1897.

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

READ—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Ganjam District during the period ending 15th May 1897 :—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply—

District rainfall.	Actual up to 8th.	Up to 15th.	Expected rainfall.
In the fortnight	INCHES. ·72	INCHES. ·80	INCHES. 1·29
Up to the fortnight from April	1·88	1·96	2·14

There has been a slight rainfall throughout the district during the fortnight. Water-supply is insufficient for irrigation purposes except in villages bordering on the Vamsadhara and the Langulya rivers of the Chicacole taluk. There was good rainfall of 3 inches at Digupudi in the Pedda Kimeri estate where it was much needed while Surada had 2·79 inches. Mr. Partridge reports that there were slight freshes in the Langulya and Vamsadhara rivers due to rainfall in the hills.

2. Water-supply is generally insufficient for drinking purposes in the Berhampur and Huzur divisions, in some parts of the Goomsur, and in Tarla and Tekkali of Chicacole. Pits are being dug in some villages to supplement the water-supply of wells. The amount spent on the improvement of drinking water-supply during the fortnight was Rs. 2,760. Additional funds have been allotted for this purpose by the District Board. Much of the available water-supply in tanks is foul and polluted both by men and cattle.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—Ploughing operations are still carried on in the Goomsur and Berhampur divisions and in some parts of the sub-division. Gingelly and red gram are being sown in some villages of the Goomsur division. Gingelly is being harvested in some parts of the Chicacole taluk, but its outturn is bad to middling.

The standing crops are light paddy, ragi, gingelly, indigo, sugarcane and chillies. The condition of crops in Berhampur taluk is poor, while it is moderate in Goomsur and Chicacole taluks. Sugarcane in the latter taluk is reported to be in want of rain.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Fodder is generally sufficient and available except in a few places in the sub-division. It is getting scarce in some parts of the Head-quarters Deputy Collector's division. Pasture is insufficient except in parts of sub-division and Goomsur taluk, but it is improving in places where there was rainfall.

The condition of cattle is generally good, but cattle diseases are reported to exist in Varanasi khandam of the sub-division and in some parts of Berhampur and Goomsur taluks. The condition of the cattle and pasturage generally cause no anxiety for the future.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—The slight rainfall during the fortnight, which is below the average up to date, has not improved matters except in Pedda Kimeri. Distress generally is deepening and insufficiency of water-supply is causing grave anxiety in many parts of the district. The next fortnight will be a very anxious period in this respect.

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 8th of May 1897.

Prices of principal cereals per rupee, for the present period.									
Stations.	Rice.				Ragi.		Corresponding prices of 1889.		Remarks.
	End of last period.		End of current period.		End of last period.	End of current period.	Rice.	Ragi.	
	Raw.	Boiled.	R.	Boiled.					
Russellkonda ..	10-50	12-50	10-50	12-50	16-87	16-87	11 00	20-00	The fall in the price of rice at Aska is reported to be due to fresh supply from Nyagarh. There is a marked rise in rice at Sompeta and Narasannapet. The latter is due to export to Vizianagram, the former to short supply. The rise in the price of ragi at Purushottapur, Berhampur, Sompeta, Tekkali and Narasannapet is due to the demand in kitchens and for gratuitous relief which is being given in grain doles and to expenditure on works which enables persons who formerly subsisted on jungle roots and leaves to purchase a meal of ragi. The rise in the price of ragi is very marked in Purushottapur and Sompeta for the corresponding period.
Surada ..	10-17	11-37	10-17	11-37	14-61	14-62	11-25	17-25	
Aska ..	11-12	12-56	11-97	13-39	14-25	14-25	11-16	18-00	
Purushottapur ..	10-50	12-50	10-50	12-50	14-50	13-00	12-00	23-00	
Chatrapur ..	9-50	11-00	9-50	11-00	15-19	14-74	11-00	20-50	
Berhampur ..	10-50	12-00	10-50	12-00	14-40	14-40	11-00	18-00	
Ichelhapuram ..	9-50	10-00	9-50	10-00	14-51	13-50	11-20	21-00	
Sompeta ..	10-72	11-81	10-31	11-41	15-69	15-60	11-50	22-50	
Parlakimedi ..	10-50	12-00	10-25	12-00	16-27	15-00	12-00	24-00	
Tekkali ..	10-50	12-00	10-12	12-00	16-90	15-60	12-00	24-00	
Narasannapet ..	10-50	12-00	10-50	12-00	15-62	15-62	10-50	20-00	
Chicacole ..	11-52	12-50	11-52	12-50	181-13	175-60	134-81	247-55	
Total ..	125-28	105-74	125-34	106-17	15-09	14-63	11-23	20-63	
Average ..	10-44	11-75	10-44	11-79	15-09	14-63	11-23	20-63	

very marked in Purushottapur and Sompeta for the corresponding period.

Activity of trade.—Supplies are available at the rates quoted in the various marts; but the trade within the district is reported to be dull. The Goomsur Deputy Collector reports that 1,700 cart-loads of paddy have been imported into his division from Nyagarh where there is still a large stock remaining. The Head-quarters Deputy Collector also reports that imports of paddy from Orissa still continue. Exports from Chicacole and Narasannapet to Vizianagram both by road and rail continue to take place.

Exports and imports of food-grains by rail and sea are as follow :—

	Exports.	Imports.
	MDS.	MDS.
By rail	10,549	2,151
By sea	6,041	...

Information as to stocks is scanty and unreliable, but I am informed that it will be unnecessary specially to import seed-grain. I ascertained that two merchants in the Bengur-Naupada Circle had 3,000 and 1,000 *bharnams* respectively, and were holding for a rise. The General Deputy Collector estimates that there is seven months supply in Aska and Goomsur taluks. Other details are either unfurnished or unreliable except for Sompeta and Pedda Kimeri where there is an estimated four months supply.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On works.—The condition of people on works is generally good. People coming in to the works from Government villages are in better condition than those from zemindari tracts. A few persons who came into Udayagiri from some outlying Khond villages were too weak to work. I have directed special enquiries to be made in the adjoining villages.

In villages.—The condition of people especially in zemindari villages of the head-quarters and Senior Assistant Collectors' divisions is deteriorating. Relief is being given by grain doles and by cash to dependants at works; the numbers on relief are steadily increasing.

The following remittances are reported from emigrants to Burma through the Port officers noted below :—

Kasibugga	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Rs. 4,528
Jalmur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	283
Kota Bommali	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,416
Tekkali	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,372

Total ... 7,629

Sickness and mortality.—No deaths from want of food have been reported except one doubtful case at Boirani. Opinions were divided as to whether the death was due to small-pox or want of food. I fear it was the latter. Fevers and small-pox are generally prevalent. The latter is very virulent in parts. More than half the people, entered on the relief list in one village, visited by the same, had either died or were laid up with the epidemic. Cholera is now subsiding at Tekkali but is bad near Narasannapet and Humma.

Cholera deaths.

Goomsur Deputy Collector's division	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Head-quarters Deputy Collector's division	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Berhampur division	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Chieacole division	...	...	...	...	...	...	148

Total ... 220

Remarks.—The following test-works and kitchens have been opened during the fortnight:—

Test-works.	Kitchens.
(1) Mukundapur.	(1) Haripur.
(2) Repairs to Patta Mahadevi tank at Tekkali.	(2) Digupudi.
(3) Pilli tank at Chatrapur.	(3) Jalandra.
(4) Santhoshapuram.	(4) Jarada.
	(5) Daigam.
	(6) Ballipadra.
	(7) Jalumur.

