

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 525.

Dated 2nd July, 1897.

[Despatch Abstract.]

For slightly. Narrative.

Recording Board's Proceedings submit
to Government, with remarks, — of the
Vizagapatam district for the period en-
ding 31st May 1897.

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CURRENT No. 52

Al. M. L.

Print
2/2/77

From

The Board of Rev.
Rev. Selt.

Order (Pres). No 5258 / 2nd July 1897.

Recorded

No. 436

2. With reference to para 8 of the 1st the Finance Committee is referred to the instructions in G.O. ⁴⁷³ 18-697. in regard to the ~~steps~~ closing of relief work.

Dated 15th June 1897

Received

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

(Put 4. with the
Season Report).

SUBJECT

Subm. fortnightly
narrative of the Vizagapatnam
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31st May 1887

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BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.



Recd.

Enclosures

Regd.

1897.

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Printed June th.

Proceedings 15th June 1897, No. 436.

JUNE.

Fortnightly Narrative.—Submitting to Government, with remarks, — of the Vizagapatam district for the period ending 31st May 1897.

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 May 1897:—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply.—

	District rainfall	
	Actual rainfall.	Expected rainfall.
In the fortnight	INCHES.	INCHES.
Up to the fortnight	1.76	0.46
	3.66	3.66

There was very good rain at almost all stations on the night of the 19th. It varied from 4.70 inches at Vizianagram to about 2 inches in other parts within 15 or 20 miles of the coast and less than an inch at stations under the hills. There is little trouble about drinking water anywhere now. Most tanks have received some supply and about Vizianagram they have mostly received a supply sufficient for 1½ to 2 months. Since the 19th there have been a few scattered showers, useful but not important.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—Dry cultivation has commenced almost everywhere and is proceeding briskly. Ploughing is general. Gingelly, cotton and cumbu being sown somewhat freely, and ragi less so. Cumbu is in many places nearly ready to transplant, which will be done with the next shower, ragi also where the seed-beds are under wells. Vudala, an inferior paddy grown on dry lands, which comes to harvest in six weeks, is doing well where it has been sown. Except what has been recently sown there are few crops standing, only the early gingelly and indigo in a few places. The rain has done good to these. Another shower within this week will make the prospects of the dry crops quite bright.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture above the hot-weather average and sufficient everywhere. Fodder very scarce and unprocurable in parts. The want is supplied by hundreds of grass-cutters. There is no anxiety about cattle now, though of course the inferior uncared-for herds are very poor.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—Prospects are for the present considerably improved. The ryots consider the season favourable and are full of hope. Dry cultivation has got a good start and is advanced for the time of year. It is, however, rather risky work, as there may be no more rain till the middle of June, in which case most of the sowings now made will be lost. The country looks green and fresh, and water is almost everywhere visible.

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 15th of May 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		Ragi.		Cumbu.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
1. Parvatipuram	9.51	9.43	16.48	14.65	17.50	15.40	Prices have risen smartly and ragi is for the first time just above the scarcity rate. The prices have been for a long time cheaper than in the two neighbouring districts and though there is not much trade with Ganjam, there is with Odishvari, and our prices are bound to level up to those of that district. There is besides a large demand for seed grain which has assisted the rise.
2. Saluru	11.07	9.22	17.64	14.40	14.70	13.30	
3. Palkonda	10.17	9.04	15.15	13.13	18.81	13.86	
4. Gajapatinagram	9.43	9.02	15.54	13.22	17.28	13.68	
5. Chipurupalli	9.84	8.81	..	14.04	..	17.28	
6. Vizianagram	9.04	8.13	14.64	12.12	13.86	12.87	
7. Vizagapatam	9.04	7.91	14.44	12.82	13.86	12.87	
8. Chodavaram	9.50	9.50	19.11	17.29	18.48	16.72	
9. Anakapalle	9.00	9.00	15.47	14.56	..	..	
10. Yellamanchilli	10.00	9.00	14.56	13.65	..	14.08	
11. Narsapatam	10.00	9.40	15.12	13.44	16.20	14.58	
Average	9.69	9.04	15.81	13.94	16.27	14.46	

Activity of trade.—Trade is fairly active—especially in rice and paddy—less so in dry grains, the stock of which is becoming contracted.

