

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 528

Dated 3rd July 1897.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Famine-relief Estimates, Famine Tools, &c.

Recording report from the Secretary to Govt., Public Works Department, and the third member of the Board of Revenue on— in the Krishna D^t, directing the Collector to arrange to have the worst parts of the upland talukas visited at once by the Divisional officers, and stating that the condition of the famine tools in the D^t requires the immediate attention of the P. W. Department.

RO.	No.	Dist.	Rev.

WHITE PAPERS.

RO.	No.	Dist.	Rev.

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No.



From

*The Chief Engineer & Secretary Dy. Govt.,
P.W.D.,
and
The Third Member of the Board of Revenue
Madras*

No. F.

Order

Dated 15th June 1897
Received 19th June 1897
Registered 21st June 1897
Enclosures
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SUBJECT.

*Reporting on the Examine
Relief Works Estimates, District
Works in the Kistna District
with reference to G.O. 382 Rev.
dated May 25th, 1897.*

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Letter F.

Camp Bezwada, 10

Dated June 15th 1897.

Despatched 18th June 1897.

From

The Hon. Col. D. M. Campbell R.E.,
Chief Engineer and Secretary to
Government, Public Works Department,

And

H. M. Winterbotham Esq.

3rd Member, Board of Revenue.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department,

Sir,

In continuation of our letter
E, dated 14 June 1897, we have
the honor to submit the following
report on the Kistna District -

1. General condition of the District.

We met the Acting Collector, the
Acting Head Assistant Collector,
the Superintending Engineer & the

Executive Engineer at Bezivada,
and discussed the situation with
them on June 13th, 14th & 15th —
Mr Batten, the Acting Collector
is new to the district: having
joined it for the first time —
at the end of April last.

The Sub-Collector is absent on
famine duty, and a junior Deputy
Collector has been in charge of
the subdivision since February last.
Mr A.R. Cumming, the Acting Head
Assistant Collector is the only
European Revenue officer in the
district — besides the Collector, and
his acquaintance with his division
dates from August 1896.

The Deputy Collector in charge
of the Narsaraopet, Vinukonda and
Palnad Taluks has held his present
post for about eight months.
At the close of April he inspected
a number of Palnad villages bordering
on

on the Kurnool district, ^{2P}and in the
beginning of June he inspected a
number of villages in Vinukonda,
also bordering on Kurnool. —
Last year's floods have made the
Jambhanti of the current fasli
unusually troublesome, & for this
and other reasons the other Divisional
officers have done little or no —
recent towing in those parts
of the upland tracts where the
pinch of the existing high prices
is likely to be most felt. —
It seems to us very important
that the worst parts of these
tracts should be inspected
by the Divisional officers at once.
The Collector is arranging for this
to be done, and each officer
will be instructed to open
a small test work in any
place where, in his judgment, —
there

there are indications of real distress - we hope no such place will be found, but (as is shown below) The last North-East Monsoon was seriously deficient, and prices have been, for some time past, approaching scarcity rates -

2 Rainfall.:- The district average rainfall in 1896 was 25.81 inches against a 20 years' average of 33.46 inches - The rains of the South-West Monsoon were very favourable, giving an average of over 21 inches. In October - however the district average was only .33 of an inch; in November 3.75 inches; and in December there was no rain at all. We have at hand no definite information on the point, but there can be no doubt that so deficient a North-East Monsoon must

must have resulted in a ^{3P} short harvest of the late 'dry' crops in the upland taluks.

The following statement shows the rainfall from April 1st to June 12th in the present year.

Station	Rainfall from April 1st to May 31st	Average	Difference	Rainfall in June up to the 12 th	
Tiruvur	3.73	1.50	+2.23	"	In extreme North
Andigama	2.31	1.79	+0.52	0.21	
Beywada	0.35	1.86	-1.51	2.09	
Gumavaram	3.81	1.22	+2.59	2.32	
Guduvada	2.48	1.92	+0.56	0.83	
Marulipattam	0.97	1.39	-0.42	0.06	
Tyrtur	1.45	2.03	-0.58	2.45	
Pattenapalli	0.57	1.74	-1.17	3.88	
Gurazala (Palnad)	1.80	1.68	+0.12	0.24	
Pinnakonda	2.20	1.84	+0.36	2.01	
Narasaraopet	3.19	2.09	+1.10	0.48	
Bapatla	2.01	1.76	+0.25	3.38	
Tenali	0.39	1.86	-1.47	2.31	
Average	1.58	1.80	-0.22	1.56	

3. Prices- The following state-
-ment shows the prices of the

Chief food grains for the
week ending June 12th as compared
with the normal, warning and
scarcity rates.