The test-works are now attracting labourers. The attendance at kitchens is not as might be looked for under the present state of the season. This is due to caste prejudice fostered by the village officers in their own interests. In the sub-division amongst the Telugus, kitchens are freely attended.

The test-works at Atagada, Sorosingi and Mukundapur have been converted into relief-works, and orders have been issued for the conversion of Johomi and Pilli Cheruvu test-works into relief-works and for starting the extension of the Rushikulya canal as a relief-work at once.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

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

Taluka.	Number employed			Remarks.
	Last fort- night.	This fortnight.		
		On 7th.	On 14th.	
Purushottapur	302	1,056	1,179	Daigam relief-work.
	383	1,039	746	Number on test-work at Atagada.
	..	873	..	Mukundapur test-work opened during the fort- night.
	..	396	842	Sorosingi test-work.
Ganjám	160	723	477	Test-work at Jomi.
	..	322	979	Pilli tank at Chatrapur.
	..	..	196	Santhoshapuram test-work opened on the 12th instant.
	..	..	672	Rudda hill quarry near Ichchhápúram. This was re-opened on the 12th instant as a test-work.
Ichchhápúram	..	77	253	Repairs to Patta Mahadevi tank at Tekkali. This was started on the 7th instant.
Tekkali	..	..	116	
Berhampur	..	..	..	
Total ..	845	4,486	5,400	

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

Taluka.	Number relieved										
	At kitchens.						In poor-houses.		In villages.		
	Dependants.		Others.								
	Last fort- night.	This fortnight.		Last fort- night.	This fortnight.		Last fort- night.	This fort- night.	Last fort- night.	This fortnight.	
		8th.	15th.		8th.	15th.				8th.	15th.
Russellkonda ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	197	340
Aska ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	80	80
Bodagada ..	..	..	..	27	35	36	..	..	26	51	53
Pedda Kimedi ..	..	..	..	..	14	21	..	..	233	488	551
Berhampur ..	..	..	..	81	110	167	..	..	..	..	..
Simpeta ..	..	..	..	128	413	660	..	..	1,503	5,919	9,431
Ichchhapuram ..	..	..	..	16	30	47	..	..	23	96	308
Ganjām ..	..	..	..	16	9	7	..	..	2,207	2,879	3,587
Purushottapuram.	..	..	..	110	94	94	..	..	495	1,601	1,918
Tekkali ..	..	..	..	561	811	834	..	..	84	125	121
Narasannapet ..	..	..	..	..	..	183	..	..	39	38	38
Parlakimedi ..	..	..	..	102	253	340	..	..	..	187	517
Surada ..	..	..	9	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	26
Total ..	..	..	9	1,041	1,769	2,392	..	..	4,610	11,581	16,970

Taluka.	Number of villages in which relief was given.	Weavers' relief.				Number of cloths manufac- tured	
		Number of persons relieved:					
		Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.		
				8th	15th.	In the period.	Up to date.
Russellkonda	..	..	..	19	42	100	Details not furnished.
Aska	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Bodagada	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Pedda Kimedi	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Berhampur	..	..	..	349	575	1,300	
Simpeta	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Ichchhapuram	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Ganjām	..	75	103	..	154	172	
Purushottapuram	..	45	105	..	..	300	
Tekkali	..	70	108	..	..	..	
Narsannapet	..	7	..	..	..	..	
Parlakimedi	..	1	..	..	..	..	
Total ..	..	249	316	368	771	† 1,872	

* Includes 89 villages to which kitchen inmates belong.
† These are all heads of families containing each several working members.

Private charity.—There is no organized private charity at work, but the zemindar of Kallikōta and Attagada continues to maintain the kitchen at Haradamalli, near Kallikōta and the total number fed thereat on the 8th instant was 133. The General Deputy Collector, Goomsur, reports that some gentlemen of Aska and Russellkonda are daily giving a single meal to 60 and 20 beggars, respectively, on the average. The zemindar of Chinna Kimedi still continues feeding at his temples and feeds 90 persons daily having regard to caste prejudices.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The weavers in the sub-division are now coming forward for relief. Two depôts have been opened at Palasa and Tekkali. The Deputy Tahsildars of Parlakimedi and Tekkali have indented for thread.

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.		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.	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						
Barhampur	..	..	..	..	..	..	30	2,880	9	630	1,140	1,11,795	30	2,880	9	630	1,142	1,12,095	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Goomsur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Chicacole	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Total ..	..	..	..	..	2	300	30	2,880	9	630	1,140	1,11,795	30	2,880	9	630	1,142	1,12,095	..	..	..	..	..	..		

Taluka.	Purchase of fodder.										Cattle and seed-grain.						Total.							
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		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.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
Barhampur	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	480	8	630	1,737	1,14,483	11	480	8	630	1,737	1,14,483	..	..	..	..	..	..
Goomsur	..	..	..	..	..	..	111	4,761	82	1,800	793	40,772	111	4,761	82	1,800	793	40,772	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicacole	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	122	5,241	90	2,430	2,530	1,55,255	122	5,241	90	2,430	2,530	1,55,255	..	..	..	..	..	..

INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT OFFICERS.

Taluk and places visited.—The General Deputy Collector, Goomsur, has visited 46 villages in response to a special order from me, as I feared that the Ballipadra and Jagannadha Prasad, Muttas of Goomsur, which march with the Attagada taluk may be equally affected. He reports that though no acute distress exists, yet work is required and a few kitchens are wanted. A kitchen has been opened at Ballipadra and arrangement made for a test work on the Aska-Korchili road.

From what I have seen on the borders of this tract during the last few days, it is not a bit too early to start work and a very considerable amount of relief may be required here unless an early monsoon sets in.

The Principal Assistant Collector, Mr. Partridge, has been able to do but little touring and has only visited four villages. He was called away from his division to relieve me of part of the Agency sessions and was detained for five days in Chatrapur. There is no material change in the prospects of his division; there is a slight increase in the number of kitchen inmates and the weavers are also coming forward for relief. A test work at Tekkali has attracted a few labourers consisting for the most part of able-bodied persons discharged from the kitchens. The zemindar of Parlakimedi continues to employ about 1,000 persons, gives much relief both to his own zemindari and Tekkali taluk. Prices continue to rise in the Ramagiri Agency, but there has been good rain. The Khonds are engaged in cultivation and reported to be doing well.

The Special Assistant Collector, Mr. Willmot, has reported 12 villages as visited by him. I think that these are only his camps and do not include villages visited from his camp, as I know that he has been putting in very useful work. He apprehends that the state of Ichchhapuram taluk may soon be the same as that of Sompeta, and if the price of food-grains is any criterion, Ichchhapuram should be one of the most badly affected tracts in the district. The worst parts are the villages bordering the foot of the hills, and the savaras of Thumba, Saba, the Lower Agency ranges are also reported to be in a bad way. The zemindar of Mandasa is opening a few works, but no help in this direction can be expected from the proprietors of Jarada, Chikati and Budarasingi estates. I have applied by wire for a special agency grant of Rs. 5,000 for task works in the Thumba maliahs. This is out of the control of the district board and a special grant is therefore necessary. There has been an enormous increase in the number of recipients of grain-doles. Mr. Willmot states from his personal observation that this is not due to any want of strictness on the part of the circle inspectors who are rather too prone to reject cases of destitution without proper inquiry. I wish that I could say the same for the Ganjam division where my experience has been very different and the original lists have had to be entirely revised. Mr. Willmot remarks again, "with reference to B.P., dated 27th March 1897, No. 254 (Revenue Settlement), it may be mentioned that there is not the slightest hesitation in coming on the parish by taking out-door relief in the shape of grain-doles." Here again my experience has been different, but not in the sense intended by the Board. Some persons of higher caste have told me that they did not want grain-doles, as such grant would be detrimental to their caste. I informed them (as they were not in any way urgent cases) that they must wait till their hunger added a sauce to the dole and that money would not be given. I was, however, very pleased to note to-day that a lot of aged women whom I wished to draft on to gratuitous relief from the work at Lorasangi to-day expressed their preference to do a task and earn their wages. This is quite a new trait in the Uriya character. It may be that they thought they would get a higher wage and preferred money-payment to grain, but I think not.