	Exports.	Imports.
	MDs.	MDs.
By sea for the period ending 29th May 1897	329	650
By rail do. do.	923	25,463
		(carts)
By road from Jeypore for the period ending 29th May 1897	..	4,657

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On works.—The condition of relief workers is generally good. Cases of really bad condition are very rare. During the fortnight attendance has been irregular, many people going away for a little to attend to agriculture and coming back again.

In villages.—Good, with very few exceptions. In accordance with the orders of Government detailed enquiries are now being made and village lists got ready against a possible failure of the monsoon. These have not yet disclosed any distress which is not amenable to the measures at present being taken. In Vizianagram some of the Kshatriyas, who will on no account work, consented to come to the kitchen. They did so and a cook of their own caste was provided, but after a trial they gave it up and said they would not come unless given rice to eat. In this case beggars are choosers. The weavers at Pondur have been again offered relief, but, the Principal Assistant Collector reports, "rejected, it with scorn." Those at Rayavaram applied for advances of Rs. 20 or 30 per loom to be repaid like agriculturists' loans, but decline task-work.

Sickness and Mortality.—Cholera is very prevalent and getting worse in Parvatipuram, Palkonda and Viravilli taluks chiefly. It is also bad in the Gunupur hill tracts, where several villages were deserted, the inhabitants removing to the jungle and leaving corpses in the village. In several villages these were collected and buried by the local medical officer who was sent out. The District Surgeon thinks that temporary abandonment of the affected village is the best sanitary measure they can take. No deaths from starvation.

Remarks.—With the exception of cholera, health is good, and seeing that the district has now gone through a full six months of scarcity and high prices, I think it is quite remarkable that there are not more traces of its effects to be seen either in the health or condition of the population.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

Works.—In what taluks open and comparison of numbers:—

Taluku.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
<i>Relief Works.</i>			
I. Vizianagram—			These figures show an increase over those reported last fortnight. The maximum was, however, reached in the figures reported by telegram on 17th May. There has been a progressive decrease in the two following weeks. The rain of 19th May took away a number of workers, but there has been no good rain in the affected tracts since then and some have been coming back. The decrease will be much more marked with the next useful fall of rain.
(1) Pusapatirega	3,443	3,716	
II. Bimlipatam—			
(1) Dakmarri	3,015	3,523	
(2) Padmanabham	1,487	2,429	
III. Vizagapatam—			
(1) Gazuvaka	2,174	1,158	
(2) Fendur	1,653	1,608	
IV. Sarvasiddhi—			
(1) Kondakarla	1,977	1,773	
Total ..	13,749	14,207	
<i>Test Relief Work.</i>			
I. Chipurupalli—			
(1) Ranastalam .. .	526	547	
Total ..	526	547	
Grand Total ..	14,275	14,754	

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

Taluku.	Number relieved			
	At kitchens.			
	Dependants.		Others.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
<i>Government.</i>				
I. Párvatipuram taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Párvatipuram ..	..	..	120	173
II. Chipurupalli taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Ranastalam ..	32	79	283	192
III. Vizianagram taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Pusapatirega ..	125	103	33	64
(2) " at Vizianagram ..	..	..	195	238
IV. Bimlipatam taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Dakmarri ..	81	194	19	17
(2) " at Padmanabham ..	116	136	36	115
(3) " at Bhogapuram ..	158	..	23	245
V. Vizagapatam taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Garuvaka ..	199	187	22	39
(2) " at Pendur ..	193	198	72	43
VI. Sarvasiddhi taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Kondakarla ..	76	73	161	198
Total ..	980	970	964	1,324
<i>Rajah Gajapati Row's kitchens—</i>				
1. Vizagapatam	..	..	225	233
2. Anakápalli	..	..	130	146
3. Sarvasiddhi	..	..	666	623
Total ..	..	..	1,021	902
Grand Total ..	980	970	1,985	2,226

Number of villages in which relief was given, &c.—Nil.