Cholam is the officially, recognized staple food in the upland taluqs, but the figures given at page 86 of the Statistical Atlas show that in Palnad & Karsarnopet, Varaga

is much more extensively cultivated than cholam. The total upland areas under Varagu, Cumbu & "others" are very large. The price of cholam rose rapidly in October & November 1896, to a higher level in several stations than it is at present. There was then a gradual fall in price till March, since when the price has again been rising, notably since the middle of May.

6
500
Bezawada is the only place where it is dearer than the scarcity rate (13 seeds); but in the upland stations of Tirunavur, Guntur, Satenapalli and Palnack, the price is 14 seeds or dearer.

At Bezawada the high price must in some way be connected with the fact that this town is the great Centre of export by three lines of rail: Rice in Bezawada also has almost reached the scarcity rate.

We can vouch for the fact that no signs of distress are visible in the neighbourhood, - ploughing is going on with vigour, and the conditions of both man & beast appear good. Pasture is rapidly improving after recent showers. The absence of any visible distress in Bezawada seems to indicate how unsafe it would be to infer the existence of acute distress merely from the high price of rice & cholam.

4. Exports & Imports Since the beginning of February 1897, 2.22 lakhs of maunds of grain have been exported by sea and 3.29 lakhs of maunds by rail -

Of the rail-borne exports, 2.41 lakhs of maunds have been carried by the Southern Mahratta Railway. The imports by sea have been practically nil. By rail 27,000 maunds have been imported, 17,000 maunds of which was carried by the Southern Mahratta line. Whether these imports were from the Railway Stations in Bellary or from the Kurnool side, we have no information.

No particulars are available for the exports by Canal and by road. The Canals have, however, been closed since March until a few days ago.

5. Were it not for the extended markets which the Railways have opened up, and the consequent large exports of grain, there seems no reason to doubt that prices in Krishna would be little if

610 8
if at all, above the normal.

The river is in flood, - two feet over the ancient, - and there is thus an ample water-supply for the whole delta, and a great demand for labour for transplanting, and other farming operations.

We understand that labourers from the Upland taluks in large numbers regularly seek this field for employment.

6. The latest season reports from all the Upland taluks agree that the time has not yet come when the labouring classes would accept work on a famine wage: that the recent showers are being followed by extensive ploughing & sowing; and that, if the prospects continue as they now are, the present evil times can be tidied over without succour from Government.

Famine

Famine programme 7p

7. The Board's review of the relief works' programme, with the usual abstract, Form C, was submitted to Government with Board's Proceedings No 395 dated May 22^d 1897. The programme includes works the assumed total cost of which is Rs 20,59,262, which would give employment to 24.2 per cent of the Population for 3 months, but unfortunately, most of those works are merely proposed; the preparation of the estimates for the greater portion has not been begun; and in the case of many

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up

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many roads the alignment has not even been settled.

The programme states that the amount of the estimates ready is Rs 3,93,958: but very few of them have been sanctioned, and on examination of those laid before us we find that, under irrigation works to be carried out by the Department of Public Works, the sum available for famine relief on sanctioned estimates, some of which are in progress, is only about Rs 28,600. Under Local Fund roads the total amount of sanctioned estimates is Rs 1,82,397; but this includes

Rs

Rs 1,42,800 for road extending to the Hyderabad frontier, and which would be useless, unless continued through that territory; and it is not known if the Nizam's Government would be willing ^{so} to continue them. Under minor local fund works, - Irrigation Works, Revenue Department, Forest - Fencing, and Miscellaneous, there are no sanctioned works, though estimates (which we were unable to see) for Rs 82,611 are stated to be ready. It will thus be seen that the total amount of estimates sanctioned and available for immediate execution is only Rs 68,197. The famine programme

$$\begin{array}{r} 28,600 + 1,82,397 \\ - 1,42,800 = 68,197 \end{array}$$

programme was prepared
some months ago, and the
present Acting Collector
being of opinion that the
works proposed were mostly
unsuitable, had a large
number of road repairs
estimates prepared. These
were laid before us and
amount to Rs 7,77,520. They
will be brought before the
District Board at its next
Meeting on 15th instant and
will, we doubt not, be
sanctioned. There are besides
estimates amounting to Rs
2,03,385 for road repairs,
which we did not see but
which are stated to be
ready for the sanction
of

of the Board on the 15th -
assuming (as may be safely
done) that these estimates
are passed, there will, in
a few days from this date,
be estimates for Rs 9,80,905
for road repairs, plus Rs 68,197
for other works, or altogether
Rs ^{10,49,102} ~~10,49,092~~ ready for immediate
execution. This will give em-
ployment to ^{139,880} ~~139,872~~ persons
or 1.2 ³/₄ per cent of the population
and while this sum is being
worked out, some of the
other works entered in the
programme could be
estimated for and would
be ready in case of a
failure of the North East
monsoon. We are of
opinion

