

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 52.

DATED 27th January 1897.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Pointing out to the Board of Revenue that its remarks in para 4 of its Proceedings that the code requires deductions from wages only in cases of contumaciousness is not correct.

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 (189) Department.

CURRENT No. 9263

The Hon. Mr. Rose C. J. E.
His Excellency the Governor

11/12/96

From
The Board of Revenue
(Rev. Sett., L. R. & Agri.).
No. 411 Pres.

Order

The remarks of the Com? in
para. 4 are incorrect.

The task table contains the task
as fixed & worked up to in 1891.

I am not doing that task
there can be only two reasons now

recognized circumstances
or natural weakness. The

Famine Code provides ^{in/ords} & ^{regulates}
that fixing below the

minimum wage in the former Subsubmitting to Government
& it provides in the latter: with remarks, — from the

by induction of task. The Kurnool district for period
ending 30th November 1896.

This the remarks of the P. S. Eng?
are quite correct.

11/17/96

11/12/96

Dated 9th December 1896

Received 17 — 12 — '96

Registered 18 — 12 — '96

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Fortnightly Narrative.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGR.), 9TH DEC. 1896, No. 411.

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

READ—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Kurnool district during the period ending 30th of November 1896, ~~Trans. Dis. No. 202 Eng.~~—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply.

	INCHES.
Rainfall in rain-registering stations	2.12
Do. up to the period from 1st April 1896	15.66
Average rainfall expected in the period	.08
Do. do. up to the period from 1st April 1896	27.14

The north-east monsoon has at last burst well. It set in in this district on the 17th November and still continues. Information received from the various quarters shows that rain is general throughout the district and heaviest in the Cumbum division. The Board has been kept informed of all the rainfalls in the district from time to time. For convenience of reference, the rainfall at registering stations, as far as information is available in camp, up to date is abstracted below:—

	INCHES.
Pattikonda	.83
Pyápali	1.57
Kurnool	1.39
Nandikotkur	1.54
Atmakúru	.86
Kálava	1.42
Nandyal	2.59
Koilkuntla	1.91
Owk	1.83
Allagadda	2.81
Giddalore	3.47
Markapur	5.26
Average	2.12

Pattikonda taluk was the least favoured and more rain is wanted there within a week to give a favourable turn to the season. It is reported that there was a general fall of only about 65 cents throughout this taluk.

In the Ramallakota taluk four villages had between 2 and 3 inches of rain, two between 1½ inches and 2 inches, thirty villages between ½ inch and 1 inch and twenty-eight below ½ inch, and drizzling elsewhere throughout the taluk.

The rain in the Nandikotkur division was also good and general throughout the taluk varying from ½ inch to 3 inches.

The rains in the Nandyal division have been general throughout and very good in Sirvel and Nandyal taluks, but in Koilkuntla taluk it was a little less. The fall of a few more showers followed by a good rain a month later on, will enable the ryots to harvest the crops which they are now sowing.

The rain in Cumbum division was exceptionally good and removes all cause for anxiety.

Water-supply sufficient for drinking purposes throughout the district and for irrigation in canal villages. The recent rains have considerably increased the supply everywhere. In a few tanks the cultivation in their beds has been submerged. The Markapur tank has received more than three months' supply. The Gundlakamma river is in fresh and unfordable. Besides these tanks, three others in the Cumbum taluk and five in the Markapur taluk have received supplies varying from ten days to two months.

The tanks in the other three divisions have received no supplies except the Owk tank which has received one month's supply, and three other tanks in the Owk division, a few days' supply.

The ryots in canal villages have ceased taking canal water for their dry crops and it is even apprehended in many villages that if it still continues raining, it will be detrimental to the standing crops that are in ear.

Agricultural operations and condition of standing crops.—The present rains have greatly altered the agricultural aspect of the country all round. All operations that were hitherto almost at a standstill are now re-commencing and prospects have greatly improved and lands are being ploughed and sown for horse-gram, gundu jonna and other short crops in the Kurnool division; for cholum, linseed and pulses in the Nandikotkur division; for varagu, Bengal-gram, wheat, horse-gram, linseed and oil-seeds, and for jonna and Bengal-gram under Owk tank, in the Nandyal division; and for Bengal-gram, horse-gram and wheat in the Cumbum taluk. Agricultural operations are *nil* for the present in the Markapur taluk on account of incessant rains.

Seeds that were sown, but did not germinate for want of rain, have now sprouted in parts and lands on which crops have entirely failed are now being ploughed up for which will continue for more than a month.

State of standing crops.—The state of standing crops has much improved. Castor, paddy and other standing crops good in the Kurnool division, but cotton and pulses cotton, Bengal-gram, horse-gram, korra, linseed and indigo, which were withering, have now revived in the Nandikotkur division.

Cholum, korra, horse-gram and cotton good and an outturn of 8 to 12 annas expected in the Nandyal taluk. These and arika with indigo, which have not already withered, are now improving in Koilkuntla and Sirvel taluks of the Nandyal division.

Paddy, varagu, arika, castor, cotton, pulses have revived in the Cumbum division. Crops under canal and wells are very good, especially in Nandikotkur taluk.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture is available to some extent throughout the district and it is expected to greatly improve owing to the rains.

Fodder sufficient in Cumbum taluk and would last for four or five months elsewhere. Rich ryots in almost all the villages have sufficient supply for their cattle, but it is scarcely available for sale anywhere in the district. The withered crops of the current year will replenish the exhausted stock to some extent and the recent rains will make the stunted jonna and other crops available as fodder at least. Cattle were taken in large numbers to the hills for grazing.

Condition of cattle good in Cumbum, Markapur and Nandikotkur taluks, improved elsewhere, though they are still weak in Koilkuntla and in the black-cotton soil villages of Pattikonda taluk. Rinderpest slightly prevalent in Pyápali and Nandikotkur divisions.

General remarks on above subjects.—The north-east monsoon though unduly late, has materially improved the outlook and warrants a comparatively favourable forecast. Prices have fallen sharply; a few tanks have received supplies and field work has re-commenced, thus obviating the necessity for affording employment to large numbers of people. A great portion of the standing crops that were withering, have been saved and promise a fair outturn.

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 30th of November 1896.

Stations.	Rice.		Ragi.		Cholum.		Cumbu.		Remarks.
	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	
Pattikonda	8-10	8-64	..	..	9-78	18-54	9-40	9-40	Prices are falling at all stations generally.
Pyápali	8-10	8-10	..	..	10-81	20-60	9-40	11-30	
Kurnool	6-78	7-86	11-70	15-48	9-93	17-81	8-75	15-00	
Nandikotkur	7-15	8-53	..	..	9-59	20-02	..	..	
Atmakura	7-86	8-58	12-25	18-06	10-96	16-40	..	15-00	
Nandyal	7-86	8-58	..	..	10-61	16-44	10-31	13-75	
Kálava	7-86	8-58	..	..	11-64	19-18	11-87	12-50	
Koilkuntla	7-05	8-25	10-50	18-00	11-06	13-50	..	11-60	
Owk	8-30	9-13	12-00	16-50	10-27	14-20	..	..	
Allagadda	7-50	7-86	10-32	15-48	9-24	12-33	..	..	
Giddalore	8-30	9-13	16-50	18-50	15-80	15-80	13-05	15-95	
Markapur	9-96	11-62	15-00	23-50	..	..	..	18-85	
Average	7-90	8-68	12-61	17-50	10-88	16-80	10-46	13-70	

Activity of trade.—The state of the market is comparatively active. Grains are freely exposed for sale, but prices are fluctuating and both buyers and sellers are uncertain as to the future and consequently cautious in their transactions.

2. Import by rail of food-grains cannot be stated definitely as the extract from the Southern Mahratta Railway Auditor's report furnished to the Board is not yet to hand. Large quantities of rice, cholum and wheat are imported into Kurnool town, but no other imports worth mentioning have been reported from elsewhere. It is reported that merchants have instructed their agents abroad not to purchase any more grain owing to the favourable turn of season.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

1. *On works.*—The following sanctioned test-relief works were either in progress, or put in hand during the fortnight:—

- (1) Owk-Tadpatri frontier road in Koilkuntla taluk.
- (2) Chyágalamarri-Mutyapaud road in Sirvel taluk.
- (3) Chittore road from Allagadda southwards in Sirvel taluk.
- (4) Koilkuntla-Nossam road in Koilkuntla taluk.
- (5) Kurukunda tank repairs in Nandikotkur taluk.
- (6) Bellary road between Nagalavaram and Kodumur in the Kurnool division.

2. The Owk test-work, which was the first to be opened in this district, has been in progress from the 11th November 1896. The highest number of coolies reported on this work was 3,859 on the 25th November which fell to 2,741 on the 30th November 1896. This large decline in the number of coolies is due partly to the sharp fall in prices which has effected a great reduction in their wages and partly to incessant rain which has induced some to return to their agricultural occupations. The prices of rice and ragi which are now 8-3 seers and 16-5 seers per rupee, respectively, have fallen below the scarcity rate and the question therefore arises whether relief operations in this locality are still necessary. This matter engaged the best attention of the Commissioner and myself during the last few days while we were camped there.

Taking the cheapest grain ragi at 16-5 Imperial seers, the famine C class wage comes to one anna for a man and eleven pies for a woman. The C class wage has been adopted as the gangs have not hitherto turned out work sufficient to justify their being placed in a higher class. This wage seems, in all conscience, low enough and yet for this wage no less than 2,741 coolies have turned up. This is, I think, sufficient to show that there is considerable distress and that employment cannot be had elsewhere. The large majority of the coolies are Malas and Madigas but there are also large number of Sudras, Boyas, &c.

The C class is only 50% of the coolies who are doing the work. The C class is not the only class who are doing the work. The C class is not the only class who are doing the work.

