

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 548

Dated 9th July 1897.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Mostly Narrative.

According, with remarks, Board,
Subj. to Govt. - of the Bellary Dist.
the period ending 15th May 1897.

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 5291.

of the Hon: Sec. State etc
at the Government

9/2/97

From

The Bd: of Nev.,
Sett.

No. 548 of 9th July 1897.

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5/2/77 ASH
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No. 417

Recorded

2. The recommendation in
para 10 of the R.P. to abolish
the rule requiring seven days'
notice ~~in~~ before payment
in the case of certain licences
is well for disposed of by separate
orders

Dated 4^o June 1897.

Received 2542

Registered 268

Enclosures

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SUBJECT.

Submg: with remarks
Fortnightly narrative of
the Bellary St. for the period
Ending 15th May 1897

the Famine Comm
the W.D
the Y.D
the G.D
the P.D
the A.G.

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G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Env.	5216/87		
	433		4-6-97
Env.	4079/97		
Env.	3483/97		
Env.	3114/97		
	218		30-5-97
	24		25-5-97
	143		13-5-97
	87		

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

1897.



(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Enclosures

1897.

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Printed June th.

Proceedings, 4th June 1897, No. 417.

JUNE.

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

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

READ—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Bellary district during the period ending 15th of May 1897:—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply.—During the fortnight under report there has been slight rain as noted below:—

	INCHES.
Yemmiganúru	0.68
Adóni	0.40
Alúr	0.32
Kampli	0.44
Rayadrug	0.30
Hospet	0.23
Kúdligi	0.35

Difficulty in procuring water for drinking purposes is felt in many villages of Alúr, Kúdligi and Hadagalli, and in a few villages of Adóni, Bellary, Rayadrug, Harpanahalli and Hospet. The water-supply for irrigation purposes is sufficient in some slight supply from the recent rains. The tanks are empty except a few tanks which received

The drinking water-supply is being improved where necessary and possible by clearing out silt from wells and digging holes in the beds or on the banks of streams and tanks. In Joladarasi village of Bellary taluk where drinking water had to be brought from a distance of four miles, a water pandal has been sanctioned, water being carted from the Hagari river. To alleviate the water difficulty in Sanduru State, many wells and holes have been dug in the bed of the Nari river.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—*Adóni division.*—The clearing of nuth grass, ploughing and harrowing are going on. Garden crops and the paddy under the Rampur channel are in good condition. There are no other standing crops. *Bellary division.*—Lands are being prepared for early crops. The removal of nuth grass with the aid of State loans and otherwise continues. The harvest of second-crop paddy under the Hagari channels has commenced. The harvest of second-crop paddy under the Hagari channels has commenced. Korra is also being harvested in Rayadrug. The outturn of paddy there has been from eight to ten annas. *Hospet division.*—The sowing of sugarcane under river channels in Hospet is almost completed. Ploughing is proceeding in Hospet, Harpanahalli and Hadagalli. Cholan and oil-seeds are being sown in parts of the Kottur firka of Kúdligi taluk. Wet crops under river channels and Kamalapuram tank in Hospet taluk are in good condition. Crops under wells are in fairly good condition.

Sanduru State.—Lands are being prepared for the early sowings. There are no standing crops except betel which is fading for want of water.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—*Adóni division.*—Fodder is scanty in Alúr but may be sufficient for about two months in Adóni. There is no pasture. The condition of stall-fed cattle is good, but that of others is deteriorating in Adóni and poor to bad in Alúr. Cattle disease is reported from the villages of Hulebedu, Tumbalapedu and Pedda Hotur. There were 28 deaths during the fortnight. There were 600 head of cattle brought to the Adóni cattle market. Of these 161 were purchased by agriculturists and 28 by butchers, while the rest found no sale. *Bellary division.*—Pasture is very limited and fodder is scanty except in wet villages. Prickly-pear, coarse hill grass and leaves are being used as fodder. The condition of stall-fed cattle is generally fair, but that of others is poor in Rayadrug

and bad in Bellary. *Hospet division.*—Fodder insufficient except in Harpanahalli and Hire-Hadagalli firka of Hadagalli taluk. Pasture is said to be available to a very small extent in the villages in Hadagalli taluk which received rain lately and under the Tungabhadra channels in Hospet. The condition of cattle is deteriorating in places where fodder is insufficient.

Sanduru State.—Fodder is diminishing and pasture is scanty. The condition of the cattle is poor. It is surprising to note that the cattle in these parts are in very poor condition though so near the fodder supplies.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—The rain that fell in the beginning of the fortnight has not been followed by more showers I regret to say, and the drinking-water difficulty still exists in many parts of the district, being worst in the black cotton tracts. But, as will be seen from the foregoing abstract of Divisional Officers' reports, efforts to alleviate this distress are being made, and with fair success on the lines described in my last fortnightly narrative. Loans are being freely granted for fodder, and the District Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund has adopted a proposal of mine to make small money grants for the purchase of straw and grass to those ryots who are unable to obtain loans. The Madras Committee of the Fund is buying paddy straw and I hope to hear shortly that a supply of this has been sent to Guntakal, Aspari, Adóni and Kudutani for sale to ryots at nominal prices. In wet villages in the Bellary taluk paddy straw is obtainable at from Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 the cart-load; at Bellary the price is Rs. 9. A good deal of cholam straw is being brought from Pattikonda to Alúr and a fair quantity is forthcoming at all the large markets. At Bellary the price varies from Rs. 6½ to Rs. 8½ the cart-load. Hill grass is still obtainable but it is of poor quality and contains but little nutriment. I have at last been able to visit Sanduru and I was surprised to find the cattle there in comparatively poor condition. I have observed the same thing in the Antapur valley and the villages about Daroji, and the conclusion to which these facts point is that hill grass is not an altogether satisfactory fodder. If it is cut and dried as soon as it ripens it makes capital hay, but the grass that has been used for the past two or three months was not saved in time, and many cattle owners with whom I have spoken on the subject declare that it is not a nutritious food and is frequently injurious. My experience with my horses confirms this view. Still it is better than nothing and better than prickly-pear and date leaves which are now being used in many parts.

FOOD SUPPLIES AND THE STATE OF THE MARKETS.

Prices of principal food-grains at principal markets in the affected tracts, in seers of 80 tolas per rupee, for the period ending 15th of May 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		White cholam.		Yellow cholam.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
Adóni	9.13	9.13	11.55	11.23	12.90	12.63	17.73	16.12	Prices show a tendency to rise owing to the absence of rain and diminished imports.
Alúr	8.10	7.56	10.30	10.30	11.33	11.33	16.49	16.49	
Bellary	8.64	8.64	11.33	10.82	13.39	12.36	14.55	14.55	
Rayadrug	9.72	9.72	12.58	12.36	13.91	12.68	15.52	15.52	
Hospet	8.64	8.64	11.33	11.33	13.39	13.39	15.52	15.52	
Kúdligi	8.10	7.56	..	..	13.39	13.39	15.52	15.52	
Harpanahalli	9.72	9.72	..	..	13.39	12.36	17.00	16.00	
Hadagalli	9.45	9.45	..	..	13.39	12.36	..	..	
Sanduru	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Average	9.02	8.90	11.41	11.22	13.05	12.64	15.77	15.54	

Activity of trade.—Private trade is fairly active. During the last two weeks the imports of grain by rail amounted to 14,157 maunds and the exports 10,571 maunds; thus there was a net import of 3,586 maunds only against 10,300 maunds in the

previous two weeks. This continued decline in visible stocks has forced up prices, particularly in Bellary and Adóni. It is apprehended that they will rise briskly should the rain continue to hold off, but one good thunderstorm would materially alter the position.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On Works.—Generally good. One Divisional Officer reports that, owing to the scorching sun which now pours down on us, some of the relief-workers are beginning to look "faded." It is a standing surprise to me that they stand the heat so well as they do; and yet we know that numbers of those who sit breaking stones under this brazen sky, with the added torment of a blistering wind, are under no necessity to do so.