Private charity.—In spite of the lamented death of the Maharajah of Vizianagram, his charities—poor-house and Brahman chattram—are being continued. The Rajah of Bobbili, the Rani Saheb of Wadhwan, Rani Ankitam Atchayamma, Messrs. Perla Narayana Chetti, the Gopalpur Proprietor, and K. Venkanna Chetti are dispensing much private charity. *Facile princeps* in this respect is the Rajah Gajapati Row.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Prospects have somewhat brightened during the fortnight, but whether distress is to increase or gradually to disappear depends on the weather of the next three weeks. The numbers on works have fallen off a little and with more good rain will do so still more. If there is no more rain before the monsoon breaks, the numbers will go up again, but if there is and if the monsoon opens favourably, there will be no need of works by the last week of the month, as employment will be amply available and the workers have been kept in good enough condition and spirits to be ready to resume their normal avocations. Women, however, will be in no hurry to leave the works where they are better paid than they will be anywhere else. The only disquieting feature in the situation at present is the somewhat rapid rise in prices. In the north of the district it is stated that fear of cholera has paralysed trade. Elsewhere the demand for seed-grain is large, and stocks of dry grains are perhaps not very extensive. Besides prices must perforce level up to those of the Gódvári district. This rise in prices may render necessary some extension of gratuitous relief, since the monsoon, which brings employment to workers, will do nothing for the helpless. Only a fall in prices can affect them. I may therefore have to open more kitchens, especially in parts not hitherto affected. I expect that the provision of plenty of kitchens will amply meet the distress if there is a fair monsoon, and in any case the enquiries now being conducted will show if any other form of gratuitous relief is called for. This I do not expect, except perhaps in a few isolated cases. The next fortnight or three weeks will be a period of painful anxiety.

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

Taluka.	Repair and construction of wells.						Other purposes.						Total.				Number of wells.			
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or re- paired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1. Palkonda	..	..	..	..	..	Rs. 2,600	7	Rs. 1,000	7	Rs. 1,970	10	Rs. 1,970	7	Rs. 1,000	7	Rs. 1,000	10	Rs. 1,970	..	..
2. Sarvasiddhi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3. Gollonda	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4. Srungavarapukota	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Parvatipuram	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	..	..	7	2,600	11	1,775	11	1,775	40	11,690	11	1,775	11	1,775	47	14,290	..	..

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.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
1. Palkonda	(a) 15	Rs. 540	15	Rs. 540	..	..	164	Rs. 7,476	164	Rs. 7,476	212	Rs. 12,757	168	Rs. 8,016	212	Rs. 12,757	39	Rs. 12,757
2. Sarvasiddhi	(b) 438	8,926	438	8,926	..	..	53	3,475	53	3,475	264	41,005	53	3,475	264	41,005	39	Rs. 12,757
3. Gollonda	..	..	..	..	..	..	(b) 438	11,072	(b) 438	11,072	(b) 719	43,429	(b) 438	19,808	(b) 719	43,429	39	Rs. 12,757
4. Srungavarapukota	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Parvatipuram	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	453	9,366	453	9,366	722	13,859	655	22,023	655	22,023	1,185	97,191	659	31,339	1,188	97,191	39	Rs. 12,757

(a) Includes eleven applications shown in column 28.

(b) In all these cases fodder, seed-grain and cattle were applied for in one and the same application.

INSPECTIONS—TALUKS AND PLACES VISITED.

Principal Assistant Collector.

Bimlipatam taluk	...	...	...	...	Chittivalasa.
Vizianagram taluk	...	...	...	...	Bimlipatam.
Chipurupalle taluk	...	...	...	...	Padmanabham.
					Vizianagram, to which he was called in on account of the Maharaja's death.
					Ranastalam, Pondar and surrounding villages.

Head Assistant Collector.