Every morning the Commissioner and I inspected the work, going carefully through each gang; and though there were loud complaints as to the smallness of the wage, yet they worked cheerfully though the stone was very hard and the work not pleasant. They showed considerable antipathy to the kitchen though every endeavour was made to make it attractive. Many of those now on the work are undoubtedly very hard-pressed even in good seasons, but however this may be, the Code test now shows that there is some distress in this locality.

To properly supervise a work like this, adequate superior supervision is essential. The Local Fund Engineer was here for sixteen days and had to return to headquarters. During the Commissioner's inspection his presence was found necessary and I had to telegraph for him. He cannot be left here always as his work elsewhere will suffer. I therefore request that a competent man may be appointed in charge of this work.

It was also found that one paymaster for 3,200 coolies is not sufficient. The Deputy Tahsildar and all his establishment has found it hard work to keep pace with payments; consequently all his other work is suffering. I suggest that there should be a paymaster for every 2,000 coolies.

The District Medical and Sanitary Officer inspected the work on the 25th November and reports that the condition of the coolies is good. There is no sickness of any kind amongst them, and there is therefore no necessity for opening an in-patient hospital as suggested by the Head Assistant Collector. The dispensary at Owk and the Hospital Assistant now on itinerating duty on the work is sufficient for the gangs employed.

Water is supplied by water casks and orders have issued for each gang to have large pots of water close by. The broken metal is utilized by spreading and consolidation.

3. The test work on the Chagalmarri-Mutyalpad road was opened on the 16th November by the Executive Engineer, but it was soon found that there was great difficulty in finding stone for the coolies. Close by, however, on the canal was a useful work, viz., raising the canal bund from lock No. 31 to the Vakkiler aqueduct. Detailed estimates for this work had been prepared and submitted to the Chief Engineer, but sanction had not been received. The Superintending Engineer and the Executive Engineer strongly recommended this work being undertaken; accordingly on the 18th November, in anticipation of sanction, I transferred the coolies to the canal, telegraphing to Government for sanction which has been duly received. At first there were 1,805 coolies, but the latest report shows only 1,038. The Tahsildar explains this large decrease as due to coolies having left as they could not do their work owing to incessant rain and consequently got only minimum wage which was not enough and as they can now get employment in the fields since the heavy rains fell. Even this small number is said to have consisted largely of people from Jammalamadugu and Proddatur taluks.

Copies of the Executive Engineer's reports on the opening of this work have already been submitted to the Board with my Tour Dis. No. 141-Fng., dated 28th November 1896.

In this he says that though there is scarcity of occupation, the coolies have still some grain or money resources of their own or private employ, but they prefer slight work for minimum wage now in order to husband their resources. He refers to the heavy rainfall, and in paragraph 10 says: "If delay in relief measures cause loss of life, it is equally the fact that relief operations commenced prematurely lead to unnecessary waste." His opinion therefore was that the works should be suspended for a time, say ten days, without relaxing vigilance.

Suspending the work for ten days is, of course, out of the question, and, in judging this work as a test, it is necessary to ascertain how far the tasks have been enforced.

The Overseer in charge reports that instead of 25,634 * cubic feet of task allotted only 9,492 cubic feet of work was actually done. Without rigidly enforcing the tasks, there is no real test. The Executive Engineer, will accordingly be asked to

explain why the tasks have not been enforced and the difference between the figures mentioned above.

In the Code there is no distance test mentioned, but it is a very telling one. The Mutyalpad villagers, who were said to be much distressed, first came to the road work, but left when work was transferred to the canal about a couple of miles further. They said it was too far, but heavy rain fell just at that time, which is also a strong reason for staying away and re-commencing cultivation.

This test work must be put down as a failure, as almost from the commencement incessant rain fell and the tasks have not been rigidly enforced.

4. Work was started near Allagadda on the 19th November and was in progress till the 22nd when the Commissioner, with whom I had a conference at Chintakunta, ordered that it should be stopped from the 23rd November 1896 on account of the heavy and continued rain. He also issued instructions that the Tahsildar, Revenue Inspector and a Relief Circle Inspector should thoroughly examine the villages and ascertain who are absolutely destitute, that a central poor-house should be established with proper shelter and sanitary arrangements, and that the effect of the closure of the work should be carefully watched. Orders were issued to the officers concerned in accordance with the above instructions and the fact reported to the Board.

Shortly after, the Commissioner being of opinion that the work was perhaps closed too soon, and that there might be a large number of people still in need of work in spite of the recent rains, issued instructions that arrangements should be made for the eventual re-opening of the work; the Executive Engineer was requested to take steps accordingly. The Head Assistant Collector has also been asked to report about the effect of closure of the work and the Tahsildar to report on the work done by the Relief Inspector. The number of coolies that were employed on this work on the date of the closure was 3,405 and the quantity of work performed by them during the four days of work was only 4,527½ cubic feet of metal collection against a task of 33,192 cubic feet or less than ⅓ of what was required. All of them received minimum wages during those four days as they were prevented by rain from turning out full work. Their condition was very good.

A sketch and estimate for the poor-house at Allagadda drawn up by the Executive Engineer, in consultation with the District Medical and Sanitary Officer, has been received, but further action postponed pending receipt of reports from Head Assistant Collector and the Relief Inspector.

5. Work was opened at Putchakayalapalli, three miles to the north of Nossam, on the 17th November and the maximum number of coolies was 2,296 on the 21st instant. On the 22nd and 23rd it rained heavily and the numbers began to fall off. Work, however, continued, though not satisfactorily, till the 26th. On the 27th and 28th there was heavy and continued rain (1.50 inches) and no coolies turned up and the following day was Sunday—a holiday. The few that attended came late and asked for their wages which were paid and they went away. On the 30th only 277 attended. The Tahsildar accordingly recommends that the work should be closed; before, however, issuing orders to this effect, I am going to Putchakayalapalli to-morrow (2nd December) and shall pass orders after inspecting the work. I enclose copy of the Assistant Engineer's report, dated 30th November 1896, just received.

The causes assigned for the sudden fall in the number of coolies are (1) that many were disappointed to find that the wages they received were not as liberal as those paid during the great famine of 1876-78, (2) that many returned to their villages to re-commence their agricultural operations in consequence of the fall of heavy rains, and (3) that the prices are now beginning to fall sharply. The Assistant Engineer in charge of the work states that the work allotted has not been performed in spite of close supervision owing to the coolies being unaccustomed to stone-breaking and to frequent rains which have been much heavier here and in Sirvel than in Owk.

The Tahsildar reports that the heavy rains which fell on the 22nd, 23rd and 27th November have greatly improved the standing crops and the people are greatly relieved.

6. Kurukunda tank work was intended to give relief to the affected villages lying on the foot of the Nallamalas in the Nandikotkur taluk. The report is reported to have been since changed to Guvvalagunta where the latest report shows that 770 persons were working. This change of site had not either my approval or that of the Divisional Officer. The Engineering Subordinate in charge of the work has been asked to explain this. *work*

The Tahsildar reports that these workers are only waiting for payment to disperse. This shows that the good rains in this taluk, which also extended over the villages at the foot of the Nallamalas, has altered circumstances.

7. This work, which was sanctioned by the Board in its Proceedings, No. dated 21st November 1896, was started on the 27th November near Kuruva, Nágálávaram, on the Bellary road by the Deputy Collector and the Tahsildar of Ramallakota, but it is reported that very few coolies turned up and they demanded certain rates and on refusal to employ them except on famine wages, they returned to their homes. Four more bands of labourers from Chanugondla, Pyalakurti, Panchikalapad, Ulehalu and Gudur appeared subsequently on the same day and on the next day and they also behaved in the same manner.

The Divisional Officer and the Tahsildar remained on the spot for some time, waiting to see if any more coolies would turn up for work. None having turned up till the 30th instant, the Deputy Collector reports that he has waited there sufficiently long and intends starting the work at Kodumur, Pattikonda taluk. This shows that no real distress exists in the parts about Nágálávaram in the Ramallakota taluk and even if it did, it has been greatly alleviated by the recent rains. The Tahsildar reports that cultivators are engaged in sowing seeds.

From the above it will be seen that at present the only work that has in any way answered the test is that at Owk and even there no deductions have as yet been made below minimum wages for short work. In Nágálávaram no coolies accepted work at famine wages; so there can be no real distress. As regards the other works, no definite conclusions can as yet be drawn. In paragraph 4 of the accompanying letter, the Executive Engineer repeats his opinion that relief works are unnecessary, but I am unable as yet to offer an equally decided opinion. Harvesting will re-commence in about a month, so that we will not be able to accurately gauge the situation for some time. *✓*

8. *In villages.*—The recent rains have greatly improved the condition of the people generally. All causes for anxiety have been removed in the Cumbum division, the rains having fallen most heavily there.

Mr. Rhenius, Inspector of Salt and Abkari Revenue, Cumbum Circle, having reported that Chenchus of certain hill villages visited by him during the week ending 22nd November 1896, were stinting themselves and required immediate relief, the District Forest Officer has been asked to inquire into the matter and take immediate steps to provide work for those that are able to work and open a kitchen for the relief of the destitute and the helpless.

The Nandikotkur division stands next best as rains have been sufficient there in all the villages and demand for labour is reported to be growing. The condition of the people in the affected villages at the foot of the Nallamalas has also improved.

In the Nandyal division the condition of the people of the Nandyal and Sirvel taluks has much improved, but Koilkuntla taluk, Owk division, especially leaves much room for improvement as more rain is wanted for the black cotton soil villages. The Commissioner while on tour having received complaints of want of work from the Malas, Madigas and other low classes of people living in the tract between Deebaguntla and Tangatur and near Chennur, a village $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant from Deebaguntla, issued instructions that some work should be provided for them. I have accordingly requested the Executive Engineer to put in hand road-work on the Nandyal-Koilkuntla road near Gosapad to afford employment to the former and to start Boyalakunta tank work, which is near to Chennur, for the latter.

In the Kurnool division the people in the Ramallakota taluk and the Pyápali division, as also those in the red-soil villages of the Pattikonda taluk, are much better off than before, but the black cotton villages of Pattikonda taluk give cause for some anxiety.