In villages.—Generally good. The carpet weavers of Bellary have asked for employment and special measures of relief on the same lines as at Adóni have been started. New works have been ordered to be started near Tekkalakota in the Bellary taluk on the Bellary-Sirugappa road and at Hampasagar in the Hadagalli taluk on the Dharwar road.

Sickness and mortality.—There was one case of cholera at Yemmiganúru in the Adóni taluk and it proved fatal. The victim was a man from the Ramallakot taluk of Kurnool and there have been no other cases. A case was reported from the Bandri work in Kúdligi taluk, but the death was probably due to eating tainted cocoanuts and not to cholera. There have been no more cases since. Small-pox is prevalent in Kúdligi and in four villages of Harpanahalli taluk. There were some cases of small-pox on the Alúr-Adóni, Adóni-Sirugappa and Alúr-Moka road works and five cases have died of starvation in the Bellary-Sirugappa road work. One old man was reported to the Tahsildar showed that the man was suffering from a chronic affection of the stomach, relatives capable of supporting him and that he was himself earning a wage of As. 1-6 every day. The "health" conditions are unusually favourable and it is a matter for thankfulness and congratulation that so far we have escaped any serious epidemic. We are prepared for cholera on all works, but it is to be earnestly hoped that the unusual heat of this year may save us. The time of danger will be the commencement of the monsoon.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

ON WORKS.—In what taluks open and comparison of numbers.

Taluku.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Adóni	20,306	27,612	Four more works were opened during the fortnight— (1) Adóni-Yemmiganúru road .. 381 (2) Yemmiganúru-Kosgi road .. 3,493 (3) Bellary Fort-ditch .. 1,039 (4) Ittigi road .. 66
Alúr	30,394	34,340	
Bellary	6,294	7,961	
Hospet	5,101	5,168	
Kúdligi	794	1,295	
Hadagalli	1,814	2,314	
Total	64,703	78,690	Total .. 5,029

NOTE.—The number employed on village works has not been given by the Divisional officers. The information will be obtained and reported in the next narrative.

The usual explanation of the increase is the "deepening" of distress, but I think the true cause is the ordinary cessation of agricultural work. Many of our relief-workers could get on without relief, but they argue, "prices are high, the future is uncertain and it is better to earn something instead of eating up the stock of grain which may be badly wanted hereafter."

Gratuitous relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise.

Taluku.	Number relieved							
	At kitchens.				In poor-houses.		In villages.	
	Dependants.		Others.					
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Adóni	2,141	1,562	369	757	..	..	201	918
Alúr	1,691	2,010	536	277	..	..	300	1,104
Bellary	469	580	221	221	..	..	..	628
Hospet	362	416	31	22	..	..	..	..
Kúdligi	76	57	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hadagalli	65	67	10	10	..	..	..	..
Total	4,804	4,692	1,167	1,287	..	..	501	2,650

Taluku.	Number of villages in which relief was given.		Weavers' relief.			
			Number of persons relieved.		Number of cloths manufactured.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	In the period.	Up to date.
Adóni	1	30	1,820	2,370	2,053	11,966
Alúr	16	74	..	..	..	..
Bellary	..	46	..	..	..	..

The decrease in the number of dependants in kitchens in Adóni is due in part to more correct classification and in part to the starting of gratuitous relief in villages.

Private charity.—Paramma continues to feed daily about 250 persons, mostly children.

The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Committee relieved 852 cases in Adóni and 2,513 in Bellary. The number relieved in Alúr, Hospet and Hadagalli have not been stated. The arrangements for substituting grain doles for the famine fund grants in the town of Bellary were completed at the last meeting of the District Committee and grain doles were distributed from yesterday. The change has also been made in Adóni town.

GENERAL REMARKS.

As already stated, I have at last been able to visit Sanduru, and I am glad to be able to report that the demand for employment has been fairly met. Ploughing, manuring and harrowing were seen on all sides, while the Administrator had started the repair of his roads on a somewhat more extensive scale than usual and had ordered the digging and deepening of wells in order to afford employment to those who were not required in the fields. As trustee of the Kumarasami temple, he has also employed a number of persons in cutting bamboos and other produce of the forests that belong to that institution. The total number employed in these ways is reported to be about 5,000, and gratuitous relief is also being given to the helpless poor of Sanduru and Hosahalli. I found that there was a slight misunderstanding at one village, the labourers being ignorant of the fact that they would be given work on the road, but this was, promptly, set right by the Administrator, who proceeded in person to the village in question.

2. To meet the requirements of the helpless poor, central kitchens have been ordered to be opened at Hatcholli in Adóni taluk, at Ravibal, Raravi and Vandavagali in Alúr taluk and at Korlagundi in Bellary taluk. One more kitchen has been ordered to be added to the Alúr-Moka roadwork. The fact that it is often more economical to give grain doles than to open kitchens has not been lost sight of.

3. There is no good yellow cholam available in the Alúr taluk, and the relief-workers are using white cholam eked out with ragi. Orders have accordingly been issued to calculate the wages on the price of white cholam.

4. There have been complaints that many of the copper coins issued for payment of wages are so worn that no shopkeeper will receive them. These coins were received at the Bank from Madras, Cuddapah and Kurnool in sealed boxes which were forwarded to the taluk treasury without being opened. The taluk shroffs have now been directed to retain all worn coin, treating it as uncurrent.

5. There has been also great difficulty in procuring a sufficiency of small silver and copper coins in Alúr taluk. From the beginning of October 1896 up to the end of April indents have been made on the Accountant-General for Rs. 3,05,000 worth of small silver and Rs. 95,500 worth of copper. Of this amount only Rs. 2,53,000 of small silver and Rs. 72,000 of copper have been received up to date. The present stock of small silver is only Rs. 3,500 and that of copper Rs. 360. It is curious that the large quantity already issued has not, in some shape or other, been received back into the treasury. A circular has since been issued inviting the public to bring to the treasury any amount of copper and small silver for free exchange with whole rupees, and the Accountant-General has been asked to comply with my indent in full as also with a further indent for Rs. 50,000 of small silver and Rs. 21,000 of copper.

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

Taluka.	Repair and construction of wells.										Other purposes.										Total.		Number of wells.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
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Note.—The figures for the Hospet division for this fortnight not having been received, the previous fortnight's figures have been adopted. During this fortnight the Special Tahsildar of Alúr has disbursed Rs. 19,527 and the Special Tahsildar of Bellary Rs. 15,686. It is satisfactory to note that the Tahsildar of Rayadrug continues to show good results, having disbursed Rs. 7,105 without any additional help, while the Tahsildar of Adóni has disbursed only Rs. 2,125, although he has two Special Revenue Inspectors at work and a third lately appointed. His failure to disburse any fodder loans is very disappointing. I beg to point out that the rule requiring notice of seven days before payment of a loan seriously interferes with the progress of the work. If a Tahsildar could dispose of all cases in a village at once, without waiting for the expiry of this period, rapid and prompt disposal of applications would be possible, without much additional risk of loss to the Government.

TALUKS AND PLACES VISITED.