The Uriya weavers of Purushottapuram have again attempted to raise a plea that to work for hire and to receive grain-doles for their dependants is derogatory to their caste. They wish for a box of thread and Rs. 4; this is a mere attempt to revert to the position of 18-9. They say that they will do contract work, but not work for hire. It was pointed out to them that the work was contract work only, that the contract worked out to Rs. 2 instead of Rs. 4, but they refused to see it in this light. They will, no doubt, come to terms, as they have done elsewhere when really in need.

Collector's movement.—After leaving the Famine Commissioner, I visited Sompéta and inspected the weavers' depôt and kitchen. As I found weavers being detained for payment, I sanctioned the entertainment of an assistant appraiser for the depôt where the work is very heavy; I then proceeded to Berhampur and inspected the kitchen, arriving at Chatrapur on the 3rd, remained there till the 6th, when I was relieved of the balance of my agency sessions cases by Mr. Partridge. My subsequent tour has taken me up through the Humma and Palur zemindaries to near the Bengal frontier and across the Kallikôta and Atagada zemindaries to Boirani. I have visited and made enquiries in 64 villages and checked the circle lists of those villages as far as possible. I was accompanied for the first week of my tour by Mr. Ashe, whom I have now placed in direct charge of relief operations in the Ganjam taluk. He has since been carefully through the Biridi zemindari, but reports things there not so black as they had been painted by the Circle Inspector.

With the single exception of Boirani to which I refer later, I found that the original lists prepared by the village officers were totally unreliable and some had apparently been adopted by the Circle Inspectors without proper inquiry. I found that in many cases strong, able-bodied, persons or persons who were not destitute but dependants of the village officers were entered in the list, while low caste persons, who really needed relief, had not been entered.

This is the difficulty of having to work with the aid of zamindari officials who are frequently absent from the villages: indeed it is the exception rather than the rule for them to reside within their village. I enclose an extract from the diary of the new Biridi Circle Inspector, which describes the position fairly accurately: "The karnams of all the villages in the zamindari do not live in the villages themselves but far away from them, i.e., at Biridikota, Rumbha and Ganjam. The karjis are illiterate. I rarely find one independent ryot. Even to write a few lines each village must have its karnam. The grain-dealers cannot but keep accounts for the distribution of doles. They also being illiterate, cannot do so without the karnams and they who are karnams both by caste and profession are, in my humble opinion, apt to play consummate roguery with the grain-dealers and villagers. The karnam and karji are tigers in the opinion of the people. They think it is they that got them those doles. The present system is not quite sufficient, I think, to prevent fraud in the distribution of grain-doles."

I have myself had forced upon me the conviction that the so-called caste prejudice of certain classes against attending kitchens is no caste prejudice at all, but a chimera originating with and studiously fostered by the village officers who are in close touch with the heads of the caste. These officers know from past experience that Government will not allow people of any caste, however low, to die of starvation if it can be helped: they know that though hunger may be endured for a few days, doles will come in the end and they know that these doles cannot, whether in money or in kind, be distributed without their influence and aid. Whatever care and check may be exercised, there is no doubt that the entire Government dole is not always given: a shopkeeper will not weigh out his doles, but deals them out in measures of his own. The recipient takes what is given, makes no enquiries and probably is none the wiser. The shopkeeper's book is signed by the punchayetdars who are probably the village karji, the village karnam and the heads of the caste. The spoil, whatever it is, is shared. Detection is impossible. Were all these people free to attend Government kitchens this "profit" would be lost to the village official, over whom, at present, Government officers have no control. Hence the claim of caste prejudice is put forward for a class of people, whom the very people, who secretly urge it on, would be the last to admit in their own private relations as possessing any caste whatsoever.

I am not merely theorising, though the theory is sound enough, but I have been thinking over the cause of the failure of the kitchen in this division. I find, firstly, that people who will not resort to a Government kitchen will go freely to an institution maintained by a zemindar. This I saw at Haradamali, where I inspected the kitchen maintained by the zemindar of Kallikôta. I found there not only Bavuris but Odiyas and a karnam.

Secondly, (the instances of this are numerous); many people who will not attend a kitchen within the limits of their own village go to the next one trusting that the fact may not be known.

Thirdly, persons who have, in my presence, refused to go to a kitchen under any circumstances, have taken bread cooked by my own cook and biscuits from my hands. These three facts go a long way to show that in some case the so-called caste prejudice is only skin deep. It is the heads of caste and the village officers who egg the people on to put forward this plea, to satisfy their own honourable avarice. I do not deny that there are no exceptions, but the general rule is as stated. This will and must continue until village officers and heads of caste are rendered personally responsible for any death in their respective village or caste owing to refusal to attend a kitchen when no reasonable prejudice exists. A possible alternative is to restrict the grant of grain-doles to central depôts to be established by Government.

One or two cases of difficulty have occurred. The first is in regard to able-bodied women of certain castes (Aravas and the like) who, as a matter of fact, can perform no out-door work except agricultural operations within the limit of their own village. Fathers and sons can come to work. Children under seven can be dealt with as dependants, but I think that the wives and daughters over seven years of age, so long as they are in robust health and fit for work, are not entitled to Government doles but may be proper subjects for the "Charitable Relief Fund."

There is again the case of children whose parents can and will not work and who will not allow their children to attend kitchens. If grain-doles are allowed to the children, the parents take a portion for themselves. A very bad case of this was brought to my notice at Palur. A man, his wife and a boy about twelve years old, who was dumb and half-witted, had been in receipt of doles for some time. The parents were both in good condition; the boy was starved to a skeleton. On a plate of rice being placed before him, he ate it with avidity without any regard for caste prejudice. He had evidently not seen food for days and the parents thinking the boy's life worthless had supplemented their rations with his. The matter was one of urgency. I removed the boy to the Rumbha kitchen on special diet. The parents were struck off the list and told to go to the Jomi work.

In the course of my tour I found cholera bad in the Hamma zemindari and my own camp did not escape. Small-pox was very virulent in Kallikôta and parts of Atagada.

I visited the test work at Jomi and the relief works at Dayigam and Atagada. There were about 400 at Jomi and 1,000 at each of the other places. The overseer at the former work seemed to be actuated more by fear of his own bodily health than by care for the people under his control, and, on my leaving, told the Deputy Tahsildar that he would stop the work as he was unwell. He has been duly reported to his own department. The coolies here generally were in good condition, but a few emaciated cases were observed amongst the children. No arrangement had been made for payment of dependants. At Dayigam and Atagada the coolies, with the exception of some Khonds at the former place, were in good condition, better at the latter than the former place. At neither place had proper arrangements been made for water-supply to the gangs at work, though strict orders on the subject had previously been issued.

The dependants entered on the rolls were comparatively few but, considering the small proportion that the number of children furnished to the total number at work, there must have been many children left behind at home for whom no allowance was made. The task at each place seemed to be properly fixed and not excessive. It was not however turned out in full; this is probably due to the fact that the cooly took a full three hours in the middle of the day instead of two allowed by the code.