The fact that prices have fallen even more rapidly than they rose in most places immediately after the rains shows that the present scarcity is almost entirely artificial. *✓*

No weavers having come forward in the Kurnool town to accept the relief offered owing to heaviness of the task fixed, the rate of task was reduced which was duly reported to the Board in my Tour Dis. No. 138-Eng., dated 28th November 1896. The Head-quarter Deputy Collector reports that, in spite of these great reductions in the task, nobody has come forward and that under the present altered favourable circumstances, it is useless to expect any to come to work for famine wages, as the weavers are apparently beginning to get work from their customers.

The reports of the Deputy Collector regarding the relief to weavers in Gudur, Kodumur and Pyápali have been received but are kept pending the result of the Kurnool scheme and the effects of the rain.

Sickness and mortality.—No deaths reported from want of food. Cholera has subsided.

Remarks.—About 150 people with as many cattle from the Nizam's territory migrated into the Nandikotkur taluk in search of work.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

(1) *On Works.*—In what taluks open and comparison of numbers—

Taluks.	Number employed	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Koilkuntla	2,524	3,018
Sirvel	234	770
Nandikotkur		
Total	2,758	4,826

(2) *Gratuitous relief.*—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

Taluks.	Number relieved at kitchen this fortnight.	
Koilkuntla	106	
Sirvel	296	
Total	402	

(3) *Private charity.*—Besides the merchants Ananta Sambiah and Gantiah referred to in the previous fortnightlies, some other well-to-do people of Kurnool town distributed gruel among the poor during the fortnight, and charities were brought to a close on the 24th November 1896 (*vide* my Tour Dis. No. 137-Eng., dated 28th November 1896.)

Loan operations.—Nil.

INSPECTIONS OF THE COLLECTOR.

Taluks and places visited.—I have been in Sirvel and Koilkuntla taluks the whole fortnight. I left Chintagunta on the 15th and reached Chagalmarri the same morning, inspecting on the way the fields of (1) Allagadda, (2) Patakandukur, (3) Pedda Bojanam and (4) Nagalapad. I returned to Chintagunta on the 22nd to inspect the test work near Allagadda. On the 24th November I reached Koilkuntla after inspecting several fields in the villages of Kondapuram, Dornipaud and Bheemunipad. I moved to Owk on the 26th and was there till the 30th November, inspecting the Owk test work in company with the Commissioner.

General remarks.—The Settlement Commissioner arrived at Chagalmarri on the 17th evening and continued in the district to the end of the fortnight.

2. I had a conference with the Superintending Engineer who gave instructions to the Executive Engineer regarding the canal work from lock No. 31 to Vakkiler aqueduct, sanctioned by Government in its telegram dated 21st November 1896.

3. The Tank Restoration Party sanctioned for this district arrived at Kurnool on the 19th November and has been directed by the Executive Engineer to proceed at once to Pattikonda with papers relating to investigation of the fifteen works which had been left incomplete by the late Tank Restoration Scheme Party.

4. The Stationary Sub-Magistrates sanctioned for the Koilkuntla and Sirvel taluks have been appointed and the Tahsildars relieved from their ordinary duties.

5. The last Gazette having announced the posting of M.R.Ry. K. Vijiaraghava Chariar to this district, he has been wired for to join Nandyal forthwith.

6. Under the authority of Board's Proceedings, No. 322, Settlement, dated 6th November 1896, I have issued orders postponing the collection of kists for December 1896 in all the affected villages of the district (*vide* my Tour Dis. No. 133-Eng., dated 28th November 1896).

7. Applications have been received for loans under Land Improvement Loans Act and Agriculturists' Loans Act in the Nandyal, Kurnool and Cumbum divisions and are duly receiving the attention of the officers concerned. The Tahsildar of Sirvel application will be shortly made to the Board.

8. The Nabob of Banganapalle has reported that the gang of budmashes collected in his State have now settled amicably and peace has been restored. His report on the state of the season has been forwarded to Government. It shows that the rainfall and cultivated area this year is one-third of the normal. His applications for a loan of Rs. 50,000 for famine expenditure and another for Rs. 75,000 for his own expenditure have also been forwarded to Government with remarks. No report has yet been received from him about the effect of the north-east monsoon and I have called for one.

9. A grain riot occurred at Maddikera which has been duly reported to Government.

10. The Executive Engineer and the Local Fund Engineer are over worked and require relief.

11. At the commencement of the fortnight there was a panic throughout the district. Prices were at famine rates and even at these rates, grain was obtained only with great difficulty. Standing crops were in imminent danger of total loss and there was a great clamour for work. Rain fell from 17th to nearly end of fortnight. Prices fell sharply, grain is sold freely, the standing crops were saved and the clamour for work has to a great extent subsided.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Test relief work, Koilkuntla-Nossam road.

First—Site of work.—This work was opened on the 17th November 1896 at a village called Puthakayalapalli 3 miles to the north of Nossam and 15 miles to the south of Koilkuntla. The site was preferred to the others for the following reasons:—

(1) Nossam and the surrounding villages were reported by the Tahsildar to be more affected than others in this part of the taluk.

(2) For the test relief work, breaking and stacking metal was ordered; on the Koilkuntla-Nossam road, there are only three places where stone is available for breaking—1st, Nossam village, 2nd, Puthakayalapalli village and 3rd, Allur village, which is about midway between Koilkuntla and Nossam. Nossam being the very last village of the taluk on this road and the quarries at Allur not being ample, Puthakayalapalli was selected as being nearer the centre of the taluk than Nossam and as supplying ample material for the kind of work ordered to be carried out.

Second Opening of work and its progress.—On the 17th November 1896, 536 coolies were drafted into six gangs, about 50 of these were weavers (men, women and children) of Nossam. Of the rest, the greater portion were Malas and Maigas, then Boyas with a small number of Kapus and of Muhammadans; 300 of these 530 were from Nossam the rest from Ackunupally, Puthakayalapalli, &c. No work was turned out on the 17th as the day was fully taken up in the formation of gangs, selection of maistries and head coolies and instructing them, &c.

On the 18th, work was started on the hill which is about 4 furlongs to the south of the village of Puthakayalapalli and coolies put on to break metal from stones collected from the sides of the hill and stack the metal at its foot and slopes, so that it may easily be carted away to various points of the road. Two gangs were formed newly this day.

On the 19th, seven gangs were newly formed, bringing the total number of coolies to 1,319. As the number increased it was found necessary to start work in a second place; for this the low hill immediately to the north of the village of Puthakayalapalli was selected and a number of the coolies put on to work here.

On the 20th, seven more gangs were newly formed, bringing the total number of coolies to 2,068. There was a slight shower of rain this day.

On the 21st, two more gangs were newly formed, the total number of coolies rising to 2,296. This is the maximum number yet reached and the number has begun to fall off from the next day. There was rain on this day also which interfered with the work.

Of the 2,296 coolies of this day, about 370 are from the Cuddapah district and the remaining 1,900 and odd from the Kurnool district, Koilkuntla taluk. The villages that supplied the coolies are mostly within a radius of 5 miles of Puthakayalapalli village, and may be enumerated as follows:—

I. Kurnool district, Koilkuntla taluk.			II. Cuddapah district.			III. Banganapalle State.		
		M.L.S.			M.L.S.			M.L.S.
Boddemmanoor	3		Bodutippanapad	5		Govindapalle	3	
Puthakayalapalli	2		Gundlagunta	5				
Oontedupalli	2		Bhimagundam	5		Total number, about ..	30	
Ackunnapalli	1		Palur	4				
Nossam	3		Peddiamudiem	5				
Golladurti	6		Nagurazapalle	3				
Kakeravada	3		Papampalle	1				
Peddammannoor	4							
Reddigavari Jambelladinne ..	4		Total number ..	370				
Allur	7							
Coolies, total number, about ..	1,900							

[Note.—The distances are from famine camp to the respective villages.]

There were about 180 weavers present this day, Nossam supplying about 50, Boddemmanoor about 10 and Bodutippanapad and Gundlakunta about 120.

22nd, Sunday.—Holiday was granted by the Head Assistant Collector as per request of many of the coolies who were Christians.

23rd.—Five gangs out of the 24 were absent completely, bringing down the number present on the work to 1,682. The reason put forth by coolies for this large absence being that there was rain the previous day, that floods had come down in several of the vagus or streams, and that people of villages from beyond the vagus could not cross them and come up to work. Gang No. 16 was absent this day and did not turn up for work on any subsequent date.

24th.—Gangs Nos. 7 and 18, who were absent on 23rd November 1896, came up for work this day.

The number of absentee gangs this day was 3 and the number of coolies present 1,976.

There was slight rain on 23rd and 24th November 1896.

25th.—Only 2 gangs were absent this day.

The number of coolies present was 1,980.

There was a fall of rain during the day and the task was reduced.

26th.—Four gangs were completely absent. Number of coolies present 1,760. There was short outturn of work this day. As the coolies had sufficient practice by this time, fines from 2 pies to 1 pie per individual were imposed.

27th.—Heavy rain. No coolies came for work; a small number came for payment in the afternoon.

28th.—No coolies came up for work but many wanted payment which was made.

29th, Sunday.—No work. Those that did not come up for payment yesterday came up this day and were paid. All the muster rolls were paid off completely.

Third—Payment of wages and amount paid.—In the calculation of the wages, the market rate of Nossam, which is the nearest big village and which has a weekly market (market day being Wednesday), has been taken into consideration. The rates arrived at for the days in the

beginning of the work were As. 1-5, 1-4 and Pies 8, respectively, for man, woman and child; and are being reduced (as per price of grain in the market). They now stand at As. 1-0, Pies 11 and 6, respectively.

Payment has been made to the coolies as frequently and as quickly as possible; no room has been given for complaint on this account. Please *vide* paragraph 2 above.