By the Collector.—Alúr-Adóni, Alúr-Moka, Bellary-Moka and Bandri road-works with the kitchens attached to them; Bellary and Alúr kitchens, Kuditini, Yettinahatti, Nagalapuram, Bannihatti, Gangalapuram, Gouripuram, Sandur, Banihalli, Bahihalli, Kannihalli, Somalapuram, Nagar, Sivapuram.

Deputy Collector, Adóni.—Adóni section of Adóni-Madavaram roadwork, including the Adóni water-supply reservoir and the three kitchens at Adóni, Aspari, Chippigiri, Beldona, Namakallu, Nagardona, Alúr, Holalgundi, Kammarchedu, Manikunta, the Aspari section of Alúr-Aspari work, the Alúr-Chippigiri (both sections), Holalgundi and Alúr-Adóni roadworks and the kitchens at Aspari on the roadwork at Chippigiri, Námakkalu, Nagardona, Alúr and Holalgundi.

Deputy Collector, Bellary.—Karur, Mélur, Uttanuru, Gosuhal, Budiguppa, Tekkalakota, Upparahosakotta, Nadini, Balakundi, Myalapuram, Udagolam, Kenchanaguddam, Devalapuram, Siruguppa, Hirehal, Holakundi, Kammarchedu, Sankarabanda, Rupanagadi, Nittur and Hirakal and the relief works on the Siruguppa road and in the Bellary town and the kitchens near Somasamudram, Dammur, Kolur and Bellary.

Mr. Lloyd in charge of Rayadrug taluk.—Malyam, Sallapuram, Honnur, Sidarampuram, Nutakal, Nagalapuram, Rayadrug and Avuladetta.

Head Assistant Collector.—Hospet, Gouripur, Moriammanahalle, Nandibanda, Kenchaganahalli, Marabihhal, Naraindevarkeri, Bellahunsi, Tambrahalli, Gaddikera, Kodohalli, Bannikallu, Holalgundi, Huvinahadagalli, Magalam, Rangapuram and the relief works at Moriammanahalli, Naraindevarkeri, Bellahunsi and Devagondanahalli.

RESOLUTION—dated 4th June 1897, No. 417.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall during the fortnight was slight, and insufficient to improve the supply of drinking-water. The Collector, however, is fully alive to the wants of the people in this direction, and he and his officers are doing their best to alleviate the difficulty.

3. The scanty standing crops are said to be thriving, and a certain area has been harvested, while lands are being prepared in parts for early crops. But in the absence of any statement as to the extent of these operations, it is impossible to judge of their value either in affording employment, or in increasing stocks.

4. Pasture is virtually non-existent, and fodder is generally insufficient. The condition of the poorer classes of cattle is deteriorating. The following consignments of fodder for sale at Rs. 12-8-0 a ton have already been made to the district:—

From Madras to Nancherla	TONS.
... ..	20½
to Aspari	17½

5. Prices rose: the rises being most marked in the case of yellow cholam at Bellary and Rayadrug; and in the case of ragi at Adóni and Sandur. The position of prices is shown in the accompanying statement:—

Rate.	Measures per rupee.	
	Rice.	Cholam (mixed).
Standard	13.2	30.0
Warning	10.6	22.5
Scarcity	7.9	15.0
Current	8.8	11.7
May 1892	9.0	15.3
May 1877	7.2	7.5

The rise is ascribed to the holding off of rains, and decreased imports.

6. The condition of the people is reported to be generally good. The numbers on works increased by 22 per cent. The Collector remarks, "Numbers of those who sit breaking stones under this brazen sky, with the added torment of a blistering wind, are under no necessity to do so", and again, "The usual explanation of the increase is the deepening of distress, but I think the true cause is the ordinary cessation of agricultural work. Many of our relief-workers could get on without relief, but they argue, 'prices are high, the future is uncertain, and it is better to earn something instead of eating up the stock of grain which may be badly wanted hereafter.' No doubt the cessation of ordinary agricultural operations, which were practically over three months ago, tends to swell the numbers on relief, but the Famine Commissioner has no reason to believe that the conditions offered are sufficiently attractive to draw to the works any but those whom necessity compels to find a constant daily employment, and would be glad to believe that the ordinary ryot is gifted with the keen sense of providence for which the Collector gives him credit. There are villages in Bellary still béchirák, or unpopulated, since the famine of 1877-78. There was famine again in 1891-92. The district as a rule has to import food. On the average the Deccan districts are importers, not exporters, of grain, and the net imports for the six months, ending March 1897, were 6,35,153 maunds. It is an exceptional year in which one or other of the two monsoons is not in deficiency. Stocks are, admittedly, nearing exhaustion. The position of the poorer ryot is this. If the south-west monsoon fails this year he is utterly ruined. If it does not fail, he has, for four months to come, to maintain his cattle, and it costs, now, more to feed a bullock than a man. He has to maintain himself for four months after he leaves the works, unless, which is probable and proper, he returns to them after ploughing and sowing are over, and until harvest comes. He may, or may not, leave his family on the works; but he is unlikely to leave all, and those whom he takes home have to be fed. He has to feed his agricultural labourers, who must be paid in grain. He has to sow his land. It would probably be no exaggeration to assess the requirements for seed-grain in the affected taluks of Bellary at six lakhs of rupees. Supposing that the ryot should stay at home and exhaust his resources to the last farthing, what would be his position when the rains come? The whole machinery of the district would not be equal to advancing loans for seed-corn alone, and the process would extend over months, the present average of advances of all kinds being only about Rs. 17,000 a week. The sowing season would be lost. It is true that the ryot might—and would—go to the sowear; but it is not the object of Government to drive the ryot into the arms of the sowear. The stock of seed-corn is limited, especially in the present year, and the price is high; and, if the ryot exhausts his petty store, he has to go into the market, and buy an inferior article, to the lasting damage of the district staples. The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Committee would be quite unequal to the task of setting him on his legs again. As an embarrassed borrower, he would be a less valuable member of the body politic. He would, too, if he stayed at home, be obliged to stint himself, and would be less fit for the arduous labours of agriculture. If, therefore, he submits to the test of a relief work, and spends the day for a pittance of three half-pence, breaking stones under a sun into which no humane person would thrust a dog, his doing so need not cause any anxiety to the relief officer.

7. The administration of gratuitous relief in villages is progressing, the numbers having risen during the fortnight from 501 to 2,650. The Collector's remark about the substitution of grain-doles for Famine Fund grants in Bellary town is not quite clear; it is, however, presumed that the grain-doles are given by Government, and not at the expense of the Fund. Early arrangements should be made in all cases to take all the recipients of the Fund charity into the Government lists; if there are undeserving cases, they may be drafted out afterwards.

8. It is satisfactory to find that the Administrator of Sandur has provided work for the people within the State.

9. The attention of the Accountant-General will be drawn to the Collector's remarks about the condition of copper coins and the failure to comply in full with the

indents for copper and small silver. It is hoped that he will be able to place, not only in Bellary, but in all other affected districts, a sufficient quantity of such coins to meet all requirements.

10. There has been fair progress in the disposal of applications for loans, as is shown by the following figures:—

Up to the end of the week ending—

	Amount advanced.
1st May	RS.
8th "	2,04,582
15th "	2,19,164
22nd "	2,55,569
	2,74,727

The Tahsildar of Ráyadrug and the special Tahsildars of Bellary and Alúr have continued to show good work. The Tahsildar of Adóni, with his three Special Revenue Inspectors, should turn out more work. The Collector points out that the rule requiring seven days' notice before payment of a loan seriously interferes with the disposal of applications, and suggests that it would be well if this rule were abolished. No such notice is necessary under the special well rules; but, under the ordinary well rules and the rules framed under Act XII of 1884, such notice is imperative. As these rules have been published with the sanction of the Government of India, they cannot be altered without reference to that authority. There appears to be no need for such notice in the case of loans for the purchase of fodder, and it is submitted that the suggestion of abolishing the rule in the case of such loans is worthy of consideration. If the Government approve, the matter might be settled by telegram, in communication with the Government of India.