At these works payments were in arrears of four and five days, respectively. Complaints were loud on the subject of non-payment. The paymaster is a pensioned jemadar, but I regret to state that I find pensioners quite unsuited for such employment. If they are posted to a place that they do not like, they at once wish to give up the appointment. The present man has wished to resign on the plea of ill-health.

I should like to know whether some of the P.W. men and other persons in the other two places marked.

(after I had refused a transfer), and was informed that he would require to be relieved in due course. In the meantime, though he has funds he has not proceeded to Atagada for payment of arrears. I consider that when pensioners are given employment of this nature a condition should be attached to it that their pension will be liable to reduction or forfeiture for neglect of duty or misconduct. I regret to have to make these remarks. I have from the first tried to engage the service of pensioners, but found them unreliable and, having their pensions to fall back upon, independent to a degree.

At Boirani, my last camp, I found that the list of needy-poor, framed by the village officers long ago, on 16th January 1897, had been most accurately verified by the present condition of the people. This is a singular instance of careful investigation shown by zamindari village officials. Work here is eagerly demanded and a test work will be started at once. I issued instructions for the immediate opening of a kitchen and expect an attendance of nearly 200 on the opening day.

I regret to state that since the original list made by the village officials of Boirani was prepared, it has never once been checked by the Deputy Tahsildar and the omission on the part of that officer, M.R.Ry. S. V. Modaliar Naidu, to visit such an important centre during the last three months is only a further instance of the gross neglect and apathy which has been the prevailing characteristic of every branch of his work since his return from leave. He is under orders of transfer from his present sphere of inaction. I regret that the District Medical officer could not see his way to invalidate him prior to his return to duty. He has only four months more to serve for pension.

I apologise for the length of the appendix to the narrative, but it will not, I think, be again necessary to deal at any length with the peculiar features presented by this district to the application of the provisions of the Famine Code.

RESOLUTION—dated 8th June 1897, No. 422.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall in the district during the fortnight under report was below the average, though heavy falls were registered at Digupudi and Suradā. The supply of water for drinking purposes will generally be insufficient in the affected area; the district board allotted funds for its improvement. Agricultural operations were being carried on to a certain extent, but, except in the extreme south, the water-supply was insufficient for irrigation.

3. Fodder was generally available, but was growing scarce in some parts. Pasture is reported to have been insufficient except in parts, but improving in the to the normal hot-weather standard, and there need be no anxiety for cattle, whose condition is reported to be generally good.

4. The price of rice is, on the average, almost stationary, though local variations are reported. The price of ragi has risen sharply, chiefly at the recording stations within the affected area. The position of prices is shown by the accompanying table:—

Rate.	Measures per rupee.	
	Rice.	Ragi.
Normal ...	17.0	30.0
Warning ...	13.6	22.5
Scarcity ...	10.2	15.0
Current ...	11.1	14.6
May 1889 ...	11.1	17.4
Do 1878 ...	8.8	12.7

The markets are fairly supplied. Paddy is being imported by road from Nyagarh and Orissa, but the exports by rail and sea continue to exceed the imports by these routes.

5. The condition of people on works is reported to be generally good, though there are some bad cases. People in zemindari villages are distinctly in worse condition than those in Government villages, and, in spite of a large distribution of doles, they are said to be deteriorating. The numbers on relief works are six times what they were at the end of the previous fortnight, while the numbers on gratuitous relief have quadrupled. The latter are, however, three times the former, the figures being 19,362 on gratuitous relief and 5,460 on works. The proportion compares favourably with that of 1889. Weavers are also now coming forward in large numbers. The objections of the weavers at Purushottapuram are evidently not genuine, and they are probably hoping to force the grant of money-doles; they should not, however, be given in to in this matter.

6. The Collector again enumerates some of the difficulties to be overcome in administering relief in his district and he offers an explanation of the so-called prejudices of the Uriyas, in which the Famine Commissioner is inclined to concur. The headmen have in former years probably derived handsome profits from a generous distribution of money-doles, and work with disfavour upon the introduction of any more easily checked system. It is doubtful if village officers and heads of castes can be made responsible in the manner suggested by the Collector; the grant of grain-doles only at central depôts is not contemplated by the Code, but, if the Collector thinks that such an arrangement can be properly supervised and is not likely to result in deserving objects of relief being deprived of doles, there is no objection to his making an experiment in consideration of the exceptional conditions of his district. Those who are entitled to grain-doles are in no way different from those who are entitled to be fed in kitchens, except in the possession of a superior grade of caste, and should be just as easily able to attend the central depôts as the others are able to attend central kitchens. It should be seen, however, that the central depôts are not too far apart.

7. The Collector's suggested method of dealing with Aravas and the like may stand, as, fortunately, there are some funds from the Indian Famine Relief Committee available for the purpose.

8. The case of children whose parents can, but will not, work, but will not allow their children to attend kitchens, is of more difficulty. There is, no doubt, that such children must not be allowed to starve to death through the apathy and selfishness of their parents, and the only method of dealing with them appears to be that adopted by the Collector.

9. It is trusted that the Collector set right the irregularities discovered at Jomi before leaving the work.

10. The attention of Government is invited to the Collector's remarks as to the unreliability of military pensioners. It is deserving of consideration whether pensioners, who accept subsequent employment, should not be liable to have their pensions curtailed or forfeited for neglect of duty or misconduct. The Famine Commissioner, in a long experience, has been anxious and willing to co-operate with the military authorities for the employment of pensioners, and his deliberate experience is that military pensioners are, as a class, ignorant and stupid to a degree not common amongst their brethren in the ordinary population, but also full of conceit and above their work. They are also often hopelessly bad linguists, acknowledging only their mongrel Hindustani.

11. The Famine Commissioner notes with dissatisfaction the conduct of M.R.Ry. S. V. Modaliar Naidu; his inefficiency should be brought to notice when his application for pension comes to be considered.

12. The disposal of applications for loans proceeds but slowly. The following amounts have been disbursed:—

During the week ending—		RS.
May 1st ...	...	5,375
Do. 8th ...	...	2,260
Do. 15th ...	...	4,390
Do. 22nd ...	...	2,800

12 BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGRI.), 8TH JUNE 1897, No. 422.

Over 3,000 applications involving more than two lakhs and a half remained to be disposed of.

13. Government will observe that the area of distress is spreading gradually. Udayagiri is far outside the tract previously supposed to be affected. The Collector is, however, watchful, and it is not likely that any extension of distress will escape his early notice.

14. The sums remitted from Burma seem small. The Famine Commissioner has heard that wages are falling there, as, with immigration, they are bound to fall, and that some coolies have been obliged to return.

(True Copy and Extract.)

B. S. S. S. 15/6.
Famine Secretary.

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

End. Shaik Karim.

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 5040.

From

The P. W. D.

Order

Sum. 5/14 30-6-97

No. 551 A

Dated 16th June 1897

Received 17-6-97

Registered

Enclosures 3

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

*Forwarding map
showing relief works in
the Ganjam Division.*

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Government of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Ootacamund 16th June 1897

OFFICE NOTE. No. 551 D



From
The Under Secy. Govt., P.W.D.

To
The Secretary to Government,
Revenue Dept.

The accompanying map
showing relief works in the Gungam
Division on 31st May 1897 and statement giving
the number of coolies employed on
them is forwarded to the Revenue
Dept. for note and return.

C. B. P. M.
Under Secretary to Government
P.W.D.

P.M.

Printed by
Gannet Press & Co.

C. No 501925040

G. O. C. Press No 517 of 2nd July 1897

Recorded.

2. the instructions issued in para 6, 7, and 8 are approved.
3. With regard to the remarks in para 10 the Gannet Committee attention will be drawn to art 383 of the C. S. R. under which Civil Prisoners are liable to have their pensions forfeited or reduced for grave misconduct. The case of Military Prisoners is governed by

↑ of Army regulations
Vol I Part II and the Govt does not think that a case has been made out for addressing the Govt in the sense suggested in regard to them.