8. ~~monsoon~~ We are of
opinion

opinion that works to the estimated amount of Rs ^{1049,102} ~~104,902~~ are ample to give employment to all who may require relief before next November; this ~~sum~~ ^{as} stated above, provides for 139,872 persons; while in the famine of 1876-77 the greatest number relieved in any one month was 25,95.

9. The parts of the District likely first to require relief are the Vissanāpet and parts of the Nuzvid Zemindaries and parts of the Palnad and Sattenapalle taluks. The estimates sanctioned, or that will be sanctioned on 13th, and available for execution in

in each of these tracts and the percentage of the population they will employ is as follows:-

Taluk and Division	Population	Amount of Estimate	Percentage of population that can be employed
		Rs	
Vissanāpet	61,102	"	"
Nuzvid	150,345	28,270	2.5
Palnad	141,985	82,644	7.7
Sattenapalle	138,617	89,100	8.5

In Vissanāpet there are stated to be no roads to repair, and no irrigation works. The programme however, includes Rs 100,509 for proposed works, viz. 2 new roads and some miscellaneous works such as constructing ponds, clearing jungle &c. Estimates to the amount of about Rs 50,000 for the most useful of these works should be prepared and sanctioned

Sanctioned at once
and the Collector promises
to lose no time in getting
this done. That sum would
give employment to about
10 per cent of the population.
In Nagpur there are
works proposed amounting
to Rs 58,587. The estimates
should be prepared and
sanctioned as soon as
possible. There will then
be employment for 7.7
per cent of the population.
This and ^{also} the provision made
for the Palnad and
Sattenapalli taluk will
be ample to meet all
contingencies that may
arise, even should
there be a failure

of

the

of the South West Monsoon.
10. The programme contains
no large works on which
coolies could be pressed,
and we can suggest
none except in the Delta.
We think that in the
event of a famine in
the upland taluk every
endeavour should be
made to induce the
distressed people to
migrate and take work
on the river embankments.

The estimate for the
right embankment
is $2\frac{1}{2}$ lacs and for
the left 2 lacs;

Both

Both are said to be ready and would be sanctioned in a short time. The work would employ a large number of Coolies for a considerable period. It would be most useful and eminently suited for relief purposes.

11. Tools:-

1920

The famine tools in store were personally counted by the Executive Engineer on the 26th of last month and were examined by us on the 14th instant; the numbers agree with those in the statement prepared in reference to Government Order No. 3116 W, dated 2nd December 1893 and are as shown in the margin.

Steel Stone breaking hammers	76
Pick axes	164
Iron crowbars	1423
Namooties	1306

All the hammers are serviceable, but about 20 per cent of the other tools are ^{unfit} sufficient for ordinary work,

but would do for women and children employed on famine work. The stock of tools is altogether inadequate.

12- The population of the District deducting the Delta taluks is 1,110,000, or about one half that

of

of the North Arcot District and we consider that the stock of tools to be maintained should be as

per margin. Our recommendations regarding the number of tools which should be at once provided, and held in reserve, in each district we have visited, are based on a —

Consideration of the wide area already smitten with famine, and the extent to which the stocks of tools in the non-affected districts have been already drawn upon.

We do not however know what are the exact resources of the entire Presidency in respect of famine tools not yet brought into use.

Large numbers of tools,
especially

Stone hammers	22,000
Hammoories	4,500
Pick axes	2,500
Rammers	500
Crow bars	4,500
Sledge hammers	250
Hand axes	250
Bill hooks	250
Instruments for clearing quickly per —	250
Total —	35,000

especially hammers, have been recently transferred from many districts for use on relief-works in the first and third Circles. We have called for a return of the stock of tools remaining in each non-affected district at the present date, and on the receipt thereof we shall be in a position to show how far the great deficiency in the Districts we have visited can be safely made up by transfers from elsewhere.