11. The wave of distress is now nearly at its highest. Another week or so will probably see the culminating point. The work in Bellary has been severe and harassing, and the Famine Commissioner is glad to note how well the call has been responded to by the District staff. In years to come, it will be an ever-increasing satisfaction to all of them to remember that they have spent, and been spent, for the people.

(True Copy and Extract.)

A. Nelson 24/6.
Famine Secretary.

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

sd. T. K. Narayana Aiyangar.

Government {1897} of Madras. REVENUE.

Recd.

Enclosures

1897.

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G.O., No. 548, 9th July 1897.

JULY.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording, with remark, Board's Proceedings submitting to Government — of the Bellary district for the period ending 15th May 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 4th June 1897, No. 417 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Bellary district during the period ending 15th of May 1897 :—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply.—During the fortnight under report there has been slight rain as noted below :—

	Yemmiganuru	Adóni	Alúr	Kampli	Rayadrug	Hospet	Kúdligi	INCHES.
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.68
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.40
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.32
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.14
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.30
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.23
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.35

Difficulty in procuring water for drinking purposes is felt in many villages of Alúr, Kúdligi and Hadagalli, and in a few villages of Adóni, Bellary, Rayadrug, Harpanahalli and Hospet. The water-supply for irrigation purposes is sufficient in the river channels and wells. The tanks are empty except a few tanks which received some slight supply from the recent rains.

The drinking water-supply is being improved where necessary and possible by clearing out silt from wells and digging holes in the beds or on the banks of streams and tanks. In Joladarasi village of Bellary taluk where drinking water had to be brought from a distance of four miles, a water pandal has been sanctioned, water being carted from the Hagari river. To alleviate the water difficulty in Sanduru State, many wells and holes have been dug in the bed of the Nari river.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops.—*Adóni division*.—The clearing of nuth grass, ploughing and harrowing are going on. Garden crops and the paddy under the Rampur channel are in good condition. There are no other standing crops. *Bellary division*.—Lands are being prepared for early crops. The removal of nuth grass with the aid of State loans and otherwise continues. The harvest of second-crop paddy under the Hagari channels has commenced. Korra is also being harvested in Rayadrug. The outturn of paddy there has been from eight to ten annas. *Hospet division*.—The sowing of sugarcane under river channels in Hospet is almost completed. Ploughing is proceeding in Hospet, Harpanahalli and Hadagalli. Cholan and oil-seeds are being sown in parts of the Kottur firka of Kúdligi taluk. Wet crops under river channels and Kamalapuram tank in Hospet taluk are in good condition. Crops under wells are in fairly good condition.

Sanduru State.—Lands are being prepared for the early sowings. There are no standing crops except betel which is fading for want of water.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—*Adóni division*.—Fodder is scanty in Alúr but may be sufficient for about two months in Adóni. There is no pasture. The condition of stall-fed cattle is good, but that of others is deteriorating in Adóni and poor to bad in Alúr. Cattle disease is reported from the villages of Hulebedu, Tumbalapedu and Pedda Hotur. There were 28 deaths during the fortnight. There were 600 head of cattle brought to the Adóni cattle market. Of these

161 were purchased by agriculturists and 28 by butchers, while the rest found no sale. *Bellary division*.—Pasture is very limited and fodder is scanty except in wet villages. Prickly-pear, coarse hill grass and leaves are being used as fodder. The condition of stall-fed cattle is generally fair, but that of others is poor in Rayadrug and bad in Bellary. *Hospet division*.—Fodder insufficient except in Harpanahalli and Hire-Hadagalli firka of Hadagalli taluk. Pasture is said to be available to a very small extent in the villages in Hadagalli taluk which received rain lately and under the Tungabhadra channels in Hospet. The condition of cattle is deteriorating in places where fodder is insufficient.

Sanduru State.—Fodder is diminishing and pasture is scanty. The condition of the cattle is poor. It is surprising to note that the cattle in these parts are in very poor condition though so near the fodder supplies.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—The rain that fell in the beginning of the fortnight has not been followed by more showers I regret to say, and the drinking-water difficulty still exists in many parts of the district, being worst in the black cotton tracts. But, as will be seen from the foregoing abstract of Divisional Officers' reports, efforts to alleviate this distress are being made, and with fair success on the lines described in my last fortnightly narrative. Loans are being freely granted for fodder, and the District Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund has adopted a proposal of mine to make small money grants for the purchase of straw and grass to those ryots who are unable to obtain loans. The Madras Committee of the Fund is buying paddy straw and I hope to hear shortly that a supply of this has been sent to Guntakal, Aspari, Adóni and Kudutani for sale to ryots at nominal prices. In wet villages in the Bellary taluk paddy straw is obtainable at from Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 the cart-load; at Bellary the price is Rs. 9. A good deal of cholam straw is being brought from Pattikonda to Alúr and a fair quantity is forthcoming at all the large markets. At Bellary the price varies from Rs. 6½ to Rs. 8½ the cart-load. Hill grass is still obtainable but it is of poor quality and contains but little nutriment. I have at last been able to visit Sanduru and I was surprised to find the cattle there in comparatively poor condition. I have observed the same thing in the Antapur valley and the villages about Daroji, and the conclusion to which these facts point is that hill grass is not an altogether satisfactory fodder. If it is cut and dried as soon as it ripens it makes capital hay, but the grass that has been used for the past two or three months was not saved in time, and many cattle owners with whom I have spoken on the subject declare that it is not a nutritious food and is frequently injurious. My experience with my horses confirms this view. Still it is better than nothing and better than prickly-pear and date leaves which are now being used in many parts.

FOOD SUPPLIES AND THE STATE OF THE MARKETS.

PRICES of principal food-grains at principal markets in the affected tracts, in seers of 80 tolas per rupee, for the period ending 15th of May 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		White cholam.		Yellow cholam.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
Adóni	9.13	9.13	11.55	11.28	12.90	12.63	17.73	16.12	Prices show a tendency to rise owing to the absence of rain and diminished imports.
Alúr	8.10	7.56	10.30	10.30	11.33	11.33	16.49	16.49	
Bellary	8.64	8.64	11.33	10.82	13.39	12.36	14.55	14.55	
Rayadrug	9.72	9.72	12.58	12.36	13.91	12.58	15.52	15.52	
Hospet	8.64	8.64	11.33	11.33	13.39	13.39	15.52	15.52	
Kúdligi	8.10	7.56	..	..	12.36	12.36	15.52	15.52	
Harpanahalli	9.72	9.72	..	..	13.39	13.39	15.52	15.52	
Hadagalli	9.72	9.72	..	..	13.39	12.88	17.00	16.00	
Sanduru	9.45	9.45	..	..	13.39	12.88	..	..	
Average	9.02	8.90	11.41	11.22	13.05	12.64	15.77	15.54	

Activity of trade.—Private trade is fairly active. During the last two weeks the imports of grain by rail amounted to 14,157 maunds and the exports 10,571 maunds; thus there was a net import of 3,586 maunds only against 10,800 maunds in the previous two weeks. This continued decline in visible stocks has forced up prices, particularly in Bellary and Adóni. It is apprehended that they will rise briskly should the rain continue to hold off, but one good thunderstorm would materially alter the position.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On Works.—Generally good. One Divisional Officer reports that, owing to the scorching sun which now pours down on us, some of the relief-workers are beginning to look "faded." It is a standing surprise to me that they stand the heat so well as they do; and yet we know that numbers of those who sit breaking stones under this brazen sky, with the added torment of a blistering wind, are under no necessity to do so.