Sarvasiddhi taluk	...	...	...	...	Uppavaram.
					Jaganadhapuram.
					Melupaka.
					Ramarayadupalem.
					Yellamanchilli.
					Panchadarla.
					Kondakarla.
					Nakkapalli.
					Bhimavaram.
					Lakkavaram.
					Timmarajupeta.
					Kokkirapalli.
					Peddapalli.
Anakapalle taluk	...	...	...	...	Munagapaka and Anakapalle.
Gollonda taluk	...	...	...	...	Makarapalem, Gangavaram and Narsapatam.

Senior Assistant Collector.

Parvatipuram taluk	...	...	...	...	Kurupam and twenty other villages.
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Hosur Deputy Collector.

Vizagapatam taluk	...	...	...	...	Adivinaram, Narayanapuram, Pendurti, Gazavaka and other villages.
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Collector.

I was in camp 13 days out of the fortnight. Inspected Gazavaka and Kondakarla relief works and kitchens at these places—Anakapalle, Vizagapatam and Vizianagram. I was called in to Vizianagram by the death of the Maharaja, which interrupted my famine inspections on the 23rd.

RESOLUTION—dated 15th June 1897, No. 436.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall of the fortnight was generally good and all apprehensions as to want of water for drinking are now removed. Irrigation tanks also received supplies. Dry cultivation was proceeding briskly.

Pasture is above the average, and, although fodder is scarce, there need be no anxiety for the present about cattle.

3. Prices rose smartly throughout the district, and ragi is now above the scarcity rate. The rise is due to the influence of prices in the adjoining districts. The relative position of prices is shown by the following figures:—

Rate.	Measures per rupee.		
	Rice.	Ragi.	Cumbu.
Normal	15-0	28-0	30-0
Warning	12-0	21-0	22-5
Scarcity	9-0	14-0	15-0
Current	9-0	13-9	14-5
May 1892	10-0	15-7	16-6
May 1878	7-6	12-5	12-1

Trade was fairly active.

4. The condition of the people was generally good. In former years it used to be a common expectation that cholera would spread down from the north, and, in view of its prevalence in the two northern districts, the Sanitary Commissioner will be asked to consider whether all necessary precautions have been taken to prevent its spread to the south. The Deccan districts have been singularly exempt this year; but if the germs of the disease once spread, the harvest will be terrible, and, now that the Presidency is knit up with railways, the danger is much greater than in former years.

5. The numbers on works increased but very slightly, and it is reported that many absented themselves for short periods for work in the fields. The falling off has continued since the close of the period reported on.

The Kshatriyas in Vizianagaram should not be relieved by doles. It is evident that they have no objection to attending kitchens, and if they refuse to accept ragi food or to work, they must, for the present, be left to themselves. They should be made to understand, however, that work or ragi cakes in kitchens are available for them, if they choose to apply.

6. The following disbursements have been made under the Loans Acts in the past four weeks:—

Week ending—

	Rs.
May 8th	2,470
" 15th	6,456
" 22nd	6,406
" 29th	2,502

Progress during the last week has not been so satisfactory as in the preceding two weeks. There are many applications pending, and they should be disposed of without delay.

7. The report strikes the first note of cheerfulness from the affected districts since the commencement of distress. It is to be trusted that the fair prospects may not be belied by a failure or delay of the monsoon.

8. The Collector is right in saying that gratuitous relief would have to be kept up for some time after works are closed. He should consider, in case the season should distinctly improve, how works can best be closed. Vizagapatam is different from the other affected districts, in that relief has not been found necessary there within the memory of the present generation; and, if the season improve, it is the first district in which relief, and especially works, can be closed. The difficulty, as he fore-shadows, will be to get rid of the women. The weakly men and women might hang on a little longer; there are few of the former; but the question is how, when the time comes, to weed out the stronger and less needy women, for, wages being what they are in the two northern districts, the famine wage, to the women, is always a temptation. It might be advisable to depart somewhat from the strict letter of section 97 of the Famine Code, and weed the women into gangs according to their physique, without reference to their villages or relationships. It would then be possible to require of the really able-bodied, of whom there are so many in Vizagapatam, a task calculated without any reference to the weaker members of a gang, and this, duly enforced, will soon eliminate all who can really afford to go. The really destitute could then be left on relief for a month or two longer. The Collector will bear the matter in mind so as to be able to act when the time comes.