We propose to visit the D. P. W. Workshops on our return to Madras, and will ascertain what is the maximum number of tools which can be drawn daily from this source. We hope too to have information regarding the resources of Local Firms in a day or two.

At present all we are in a position to say is that the number of tools which we have specified as required for each district is the minimum number with which we think a prudent collector, responsible for the famine administration of his district, should be satisfied with as a provision against possible failure of rain in the current year.

13 Establishment.

Out of a sanctioned strength of 37 Assistant Engineers and Upper Subordinates there are now only 22 remaining, so that, in the event of a famine many more would be required, the number depending on the extent of the distress.

Wm

W.D.

We have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient Servants

J. H. W. P. W. Col., R. E.

Chief Engineer and Secretary
to Government, P. W. D.

H. H. Linterbotham

Third Member, Board
of Revenue.

Current No. 5134 of 1897.

From *Report on Famine programme in*
Kistna Dt.
Dated 189 .

The Hon: Secretary to Govt
Sir H. Blair K.C. I.C.
His Excellency the Governor

FOR ORDERS.

Rainfall. The district average rainfall in 1896 was 25.8 inches against a 20 years' average of 33.48 inches. There was a very favourable S.W. monsoon, but the N.E. monsoon ~~but~~ was so deficient that it must have resulted in a short harvest of the late "dry" crops in the Upland taluks. The early rains in the current year have been favourable and ploughing & sowing are reported to be ⁱⁿ active progress throughout.

2. Prices. Rice and cholam are considerably dearer than the ^{rates} warning in all the stations, and in 3 stations rice and in 1 station cholam are above even the scarcity rate. Cumbu is dearer than the scarcity rate in all the four price registering stations. The high prices do not however prove the existence of distress, but are chiefly due to the extended market which the Railways have opened and the consequent large exports of grain; but ^{for} this fact, the prices in the district, however be little, if at all, above Messrs C & F. 3. Famine Programme. the extent of programme of the district most useful of these

Dypt.
1/12/97

but for this fact the prices in the district would be little if at all above the normal rates
3 Famine Programme - The Famine Programme of the district includes works
22/6/97

the extent of 20.6 lakhs, calculated to employ 24.2 per cent of the population for 3 months; but most of these works are merely proposed ones and estimates for the greater portion of them have ^{not} even been begun. Estimates for works to the extent of 3.94 lakhs are ready; but very few of them have been sanctioned. Under P.W.D., there are sanctioned irrigation works to the extent of 28,000 Rs and under Local Fund, there are sanctioned road estimates for Rs 1.82 lakhs; of the latter amount, however, Rs 1.42 lakhs is for roads extending to the Hyderabad frontier, which would be useless work unless the roads are continued through the Nizam's territory. The Ag Collector being of opinion that the works proposed in the famine programme were mostly unsuitable, has ^{had} ~~and~~ a large number of road repairs estimates ~~to be~~ prepared to the extent of Rs 7.77 lakhs, and these, together with the estimates for road repairs for 2.03 lakhs also stated to be ready, will have been laid before the Local Fund Board on the 19th instant for sanction. If these are sanctioned, there will be Rs 9.80 worth of road works and Rs 68,000 of other works ready for execution. This will employ 12.3 per cent of the population for three months and Messrs Campbell and Winterbotham are of opinion that ^{this} it is ample to give employment to those who may require relief before next

parts where the severity of prices is likely to be

FOR ORDERS.

*Important
23
5/11*

** Opinion has been expressed to give employment to all who may require relief before next November*

4 The parts where the severity of the existing high prices is likely to be

most felt are the upland tracts, and Messrs Campbell and Winterbotham have suggested, (and the Collector is accordingly arranging) ^{that} these parts ^{be} inspected by the Divisional officers and ^{that} ~~for the opening of~~ small test works ^{be opened} in places where, in their opinion, there are indications of real distress. They state however that the latest reports from all the upland taluks agree that the time has not come when the labouring classes would accept work on a famine wage; that the recent showers are being followed by extensive ploughing and sowing; and that if the prospects continue as they now are, the present evil times can be tided over without succour from Govt. As for the delta, there is ample water in the river and there exists a great demand in these parts for labour for transplanting and other farming operations. It is also reported that the labourers from the upland taluks in large numbers regularly seek this field of employment in the delta.

5. The parts of the district likely to first require relief are the Vissanpet and parts of Nuzvid zemindaris and parts of the Palnad and the Sattenapalle taluks.