Fourth—Outturn of work.—Up to date the allotted task has not been turned out, though the coolies have been closely watched and superintended both by myself and by the Overseer. The reasons are—(1) The newness of the coolies to the work; several of them bit their fingers in breaking stones; some of them, such as the weavers, are not accustomed to hard labour; (2) up a good deal of time of the Overseer, maistries, &c.; (3) work had to be started urgently on receipt of a telegram and there was not sufficient time allowed for the proper training of the head coolies, maistries, &c.; (4) there were intermittent showers of rain on several days; (5) the stones were hard; (6) many of the coolies came every morning from distances of 4 miles and more and went back in the evening, and did not turn out as much work as they could if work was nearer their homes.

By this time (30th November 1896) the coolies have had sufficient practice, and have fully understood that task work is expected of them; hence there is reason to believe that the outturn will improve.

Fifth—Health of the coolies.—There is nothing particular to mention under this item. There have been no cases of epidemics or of accidents.

Sixth—Test how far proved.—The number of coolies is going down considerably for the following reasons: 1st It is said that many of the coolies came in under the impression that they would be paid the liberal wages of the great famine of 1876-78; when they find that it is not to be so, they are leaving the work; 2nd on account of the recent heavy rains the poorer ryots returning to their fields to look after cultivation; 3rd, grain is getting cheaper day by day and is to be had in the market, whereas ten days ago it was procurable only with great difficulty, and that at dear rate.

On 30th November 1896, 276 have come in for work as they have been given, in addition to verbal information, fully to understand (from the wages paid and work expected of them) that they will be paid only famine wages as per recent regulations. I think it has to be inferred that there is a great deal of scarcity of food for them; whether there is really famine (*i.e.*, whether they are starving) can be proved, I think, only in about a week or so. In case they stick to the work after a week, for famine wages, they will continue for a month or two more, until the first crops are harvested.

Seventh—What the coolies say.—They represent that the wages paid are too low. Some say that they would be satisfied if one full meal per day is given them and that they would work the whole day long for it. Even though there has been a good fall of rain in most of the villages, some of the coolies are said to be starving, as they could not all get work in the fields and as they have not got any savings to fall back upon. I think this is true.

Eighth—Kitchen.—A temporary shed was put up near the village and the site of work and a kitchen opened on 24th November 1896. On this day 5 adults and 27 children were fed. Of these individuals, 22 were dependants or relatives of coolies engaged in the relief work. On the 29th, 6 adults and 28 children attended.

The greater number of those fed are Malas, next Mahummadans, and then other caste people. *Food given.*—Cholum is ground into pieces, cooked and made into balls, and then served in earthen plates.

Fifty and 25 tolas of grain are allowed for each adult and child, respectively, for the day (*i.e.*, for two meals).

Note.—Number of coolies present on work on 30th November 1896 is as follows:—

Mahummadans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Kapus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Boyas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Malas and Madigas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	183
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	277

CAMP PUTCHAKAYALAPALLI,
3rd November 1896.

(Signed) R. SRINIVASA AIYANGAR,
Assistant Engineer.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From M.R.Ry. S. A. SUBRAMANYA AIYAR Avergal, Rai Sahib, B.A., B.C.R., Executive Engineer, Kurnool Division, to the Collector of Kurnool, dated 2nd December 1896, No. 146 F.

I have the honour to forward the following information for your fortnightly report.

2. Figures showing numbers on relief works, tasks imposed, tasks exacted, wages earned and payments made are being forwarded to Tahsildars and Divisional Officers by the Public Works Officers in immediate charge of the works, as prescribed by the Code and would have reached you by now.

3. During my inspections of the works I have noticed the following causes preventing full tasks being exacted:—

- (1) Want of proper quarries on Allagadda road.
- (2) Work prevented by rain almost every day.
- (3) Exact measurements of work done insisted on and fraud made practically impossible.
- (4) Very great inconvenience due to want of copies of the Code.

Copies of Appendix VI supplied do not give sufficient information to Overseers; references have to be made to other parts of the Code and other appendices in corresponding with Overseers; not merely this office, but Revenue Officers and subordinates freely refer to the Code and appendices, and without copies of them, the Overseers cannot perform their duties. Besides this very great necessity, every subordinate must know what use higher officers make of his returns and must realize the inconvenience caused to them by his own delays and want of punctuality.

(5) Till contumacious conduct was proved by experience to exist on the part of the coolies Overseers allowed minimum wages irrespective of work done under the general discretion given by the Code. Now that the state of the coolies is familiar to them, they have been directed to levy fines stringently and exact work properly.

4. I have already reported to you my own opinion that the relief works are unnecessary. After date of that report more rains have fallen. Coolies have also persistently failed to carry out tasks imposed. Overseers have no doubt omitted in many cases to make abatements in tasks prescribed on account of rains, &c. But even making every allowance, the coolies have failed to give a reasonable return for the wages paid to them. Overseers and higher officers including myself took every opportunity to impress on gangs that they will be fined for short work.

5. No more distress exists now than in normal years. The mere reduction of wages to the minimum has sent away a great many of the coolies. Hereafter as the coolies can bear it, fines have been ordered proportional to short work as per scale laid down, and the result of this will be reported in due course. My expectation is that no people will remain on the works when payment is made as now ordered strictly for quantity of work done, irrespective of the minimum wages.

6. You would probably have heard by this time the result of the stoppage of works at Allagadda. I have no definite information myself. But if the stoppage of that work was a mistake, we should already have heard a great deal about it.

RESOLUTION—No. 411, dated 9th December 1896.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. From about the 17th to the 24th November an unusual fall of rain occurred in the district and extended, more or less, to all parts. The fall was, however, scanty at Pattikonda, on the Bellary frontier, and also at Atmakuru, close to the Nallamalas, in Nandikotkur. Elsewhere the fall averaged about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, except in the Sirvel taluk and to the east of the Nallamalas. This rain has removed all present anxiety in the latter, the eastern, section of the district; should bring up a good growth of grass in the jungles, and some on the waste lands; has revived such standing crop as existed, but as to the area of which there is no information; and has encouraged the ryots to sow some late quick-growing crops in parts. It has, however, been inadequate, and has come too late in the season to entirely alter the outlook. The Board is unable to accept the very roseate view which the Collector now takes of the situation, although it is doubtless less grave than it was. This is more especially due to the moral effect on the people, as explained in B.P., No. 390 of 1896.

3. The drop in prices that followed on this rainfall brought down rates on the 28th November to an average cheaper than the scarcity rates, although cholum, the staple grain of the most affected parts, was still dearer than that level both in

Koilkuntla and Sirvel. From the remarks made by the Collector, however, it appears that trade was almost inoperative at the end of the period, buyers and sellers being uncertain as to the future, and as, at the last quoted prices, exports to the north of India appear possible, they may be expected to rise again. The panic that ruled during the early part of November has, however, been stayed, and trade will, in a short time, resume its operations.

4. Under the head "Condition of the people" the Collector deals in great detail with each of the several works opened in the district. The manner in which they have been organized and managed has been dealt with by the Commissioner in a separate Proceedings, and it is sufficient to remark here that such diffuseness is altogether out of place in the fortnightly narratives, and if the Collector desires to represent such matters, he should do so in a separate report. The Collector should inform the Executive Engineer that the Code only requires deductions from wages in cases of contumaciousness, and even in such cases, the fact must be reported to Government. The Commissioner did not find any of the coolies either lazy or contumacious. For various causes, coolies cannot very often do the appointed tasks. A woman with a child in her arms cannot give her best work; neither can weavers or persons unaccustomed to manual labour do so; nor can persons with fingers mangled and bleeding, turn out a day's task of stone-breaking, nor can persons who have to walk 12 to 24 miles a day to and from the work, do a fair day's task. Indiscriminating fining is no part of the Famine Code.

*This is
in answer to
17/12/96*

5. It is very unsatisfactory to notice that the Collector is unable to report any definite information regarding loan operations under the Land Improvement Loans Act. The value of such operations as giving employment to large numbers of skilled labourers in their villages, should be impressed upon all officers, and the Collector should make arrangements to obtain full and detailed information as to the progress made.

6. Orders have already been issued to the Public Works Department to take charge of all relief works in the district, but the appointment of a Special Assistant Collector, sanctioned in G.O., No. 630, Revenue, dated 16th November 1896, has not yet been made. The Board does not press for this at once, as the Collector represented that the recent rains had practically put an end to the distress, and it is better that the Collector should apply for such an officer when he finds, as he will find, that the effects of these rains are transient, and that prices are rising again. On the 5th December prices had again risen sharply, and cholam was dearer than the scarcity rate. The fluctuations were as follow:—

Prices in seers of 80 tolas.

Grains.				November 14th.	November 28th.	December 5th.	Scarcity rate.
Rice	..	..	..	7.9	8.6	8.7	7.9
Cholam	..	..	..	10.9	16.7	14.1	15.0
Ragi	..	..	..	..	18.0	15.0	..
Cumbu	..	..	..	..	14.6	13.2	14.0

7. The condition of the black-soil villages of Pattikonda, which adjoin Alúr where the numbers on relief works are rising, should receive the early attention of the Collector.

8. The Collector should indent for any number of copies of the Famine Code required.

(True Copy and Extract.)

P. V. Srinivasan
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Kurnool.

Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. T. K. Narayana Aiyangar.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1896.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records
and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed December th.

Proceedings, 9th Dec. 1896, No. 411.



Fortnightly narrative.—Submitting to Govern-
ment, with remarks, — from the Kurnool district
for period ending 30th November 1896.

C. No 9263

Mickham.