(True Copy and Extract.)

Famine Secretary. 20/6

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

Exd. S. J. Pereira.

Government {1897} of Madras. REVENUE.

Recd.

Enclosures

Regd.

1897.

Spare copies

G.O., No. 525, 2nd July 1897.

JULY.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting to Government, with remarks, — of the Vizagapatam district for the period ending 31st May 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 15th June 1897, No. 436:—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Vizagapatam district during the period ending 31st May 1897:—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply.—

	District rainfall.	
	Actual rainfall.	Expected rainfall.
	INCHES.	INCHES.
In the fortnight	...	...
Up to the fortnight	...	...
	1.76	0.46
	3.66	3.66

There was very good rain at almost all stations on the night of the 19th. It varied from 4.70 inches at Vizianagram to about 2 inches in other parts within 15 or 20 miles of the coast and less than an inch at stations under the hills. There is little trouble about drinking water anywhere now. Most tanks have received some supply and about Vizianagram they have mostly received a supply sufficient for 1½ to 2 months. Since the 19th there have been a few scattered showers, useful but not important.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—Dry cultivation has commenced almost everywhere and is proceeding briskly. Ploughing is general. Gingelly, cotton and cumbu being sown somewhat freely, and ragi less so. Cumbu is in many places nearly ready to transplant, which will be done with the next shower, ragi also where the seed-beds are under wells. Vudala, an inferior paddy grown on dry lands, which comes to harvest in six weeks, is doing well where it has been sown. Except what has been recently sown there are few crops standing, only the early gingelly and indigo in a few places. The rain has done good to these. Another shower within this week will make the prospects of the dry crops quite bright.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture above the hot-weather average and sufficient everywhere. Fodder very scarce and unprocurable in parts. The want is supplied by hundreds of grass-cutters. There is no anxiety about cattle now, though of course the inferior uncared-for herds are very poor.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—Prospects are for the present considerably improved. The ryots consider the season favourable and are full of hope. Dry cultivation has got a good start and is advanced for the time of year. It is, however, rather risky work, as there may be no more rain till the middle of June, in which case most of the sowings now made will be lost. The country looks green and fresh, and water is almost everywhere visible.

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 15th of May 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		Ragi.		Cumbu.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
1. Párvatipuram	9.51	9.43	16.48	14.65	17.50	15.40	Prices have risen smartly and ragi is for the first time just above the scarcity rate. The prices have been for a long time cheaper than in the two neighbouring districts and though there is not much trade with Ganjam, there is with Gódvári, and our prices are bound to level up to those of that district. There is besides a large demand for seed grain which has assisted the rise.
2. Saluru	11.07	9.22	17.64	14.40	14.70	13.30	
3. Palkonda	10.17	9.04	15.15	13.13	18.81	13.86	
4. Gajapatinagram	9.43	9.02	15.64	13.32	17.28	13.68	
5. Chiparupalli	9.84	9.84	..	14.04	..	17.28	
6. Vizianagram	9.04	8.13	14.64	12.12	13.86	12.87	
7. Vizagapatam	9.04	7.91	14.44	12.82	13.86	12.87	
8. Chódavaram	9.50	9.50	19.11	17.29	18.48	16.72	
9. Anakápallo	9.00	9.00	15.47	14.56	..	..	
10. Yellamanchilli	10.00	9.00	14.56	13.65	..	14.08	
11. Narsapatam	10.00	9.40	15.12	13.44	16.20	14.68	
Average	9.69	9.04	15.81	13.94	16.27	14.46	

Activity of trade.—Trade is fairly active—especially in rice and paddy—less so in dry grains, the stock of which is becoming contracted.