4. the Govt would like to have in due course a report of the action taken ~~by the P. W. D.~~ ^{in reply} by the officers responsible for the shortcomings noticed by the collector at the works at Jorri, Dayjagan and Abagada and referred to page 9 of his memorandum.

14/7/97
List from India

RS
1-7-97

The Gannet Committee
P. W. D.
L. M. D.
S. D.
P. D.
A. G.
13/7/97

80/7

Government { 1897 } of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

Enclosures

Regd.

} 1897.

Spare copies

G.O., No. 517, 2nd July 1897.

JULY.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Passing orders on Board's Proceedings submitting the — of the Ganjam district for the period ending 15th May 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 8th June 1897, No. 422:—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Ganjam District during the period ending 15th May 1897:—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply—

District rainfall.	Actual up to 8th.	Up to 15th.	Expected rainfall.
In the fortnight	INCHES. 72	INCHES. 80	INCHES. 129
Up to the fortnight from April	188	196	214

There has been a slight rainfall throughout the district during the fortnight. Water-supply is insufficient for irrigation purposes except in villages bordering on the Vamsadhara and the Langulya rivers of the Chicacole taluk. There was good while Surada had 2.79 inches. Mr. Partridge reports that there were slight freshes in the Langulya and Vamsadhara rivers due to rainfall in the hills.

2. Water-supply is generally insufficient for drinking purposes in the Berhampur and Huzur divisions, in some parts of the Goomsur, and in Tarla and Tekkali of Chicacole. Pits are being dug in some villages to supplement the water-supply of wells. The amount spent on the improvement of drinking water-supply during the fortnight was Rs. 2,760. Additional funds have been allotted for this purpose by the District Board. Much of the available water-supply in tanks is foul and polluted both by men and cattle.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—Ploughing operations are still carried on in the Goomsur and Berhampur divisions and in some parts of the sub-division. Gingelly and red gram are being sown in some villages of the Goomsur division. Gingelly is being harvested in some parts of the Chicacole taluk, but its outturn is bad to middling.

The standing crops are light paddy, ragi, gingelly, indigo, sugarcane and chillies. The condition of crops in Berhampur taluk is poor, while it is moderate in Goomsur and Chicacole taluks. Sugarcane in the latter taluk is reported to be in want of rain.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Fodder is generally sufficient and available except in a few places in the sub-division. It is getting scarce in some parts of the Head-quarters Deputy Collector's division. Pasture is insufficient except was rainfall.

The condition of cattle is generally good, but cattle diseases are reported to exist in Varanasi khandam of the sub-division and in some parts of Berhampur and Goomsur taluks. The condition of the cattle and pasturage generally cause no anxiety for the future.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—The slight rainfall during the fortnight, which is below the average up to date, has not improved matters except in Pedda Kimedi. Distress generally is deepening and insufficiency of water-supply is causing grave anxiety in many parts of the district. The next fortnight will be a very anxious period in this respect.

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 8th of May 1897.

Stations.	Rice.				Ragi.		Corresponding prices of 1889.		Remarks.
	End of last period.		End of current period.		End of last period.	End of current period.	Rice.	Ragi.	
	Raw.	Boiled.	Raw.	Boiled.					
Russellkonda ..	10.50	12.50	10.50	12.50	16.87	16.87	11.00	20.00	The fall in the price of rice at Aska is reported to be due to fresh supply from Nyagarh. There is a marked rise in rice at Sompeta and Narasannapet. The latter is due to export to Vizianagram, the former to short supply. The rise in the price of ragi at Purushottapur, Berhampur, Sompeta, Tekkali and Narasannapet is due to the demand in kitchens and for gratuitous relief which is being given in grain doles and to expenditure on works which enables persons who formerly subsisted on jungle roots and leaves to purchase a meal of ragi. The rise in the price of ragi is very marked in Purushottapur and Sompeta. Prices of food-grains especially ragi are higher generally than in 1889 for the corresponding period.
Suradâ ..	10.17	11.37	10.17	11.37	14.62	14.62	11.25	17.25	
Aska ..	11.12	12.66	11.97	13.39	14.25	14.25	11.16	18.00	
Purushottapur ..	10.50	12.50	10.50	12.50	14.50	13.00	12.00	23.00	
Chatrapur ..	9.50	11.00	9.50	11.00	12.50	12.50	11.20	20.80	
Berhampur ..	10.50	12.00	10.50	12.00	15.19	14.74	11.00	20.50	
Ichchhapuram ..	9.50	10.00	9.50	10.00	14.40	14.40	11.00	18.00	
Sompeta ..	10.72	11.81	10.31	11.41	14.51	13.50	11.20	21.00	
Parlakimedi ..	10.50	..	10.50	..	15.69	15.60	12.00	22.50	
Tekkali ..	10.25	12.00	10.25	12.00	16.27	15.00	11.50	22.50	
Narasannapet ..	10.50	..	10.12	..	16.90	15.60	12.00	24.00	
Chicacole ..	11.52	..	11.52	..	15.52	15.52	10.50	20.00	
Total ..	125.28	105.74	125.34	106.17	181.13	175.60	134.81	247.55	
Average ..	10.44	11.75	10.44	11.79	15.09	14.63	11.23	20.63	

very marked in Purushottapur and Sompeta. Prices of food-grains especially ragi are higher generally than in 1889 for the corresponding period.

Activity of trade.—Supplies are available at the rates quoted in the various marts; but the trade within the district is reported to be dull. The Goomsur Deputy Collector reports that 1,700 cart-loads of paddy have been imported into his division from Nyagarh where there is still a large stock remaining. The Head-quarters Deputy Collector also reports that imports of paddy from Orissa still continue. Exports from Chicacole and Narasannapet to Vizianagram both by road and rail continue to take place.

Exports and imports of food-grains by rail and sea are as follow:—

	Exports.	Imports.
	MDS.	MDS.
By rail	10,549	2,151
By sea	6,041	..

Information as to stocks is scanty and unreliable, but I am informed that it will be unnecessary specially to import seed-grain. I ascertained that two merchants in the Bengur-Naupada Circle had 3,000 and 1,000 *bharnams* respectively, and were holding for a rise. The General Deputy Collector estimates that there is seven months supply in Aska and Goomsur taluks. Other details are either unfurnished or unreliable except for Sompeta and Pedda Kimedi where there is an estimated four months supply.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On works.—The condition of people on works is generally good. People coming in to the works from Government villages are in better condition than those from zemindari tracts. A few persons who came into Udayagiri from some outlying Khond villages were too weak to work. I have directed special enquiries to be made in the adjoining villages.

In villages.—The condition of people especially in zemindari villages of the head-quarters and Senior Assistant Collectors' divisions is deteriorating. Relief is being given by grain doles and by cash to dependants at works; the numbers on relief are steadily increasing.

The following remittances are reported from emigrants to Burma through the Port officers noted below:—

	Rs.
Kasibugga	4,528
Jalmur	283
Kota Bommali	1,446
Tekkali	1,372
Total ...	7,629

Sickness and mortality.—No deaths from want of food have been reported except one doubtful case at Boirani. Opinions were divided as to whether the death was due to small-pox or want of food. I fear it was the latter. Fevers and small-pox are generally prevalent. The latter is very virulent in parts. More than half the people, entered on the relief list in one village, visited by the same, had either died or were laid up with the epidemic. Cholera is now subsiding at Tekkali but is bad near Narasannapet and Humma.

Cholera deaths.