Vissanpet. The population is 61,000, but there are no estimates for works ready. The relief programme, however, includes works for 1 lakh and Messrs C & W suggest that estimates to the extent of half this sum for the most useful of these

arks should be prepared and sanctioned at once. The Collector has promised to lose no time in getting this done. This would give employment to 10 per cent of the population.

Nuzvid. The population is 1,50,000 and the amount of estimates ready is Rs 28,000. There are also proposed works to the extent of 53,000 and it is urged that estimates for these should be prepared and sanctioned as soon as possible.

Palnad and Sattenapalle taluks. The population is 1,42,000 and 1,38,600 respectively and the amount of estimates ready in each taluk are Rs 82,000 and Rs 89,000 respectively. These, it is stated, will amply suffice to meet all contingencies even if the S.W. monsoon should fail.

3. Large works on which coolies could be massed. There are no such works in the programme and Messrs Campbell and Winterbotham are of opinion that in the event of a famine in the upland taluks, every endeavour should be made to induce the distressed people to migrate and take work on the river embankments. The work is most useful and eminently suited for relief purposes. The estimate is four and a half lakhs.

6. Tools The stock is altogether inadequate and the minimum number and description of tools recommended for store in the district are as per margin. The existing stock was examined by Messrs C & M and it is reported that all the hammers are serviceable but that about 20 per cent of the other

Yes. As the Commr says, it is quite too many for labourers of the upland taluks to come to the Delta

Description of tools.	Existing number	Proposed number
Stone Hammers	76	22,000
Mansooties	1306	4500
Pick axes.	164	2500
Rammers	--	500
Crowbars	1723	4500
Sledge Hammers.	--	250
Hand axes	--	250
Bill hooks	--	250
instruments for clearing thickets	--	250
		2500

This is a very serious state of things

Inspection of the Commr was much wanted in this district.

25
28.6.97

RS

28/6/97

25-6-97

tools are unfit for ordinary work, though they would do well for women and children employed on famine work.

7. Establishment. The D.P.W. staff of the district has been drawn upon considerably for famine duty elsewhere.

Handwritten signature

Recd C. No 5134

G.O.C Press) No 528 of 3rd July 1897

Recorded

2. The Collector should arrange ~~immediately~~ to have the most fertile of the upland talukas visited at once by ^{the} Divisional officers and submit a special ^{report} thereon and on the success or otherwise of any test works that might be ~~found~~ ^{deemed} necessary. Estimates for works in the Vissamawadi and Nagur division should be ~~sent~~ ^{ready} in para 9 should be ~~sent~~ ^{ready} at once.

3. The remarks in para 11 as to the condition of the famine roads requires the immediate attention of the P.W.D.

Print. ms)

Send ~~copy of the order~~ (only) at once to all P.W.D. & the Famine Commr

RS
5-7-97

Recd
5/7/97

1/3/1897

List from orders

The Famine Commr

The P.W.D.

The Collector of Kistna

RS
2-7-97

60/5

Government {1897} of Madras.
REVENUE.

<i>Recd.</i>	} 1897.	<i>Enclosures</i>
<i>Regd.</i>		<i>Spare copies</i>

G.O., No. 528, 3rd July 1897.

JULY.

Famine-relief Estimates, Famine Tools, &c.

Recording report from the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, and the third member of the Board of Revenue on — in the Kistna district; directing the Collector to arrange to have the worst parts of the upland taluks visited at once by the Divisional officers; and stating that the condition of the famine tools in the district requires the immediate attention of the Public Works Department.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following letter from the Hon'ble Colonel D. McNEIL CAMPBELL, R.E., Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, and H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Third Member, Board of Revenue, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Camp, Bezwada, 15th June 1897, letter F:—

In continuation of our letter E, dated 14th June 1897, we have the honour to submit the following report on the Kistna district.

1. *General condition of the district.*—We met the Acting Collector, the Acting Head Assistant Collector, the Superintending Engineer and the Executive Engineer at Bezwada, and discussed the situation with them on June 13th, 14th and 15th. Mr. Batten, the Acting Collector, is new to the district, having joined it for the first time at the end of April last. The Sub-Collector is absent on famine duty, and a junior Deputy Collector has been in charge of the sub-division since February last. Mr. A. R. Cumming, the Acting Head Assistant Collector, is the only European Revenue officer in the district, besides the Collector, and his acquaintance with his division dates from August 1896.