			Exports.		Imports.
			MDS.	MDS.	
By sea for the period ending 29th May 1897	...	...	3.9	6.50	
By rail do. do.	...	...	923	25,463	
				(carts)	
By road from Jeypore for the period ending 29th May 1897	...	...		4,657	

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On works.—The condition of relief workers is generally good. Cases of really bad condition are very rare. During the fortnight attendance has been irregular, many people going away for a little to attend to agriculture and coming back again.

In villages.—Good, with very few exceptions. In accordance with the orders of Government detailed enquiries are now being made and village lists got ready against a possible failure of the monsoon. These have not yet disclosed any distress which is not amenable to the measures at present being taken. In Vizianagram some of the Kshatriyas, who will on no account work, consented to come to the kitchen. They did so and a cook of their own caste was provided, but after a trial they gave it up and said they would not come unless given rice to eat. In this case beggars are choosers. The weavers at Pondur have been again offered relief, but the Principal Assistant Collector reports, "rejected it with scorn." Those at Rayavaram applied for advances of Rs. 20 or 30 per loom to be repaid like agriculturists' loans, but decline task-work.

Sickness and Mortality.—Cholera is very prevalent and getting worse in Parvatipuram, Palkonda and Viravilli taluks chiefly. It is also bad in the Gunupur hill tracts, where several villages were deserted, the inhabitants removing to the jungle and leaving corpses in the village. In several villages these were collected and buried by the local medical officer who was sent out. The District Surgeon thinks that temporary abandonment of the affected village is the best sanitary measure they can take. No deaths from starvation.

Remarks.—With the exception of cholera, health is good, and seeing that the district has now gone through a full six months of scarcity and high prices, I think it is quite remarkable that there are not more traces of its effects to be seen either in the health or condition of the population.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

Works.—In what taluks open and comparison of numbers:—

1907/8.

Taluka.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
<i>Relief Works.</i>			
I. Vizianagram—			These figures show an increase over those reported last fortnight. The maximum was, however, reached in the figures reported by telegram on 17th May. There has been a progressive decrease in the two following weeks. The rain of 19th May took away a number of workers, but there has been no good rain in the affected tracts since then and some have been coming back. The decrease will be much more marked with the next useful fall of rain.
(1) Pusapatirega	3,443	3,716	
II. Bimlipatam—			
(1) Dakmarri	3,015	3,523	
(2) Padmanabham	1,487	2,429	
III. Vizagapatam—			
(1) Gazuvaka	2,174	1,158	
(2) Pendur	1,653	1,608	
IV. Sarvasiddhi—			
(1) Kondakarla	1,977	1,773	
Total ..	13,749	14,207	
<i>Test Relief Work.</i>			
I. Chipurupalli—			
(1) Banastalam	526	547	
Total ..	526	547	
Grand Total ..	14,275	14,754	

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

Taluks.	Number relieved			
	At kitchens.			
	Dependants.		Others.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
<i>Government.</i>				
I. Párvatipuram taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Párvatipuram ..	..	..	120	173
II. Chipurupalli taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Ranastalam ..	32	79	283	192
III. Vizianagram taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Pusapatirega ..	125	103	33	64
(2) " at Vizianagram ..	..	..	195	238
IV. Bimlipatam taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Dakmarri ..	81	194	19	17
(2) " at Padmanabham ..	116	136	36	115
(3) " at Bhogapuram ..	158	..	23	245
V. Vizagapatam taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Garuvaka ..	199	187	22	39
(2) " at Pendur ..	193	198	72	43
VI. Sarvasiddhi taluk—				
(1) Kitchen at Kondakarla ..	76	73	161	198
Total ..	980	970	964	1,324
<i>Rajah Gajapati Row's kitchens—</i>				
1. Vizagapatam	..	..	225	233
2. Anakapalli	..	..	130	146
3. Sarvasiddhi	..	..	666	523
Total ..	..	..	1,021	902
Grand Total ..	980	970	1,985	2,226

Number of villages in which relief was given, &c.—Nil.