G.O. (Press) 152 d/27th Jan 97

The Board's remarks
in para 4 of its Prop read
above are incorrect. The
task table contains the task
as fixed and worked up to in
1891. For not doing the sanctioned
task only two reasons are
recognized ~~under section 106~~
~~by the Famine Code, viz, con-~~
~~tinuousness or natural~~
~~weakness. As regards the~~

~~former the Code requires~~
~~strict fixing provided that~~
~~as a general rule the prices~~
~~do not reduce the wages below~~
~~the minimum wage provided~~
~~in section 120.] Cases of natural~~
~~weakness are provided for by~~
~~reduction of task, or by~~
~~strict fixing, under section 106.~~
~~is modified in separate proceedings of~~
~~Govt empowers the Collector, & where necessary~~
~~to enforce the general principle that~~
~~(best from orders)~~
~~fixing shall not reduce the wages below~~
~~the minimum prescribed in section 120~~
~~to~~

as explained in G.O. No. 43 of 26-1-97

In the Board (Settl) 35
Dis. 28.1.97 2
P.C. Dec. 12.2.97

Office.
When it is this can be done
first. 11-1-97

The submitted for approval as
the G.O. does not follow exactly
the instructions of H.H. which

the B. of Rev (P.C. Dec. 12.2.97)

was provided before the general
disposition of the point is given
which has been made in the
G.O. referred to.

11/15-1897

Instructed as to the same have
accepted the views in the
G.O. referred to.

11/15-1897

Government (1897) of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 52, 27th January 1897.

JANUARY.

Pointing out to the Board that its remarks in paragraph 4 of its Proceedings that the code
requires deductions from wages only in cases of contumaciousness is not correct.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 9th December 1896, No. 411 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Kurnool district during the period ending 30th of November 1896.

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply.

Rainfall in rain-registering stations	INCHES.
Do. up to the period from 1st April 1896	2.12
Average rainfall expected in the period	15.66
Do. do. up to the period from 1st April 1896	.08
	27.14

The north-east monsoon has at last burst well. It set in in this district on the 17th November and still continues. Information received from the various quarters shows that rain is general throughout the district and heaviest in the Cumbum division. The Board has been kept informed of all the rainfalls in the district from time to time. For convenience of reference, the rainfall at registering stations, as far as information is available in camp, up to date is abstracted below :—

	INCHES.
Pattikonda	.83
Pyápali	1.57
Kurnool	1.39
Nandikotkur	1.54
Atmakúru	.86
Kálava	1.42
Nandyal	2.59
Koilkuntla	1.91
Owk	1.83
Allagadda	2.81
Giddalore	3.47
Markapur	5.26
Average	2.12

Pattikonda taluk was the least favoured and more rain is wanted there within a week to give a favourable turn to the season. It is reported that there was a general fall of only about 65 cents throughout this taluk.

In the Ramallakota taluk four villages had between 2 and 3 inches of rain, two between 1½ inches and 2 inches, thirty villages between ½ inch and 1 inch and twenty-eight below ½ inch, and drizzling elsewhere throughout the taluk.

The rain in the Nandikotkur division was also good and general throughout the taluk varying from ½ inch to 3 inches.

The rains in the Nandyal division have been general throughout and very in Sirvel and Nandyal taluks, but in Koilkuntla taluk it was a little less. The few more showers followed by a good rain a month later on, will enable harvest the crops which they are now sowing.

The rain in Cumbum division was exceptionally good and removes all cause for anxiety.

Water-supply sufficient for drinking purposes throughout the district and for irrigation in canal villages. The recent rains have considerably increased the supply everywhere. In a few tanks the cultivation in their beds has been submerged. The Markapur tank has received more than three months' supply. The Gundlakamma river is in fresh and unfordable. Besides these tanks, three others in the Cumbum taluk and five in the Markapur taluk have received supplies varying from ten days to two months.

The tanks in the other three divisions have received no supplies except the Owk tank which has received one month's supply, and three other tanks in the Owk division, a few days' supply.

The ryots in canal villages have ceased taking canal water for their dry crops and it is even apprehended in many villages that if it still continues raining, it will be detrimental to the standing crops that are in ear.

Agricultural operations and condition of standing crops.—The present rains have greatly altered the agricultural aspect of the country all round. All operations that were hitherto almost at a standstill are now re-commencing and prospects have greatly improved and lands are being ploughed and sown for horse-gram, gundu jonna and other short crops in the Kurnool division; for cholum, linseed and pulses in the Nandikotkur division; for varagu, Bengal-gram, wheet, horse-gram, linseed and oil-seeds, and for jonna and Bengal-gram under Owk tank, in the Nandyal division; and for Bengal-gram, horse-gram and wheat in the Cumbum taluk. Agricultural operations are nil for the present in the Markapur taluk on account of incessant rains.

Seeds that were sown, but did not germinate for want of rain, have now sprouted in parts and lands on which crops have entirely failed are now being ploughed up for second crop. Harvesting is all over throughout the district except paddy under canal which will continue for more than a month.

State of standing crops.—The state of standing crops has much improved. Castor, paddy and other standing crops good in the Kurnool division, but cotton and pulses will yield in the Pattikonda taluk only if there is some more rain. White cholum, cotton, Bengal-gram, horse-gram, korra, linseed and indigo, which were withering, have now revived in the Nandikotkur division.

Cholum, korra, horse-gram and cotton good and an outturn of 8 to 12 annas expected in the Nandyal taluk. These and arika with indigo, which have not already withered, are now improving in Koilkuntla and Sirvel taluks of the Nandyal division.

Paddy, varagu, arika, castor, cotton, pulses have revived in the Cumbum division.

Crops under canal and wells are very good, especially in Nandikotkur taluk.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Pasture is available to some extent throughout the district and it is expected to greatly improve owing to the rains.

Fodder sufficient in Cumbum taluk and would last for four or five months elsewhere. Rich ryots in almost all the villages have sufficient supply for their cattle, but it is scarcely available for sale anywhere in the district. The withered crops of the current year will replenish the exhausted stock to some extent and the recent rains will make the stunted jonna and other crops available as fodder at least. Cattle were taken in large numbers to the hills for grazing.

Condition of cattle good in Cumbum, Markapur and Nandikotkur taluks, improved elsewhere, though they are still weak in Koilkuntla and in the black-cotton soil villages of Pattikonda taluk. Rinderpest slightly prevalent in Pyápali and Nandikotkur divisions.

General remarks on above subjects.—The north-east monsoon though unduly e, has materially improved the outlook and warrants a comparatively favourable st. Prices have fallen sharply; a few tanks have received supplies and field has re-commenced, thus obviating the necessity for affording employment to rs of people. A great portion of the standing crops that were withering, requires deductions and promise a fair outturn.

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 30th of November 1896.

Stations.			Rice.		Ragi.		Cholam.		Cumbu.		Remarks.
			End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	End of last fort-night.	End of current fort-night.	
Pattikonda	..	..	8-10	8-64	..	..	9-78	18-54	9-40	9-40	Prices are falling at all stations generally.
Pyápali	..	..	8-10	8-10	..	..	10-81	20-60	9-40	11-30	
Kurnool	..	..	6-78	7-86	11-70	15-48	9-93	17-81	8-75	15-00	
Nandikotkur	..	..	7-15	8-58	..	..	9-59	20-02	..	..	
Atmakúru	..	..	7-86	8-58	..	..	10-96	16-40	..	15-00	
Nandyal	..	..	7-86	8-58	12-25	18-06	10-61	16-44	10-31	13-75	
Kálava	..	..	7-86	7-86	..	..	11-64	19-18	11-87	12-50	
Koilkuntla	..	..	7-05	8-25	10-50	18-00	11-06	13-50	..	11-60	
Owk	..	..	8-30	9-13	12-00	16-50	10-27	14-20	..	..	
Allagadda	..	..	7-50	7-86	10-32	15-48	9-24	12-33	..	..	
Giddalore	..	..	8-30	9-13	16-50	16-50	15-80	15-80	13-05	15-95	
Markapur	..	..	9-96	11-62	16-00	23-50	..	..	..	18-85	
Average	..	..	7-90	8-68	12-61	17-50	10-88	16-80	10-46	13-70	

Activity of trade.—The state of the market is comparatively active. Grains are freely exposed for sale, but prices are fluctuating and both buyers and sellers are uncertain as to the future and consequently cautious in their transactions.

2. Import by rail of food-grains cannot be stated definitely as the extract from the Southern Mahratta Railway Auditor's report furnished to the Board is not yet to hand. Large quantities of rice, cholum and wheat are imported into Kurnool town, but no other imports worth mentioning have been reported from elsewhere. It is reported that merchants have instructed their agents abroad not to purchase any more grain owing to the favourable turn of season.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

1. *On works.*—The following sanctioned test-relief works were either in progress, or put in hand during the fortnight:—

- (1) Owk-Tadpatri frontier road in Koilkuntla taluk.
- (2) Chyágalamarri-Mutyalpau road in Sirvel taluk.
- (3) Chittore road from Allagadda southwards in Sirvel taluk.
- (4) Koilkuntla-Nossam road in Koilkuntla taluk.
- (5) Kurukunda tank repairs in Nandikotkur taluk.
- (6) Bellary road between Nagalavaram and Kodumuru in Nandikotkur taluk.

2. The Owk test-work, which was the first to be opened in this district, has been in progress from the 11th November 1896. The highest number of coolies reported on this work was 3,859 on the 25th November which fell to 2,741 on the 30th November 1896. This large decline in the number of coolies is due partly to the sharp fall in prices which has effected a great reduction in their wages and partly to incessant rain which has induced some to return to their agricultural occupations. The prices of rice and ragi which are now 8·3 seers and 16·5 seers per rupee, respectively, have fallen below the scarcity rate and the question therefore arises whether relief operations in this locality are still necessary. This matter engaged the best attention of the Commissioner and myself during the last few days while we were camped there. Taking the cheapest grain ragi at 16·5 Imperial

Taking the cheapest grain ragi at 16.5 Imperial seers, the famine C class wage comes to one anna for a man and eleven pies for a woman. The C class wage has been adopted as the gangs have not hitherto turned out work sufficient to justify their being placed in a higher class. This wage seems, in all conscience, low enough and yet for this wage no less than 2741 coolies have turned up. This is, I think, sufficient to show that there is considerable distress and that employment cannot be had elsewhere. The large majority of the coolies are Malabar and Māghā there are also large number of Sudras, Boyas, &c.