In villages.—Generally good. The carpet weavers of Bellary have asked for employment and special measures of relief on the same lines as at Adóni have been started. New works have been ordered to be started near Tekkalakota in the Bellary taluk on the Bellary-Sirugappa road and at Hampasagar in the Hadagalli taluk on the Dharwar road.

Sickness and mortality.—There was one case of cholera at Yemmiganúru in the Adóni taluk and it proved fatal. The victim was a man from the Ramallakot taluk of Kurnool and there have been no other cases. A case was reported from the Bandri work in Kúdligi taluk, but the death was probably due to eating tainted cocoanuts and not to cholera. There have been no more cases since. Small-pox is prevalent in Kúdligi and in four villages of Harpanahalli taluk. There were some cases of small-pox on the Alúr-Adóni, Adóni-Sirugappa and Alúr-Moka road works and five cases of chicken-pox on the Gowripur-Kúdligi road work. One old man was reported to have died of starvation in the Bellary-Sirugappa road work; but the enquiry held by the Tahsildar showed that the man was suffering from a chronic affection of the stomach, that he had property worth Rs. 3 with him at the time of his death, that he had relatives capable of supporting him and that he was himself earning a wage of As. 1-6 every day. The "health" conditions are unusually favourable and it is a matter for thankfulness and congratulation that so far we have escaped any serious epidemic. We are prepared for cholera on all works, but it is to be earnestly hoped that the unusual heat of this year may save us. The time of danger will be the commencement of the monsoon.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

ON WORKS.—In what taluks open and comparison of numbers.

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Adóni	20,306	27,612	Four more works were opened during the fortnight— (1) Adóni-Yemmiganúru road .. 381 (2) Yemmiganúru-Kosgi road .. 3,493 (3) Bellary Fort-ditch .. 1,089 (4) Ittigi road .. 66
Alúr	30,394	34,340	
Bellary	6,294	7,961	
Hospet	5,101	5,168	
Kúdligi	794	1,295	
Hadagalli	1,814	2,814	Total .. 5,029
Total	64,703	78,690	

NOTE.—The number employed on village works has not been given by the Divisional officers. The information will be obtained and reported in the next narrative.

The usual explanation of the increase is the "deepening" of distress, but I think the true cause is the ordinary cessation of agricultural work. Many of our relief-workers could get on without relief, but they argue, "prices are high, the future is uncertain and it is better to earn something instead of eating up the stock of grain which may be badly wanted hereafter."

Gratuitous relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise.

Taluks.	Number relieved							
	At kitchens.				In poor-houses.		In villages.	
	Dependants.		Others.					
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Adóni	2,141	1,562	369	757	..	..	201	918
Alúr	1,691	2,010	536	277	..	..	300	1,104
Bellary	469	580	221	221	..	..	..	628
Hospet	362	416	31	22	..	..	..	..
Kúdligi	76	57	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hadagalli	65	67	10	10	..	..	..	..
Total	4,804	4,692	1,167	1,287	..	..	501	2,650

Taluks.	Number of villages in which relief was given.		Weavers' relief.			
			Number of persons relieved.		Number of cloths manufactured.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	In the period.	Up to date.
Adóni	1	80	1,820	2,370	2,053	11,966
Alúr	16	74	..	..	..	..
Bellary	..	46	..	..	..	..

The decrease in the number of dependants in kitchens in Adóni is due in part to more correct classification and in part to the starting of gratuitous relief in villages.

Private charity.—Paramma continues to feed daily about 250 persons, mostly children.

The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Committee relieved 852 cases in Adóni and 2,513 in Bellary. The number relieved in Alúr, Hospet and Hadagalli have not been stated. The arrangements for substituting grain doles for the famine fund grants in the town of Bellary were completed at the last meeting of the District Committee and grain doles were distributed from yesterday. The change has also been made in Adóni town.

GENERAL REMARKS.

As already stated, I have at last been able to visit Sanduru, and I am glad to be able to report that the demand for employment has been fairly met. Ploughing, manuring and harrowing were seen on all sides, while the Administrator had started the repair of his roads on a somewhat more extensive scale than usual and had ordered the digging and deepening of wells in order to afford employment to those who were not required in the fields. As trustee of the Kumarasami temple, he has also employed a number of persons in cutting bamboos and other produce of the forests that belong to that institution. The total number employed in these ways is reported to be about 5,000, and gratuitous relief is also being given to the helpless poor of Sanduru and Hosahalli. I found that there was a slight misunderstanding at one village, the labourers being ignorant of the fact that they would be given work on the road, but this was, promptly, set right by the Administrator, who proceeded in person to the village in question.

2. To meet the requirements of the helpless poor, central kitchens have been ordered to be opened at Hatcholli in Adóni taluk, at Ravibal, Raravi and Vandavagali in Alúr taluk and at Korlagundi in Bellary taluk. One more kitchen has been ordered to be added to the Alúr-Moka roadwork. The fact that it is often more economical to give grain doles than to open kitchens has not been lost sight of.

3. There is no good yellow cholam available in the Alúr taluk, and the relief-workers are using white cholam eked out with ragi. Orders have accordingly been issued to calculate the wages on the price of white cholam.

4. There have been complaints that many of the copper coins issued for payment of wages are so worn that no shopkeeper will receive them. These coins were received at the Bank from Madras, Cuddapah and Kurnool in sealed boxes which were been directed to retain all worn coin, treating it as uncurrent.

5. There has been also great difficulty in procuring a sufficiency of small silver and copper coins in Alúr taluk. From the beginning of October 1896 up to the end of April indents have been made on the Accountant-General for Rs. 3,05,000 worth of small silver and Rs. 95,500 worth of copper. Of this amount only Rs. 2,53,000 of stock of small silver is only Rs. 3,500 and that of copper Rs. 360. It is curious that the large quantity already issued has not, in some shape or other, been received back into the treasury. A circular has since been issued inviting the public to bring to the treasury any amount of copper and small silver for free exchange with whole rupees, and the Accountant-General has been asked to comply with my indent in full as also with a further indent for Rs. 50,000 of small silver and Rs. 21,000 of copper.

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

Taluka.	Repair and construction of wells.										Other purposes.										Total.		Number of wells.	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Total.		Number of wells.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Alúr	33	8,320	29	4,310	49	16,830	1,331	1,37,675	1,140	1,18,465	984	1,63,880	1,364	1,46,495	1,169	1,22,795	1,033	1,80,710	..	..	29	..	..	..
Adóni	8	1,560	7	830	80	18,396	135	10,320	111	8,415	616	56,906	143	11,850	118	8,945	596	75,302	..	..	3	..	..	..
Bellary	17	1,960	17	1,960	40	10,630	201	49,620	517	49,320	800	1,19,620	537	51,580	534	51,280	840	1,29,650	..	..	17	..	..	..
Rayadrug	49	10,575	49	5,413	52	14,100	201	26,200	201	26,200	131	21,720	250	36,775	250	31,613	133	35,820	..	..	49	..	..	..
Hospet	15	2,800	7	700	21	4,410	25	2,200	9	650	19	2,400	40	6,000	16	1,350	40	6,810	..	..	7	..	..	..
Kodligi	1	160	..	..	8	1,450	..	..	..	..	3	460	1	160	..	..	11	1,900	..	..	..	..	..	..
Harpanahalli	..	..	..	..	1	250	39	4,755	30	3,730	9	1,025	39	4,755	30	3,730	11	1,275	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hadagalli	..	..	..	..	36	8,800	34	4,890	33	4,640	189	30,830	36	5,090	35	4,740	225	39,730	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	125	26,075	111	13,013	287	74,366	2,285	2,35,660	2,041	2,11,440	2,651	3,96,831	2,410	2,61,735	2,152	2,24,453	2,938	4,71,197	..	..	105	..	..	..