Private charity.—In spite of the lamented death of the Maharajah of Vizianagram, his charities—poor-house and Brahman chattram—are being continued. The Rajah of Bobbili, the Rani Saheb of Wadhwan, Rani Ankitam Atchayamma, Messrs. Perla Narayana Chetti, the Gopalpur Proprietor, and K. Venkanna Chetti are dispensing much private charity. *Facile princeps* in this respect is the Rajah Gajapati Row.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Prospects have somewhat brightened during the fortnight, but whether distress is to increase or gradually to disappear depends on the weather of the next three weeks. The numbers on works have fallen off a little and with more good rain will do so still more. If there is no more rain before the monsoon breaks, the numbers will go up again, but if there is and if the monsoon opens favourably, there will be no need of works by the last week of the month, as employment will be amply available and the workers have been kept in good enough condition and spirits to be ready to resume their normal avocations. Women, however, will be in no hurry to leave the works where they are better paid than they will be anywhere else. The only disquieting feature in the situation at present is the somewhat rapid rise in prices. In the north of the district it is stated that fear of cholera has paralysed trade. Elsewhere the demand for seed-grain is large, and stocks of dry grains are perhaps not very extensive. Besides prices must perforce level up to those of the Gódávari district. This rise in prices may render necessary some extension of gratuitous relief, since the monsoon, which brings employment to workers, will do nothing for the helpless. Only a fall in prices can affect them. I may therefore have to open more kitchens, especially in parts not hitherto affected. I expect that the provision of plenty of kitchens will amply meet the distress if there is a fair monsoon, and in any case the enquiries now being conducted will show if any other form of gratuitous relief is called for. This I do not expect, except perhaps in a few isolated cases. The next fortnight or three weeks will be a period of painful anxiety.

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

Taluka.	Repair and construction of wells.						Other purposes.						Total.						Number of wells.	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
1. Palkonda	2	..	..	..	7	Rs. 2,600	7	Rs. 1,000	7	Rs. 1,000	10	Rs. 1,970	7	Rs. 1,000	7	Rs. 1,000	10	Rs. 1,970	20	..
2. Sarvasiddhi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3. Golconda	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4. Srungavarapukota	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Párvatipuram	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

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.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
1. Palkonda	(a) 15	Rs. 540	15	Rs. 540	..	..	164	Rs. 7,476	164	Rs. 7,476	212	Rs. 12,757	168	Rs. 8,016	168	Rs. 8,016	212	Rs. 12,757
2. Sarvasiddhi	(b) 438	8,326	(b) 438	8,326	(b) 719	13,649	438	8,326	438	8,326	719	13,649	438	8,326	438	8,326	719	13,649
3. Golconda	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4. Srungavarapukota	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Párvatipuram	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	453	9,366	453	9,366	722	13,859	655	22,023	655	22,023	1,185	27,191	659	31,389	659	31,389	1,188	1,11,050

(a) Includes eleven applications shown in column 28.

(b) In all these cases fodder, seed-grain and cattle were applied for in one and the same application.

INSPECTIONS—TALUKS AND PLACES VISITED.

Principal Assistant Collector.

Bimlipatam taluk	...	...	...	...	Chittivalasa.
Vizianagram taluk	...	...	...	...	Bimlipatam.
Chipurupalle taluk	...	...	...	...	Padmanabham.
					Vizianagram, to which he was called in on account of the Maharaja's death.
					Ranastalam, Pondar and surrounding villages.

Head Assistant Collector.

Sarvasiddhi taluk	...	...	...	...	Uppavaram.
					Jaganadhapuram.
					Melupaka.
					Ramarayadupalem.
					Yellamanchilli.
					Panchadarla.
					Kondakarla.
					Nakkapalli.
					Bhimavaram.
					Lakkavaram.
					Timmarajupeta.
					Kokkirapalli.
					Peddapalli.
Anaká alle taluk	...	...	...	...	Munagapaka and Anakápallo.
Golgon a taluk	...	...	...	...	Makarapalem, Gangavaram and Narsapatam.