The Deputy Collector in charge of the Narasaraopet, Vinukonda and Palnád taluks has held his present post for about eight months. At the close of April he inspected a number of Palnád villages bordering on the Kurnool district, and in the beginning of June he inspected a number of villages in Vinukonda, also bordering on Kurnool. Last year's floods have made the jamabandi of the current fasli unusually troublesome, and for this and other reasons the other Divisional officers have done little or no recent touring in those parts of the upland tracts where the pinch of the existing high prices is likely to be most felt.

It seems to us very important that the worst parts of these tracts should be inspected by the Divisional officers at once. The Collector is arranging for this to be done, and each officer will be instructed to open a small test-work in any place where, in his judgment, there are indications of real distress. We hope no such place will be found, but (as is shown below) the last north-east monsoon was seriously deficient, and prices have been, for some time past, approaching scarcity rates.

2. *Rainfall.*—The district average rainfall in 1896 was 25·81 inches against a 20 years' average of 33·46 inches. The rains of the south-west monsoon were very favourable, giving an average of over 21 inches. In October, however, the district average was only ·33 of an inch, in November 3·75 inches, and in December there was no rain at all. We have at hand no definite information on the point, but there can be no doubt that so deficient a north-east monsoon must have resulted in a short harvest of the late "dry" crops in the upland taluks.

The following statement shows the rainfall from April 1st to June 12th in the present year:—

Stations.	Rainfall from April 1st to May 31st.	Average.	Difference.	Rainfall in June up to the 12th.	Remarks.
Tiruvur	3·73	1·50	+ 2·23	0·21	In extreme north.
Nandigāma	2·31	1·79	+ 0·52	2·09	
Bezwada	0·35	1·86	+ 1·51	2·32	
Gunnavaṛam	3·81	1·22	+ 2·59	0·83	
Gudiṽada	2·48	1·92	+ 0·56	0·06	
Masulipatam	0·97	1·39	+ 0·42	2·45	
Guntūr	1·45	2·03	+ 0·58	3·88	
Sattenāpalli	0·57	1·74	+ 1·17	0·24	
Gurazala (Palnād)	1·80	1·68	+ 0·12	2·01	
Vinukonda	2·20	1·84	+ 0·36	0·48	
Narasaraopet	3·19	2·09	+ 1·10	3·38	
Bāpatla	2·01	1·76	+ 0·25	2·31	
Tenali	0·39	1·86	+ 1·47		
Average	1·58	1·80	— 0·22	1·56	

Heavy showers are reported since the 12th instant at and near Tiruvur in the extreme north of the Vissannapet zemin, where there had hitherto been no rain in June. There have also been heavy storms in various parts of the Palnād taluk. On the whole, the early rains have so far been favourable, and ploughing and sowing are in active progress throughout.

3. *Prices.*—The following statement shows the prices of the chief food-grains for the week ending June 12th, as compared with the normal, warning and scarcity rates:—

rates :—

Prices in Imperial seers of 80 tolas.												
Stations.	Rice.				Cholam.				Cumbu.			
	Week ending 12th June 1897.	Normal.	Warning rate.	Scarcity rate.	Week ending 12th June 1897.	Normal.	Warning rate.	Scarcity rate.	Week ending 12th June 1897.	Normal.	Warning rate.	Scarcity rate.
Tiruvur	8·0	} 15·4	} 12·3	} 9·2	14·0	} 26·0	} 19·5	} 13·0	..	} 26·0	} 19·5	} 13·0
Gunnavaram delta	9·3				13·5				..			
Gudiṽada do.	9·0				14·1				..			
Bandar do.	8·3				14·2				..			
Tenali do.	10·7				14·0				..			
Bāpatla do.	10·0				13·2				..			
Guntūr	9·9				12·8				..			
Bezwada delta	9·4				15·4				..			
Nandigāma	9·5				13·4				..			
Sattenāpalli	10·5				14·3				12·3			
Narasaraopet	10·7	15·7	12·6									
Vinukonda	9·9	13·9	12·6									
Gurazala (Palnād)	9·0											
District average	9·5	..	..	..	14·0	..	..	..	12·5	..	..	..

Cholam is the officially recognised staple food in the upland taluks, but the figures given at page 86 of the statistical Atlas show that in Palnād and Narasaraopet, varagu is much more extensively cultivated than cholam. The total upland areas under varagu, cumbu and "others" are very large. The price of cholam rose rapidly in October and November 1896, to a higher level in several stations than it is at present. There was then a gradual fall in price till March, since when the price has again been rising, notably since the middle of May.