Every morning the Commissioner and I inspected the work, going carefully through each gang; and though there were loud complaints as to the smallness of the wage, yet they worked cheerfully though the stone was very hard and the work not pleasant. They showed considerable antipathy to the kitchen though every endeavour was made to make it attractive. Many of those now on the work are undoubtedly very hard-pressed even in good seasons, but however this may be, the Code test now shows that there is some distress in this locality.

To properly supervise a work like this, adequate superior supervision is essential. The Local Fund Engineer was here for sixteen days and had to return to headquarters. During the Commissioner's inspection his presence was found necessary and I had to telegraph for him. He cannot be left here always as his work elsewhere will suffer. I therefore request that a competent man may be appointed in charge of this work.

It was also found that one paymaster for 3,200 coolies is not sufficient. The Deputy Tahsildar and all his establishment has found it hard work to keep pace with payments; consequently all his other work is suffering. I suggest that there should be a paymaster for every 2,000 coolies.

The District Medical and Sanitary Officer inspected the work on the 25th November and reports that the condition of the coolies is good. There is no sickness of any kind amongst them, and there is therefore no necessity for opening an in-patient hospital as suggested by the Head Assistant Collector. The dispensary at Owk and the Hospital Assistant now on itinerating duty on the work is sufficient for the gangs employed.

Water is supplied by water casks and orders have issued for each gang to have large pots of water close by. The broken metal is utilized by spreading and consolidation.

3. The test work on the Chagalmarri-Mutyalpad road was opened on the 16th November by the Executive Engineer, but it was soon found that there was great difficulty in finding stone for the coolies. Close by, however, on the canal was a useful work, viz., raising the canal bund from lock No. 31 to the Vakkiler aqueduct. Detailed estimates for this work had been prepared and submitted to the Chief Engineer, but sanction had not been received. The Superintending Engineer and the Executive Engineer strongly recommended this work being undertaken; accordingly on the 18th November, in anticipation of sanction, I transferred the coolies to the canal, telegraphing to Government for sanction which has been duly received. At first there were 1,805 coolies, but the latest report shows only 1,038. The Tahsildar explains this large decrease as due to coolies having left as they could not do their work owing to incessant rain and consequently got only minimum wage which was not enough and as they can now get employment in the fields since the heavy rains fell. Even this small number is said to have consisted largely of people from Jammalamadugu and Proddatur taluks.

Copies of the Executive Engineer's reports on the opening of this work have already been submitted to the Board with my Tour Dis. No. 141-Eng., dated 28th November 1896.

November 1896.

In this he says that though there is scarcity of occupation, the coolies have still some grain or money resources of their own or private employ, but they prefer slight work for minimum wage now in order to husband their resources. He refers to the heavy rainfall, and in paragraph 10 says: "If delay in relief measures cause loss of life, it is equally the fact that relief operations commenced prematurely lead to unnecessary waste." His opinion therefore was that the works should be suspended for a time, say ten days, without relaxing vigilance.

Suspending the work for ten days is, of course, out of the question, and, in judging this work as a test, it is necessary to ascertain how far the tasks have been enforced.

* This was only on the 26th November and not up to date. Figures up to date not available.

explain why the tasks have not been enforced and the difference between the figures mentioned above.

In the Code there is no distance test mentioned, but it is a very telling one. The Mutyalpad villagers, who were said to be much distressed, first came to the road work, but left when work was transferred to the canal about a couple of miles further. They said it was too far, but heavy rain fell just at that time, which is also a strong reason for staying away and re-commencing cultivation.

This test work must be put down as a failure, as almost from the commencement incessant rain fell and the tasks have not been rigidly enforced.

4. Work was started near Allagadda on the 19th November and was in progress till the 22nd when the Commissioner, with whom I had a conference at Chintakunta, ordered that it should be stopped from the 23rd November 1896 on account of the heavy and continued rain. He also issued instructions that the Tahsildar, Revenue Inspector and a Relief Circle Inspector should thoroughly examine the villages and ascertain who are absolutely destitute, that a central poor-house should be established with proper shelter and sanitary arrangements, and that the effect of the closure of the work should be carefully watched. Orders were issued to the officers concerned in accordance with the above instructions and the fact reported to the Board.

Shortly after, the Commissioner being of opinion that the work was perhaps closed too soon, and that there might be a large number of people still in need of work in spite of the recent rains, issued instructions that arrangements should be made for the eventual re-opening of the work; the Executive Engineer was requested to take steps accordingly. The Head Assistant Collector has also been asked to report about the effect of closure of the work and the Tahsildar to report on the work done by the Relief Inspector. The number of coolies that were employed on this work on the date of the closure was 3,405 and the quantity of work performed by them during the four days of work was only 4,527½ cubic feet of metal collection against a task of 33,192 cubic feet or less than ⅓ of what was required. All of them received minimum wages during those four days as they were prevented by rain from turning out full work. Their condition was very good.

A sketch and estimate for the poor-house at Allagadda drawn up by the Executive Engineer, in consultation with the District Medical and Sanitary Officer, has been received, but further action postponed pending receipt of reports from Head Assistant Collector and the Relief Inspector.

5. Work was opened at Puthakayalapalli, three miles to the north of Nossam, on the 17th November and the maximum number of coolies was 2,296 on the 21st instant. On the 22nd and 23rd it rained heavily and the numbers began to fall off. Work, however, continued, though not satisfactorily, till the 26th. On the 27th and 28th there was heavy and continued rain (1.50 inches) and no coolies turned up and the following day was Sunday—a holiday. The few that attended came late and asked for their wages which were paid and they went away. On the 30th only 277 attended. The Tahsildar accordingly recommends that the work should be closed; before, however, issuing orders to this effect, I am going to Puthakayalapalli to-morrow (2nd December) and shall pass orders after inspecting the work. I enclose copy of the Assistant Engineer's report, dated 30th November 1896, just received.

The causes assigned for the sudden fall in the number of coolies are (1) that many were disappointed to find that the wages they received were not as liberal as those paid during the great famine of 1876-78, (2) that many returned to their villages to re-commence their agricultural operations in consequence of the fall of heavy rains, and (3) that the prices are now beginning to fall sharply. The Assistant Engineer in charge of the work states that the work allotted has not been performed in spite of close supervision owing to the coolies being unaccustomed to stone-breaking and to frequent rains which have been much heavier here and in Sirvel than in Owk.

The Tahsildar reports that the heavy rains which fell on the 22nd, 23rd and 27th November have greatly improved the standing crops and the people are greatly relieved.

6. Kurukunda tank work was intended to give relief to the affected villages lying on the foot of the Nallamalas in the Nandikotkur taluk. The work is reported to have been since changed to Guvvalagunta where the latest report shows that 770 persons were working. This change of site had not either my approval or that of the Divisional Officer. The Engineering Subordinate in charge of the work has been asked to explain this.

The Tahsildar reports that these workers are only waiting for payment to disperse. This shows that the good rains in this taluk, which also extended over the villages at the foot of the Nallamalas, has altered circumstances.

7. This work, which was sanctioned by the Board in its Proceedings, No. 361, dated 21st November 1896, was started on the 27th November near Kuruva, Nágálávaram, on the Bellary road by the Deputy Collector and the Tahsildar of Ramallakota, but it is reported that very few coolies turned up and they demanded certain rates and on refusal to employ them except on famine wages, they returned to their homes. Four more bands of labourers from Chanugondla, Pyalakurti, Panchikalapad, Ulchalu and Gudur appeared subsequently on the same day and on the next day and they also behaved in the same manner.

The Divisional Officer and the Tahsildar remained on the spot for some time, waiting to see if any more coolies would turn up for work. None having turned up till the 30th instant, the Deputy Collector reports that he has waited there sufficiently long and intends starting the work at Kodumur, Pattikonda taluk. This shows that no real distress exists in the parts about Nágálávaram in the Ramallakota taluk and even if it did, it has been greatly alleviated by the recent rains. The Tahsildar reports that cultivators are engaged in sowing seeds.

From the above it will be seen that at present the only work that has in any way answered the test is that at Owk and even there no deductions have as yet been made below minimum wages for short work. In Nágálávaram no coolies accepted work at famine wages; so there can be no real distress. As regards the other works, no definite conclusions can as yet be drawn. In paragraph 4 of the accompanying letter, the Executive Engineer repeats his opinion that relief works are unnecessary, but I am unable as yet to offer an equally decided opinion. Harvesting will re-commence in about a month, so that we will not be able to accurately gauge the situation for some time.

8. *In villages.*—The recent rains have greatly improved the condition of the people generally. All causes for anxiety have been removed in the Cumbum division, the rains having fallen most heavily there.

Mr. Rhenius, Inspector of Salt and Abkari Revenue, Cumbum Circle, having reported that Chenchus of certain hill villages visited by him during the week ending 22nd November 1896, were stinting themselves and required immediate relief, the District Forest Officer has been asked to inquire into the matter and take immediate steps to provide work for those that are able to work and open a kitchen for the relief of the destitute and the helpless.

The Nandikotkur division stands next best as rains have been sufficient there in all the villages and demand for labour is reported to be growing. The condition of the people in the affected villages at the foot of the Nallamalas has also improved.

In the Nandyal division the condition of the people of the Nandyal and Sirvel taluks has much improved, but Koilkuntla taluk, Owk division, especially leaves much room for improvement as more rain is wanted for the black cotton soil villages. The Commissioner while on tour having received complaints of want of work from the Malas, Madigas and other low classes of people living in the tract between Deebaguntla and Tangatur and near Chennur, a village 2½ miles distant from Deebaguntla, issued instructions that some work should be provided for them. I have accordingly requested the Executive Engineer to put in hand road-work on the Nandyal-Koilkuntla road near Gosapad to afford employment to the former and to start Boyalakunta tank work, which is near to Chennur, for the latter.

In the Kurnool division the people in the Ramallakota taluk and the Pyápali division, as also those in the red-soil villages of the Pattikonda taluk, are much better off than before, but the black cotton villages of Pattikonda taluk give cause for some anxiety.