Goomsur Deputy Collector's division	4
Head-quarters Deputy Collector's division	23
Berhampur division	45
Chicacole division	148
Total ...	220

Remarks.—The following test-works and kitchens have been opened during the fortnight:—

Test-works.	Kitchens.
(1) Mukundapur.	(1) Haripur. (5) Daigam.
(2) Repairs to Patta Mahadevi tank at Tekkali.	(2) Digupudi. (6) Ballipadra.
(3) Pilli tank at Chatrapur.	(3) Jalantra. (7) Jalumur.
(4) Santhoshapuram.	(4) Jarada.

The test-works are now attracting labourers. The attendance at kitchens is not as might be looked for under the present state of the season. This is due to caste prejudice fostered by the village officers in their own interests. In the sub-division amongst the Telugus, kitchens are freely attended.

The test-works at Atagada, Sorosingi and Mukundapur have been converted into relief-works, and orders have been issued for the conversion of Johomi and Pilli Cheruvu test-works into relief-works and for starting the extension of the Rushikulya canal as a relief-work at once.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

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

Taluk.	Number employed			Remarks.
	Last fort- night.	This fortnight.		
		On 7th.	On 14th.	
Purushottapur	302 383 ..	1,056 1,039 873	1,179 746 ..	Daigam relief-work. Number on test-work at Atagada. Mukundapur test-work opened during the fort- night.
Ganjám	.. 160	896 723 322 ..	842 477 979 196	Sorosingi test-work. Test-work at Jomi. Pilli tank at Chatrapur. Santhoshapuram test-work opened on the 12th instant.
Ichohhápúram	..	..	672	Budda hill quarry near Ichohhápúram. This was re-opened on the 12th instant as a test-work.
Tekkali	..	77	253	Repairs to Patta Mahadevi tank at Tekkali. This was started on the 7th instant.
Berhampur	..	..	116	
Total ..	845	4,486	5,460	

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

Taluka.	Number relieved										
	At kitchens.						In poor-houses.		In villages.		
	Dependants.			Others.							
	Last fort- night.	This fortnight.		Last fort- night.	This fortnight.		Last fort- night.	This fort- night.	Last fort- night.	This fortnight.	
		8th.	15th.		8th.	15th.				8th.	15th.
Russellkonda ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	197	340
Aska ..	..	..	..	27	35	36	..	..	..	80	..
Bodagada ..	..	..	..	..	14	21	..	..	26	51	53
Pedda Kimedi ..	..	..	..	81	110	167	..	..	233	488	551
Berhampur ..	..	..	..	128	413	660	..	..	..	..	..
Sompeta ..	..	..	..	16	30	47	..	..	1,503	5,919	9,431
Ichchhapuram ..	..	..	..	16	9	7	..	..	23	96	308
Ganjám ..	..	..	..	110	94	94	..	..	2,207	2,879	3,587
Purushottapuram ..	..	..	..	16	9	7	..	..	495	1,601	1,918
Tekkali ..	..	..	..	561	811	834	..	..	84	125	121
Narasannapet ..	..	..	..	..	..	183	..	..	39	38	38
Parlakimedi ..	..	..	..	102	253	340	..	..	..	187	517
Suráda ..	..	..	9	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	26
Total ..	..	..	9	1,041	1,769	2,392	..	..	4,610	11,581	16,970

Taluku.	Number of villages in which relief was given.		Weavers' relief.				
			Number of persons relieved			Number of cloths manufac- tured	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.		In the period.	Up to date.
				8th	15th.		
Russellkonda	..	..	19	42	100	Details not furnished.	
Aska	..	..	..	..	..		
Bodagada	51	..	..	..	..		
Pedda Kimedi	..	..	..	..	..		
Berhampur	..	..	349	575	1,300		
Simpeta	..	..	..	..	..		
Ichchhapuram	75	103	..	..	..		
Ganjám	45	105	..	154	172		
Purushottapuram	70	* 108	..	..	300		
Tekkali	7	..	..	..	..		
Narsannapet	1	..	..	..	..		
Parlakimedi	..	..	..	..	..		
Total ..	249	316	368	771	† 1,872		

* Includes 89 villages to which kitchen inmates belong.
† These are all heads of families containing each several working members.

Private charity.—There is no organized private charity at work, but the zemindar of Kallikóta and Attagada continues to maintain the kitchen at Haradamalli, near Kallikóta and the total number fed thereat on the 8th instant was 133. The General Deputy Collector, Goomsur, reports that some gentlemen of Aska and Russellkonda are daily giving a single meal to 60 and 20 beggars, respectively, on the average. The zemindar of Chinna Kimedi still continues feeding at his temples and feeds 90 persons daily having regard to caste prejudices.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The weavers in the sub-division are now coming forward for relief. Two depôts have been opened at Palasa and Tekkali. The Deputy Tahsildars of Parlakimedi and Tekkali have indented for thread.

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

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.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1																
Berhampur	..	..	..	..	2	300	30	2,880	9	630	1,140	1,11,795	30	2,880	9	630
Goomsur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chitacole	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Taluka.	Purchase of fodder.						Cattle and seed-grain.						Total.		Applications pending.	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
Berhampur	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	480	8	630	1,737	1,14,483	11	480	8	630
Goomsur	..	..	..	..	..	..	111	4,761	32	1,800	793	40,772	111	4,761	32	1,800
Chitacole	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	122	5,241	40	2,330	2,530	1,55,255	122	5,241	40	2,330

INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT OFFICERS.

Taluka and places visited.—The General Deputy Collector, Goomsur, has visited 46 villages in response to a special order from me, as I feared that the Ballipadra and Jagannadha Prasad, Muttas of Goomsur, which march with the Attagada taluk may be equally affected. He reports that though no acute distress exists, yet work is required and a few kitchens are wanted. A kitchen has been opened at Ballipadra and arrangement made for a test work on the Aska-Korchili road.

From what I have seen on the borders of this tract during the last few days, it is not a bit too early to start work and a very considerable amount of relief may be required here unless an early monsoon sets in.

The Principal Assistant Collector, Mr. Partridge, has been able to do but little touring and has only visited four villages. He was called away from his division to relieve me of part of the Agency sessions and was detained for five days in Chatrapur. There is no material change in the prospects of his division; there is a slight increase in the number of kitchen inmates and the weavers are also coming forward for relief. A test work at Tekkali has attracted a few labourers consisting for the most part of able-bodied persons discharged from the kitchens. The zemindar of Parlákimedi continues to employ about 1,000 persons, gives much relief both to his own zemindari and Tekkali taluk. Prices continue to rise in the Ramagiri Agency, but there has been good rain. The Khonds are engaged in cultivation and reported to be doing well.

The Special Assistant Collector, Mr. Willimot, has reported 12 villages as visited by him. I think that these are only his camps and do not include villages visited from his camp, as I know that he has been putting in very useful work. He apprehends that the state of Ichchhápura taluk may soon be the same as that of Sompéta, and if the price of food-grains is any criterion, Ichchhápura should be one of the most badly affected tracts in the district. The worst parts are the villages bordering the foot of the hills, and the savaras of Thumba, Saba, the Lower Agency ranges are also reported to be in a bad way. The zemindar of Mandasa is opening a few works, but no help in this direction can be expected from the proprietors of Jarada, Chikati and Budarasingi estates. I have applied by wire for a special agency grant of Rs. 5,000 for task works in the Thumba maliahs. This is out of the control of the district board and a special grant is therefore necessary. There has been an enormous increase in the number of recipients of grain-doles. Mr. Willimot states from his personal observation that this is not due to any want of strictness on the part of the circle inspectors who are rather too prone to reject cases of destitution without proper inquiry. I wish that I could say the same for the Ganjam division where my experience has been very different and the original lists have had to be entirely revised. Mr. Willimot remarks again, "with reference to B.P., dated 27th March 1897, No. 254 (Revenue Settlement), it may be mentioned that there is not the slightest hesitation in coming on the parish by taking out-door relief in the shape of grain-doles." Here again my experience has been different, but not in the sense intended by the Board. Some persons of higher caste have told me that they did not want grain-doles, as such grant would be detrimental to their caste. I informed them (as they were not in any way urgent cases) that they must wait till their hunger added a sauce to the dole and that money would not be given. I was, however, very pleased to note to-day that a lot of aged women whom I wished to draft on to gratuitous relief from the work at Lorasangi to-day expressed their preference to do a task and earn their wages. This is quite a new trait in the Uriya character. It may be that they thought they would get a higher wage and preferred money-payment to grain, but I think not.