Bezwada is the only place where it is dearer than the scarcity rate (13 seers); but in the upland stations of Tiruvur, Guntūr, Sattenāpalle and Palnād, the price is 14 seers or dearer.

At Bezwada the high price must in some way be connected with the fact that this town is the great centre of export by three lines of rail. Rice in Bezwada also has almost reached the scarcity rate.

We can vouch for the fact that no signs of distress are visible in this neighbourhood; ploughing is going on with vigour, and the condition of both man and beast appears good. Pasture is rapidly improving after recent showers. The absence of any visible distress in Bezvada seems to indicate how unsafe it would be to infer the existence of acute distress, merely from the high price of rice and cholam.

4. *Exports and Imports.*—Since the beginning of February 1897, 2·22 lakhs of maunds of grain have been exported by sea and 3·29 lakhs of maunds by rail.

Of the rail-borne exports, 2·41 lakhs of maunds have been carried by the Southern Mahratta Railway. The imports by sea have been practically *nil*. By rail 27,000 maunds have been imported, 19,000 maunds of which was carried by the Southern Mahratta line. Whether these imports were from the railway stations in Nellore or from the Kurnool side, we have no information.

No particulars are available for the exports by canal and by road. The canals have, however, been closed since March until a few days ago.

5. Were it not for the extended markets which the railways have opened up, and the consequent large exports of grain, there seems no reason to doubt that prices in Kistna would be little, if at all, above the normal.

The river is in flood—2 feet over the anicut—and there is thus an ample water-supply for the whole delta, and a great demand for labour for transplanting and other farming operations.

We understand that labourers from the upland taluks in large numbers regularly seek this field for employment.

6. The latest season reports from all the upland taluks agree that the time has not yet come when the labouring classes would accept work on a famine wage; that the recent showers are being followed by extensive ploughing and sowing; and that, if prospects continue as they now are, the present evil times can be tidied over without succour from Government.

7. *Famine programme.*—The Board's review of the relief works programme, with the usual abstract, Form C, was submitted to Government with Board's Proceedings, No. 395, dated 22nd May 1897. The programme includes works, the assumed total cost of which is Rs. 20,59,262, which would give employment to 24·2 per cent. of the population for 3 months, but unfortunately most of those works are merely proposed; the preparation of the estimates for the greater portion has not been begun; and in the case of many roads the alignment has not even been settled. The programme states that the amount of the estimates ready is Rs. 3,93,958: but very few of them have been sanctioned, and on examination of those laid before us we find that, under irrigation works to be carried out by the Department of Public Works, the sum available for famine relief on sanctioned estimates, some of which are in progress, is only about Rs. 28,600. Under Local Fund roads the total amount of sanctioned estimates is Rs. 1,82,397, but this includes Rs. 1,42,800 for roads extending to the Hyderabad frontier, and which would be useless unless continued through that territory, and it is not known if the Nizam's Government would be willing so to continue them. Under Minor Local Fund works—Irrigation works, Revenue Department, Forest—Fencing and Miscellaneous, there are no sanctioned works, though estimates (which we were unable to see) for Rs. 82,611 are stated to be ready. It will thus be seen that the total amount of estimates sanctioned and available for immediate execution is only Rs. 68,197. The famine programme was prepared some months ago, and the present Acting Collector being of opinion that the works proposed were mostly unsuitable, had a large number of road repair estimates prepared. These were laid before us and amount to Rs. 7,77,520. They will be brought before the District Board at its next meeting on 19th instant and will, we doubt not, be sanctioned. There are besides, estimates amounting to Rs. 2,03,385 for road repairs which we did not see but which are stated to be ready for the sanction of the Board on the 19th. Assuming (as may be safely done) that these estimates are passed, there will, in a few days from this date, be estimates for Rs. 9,80,905 for road repairs, *plus* Rs. 68,197 for other works, or altogether Rs. 10,49,102 ready for immediate execution. This will give employment to 139,880 persons or 12·3 per cent. of the population, and while this sum is being worked out, some of the other works entered in the programme could be estimated for and would be ready in case of a failure of the north-east monsoon.

8. We are of opinion that works to the estimated amount of Rs. 10,49,102 are ample to give employment to all who may require relief before next November; this sum, as stated above, provides for 139,880 persons; while in the famine of 1876-77, the greatest number relieved in any one month was 25,095.