Taluka.	Purchase of fodder.										Cattle and seed-grain.										Total.		Applications pending.	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Total.		Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
Alúr	157	6,386	132	4,104	600	37,773	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	157	6,386	132	4,104
Adóni	16	358	..	..	322	11,512	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	358	..	..
Bellary	130	4,947	130	4,947	617	26,896	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	130	4,947	130	4,947
Rayadrug	7	345	7	345	41	3,140	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	345	7	345
Hospet	..	..	..	..	32	1,700	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kodligi	..	..	..	..	58	1,623	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Harpanahalli	..	..	..	..	35	2,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hadagalli	17	706	15	646	75	3,249	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	706	15	646
Total	372	14,262	323	11,542	1,781	67,893	1	60	1	60	1	60	123	6,166	873	14,322	329	11,602	1,904	94,059	372	14,322	329	11,602

Note.—The figures for the Hospet division for this fortnight not having been received, the previous fortnight's figures have been adopted. During this fortnight the Special Tahsildar of Alúr has disbursed Rs. 19,527 and the Special Tahsildar of Bellary Rs. 15,666. It is satisfactory to note that the Tahsildar of Rayadrug continues to show good results, having disbursed Rs. 7,105 without any additional help, while the Tahsildar of Adóni has disbursed only Rs. 2,125, although he has two Special Revenue Inspectors at work and a third lately appointed. His failure to disburse any fodder loans is very disappointing. I beg to point out that the rule requiring notice of seven days before payment of a loan seriously interferes with the progress of the work. If a Tahsildar could dispose of all cases in a village at once, without waiting for the expiry of this period, rapid and prompt disposal of applications would be possible, without much additional risk of loss to the Government.

9. The attention of the Accountant-General will be drawn to the Collectors' remarks about the condition of copper coins and the failure to comply in full with the

indents for copper and small silver. It is hoped that he will be able to place, not only in Bellary, but in all other affected districts, a sufficient quantity of such coins to meet all requirements.

10. There has been fair progress in the disposal of applications for loans, as is shown by the following figures:—

Up to the end of the week ending—

									Amount advanced. RS.
1st May	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,04,582
8th "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,19,164
15th "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,55,569
22nd "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,74,727

The Tahsildar of Ráyadrug and the special Tahsildars of Bellary and Alúr have continued to show good work. The Tahsildar of Adóni, with his three Special Revenue Inspectors, should turn out more work. The Collector points out that the rule requiring seven days' notice before payment of a loan seriously interferes with the disposal of applications, and suggests that it would be well if this rule were abolished. No such notice is necessary under the special well rules; but, under the ordinary well rules and the rules framed under Act XII of 1884, such notice is imperative. As these rules have been published with the sanction of the Government of India, they cannot be altered without reference to that authority. There appears to be no need for such notice in the case of loans for the purchase of fodder, and it is submitted that the suggestion of abolishing the rule in the case of such loans is worthy of consideration. If the Government approve, the matter might be settled by telegram, in communication with the Government of India.

11. The wave of distress is now nearly at its highest. Another week or so will probably see the culminating point. The work in Bellary has been severe and harassing, and the Famine Commissioner is glad to note how well the call has been responded to by the District staff. In years to come, it will be an ever-increasing satisfaction to all of them to remember that they have spent, and been spent, for the people.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed)

L. E. BUCKLEY,
Famine Secretary.

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

Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

ORDER—No. 548, Revenue, dated 9th July 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The recommendation in paragraph 10 of the Board's Proceedings to abolish the rule requiring seven days' notice before payment in the case of certain loans will be disposed of by separate orders.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

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

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

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Dated	9.7.	1897.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

K. S. Srinivasan Chetty
 Secretary at Bangalore.

Government (1897) of Madras. REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 548A, 9th July 1897.

JULY.

Kolla Singanna Chetty's Choultry at Benares.

Communicating to the Board of Revenue and to the Accountant-General certain correspondence relative to the management of —, and stating that the proposal of the Accountant-General, Madras, to move the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh to invest all undistributed interest on the original endowment in Government pro-notes and to deposit them with him, meets with the approval of Government.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following letter from the Chief Secretary to Government, North-West Provinces and Oudh, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated Allahabad, 24th December 1896, No. 1710—III-865-B:—

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 582, dated 30th October 1896, forwarding copies of certain correspondence relative to the management of the choultry in Benares founded by Kolla Singanna Chetty; and requesting to be informed of the circumstances under which this Government withdrew its supervision over the management.

2. In reply, I am to state for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, that there was no intention on the part of this Government that the control of the trust should be withdrawn. In the letter from this Government, No. 569, dated 26th March 1891, a copy of a communication from the Board of Revenue of these Provinces who have the control of such trusts was forwarded to the Government of Madras in which enquiry was made whether the representative of the founder was willing to join in an application for the vesting of the Benares trust funds in the treasurer of charitable endowments; and it was at the same time suggested by the Board that one vesting order might be issued to cover the four trusts, including the three in Madras. In your letter No. 762, dated 22nd February 1894, it was said in reply, that the representative of the founder desired that all the trusts should be vested in one order, and the accumulated interest was accordingly transferred to the Government of Madras. I am therefore to request, that, with the permission of His Excellency in Council, it may be stated whether it is proposed to issue one vesting order to cover all four trusts.

3. I am also to state, for the information of His Excellency, that orders have been issued for the resumption of the control of the trust by the Collector of Benares; and to add that it is presumed that arrangements will be made by the Government of Madras for the remittance of the necessary funds to the Collector for payment to the local agent whose name the Collector has been asked to report.

READ—again the following:—

Official Memorandum No. 51.

The Honourable the Advocate-General is requested to favour Government with his opinion on the following case:—

In 1816, one Kolla Singanna Chetty paid, in Government promissory-notes, a sum of Rs. 40,000 absolutely to Government on condition of its paying for ever Rs. 50 a month for the upkeep of each of the four choultries established by him at Madras, Chittoor, Conjeeveram and Benares. The trust was accepted by the Government and a cowle and muchilika were executed to that effect in 1817. Savings to the extent of Rs. 11,500 have, however, accrued from the monthly allowance payable in respect of the Benares choultry and the amount which has been invested in Government promissory-notes is now held by the Government. The questions for opinion are—

(1) Whether a scheme can legally be settled under India Act VI of 1890 for the utilization of the sum of Rs. 11,500 above mentioned, and if so (2) who should make the application under section 6 of the Act for action to be taken thereunder by the Local Government.

2. The following documents are forwarded for perusal and return:—

- (1) Cowle executed by Government.
- (2) Muchilika executed by Kolla Singanna Chetty.
- (3) Memorandum of services to be performed in the Benares choultry.
- (4) Notification of the Government of India, No. 1569, dated 24th October 1890.
- (5) G.O., No. 581, dated 30th October 1896.

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

4th March 1897.

To the Honourable the Advocate-General, through the Government Solicitor, with copies of the papers referred to in paragraph 2 of the Official Memorandum.

READ—again the following G.O., Mis. No. 2315, Revenue, dated 3rd June 1897, on endorsement of the Government Solicitor, Madras, No. 261, dated 23rd April 1897, forwarding the following:—

OPINION.