The Uriya weavers of Purushottapuram have again attempted to raise a plea that to work for hire and to receive grain-doles for their dependants is derogatory to their caste. They wish for a box of thread and Rs. 4; this is a mere attempt to revert to the position of 1889. They say that they will do contract work, but not work for hire. It was pointed out to them that the work was contract work only, that the contract worked out to Rs. 2 instead of Rs. 4, but they refused to see it in this light. They will, no doubt, come to terms, as they have done elsewhere when really in need.

Collector's movement.—After leaving the Famine Commissioner, I visited Sômpêta and inspected the weavers' depôt and kitchen. As I found weavers being detained for payment, I sanctioned the entertainment of an assistant appraiser for the depôt where the work is very heavy; I then proceeded to Berhampur and inspected the kitchen, arriving at Chatrapur on the 3rd, remained there till the 6th, when I was relieved of the balance of my agency sessions cases by Mr. Partridge. My subsequent tour has taken me up through the Humma and Palur zemindaries to near the Bengal frontier and across the Kallikôta and Atagada zemindaries to Boirani. I have visited and made enquiries in 64 villages and checked the circle lists of those villages as far as possible. I was accompanied for the first week of my tour by Mr. Ashe, whom I have now placed in direct charge of relief operations in the Ganjam taluk. He has since been carefully through the Biridi zemindari, but reports things there not so black as they had been painted by the Circle Inspector.

With the single exception of Boirani to which I refer later, I found that the original lists prepared by the village officers were totally unreliable and some had apparently been adopted by the Circle Inspectors without proper inquiry. I found that in many cases strong, able bodied, persons or persons who were not destitute but dependants of the village officers were entered in the list, while low caste persons, who really needed relief, had not been entered.

This is the difficulty of having to work with the aid of zamindari officials who are frequently absent from the villages: indeed it is the exception rather than the rule for them to reside within their village. I enclose an extract from the diary of the new Biridi Circle Inspector, which describes the position fairly accurately: "The karnams of all the villages in the zamindari do not live in the villages themselves but far away from them, i.e., at Biridikota, Rumbha and Ganjam. The karjis are illiterate. I rarely find one independent ryot. Even to write a few lines each village must have its karnam. The grain-dealers cannot but keep accounts for the distribution of doles. They also being illiterate, cannot do so without the karnams and they who are karnams both by caste and profession are, in my humble opinion, apt to play consummate roguery with the grain-dealers and villagers. The karnam and karji are tigers in the opinion of the people. They think it is they that got them those doles. The present system is not quite sufficient, I think, to prevent fraud in the distribution of grain-doles."

I have myself had forced upon me the conviction that the so-called caste prejudice of certain classes against attending kitchens is no caste prejudice at all, but a chimera originating with and studiously fostered by the village officers who are in close touch with the heads of the caste. These officers know from past experience that Government will not allow people of any caste, however low, to die of starvation if it can be helped: they know that though hunger may be endured for a few days, doles will come in the end and they know that these doles cannot, whether in money or in kind, be distributed without their influence and aid. Whatever care and check may be exercised, there is no doubt that the entire Government dole is not always given: a shopkeeper will not weigh out his doles, but deals them out in measures of his own. The recipient takes what is given, makes no enquiries and probably is none the wiser. The shopkeeper's book is signed by the punchayetdars who are probably the village karji, the village karnam and the heads of the caste. The spoil, whatever it is, is shared. Detection is impossible. Were all these people free to attend Government kitchens this "profit" would be lost to the village official, over whom, at present, Government officers have no control. Hence the claim of caste prejudice is put forward for a class of people, whom the very people, who secretly urge it on, would be the last to admit in their own private relations as possessing any caste whatsoever.

I am not merely theorising, though the theory is sound enough, but I have been thinking over the cause of the failure of the kitchen in this division. I find, firstly, that people who will not resort to a Government kitchen will go freely to an institution maintained by a zemindar. This I saw at Haradamali, where I inspected the kitchen maintained by the zemindar of Kallikôta. I found there not only Bavuris but Odiyas and a karnam.

Secondly, (the instances of this are numerous); many people who will not attend a kitchen within the limits of their own village go to the next one trusting that the fact may not be known.

Thirdly, persons who have, in my presence, refused to go to a kitchen under any circumstances, have taken bread cooked by my own cook and biscuits from my hands. These three facts go a long way to show that in some case the so-called caste prejudice is only skin deep. It is the heads of caste and the village officers who egg the people on to put forward this plea, to satisfy their own honourable avarice. I do not deny that there are no exceptions, but the general rule is as stated. This will and must continue until village officers and heads of caste are rendered personally responsible for any death in their respective village or caste owing to refusal to attend a kitchen when no reasonable prejudice exists. A possible alternative is to restrict the grant of grain-doles to central depôts to be established by Government.

One or two cases of difficulty have occurred. The first is in regard to able-bodied women of certain castes (Aravas and the like) who, as a matter of fact, can perform no out-door work except agricultural operations within the limit of their own village. Fathers and sons can come to work. Children under seven can be dealt with as dependants, but I think that the wives and daughters over seven years of age, so long as they are in robust health and fit for work, are not entitled to Government doles but may be proper subjects for the "Charitable Relief Fund."

There is again the case of children whose parents can and will not work and who will not allow their children to attend kitchens. If grain-doles are allowed to the children, the parents take a portion for themselves. A very bad case of this was brought to my notice at Palur. A man, his wife and a boy about twelve years old, who was dumb and half-witted, had been in receipt of doles for some time. The parents were both in good condition; the boy was starved to a skeleton. On a plate of rice being placed before him, he ate it with avidity without any regard for caste prejudice. He had evidently not seen food for days and the parents thinking the boy's life worthless had supplemented their rations with his. The matter was one of urgency. I removed the boy to the Rumbha kitchen on special diet. The parents were struck off the list and told to go to the Jomi work.

In the course of my tour I found cholera bad in the Hamma zemindari and my own camp did not escape. Small-pox was very virulent in Kallikôta and parts of Atagada.

I visited the test work at Jomi and the relief works at Dayigam and Atagada. There were about 400 at Jomi and 1,000 at each of the other places. The overseer at the former work seemed to be actuated more by fear of his own bodily health than by care for the people under his control, and, on my leaving, told the Deputy Tahsildar that he would stop the work as he was unwell. He has been duly reported to his own department. The coolies here generally were in good condition, but a few emaciated cases were observed amongst the children. No arrangement had been made for payment of dependants. At Dayigam and Atagada the coolies, with the exception of some Khonds at the former place, were in good condition, better at the latter than the former place. At neither place had proper arrangements been made for water-supply to the gangs at work, though strict orders on the subject had previously been issued.