The fact that prices have fallen even more rapidly than they rose in most places immediately after the rains shows that the present scarcity is almost entirely artificial.

No weavers having come forward in the Kurnool town to accept the relief offered owing to heaviness of the task fixed, the rate of task was reduced which was duly reported to the Board in my Tour Dis. No. 138-Eng., dated 28th November 1896. The Head-quarter Deputy Collector reports that, in spite of these great reductions in the task, nobody has come forward and that under the present altered favourable circumstances, it is useless to expect any to come to work for famine wages, as the weavers are apparently beginning to get work from their customers.

The reports of the Deputy Collector regarding the relief to weavers in Gudur, Kodumur and Pyápali have been received but are kept pending the result of the Kurnool scheme and the effects of the rain.

Sickness and mortality.—No deaths reported from want of food. Cholera has subsided.

Remarks.—About 150 people with as many cattle from the Nizam's territory migrated into the Nandikotkur taluk in search of work.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

(1) *On Works.*—In what taluks open and comparison of numbers—

Taluku.	Number employed	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Koilkuntla	2,524	3,018
Sirvel	...	1,038
Nandikotkur	234	770
Total	2,758	4,826

(2) *Gratuitous relief*.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

[illegible]

(3) *Private charity*.—Besides the merchants Ananta Sambiah and Gantiah referred to in the previous fortnightlies, some other well-to-do people of Kurnool town distributed gruel among the poor during the fortnight, and charities were brought to a close on the 24th November 1896 (*vide* my Tour Dis. No. 137-Eng., dated 28th November 1896).

Loan operations—Nil.

INSPECTIONS OF THE COLLECTOR.

Taluks and places visited.—I have been in Sirvel and Koilkuntla taluks the whole fortnight. I left Chintagunta on the 15th and reached Chagalmarri the same morning, inspecting on the way the fields of (1) Allagadda, (2) Patakanndukur, (3) Pedda Bojanam and (4) Nagalapad. I returned to Chintagunta on the 22nd to inspect the test work near Allagadda. On the 24th November I reached Koilkuntla after inspecting several fields in the villages of Kondapuram, Deenipaud and Bheemunipad. I moved to Owk on the 26th and was there till the 30th November, inspecting the Owk test work in company with the Commissioner.

General remarks.—The Settlement Commissioner arrived at Chagalmarri on the 17th evening and continued in the district to the end of the fortnight.

2. I had a conference with the Superintending Engineer who gave instructions to the Executive Engineer regarding the canal work from lock No. 31 to Vakkiler aqueduct, sanctioned by Government in its telegram dated 21st November 1896.

3. The Tank Restoration Party sanctioned for this district arrived at Kurnool on the 19th November and has been directed by the Executive Engineer to proceed at once to Pattikonda with papers relating to investigation of the fifteen works which had been left incomplete by the late Tank Restoration Scheme Party.

4. The Stationary Sub-Magistrates sanctioned for the Koilkuntla and Sirvel taluks have been appointed and the Tahsildars relieved from their ordinary duties.

5. The last Gazette having announced that the Charar Chariar to this district, he has been wired for to join Nandyal forthwith.

6. Under the authority of Board's Proceedings, No. 322, Settlement, dated 6th November 1896, I have issued orders postponing the collection of kists for December 1896 in all the affected villages of the district (*vide* my Tour Dis. No. 133-Eng., dated 28th November 1896).

Applications have been received for loans under Land Improvement Loans Act, 1884, from the Nandyal, Kurnool and Cumbum divisions.

7. Applications have been received for loans under Land Improvement Loans Act and Agriculturists' Loans Act in the Nandyal, Kurnool and Cumbum divisions and are duly receiving the attention of the officers concerned. The Tahsildar of Sirvel has applied for an allotment of Rs. 26,000 under the above Acts and the necessary application will be shortly made to the Board.

8. The Nabob of Banganapalle has reported that the gang of budmashes collected in his State have now settled amicably and peace has been restored. His report on the state of the season has been forwarded to Government. It shows that the rainfall and cultivated area this year is one-third of the normal. His applications for a loan of Rs. 50,000 for famine expenditure and another for Rs. 75,000 for his own expenditure have also been forwarded to Government with remarks. No report has yet been received from him about the effect of the north-east monsoon and I have called for one.

9. A grain riot occurred at Maddikera which has been duly reported to Government. Executive Engineer and the Local Fund Engineer are over worked and

9. A grain riot occurred in the Government.

10. The Executive Engineer and the Local Fund Engineer are over worked and require relief.

11. At the commencement of the fortnight there was a panic throughout the district as the Government grain was obtained only

11. At the commencement of the fortnight there was a panic throughout the district. Prices were at famine rates and even at these rates, grain was obtained only with great difficulty. Standing crops were in imminent danger of total loss and there was a great clamour for work. Rain fell from 17th to nearly end of fortnight. Prices fell sharply, grain is sold freely, the standing crops were saved and the clamour for work has to a great extent subsided.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Test relief work, Kolkuntla-Nossam road.

Test relief work, Koilkuntla-Nossam road.

First—Site of work.—This work was opened on the 17th November 1896 at a village called Puthakayalapalli 3 miles to the north of Nossam and 15 miles to the south of Koilkuntla. The site was preferred to the others for the following reasons:—

The soil in Nossam and the surrounding villages were reported by the Tahsildar to be more

(1) Nossam and the surrounding villages were reported by the Tahsildar to be more affected than others in this part of the taluk.

(2) For the test relief work, breaking and stacking metal was ordered; on the Koilkuntla-Nossam road, there are only three places where stone is available for breaking—1st, Nossam village, 2nd, Puthakayalapalli village and 3rd, Allur village, which is about midway between Koilkuntla and Nossam. Nossam being the very last village of the taluk on this road and the quarries at Allur not being ample, Puthakayalapalli was selected as being nearer the centre of the taluk than Nossam and as supplying ample material for the kind of work ordered to be carried out.

Second—Opening of work and its progress.—On the 17th November 1896, 536 coolies were drafted into six gangs, about 50 of these were weavers (men, women and children) of Nossam. Of the rest, the greater portion were Malas and Madigas, then Boyas with a small number of Kapus and of Muhammadans; 300 of these 530 were from Nossam the rest from Ackunupally, Putchakayalapalli, &c. No work was turned out on the 17th as the day was fully taken up in the formation of gangs, selection of maistries and head coolies and instructing them, &c.

On the 18th, work was started on the hill which is about 4 furlongs to the south of the village of Putchakayalapalli and coolies put on to break metal from stones collected from the sides of the hill and stack the metal at its foot and slopes, so that it may easily be carted away to various points of the road. Two gangs were formed newly this day.

On the 19th, seven gangs were newly formed, bringing the total number of coolies to 1,319. As the number increased it was found necessary to start work in a second place; for this the low hill immediately to the north of the village of Putchakayalapalli was selected and a number of the coolies put on to work here.

On the 20th, seven more gangs were newly formed, bringing the total number of coolies to 2,068. There was a slight shower of rain this day.

On the 21st, two more gangs were newly formed, the total number of coolies rising to 2,296. This is the maximum number yet reached and the number has begun to fall off from the next day. There was rain on this day also which interfered with the work.

Of the 2,296 coolies of this day, about 370 are from the Cuddapah district and the remaining 1,900 and odd from the Kurnool district, Koilkuntla taluk. The villages that supplied the coolies are mostly within a radius of 5 miles of Putchakayalapalli village, and may be enumerated as follows:—

I. Kurnool district, Koilkuntla taluk.		II. Cuddapah district.		III. Banganaapalle State.	
	MLS.		MLS.		MLS.
Boddemmanoor	8	Bodutippanapad	5	Govindapalle	2
Putchakayalapalli	2	Gundlagunta	5		
Oonteddupalli	2	Bhimagundam	5		
Ackunnapalli	1	Palur	4	Total number, about ..	30
Nossam	3	Peddammudiem	5		
Golladurti	6	Nagurazapalle	3		
Kakeravada	3	Papampalle	1		
Peddammannoor	4				
Reddigavari Jambelladinne ..	4				
Allur	7	Total number ..	370		
Coolies, total number, about ..	1,900				

[Note.—The distances are from famine camp to the respective villages.]

There were about 180 weavers present this day, Nossam supplying about 50, Boddemmanoor about 10 and Bodutippanapad and Gundlakunta about 120.

22nd, Sunday.—Holiday was granted by the Head Assistant Collector as per request of many of the coolies who were Christians.

23rd.—Five gangs out of the 24 were absent completely, bringing down the number present on the work to 1,682. The reason put forth by coolies for this large absence being that there was rain the previous day, that floods had come down in several of the vagus or streams, and that people of villages from beyond the vagus could not cross them and come up to work. Gang No. 16 was absent this day and did not turn up for work on any subsequent date.

24th.—Gangs Nos. 7 and 18, who were absent on 23rd November 1896, came up for work this day.

The number of absentee gangs this day was 3 and the number of coolies present 1,976. There was slight rain on 23rd and 24th November 1896.

25th.—Only 2 gangs were absent this day.

The number of coolies present was 1,980.

There was a fall of rain during the day and the task was reduced.

26th.—Four gangs were completely absent. Number of coolies present 1,760. short outturn of work this day. As the coolies had sufficient practice by this time 2 pies to 1 pie per individual were imposed.

27th.—Heavy rain. No coolies came for work; a small number came in the afternoon.

28th.—No coolies came up for work but many wanted payment which was made.

29th, Sunday.—No work. Those that did not come up for payment yesterday came up this day and were paid. All the muster rolls were paid off completely. Koilkuntla

Third.—Payment of wages and amount paid.—In the calculation of the wages, the market rate of Nossam, which is the nearest big village and which has a weekly market (market day being Wednesday), has been taken into consideration. The rates arrived at for the days in the

beginning of the work were As. 1-5, 1-4 and Pies 8, respectively, for man, woman and child; and are being reduced (as per price of grain in the market). They now stand at As. 1-0, Pies 11 and 6, respectively.