Senior Assistant Collector.

Párvatipuram taluk	...	...	...	...	Kurupam and twenty other villages.
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Hosur Deputy Collector.

Vizagapatam taluk	...	...	...	...	Adivinaram, Narayanapuram, Pendurti, Gazavaka and other villages.
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Collector.

I was in camp 13 days out of the fortnight. Inspected Gazavaka and Kondakarla relief works and kitchens at these places—Anakápallo, Vizagapatam and Vizianagram. I was called in to Vizianagram by the death of the Maharaja, which interrupted my famine inspections on the 23rd.

Resolution—dated 15th June 1897, No. 436.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall of the fortnight was generally good and all apprehensions as to want of water for drinking are now removed. Irrigation tanks also received supplies. Dry cultivation was proceeding briskly.

Pasture is above the average, and, although fodder is scarce, there need be no anxiety for the present about cattle.

3. Prices rose smartly throughout the district, and ragi is now above the scarcity rate. The rise is due to the influence of prices in the adjoining districts. The relative position of prices is shown by the following figures:—

Rate.	Measures per rupee.		
	Rice.	Ragi.	Cambu.
Normal	15-0	28-0	30-0
Warning	12-0	21-0	22-5
Scarcity	9-0	14-0	15-0
Current	9-0	13-9	14-5
May 1892	10-0	15-7	16-6
May 1878	7-6	12-5	12-1

Trade was fairly active.

4. The condition of the people was generally good. In former years it used to be a common expectation that cholera would spread down from the north, and, in view of its prevalence in the two northern districts, the Sanitary Commissioner will be asked to consider whether all necessary precautions have been taken to prevent its spread to the south. The Deccan districts have been singularly exempt this year; but if the germs of the disease once spread, the harvest will be terrible, and, now that the Presidency is knit up with railways, the danger is much greater than in former years.

5. The numbers on works increased but very slightly, and it is reported that many absented themselves for short periods for work in the fields. The falling off has continued since the close of the period reported on.

The Kshatriyas in Vizianagaram should not be relieved by doles. It is evident that they have no objection to attending kitchens, and if they refuse to accept ragi food or to work, they must, for the present, be left to themselves. They should be made to understand, however, that work or ragi cakes in kitchens are available for them, if they choose to apply.

6. The following disbursements have been made under the Loans Acts in the past four weeks:—

Week ending—

									Rs.
May 8th	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,470
" 15th	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,456
" 22nd	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,406
" 29th	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,502

Progress during the last week has not been so satisfactory as in the preceding two weeks. There are many applications pending, and they should be disposed of without delay.

7. The report strikes the first note of cheerfulness from the affected districts since the commencement of distress. It is to be trusted that the fair prospects may not be belied by a failure or delay of the monsoon.

8. The Collector is right in saying that gratuitous relief would have to be kept up for some time after works are closed. He should consider, in case the season should distinctly improve, how works can best be closed. Vizagapatam is different from the other affected districts, in that relief has not been found necessary there within the memory of the present generation; and, if the season improve, it is the first district in which relief, and especially works, can be closed. The difficulty, as he fore-shadows, will be to get rid of the women. The weakly men and women might hang on a little longer; there are few of the former; but the question is how, when the time comes, to weed out the stronger and less needy women, for, wages being what they are in the two northern districts, the famine wage, to the women, is always a temptation. It might be advisable to depart somewhat from the strict letter of section 97 of the Famine Code, and weed the women into gangs according to their physique, without reference to their villages or relationships. It would then be possible to require of the really able-bodied, of whom there are so many in Vizagapatam, a task calculated without any reference to the weaker members of a gang, and this, duly enforced, will soon eliminate all who can really afford to go. The really destitute could then be left on relief for a month or two longer. The Collector will bear the matter in mind so as to be able to act when the time comes.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Vizagapatam.

" " Sanitary Commissioner.

ORDER—No. 525, Revenue, dated 2nd July 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Erd. Shaik Karim.

50 Copies.