[Re Kolla Singanna Chetty's Endowment, Benares Choultry.]

As regards the first question, i.e., whether a scheme can legally be settled under Act VI of 1890 in respect of Rs. 11,500, there seems no reason to doubt that, under India Act VI of 1890, the sum of Rs. 11,500 which is now in the hands of the Accountant-General of Madras can, on application made in accordance with section 6, be vested, by an order of the Local Government, in the treasurer of charitable endowments for the Presidency of Madras. The maintenance of the Benares choultry and the feeding of a certain number of persons daily therein is "a charitable purpose" as defined in section 2 of the Act, notwithstanding that the charitable purpose relates in part to a certain daily religious worship associated with the choultry. The sum of Rs. 11,500 invested in Government securities being the unexpended portion of the annuity which forms the trust fund and the interest thereon is property held in trust for a charitable purpose within the meaning of section 4 of the Act. A scheme can also, on application made in accordance with section 6, be settled by the Local Government under section 5 of the Act, for the administration of the trust fund to be vested in the treasurer of charitable endowments and in such scheme, a person may be appointed to administer the property, regard of course being had in settling such scheme to the wishes of the author of the trust as far as practicable (*vide* sub-section 5 of section 5). In the present case, there is no reasonable ground for any doubt or dispute as to the trust or the wishes of the author of the trust.

2. As regards the second question, I am of opinion that no action can be taken either under section 4 or 5 of the Act without an application being made by the present trustee Rao Bahadur C. V. Cunniah Chetty Garu, the grandson of the author of the trust. The cowle executed by Government in favour of Kolla Singanna Chetty, the author of the trust, and the corresponding muchilika executed by the said Kolla Singanna Chetty clearly show that the trusteeship was to be hereditary in the family though by reason of the residence of the family being in Madras a local agent was to be appointed from time to time by the trustee for the time being, such local agent being, however, subject in the application of the annuity to the purposes of the trust, to the control and supervision of the Collector of Benares and subject to be removed or suspended by the said Collector. The person acting in the administration of the trust within the meaning of clause (a) of sub-section 1 of section 6, is therefore at present Rao Bahadur C. V. Cunniah Chetty Garu, the present trustee. The local agent, if any, is only an agent or deputy of the trustee and the Collector has only the right of supervision under the terms of the cowle and the muchilika, over the administration of the trust. Though the fund in question is in possession of the Accountant-General yet being trust fund, it is legally vested in and held by the trustee.

3. As it however appears from the papers accompanying the reference that Rao Bahadur C. V. Cunniah Chetty Garu is claiming the fund from the Accountant-General, it may be assumed that he does not want the Government to take any action under the Act. I may add that, under the terms of the cowle and the muchilika already referred to, the Government is perfectly justified in withholding the accumulated fund and the annuity from the present trustee who appears to have practically closed the choultry in 1894. The Government in 1817 undertook to pay in perpetuity an annuity of Rs. 600 to Kolla Singanna Chetty and his heirs not simply in consideration of an absolute transfer to Government of Government securities to

the value of Rs. 10,000 but also in consideration of the said annuity being applied to the upkeep and maintenance of a choultry—an institution which was then the policy of the Government to encourage and it was expressly provided that such annuity was payable to the trustee's local agent by the Collector, who was to cause the money to be appropriated by the local agent to the purposes of the trust and to prevent its misappropriation. But for such provisions, which were intended to ensure the maintenance of the choultry and the effectual carrying out of the charity, Government certainly would not have stipulated to pay in perpetuity a liberal annuity of Rs. 600. It also appears from the papers that Mr. Cunniah Chetty's estate is now under litigation between him and his minor sons, that Mr. Firth has been appointed Receiver of the Estate by the High Court pending the suit and that he has requested Government to stay action in the matter of Mr. C. V. Cunniah Chetty's claim to the fund until the result of a reference he has made to the High Court as a Receiver is known. Such reference, the exact nature of which is not stated, appears to have been made before August 1896, and I do not know whether it is still pending or how it has been disposed of. If notice of such reference be given to Government the whole matter may be laid before the High Court for such order as it may deem fit to pass. If the fund in question is not dealt with by an order of the High Court in the suit now pending it may eventually become necessary for Government to have a suit instituted in the High Court under section 539 of the Code of Civil Procedure for settling a scheme for the management of the charity and for appointing a new trustee if necessary. A part of the subject-matter of the trust being now in the hands of the Accountant-General of Madras the High Court of Madras will have jurisdiction under section 539 of the Code of the Civil Procedure though the choultry is situate in Benares.

MADRAS,
19th April 1897.

(Signed) V. BHASHYAM IYENGAR,
Acting Advocate-General.

Order—Mis. No. 2815, Revenue, dated 3rd June 1897.

With reference to paragraph 2 of the Honourable the Advocate-General's opinion, it is observed that Government, having received the trust money, appears to be the trustee, that is the person acting in the administration of the trust, rather than Singanna Chetty's heirs. These heirs having merely the power to appoint and dismiss the managers of the choultries, which are the objects of the trust, cannot, it appears to Government, be called trustees. With these observations the papers will be returned to the Honourable the Advocate-General for further consideration of this point and opinion.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Honourable the Advocate-General,
through the Government Solicitor,
with C. No. 3406 and enclosures.

Read—also the following letter from W. H. MICHAEL, Esq., Officiating Accountant-General to the Government of Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 22nd May 1897, No. 1613:—

With reference to G.O., Mis. No. 2101, dated the 27th of April 1897, I have the honour to state that, out of the interest which has accumulated on the Government Chetty's choultry at Benares, I have purchased additional notes for Rs. 1,400 and that the investment now in my hands aggregates Rs. 12,900. I take this opportunity to refer to the correspondence recorded in Madras, G.O., No. 581, Revenue, dated 30th October 1896, from which it will appear that the interest on the original endowment of 10,000 Sicca rupees in respect of the choultry at Benares has not been disbursed for a long time by the North-West Provinces Government and to enquire whether Government wish that such arrear interest and further interest should also be invested. The interest is payable monthly at Benares and is not in my hands or under my control. The North-West Provinces Government might be moved to make the investment through the Local Accountant-General and to deposit the notes from time to time with me along with those already placed in my custody.

Read—again the following G.O., Mis. No. 3137, Revenue, dated 19th June 1897:—

Read—the following letter from H. F. EVANS, Esq., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to Government, North-West Provinces and Oudh, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated Naini Tal, 28th May 1897, No. 588—III-865-B:—

With reference to correspondence ending with the letter from this Government No. 1710—III-865-B, dated 24th December 1896, relative to the management of the choultry in Benares founded by Kolla Singanna Chetty, I am directed to state, for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, that Gauri Shankar, the person who had previously acted as the local agent of the trust at Benares, has been appointed to receive and disburse the monthly payments; and to request that the date from which the monthly allowance for the trust should be drawn at Benares may be intimated at a very early date. The last payment made by the Collector of Benares, amounting to Rs. 160-13-4 was in July 1894; and the balance Rs. 81-9-1 was made over to the local agent, of which due intimation was given to the Government of Madras by the Collector.

2. I am also to invite your attention to paragraph 2 of the letter quoted above, and to request that, with the permission of His Excellency in Council, this Government may be informed if it is proposed to issue one vesting order to cover all the four trusts founded by Kolla Singanna Chetty.

Order—Mis. No. 3137, Revenue, dated 19th June 1897.

Ordered that the following letter be despatched to the Government of North-West Provinces and Oudh.

(True Extract.)