Payment has been made to the coolies as frequently and as quickly as possible; no room has been given for complaint on this account. Please vide paragraph 2 above.

Fourth.—Outturn of work.—Up to date the allotted task has not been turned out, though the coolies have been closely watched and superintended both by myself and by the Overseer. The reasons are—(1) The newness of the coolies to the work; several of them bit their fingers in breaking stones; some of them, such as the weavers, are not accustomed to hard labour; (2) from the 17th to 21st numbers of coolies had to be drafted into new gangs; this necessarily took up a good deal of time of the Overseer, maistries, &c.; (3) work had to be started urgently on receipt of a telegram and there was not sufficient time allowed for the proper training of the head coolies, maistries, &c.; (4) there were intermittent showers of rain on several days; (5) the stones to be broken (with the exception of weathered pieces lying on the surface of the hill and ground) were hard; (6) many of the coolies came every morning from distances of 4 miles and more and went back in the evening, and did not turn out as much work as they could if work was nearer their homes.

By this time (30th November 1896) the coolies have had sufficient practice, and have fully understood that task work is expected of them; hence there is reason to believe that the outturn will improve.

Fifth.—Health of the coolies.—There is nothing particular to mention under this item. There have been no cases of epidemics or of accidents.

Sixth.—Test how far proved.—The number of coolies is going down considerably for the following reasons: 1st It is said that many of the coolies came in under the impression that they would be paid the liberal wages of the great famine of 1876-78; when they find that it is not to be so, they are leaving the work; 2nd on account of the recent heavy rains the poorer ryots are along with the small number of labourers dependent on them who had come in for the work, are returning to their fields to look after cultivation; 3rd, grain is getting cheaper day by day and is to be had in the market, whereas ten days ago it was procurable only with great difficulty, and that at dear rate.

On 30th November 1896, 276 have come in for work as they have been given, in addition to verbal information, fully to understand (from the wages paid and work expected of them) that they will be paid only famine wages as per recent regulations. I think it has to be inferred that there is a great deal of scarcity of food for them; whether there is really famine (i.e., whether they are starving) can be proved, I think, only in about a week or so. In case they stick to the work after a week, for famine wages, they will continue for a month or two more, until the first crops are harvested.

Seventh.—What the coolies say.—They represent that the wages paid are too low. Some say that they would be satisfied if one full meal per day is given them and that they would work the whole day long for it. Even though there has been a good fall of rain in most of the villages, some of the coolies are said to be starving, as they could not all get work in the fields and as they have not got any savings to fall back upon. I think this is true.

Eighth.—Kitchen.—A temporary shed was put up near the village and the site of work and a kitchen opened on 24th November 1896. On this day 5 adults and 27 children were fed. Of these individuals, 22 were dependants or relatives of coolies engaged in the relief work. On the 29th, 6 adults and 28 children attended.

The greater number of those fed are Malas, next Muhammadans, and then other caste people. Food given.—Cholum is ground into pieces, cooked and made into balls, and then served in earthen plates.

Fifty and 25 tolas of grain are allowed for each adult and child, respectively, for the day (i.e., for two meals).

Note.—Number of coolies present on work on 30th November 1896 is as follows:—

Mahummadans	10
Kapus	40
Boyas	44
Malas and Madigas	183
Total	277

(Signed) B. SRINIVASA AIYANGAR,
Assistant Engineer.

CAMP PUTCHAKAYALAPALLI,
3rd November 1896.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From M.R.Ry. S. A. SUBRAMANYA AIYAR Avergal, Rai Sahib, B.A., B.C.E., Executive Engineer, Kurnool Division, to the Collector of Kurnool, dated 2nd December 1896, No. 146 F.

I have the honour to forward the following information for your fortnightly report.

2. Figures showing numbers on relief works, tasks imposed, tasks exacted, wages earned and payments made are being forwarded to Tahsildars and Divisional Officers by the Public Works Officers in immediate charge of the works, as prescribed by the Code and would have reached you by now.

3. During my inspections of the works I have noticed the following causes preventing full tasks being exacted :—

- (1) Want of proper quarries on Allagadda road.
- (2) Work prevented by rain almost every day.
- (3) Exact measurements of work done insisted on and fraud made practically impossible.
- (4) Very great inconvenience due to want of copies of the Code.

Copies of Appendix VI supplied do not give sufficient information to Overseers; references have to be made to other parts of the Code and other appendices in corresponding with Overseers; not merely this office, but Revenue Officers and subordinates freely refer to the Code and appendices, and without copies of them, the Overseers cannot perform their duties. Besides this very great necessity, every subordinate must know what use higher officers make of his returns and must realize the inconvenience caused to them by his own delays and want of punctuality.

(5) Till contumacious conduct was proved by experience to exist on the part of the coolies Overseers allowed minimum wages irrespective of work done under the general discretion given by the Code. Now that the state of the coolies is familiar to them, they have been directed to levy fines stringently and exact work properly.

4. I have already reported to you my own opinion that the relief works are unnecessary. After date of that report more rains have fallen. Coolies have also persistently failed to carry out tasks imposed. Overseers have no doubt omitted in many cases to make abatements in tasks prescribed on account of rains, &c. But even making every allowance, the coolies have failed to give a reasonable return for the wages paid to them. Overseers and higher officers including myself took every opportunity to impress on gangs that they will be fined for short work.

5. No more distress exists now than in normal years. The mere reduction of wages to the minimum has sent away a great many of the coolies. Hereafter as the coolies can bear it, fines have been ordered proportional to short work as per scale laid down, and the result of this will be reported in due course. My expectation is that no people will remain on the works when payment is made as now ordered strictly for quantity of work done, irrespective of the minimum wages.

6. You would probably have heard by this time the result of the stoppage of works at Allagadda. I have no definite information myself. But if the stoppage of that work was a mistake, we should already have heard a great deal about it.

Resolution—dated 9th December 1896, No. 411.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. From about the 17th to the 24th November an unusual fall of rain occurred in the district and extended, more or less, to all parts. The fall was, however, scanty at Pattikonda, on the Bellary frontier, and also at Atmakúru, close to the Nallamalas; in Nandikótkur. Elsewhere the fall averaged about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, except in the Sirvel taluk and to the east of the Nallamalas. This rain has removed all present anxiety in the latter, the eastern, section of the district; should bring up a good growth of grass in the jungles, and some on the waste lands; has revived such standing crop as existed, but as to the area of which there is no information; and has encouraged the ryots to sow some late quick-growing crops in parts. It has, however, been inadequate, and has come too late in the season to entirely alter the outlook. The Board is unable to accept the very roseate view which the Collector now takes of the situation, although it is doubtless less grave than it was. This is more especially due to the moral effect on the people, as explained in B.P., No. 390 of 1896.

3. The drop in prices that followed on this rainfall brought down rates on the 28th November to an average cheaper than the scarcity rates, although cholam, the staple grain of the most affected parts, was still dearer than that level both in

Koilkuntla and Sirvel. From the remarks made by the Collector, however, it appears that trade was almost inoperative at the end of the period, buyers and sellers being uncertain as to the future, and as, at the last quoted prices, exports to the north of India appear possible, they may be expected to rise again. The panic that ruled during the early part of November has, however, been stayed, and trade will, in a short time, resume its operations.

4. Under the head "Condition of the people" the Collector deals in great detail with each of the several works opened in the district. The manner in which they have been organized and managed has been dealt with by the Commissioner in a separate Proceedings, and it is sufficient to remark here that such diffuseness is altogether out of place in the fortnightly narratives, and if the Collector desires to represent such matters, he should do so in a separate report. The Collector should inform the Executive Engineer that the Code only requires deductions from wages in cases of contumaciousness, and even in such cases, the fact must be reported to Government. The Commissioner did not find any of the coolies either lazy or contumacious. For various causes, coolies cannot very often do the appointed tasks. A woman with a child in her arms cannot give her best work; neither can weavers or persons unaccustomed to manual labour do so; nor can persons with fingers mangled and bleeding, turn out a day's task of stone-breaking, nor can persons who have to walk 12 to 24 miles a day to and from the work, do a fair day's task. Indiscriminating fining is no part of the Famine Code.

5. It is very unsatisfactory to notice that the Collector is unable to report any definite information regarding loan operations under the Land Improvement Loans Act. The value of such operations as giving employment to large numbers of skilled labourers in their villages, should be impressed upon all officers, and the Collector should make arrangements to obtain full and detailed information as to the progress made.

6. Orders have already been issued to the Public Works Department to take charge of all relief works in the district, but the appointment of a Special Assistant Collector, sanctioned in G.O., No. 630, Revenue, dated 16th November 1896, has not yet been made. The Board does not press for this at once, as the Collector represented that the recent rains had practically put an end to the distress, and it is better that the Collector should apply for such an officer when he finds, as he will find, that the effects of these rains are transient, and that prices are rising again. On the 5th December prices had again risen sharply, and cholam was dearer than the scarcity rate. The fluctuations were as follow :—

Prices in seers of 80 tolas.

Grains.				November 14th.	November 28th.	December 5th.	Scarcity rate.
Rice	..	..	..	7-9	8-6	8-7	7-9
Cholam	..	..	..	10-9	16-7	14-1	15-0
Ragi	..	..	..	..	18-0	15-0	..
Cumbu	..	..	..	..	14-6	13-2	14-0

7. The condition of the black-soil villages of Pattikonda, which adjoin Alúr where the numbers on relief works are rising, should receive the early attention of the Collector.

8. The Collector should indent for any number of copies of the Famine Code required.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

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

Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

ORDER—No. 52, Revenue, dated 27th January 1897.

Miscellaneous.

The Board's remarks in paragraph 4 of its Proceedings read above are incorrect. The task table contains the task as fixed and worked up to in 1891. For not doing the sanctioned task only two reasons are recognized by the Famine Code, viz., contumacy or weakness as explained in G.O., No. 43, dated 26th January 1897.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture).

Erd. C. M. Thambasawmy.

35 Copies.