9. The parts of the district likely first to require relief are the Vissannapet and parts of the Nuzvid zemindaris and parts of the Palnad and Sattenapalle taluks. The estimates sanctioned, or that will be sanctioned, on 19th and available for execution in each of these tracts and the percentage of the population they will employ is as follows:—

Taluks and divisions.	Population.	Amount of estimates.	Percentage of population that can be employed.
		Rs.	
Vissannapet	61,102	28,270	2·5
Nuzvid	150,345	82,644	7·7
Palnad	141,985	89,100	8·5
Sattenapalle	138,617		

In Vissannapet there are stated to be no roads to repair and no irrigation works; the programme, however, includes Rs. 1,00,509 for proposed works, viz., two new roads and some miscellaneous works, such as constructing pounds, clearing jungle, &c. Estimates to the amount of about Rs. 50,000 for the most useful of these works should be prepared and sanctioned at once and the Collector promises to lose no time in getting this done. That sum would give employment to about 10 per cent. of the population. In Nuzvid there are works proposed amounting to Rs. 58,587. The estimates should be prepared and sanctioned as soon as possible. There will then be employment for 7·7 per cent. of the population; this and also the provision made for the Palnad and Sattenapalli taluks will be ample to meet all contingencies that may arise, even should there be a failure of the south-west monsoon.

10. The programme contains no large works on which coolies could be massed, and we can suggest none except in the delta. We think that in the event of a famine in the upland taluks every endeavour should be made to induce the distressed people to migrate and take work on the river embankments. The estimate for the right embankment is 2½ lakhs and for the left 2 lakhs. Both are said to be ready and could be sanctioned in a short time. The work would employ a large number of coolies for a considerable period. It would be most useful and eminently suited for relief purposes.

11. *Tools.*—The famine tools in store were personally counted by the Executive Engineer on the 26th of last month and were examined by us on the 14th instant; the numbers agree with those in the statement prepared in reference to G.O., No. 3116-W., dated 2nd December 1893, and are as shown in the margin. All the hammers are serviceable, but about 20 per cent. of the other tools are unfit for ordinary work, but would do for women and children employed on famine work. The stock of tools is altogether inadequate.

12. The population of the district deducting the delta taluks is 1,110,000, or about one-half that of the North Arcot district and we consider that the stock of tools to be maintained should be as per margin. Our recommendations regarding the number of tools which should be at once provided and held in reserve in each district we have visited are based on a consideration of the wide area already smitten with famine, and the extent to which the stocks of tools in the non-affected districts have been already drawn upon.

Steel stone breaking hammers	76
Pick-axes	164
Iron crowbars	1,723
Mamooties	1,306
Stone hammers	22,000
Mamooties	4,500
Pick-axes	2,500
Hammers	500
Crowbars	4,500
Sledge hammers	250
Hand axes	250
Bill hooks	250
Instruments for clearing prickly-pear	250
Total	35,000

We do not, however, know what are the exact resources of the entire Presidency in respect of famine tools not yet brought into use.

Large numbers of tools, especially hammers, have been recently transferred from many districts for use on relief-works in the first and third circles. We have called for a return of the stock of tools remaining in each non-affected district at the present date, and on the receipt thereof we shall be in a position to show how far the great deficiency in the districts we have visited can be safely made up by transfers from elsewhere.

We propose to visit the Public Works Department Workshops on our return to Madras, and will ascertain what is the maximum number of tools which can be drawn daily from this source. We hope too to have information regarding the resources of local firms in a day or two.

At present all we are in a position to say is that the number of tools which we have specified as required for each district is the minimum number with which we think a prudent Collector, responsible for the famine administration of his district, should be satisfied with as a provision against possible failure of rain in the current year.

13. *Establishment*.—Out of a sanctioned strength of 37 Assistant Engineers and Upper Subordinates there are now only 22 remaining, so that, in the event of a famine many more would be required, the number depending on the extent of the distress.

ORDER—No. 528, Revenue, dated 3rd July 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The Collector should arrange to have the worst parts of the upland taluks visited at once by the Divisional officers and submit a special report thereon and on the success or otherwise of any test works that might be deemed necessary. Estimates for works in the Vissannapet and Nuzvid divisions to the amounts recommended in paragraph 9 should be got ready at once.

3. The remarks in paragraph 11 as to the condition of the famine tools requires the immediate attention of the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Collector of Kistna.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

Hand copy sent to Press

Revised for signature

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