The dependants entered on the rolls were comparatively few but, considering the small proportion that the number of children furnished to the total number at work, there must have been many children left behind at home for whom no allowance was made. The task at each place seemed to be properly fixed and not excessive. It was not however turned out in full; this is probably due to the fact that the cooly took a full three hours in the middle of the day instead of two allowed by the code.

At these works payments were in arrears of four and five days, respectively. Complaints were loud on the subject of non-payment. The paymaster is a pensioned jemadar, but I regret to state that I find pensioners quite unsuited for such employment. If they are posted to a place that they do not like, they at once wish to give up the appointment. The present man has wished to resign on the plea of ill-health.

(after I had refused a transfer), and was informed that he would require to be relieved in due course. In the meantime, though he has funds he has not proceeded to Atagada for payment of arrears. I consider that when pensioners are given employment of this nature a condition should be attached to it that their pension will be liable to reduction or forfeiture for neglect of duty or misconduct. I regret to have to make these remarks. I have from the first tried to engage the service of pensioners, but found them unreliable and, having their pensions to fall back upon, independent to a degree.

At Boirani, my last camp, I found that the list of needy-poor, framed by the village officers long ago, on 16th January 1897, had been most accurately verified by the present condition of the people. This is a singular instance of careful investigation shown by zamindari village officials. Work here is eagerly demanded and a test-work will be started at once. I issued instructions for the immediate opening of a kitchen and expect an attendance of nearly 200 on the opening day.

I regret to state that since the original list made by the village officials of Boirani was prepared, it has never once been checked by the Deputy Tahsildar and the omission on the part of that officer, M.R. Ky. S. V. Modaliar Naidu, to visit such an important centre during the last three months is only a further instance of the gross neglect and apathy which has been the prevailing characteristic of the gross his work since his return from leave. He is under orders of transfer from his present sphere of inaction. I regret that the District Medical officer could not see his way to invalidate him prior to his return to duty. He has only four months more to serve for pension.

I apologise for the length of the answer.

I apologise for the length of the appendix to the narrative, but it will not, I think, be again necessary to deal at any length with the peculiar features presented by this district to the application of the provisions of the Famine Code.

Resolution—dated 8th June 1897, No. 422.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall in the district during the fortnight under report was below the average, though heavy falls were registered at Digupudi and Suradda. The supply of water for drinking purposes was generally insufficient in the affected area; the district board allotted funds for its improvement. Agricultural operations were being carried on to a certain extent, but, except in the extreme south, the water-supply was insufficient for irrigation.

3. Fodder was generally available.

3. Fodder was generally available, but was growing scarce in some parts. Pasture is reported to have been insufficient except in parts, but improving in the places where rain fell. The supply of fodder and pasture, however, appears to be to the normal hot-weather standard, and there need be no anxiety for cattle, whose condition is reported to be generally good.

4. The price of rice is, on the average, almost stationary, though local variations are reported. The price of ragi has risen sharply, chiefly at the recording stations within the affected area. The position of prices is shown by the accompanying table :—

Rate.	Measures per rupee.	
	Rice.	Ragi.
Normal	17-0	30-0
Warning	13-6	22-5
Scarcity	10-2	15-0
Current	11-1	14-6
May 1889	11-1	17-4
Do. 1878	8-8	12-7

The markets are fairly supplied. Paddy is being imported by road from Nyagarh and Orissa, but the exports by rail and sea continue to exceed the imports by these routes.

5. The condition of people on works is reported to be generally good, though there are some bad cases. People in zemindari villages are distinctly in worse condition than those in Government villages, and, in spite of a large distribution of doles, they are said to be deteriorating. The numbers on relief works are six times what they were at the end of the previous fortnight, while the numbers on gratuitous relief have quadrupled. The latter are, however, three times the former, the figures being 19,362 on gratuitous relief and 5,460 on works. The proportion compares favourably with that of 1889. Weavers are also now coming forward in large numbers. The objections of the weavers at Purushottapuram are evidently not genuine, and they are probably hoping to force the grant of money-doles; they should not, however, be given in to in this matter.

6. The Collector again enumerates some of the difficulties to be overcome in administering relief in his district and he offers an explanation of the so-called prejudices of the Uriyas, in which the Famine Commissioner is inclined to concur. The headmen have in former years probably derived handsome profits from a generous distribution of money-doles, and look with disfavour upon the introduction of any more easily checked system. It is doubtful if village officers and heads of castes can be made responsible in the manner suggested by the Collector; the grant of grain-doles only at central depôts is not contemplated by the Code, but, if the Collector thinks that such an arrangement can be properly supervised and is not likely to result in deserving objects of relief being deprived of doles, there is no objection to his making an experiment in consideration of the exceptional conditions of his district. Those who are entitled to grain-doles are in no way different from those who are entitled to be fed in kitchens, except in the possession of a superior grade of caste, and should be just as easily able to attend the central depôts as the others are able to attend central kitchens. It should be seen, however, that the central depôts are not too far apart.

7. The Collector's suggested method of dealing with Aravas and the like may stand, as, fortunately, there are some funds from the Indian Famine Relief Committee available for the purpose.

8. The case of children whose parents can, but will not, work, but will not allow their children to attend kitchens, is of more difficulty. There is, no doubt, that such children must not be allowed to starve to death through the apathy and selfishness of their parents, and the only method of dealing with them appears to be that adopted by the Collector.

9. It is trusted that the Collector set right the irregularities discovered at Jomi before leaving the work.

10. The attention of Government is invited to the Collector's remarks as to the unreliability of military pensioners. It is deserving of consideration whether pensioners, who accept subsequent employment, should not be liable to have their pensions curtailed or forfeited for neglect of duty or misconduct. The Famine Commissioner, in a long experience, has been anxious and willing to co-operate with the military authorities for the employment of pensioners, and his deliberate experience is that military pensioners are, as a class, ignorant and stupid to a degree not common amongst their brethren in the ordinary population, but also full of conceit and above their work. They are also often hopelessly bad linguists, acknowledging only their mongrel Hindustani.

11. The Famine Commissioner notes with dissatisfaction the conduct of M.R.Ry. S. V. Modaliar Naidu; his inefficiency should be brought to notice when his application for pension comes to be considered.

12. The disposal of applications for loans proceeds but slowly. The following amounts have been disbursed :—

During the week ending—

								Rs.
May	1st	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,375
Do.	8th	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,260
Do.	15th	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,390
Do.	22nd	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,800

Over 3,000 applications involving more than two lakhs and a half remained to be disposed of.

13. Government will observe that the area of distress is spreading gradually. Udayagiri is far outside the tract previously supposed to be affected. The Collector is, however, watchful, and it is not likely that any extension of distress will escape his early notice.

14. The sums remitted from Burma seem small. The Famine Commissioner has heard that wages are falling there, as, with immigration, they are bound to fall, and that some coolies have been obliged to return.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

ORDER—No. 517, Revenue, dated 2nd July 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The instructions issued in paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 are approved.

3. With regard to the remarks in paragraph 10, the Famine Commissioner's attention will be drawn to article 383 of the Civil Service Regulations under which Civil pensioners are liable to have their pensions forfeited or reduced for grave misconduct. The case of Military pensioners is governed by volume I, part II, of Army Regulations, and the Government does not think that a case has been made out for addressing the Government of India in the sense suggested in regard to them.

4. The Government would like to have in due course a report of the action taken by the Public Works Department in regard to the officers responsible for the shortcomings noticed by the Collector at the works of Jomi, Daigam and Atagada and referred to page 9 of his narrative.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Local and Municipal Department.
" the Financial Department.
" the Public Department.
" the Accountant-General.

Ed. P. Seetharam.

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