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

Read—again the following letter from the Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, dated 19th June 1897, No. 3138:—

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters, No. 1710, dated 24th December 1896, and No. 588, dated 28th May 1897, relative to the management of the choultry at Benares founded by Kolla Singanna Chetty and, in reply to paragraph 3 of the earlier communication, to point out that, under the orders of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council contained in the marginally-noted correspondence, it is the Collector of Benares that has to disburse from the

Benares treasury the sum of Rs. 50 per mensem to the agent for the time being appointed by the representative of Singanna Chetty to conduct the charity at that station, and that no remittance of funds from this Presidency appears to be necessary.

2. With reference to the enquiry in paragraph 2 of the same letter, I am directed to observe that, as the promissory notes for Rs. 40,000 originally deposited by Kolla Singanna Chetty were cancelled and there is now only an obligation on the part of the Government to pay for ever Rs. 50 per mensem for the maintenance of each of the four choultries founded by him, there is no longer any property to be vested in the treasurer of charitable endowments. As regards, however, the sum which represents the accumulated savings out of the Benares portion of the endowment, the Advocate-General to the Government of Madras, who was consulted on the point, is of opinion

that a scheme for the administration of this fund might be settled under section 5 of Act VI of 1890 (India), should an application be made under section 6 of the Act. The question as to who should make the application under the last mentioned section is still under reference to the Hon'ble the Advocate-General and, on receipt of his reply, a further communication will be addressed to your Government.

3. Referring to paragraph 1 of your letter of the 28th ultimo, I am directed to state that payment of the allowance may be resumed from 1st July 1897.

READ—also endorsement of the Government Solicitor, Madras, dated 15th June 1897, No. 338, forwarding the following:—

OPINION.

[Re Kolla Singanna Chetty's Endowment, Benares Choultry (vide G.O., Mis. No. 2315, Revenue, dated 3rd June 1897)].

On further consideration of the point referred to in the aforesaid Government Order, I see no reason to change the opinion expressed by me in paragraph 2 of my former opinion, dated 19th April 1897, and I shall now give my reasons somewhat fully. It is observed in the said order of Government "that Government having received the trust money, appears to be the trustee, that is, the person acting in the administration of the trust rather than Singanna Chetty's heirs." I do not see my way to accept this version of the arrangement made in writing between Singanna Chetty and the Right Honourable the Governor in Council of Fort St. George. The reference to the trust money received by Government is, I presume, to the Company's paper of the value of 10,000 sicca rupees. But the question however is whether it was transferred in trust or absolutely. The cowle and muchilika unmistakably show that it was an absolute transfer in consideration of a perpetual annuity payable in monthly instalments by the East India Company to the nominee from time to time of Singanna Chetty, his heirs and successors.

This annuity is appropriated by Singanna Chetty, the author of the trust, to the maintenance of the choultry built by him at Benares. He expressly declares in the last paragraph of his muchilika that none of his heirs or successors shall possess any power to alienate the money to be paid monthly by the Collector of Benares to any other purpose whatever than the support and repair of the Benares choultry erected by him to which the same is exclusively appropriable. As regards the Company's paper for Rs. 10,000, which was blank endorsed, and deposited in the Office of the Accountant-General, "placing the same entirely at the disposal of the East India Company," the muchilika declares that the same "is sold, transferred and disposed of to the East India Company" "vesting the Governor in Council with full and ample power to sell, transfer and dispose of the same to any person whatever, or to cancel and destroy the Company's paper at pleasure." Thus it will be seen that the trust fund or endowment for the choultry is not the original amount of Rs. 10,000 in the shape of Company's paper which was transferred or rather released to the East India Company, but the annuity which the Governor in Council on behalf of the East India Company undertook to pay in consideration of such transfer or release, the amount of annuity having been fixed not on a mercantile basis, but at a liberal figure in consideration of the charitable object to which the same was to be dedicated and appropriated by the annuitant. The person to receive the annuity and apply the same subject to the supervision of the Collector of Benares where the choultry was erected is to be the nominee from time to time of Singanna Chetty and his heirs and therefore it follows that the trustee is Singanna Chetty and after him his heirs and not Government which has undertaken and is bound to pay the annuity. If the annuity has been withheld by Government for some years for reasons stated, the accumulation thereof with its accretion in the shape of interest, being the fund now in question, cannot be regarded as money held by Government as trustee, that is the person acting in the administration of the trust. No doubt there is a recital in the cowle and muchilika of Singanna Chetty having endowed the choultry with the sum of Rs. 10,000 and of his having for that purpose deposited in the Office of the Accountant-General Company's paper for that amount, blank endorsed, &c. Such a recital cannot affect the real nature of the transaction, but, even if the Company's paper itself was the endowment and trust fund, it has in the interests of the trust been converted into an annuity. After such conversion the trust will attach to the annuity and not to the Company's paper, assuming that the latter was once impressed with trust. It is difficult to see what is the property the ownership of which is vested in Government, to which ownership an obligation is annexed (vide definition of trust, section 3, Indian Trusts Act II of 1882). If the Company's paper is regarded as the property in question, the ownership therein has been transferred absolutely to the East India Company without any obligation attaching to such ownership and the Government cannot be regarded as trustee. Even when trust property is transferred on a perpetual lease the rent reserved being payable to the lessor and his heirs for being appropriated and applied to the purposes of the trust, the lessee certainly does not by

such transfer become a trustee. If, as I think is the case, the annuity with its accretion is the trust property and the only trust property the ownership therein is vested in Singanna Chetty and his heirs and an obligation is annexed to such ownership, viz., that it shall be exclusively appropriated to the maintenance of the Benares Choultry.

The arrangements recited in the cowle and muchilika as to a local agent being appointed from time to time by Singanna Chetty and his heirs for receiving and disbursing the annuity payable at Benares by the Collector who is also to superintend and whenever he deems it necessary to do so to dismiss such agents, cannot affect the position of Singanna Chetty and his heirs as trustees, nor preclude their dispensing with agents and managing the choultry direct without employing a local agent, subject, it may be, to the supervision of the Collector. Attention may here be drawn to the portion of the muchilika which provides that the local Agent is to act under instructions from Singanna Chetty respecting the disbursement of the annuity and that a copy of such instructions is to be furnished to the Collector of Benares in order that he may superintend the Agent and cause the money to be appropriated to the purposes directed by Singanna Chetty. This provision will equally hold good in regard to his heirs. If Singanna Chetty was trustee during his lifetime, it could hardly be contended that, on his death, he was not succeeded in the office of trustee by his heir, but that Government became trustee assuming for the sake of argument that Government is legally capable of being a trustee and regarded as a person acting in the administration of a trust. (See however Kinlock *versus* Secretary of State for India in Council, L. R. 15, Chancery Division, per James, L.J., at page 9).

MADRAS,
12th June 1897.

(Signed) V. BHASHYAM IYENGAR,
Acting Advocate-General.

ORDER—No. 548A, Revenue, dated 9th July 1897.

Miscellaneous.

The papers read above will be communicated to the Board of Revenue and the Accountant-General.

2. It appears from the opinions of the Hon'ble the Advocate-General read above that a scheme for the administration of the fund representing the accumulated savings out of the Benares portion of the endowment might be settled under section 5 of Act VI of 1890 (India), should an application be made under section 6 of the Act, by Rao Bahadur C. V. Cunniiah Chetty, the present representative of the family of the founder of the endowment. But owing to the litigation now going on between that representative and his minor sons as to who should control the family charities, the Government considers that no action in this direction is feasible at present.

3. The proposal contained in the concluding portion of the Accountant-General's letter No. 1613, dated 22nd May 1897, meets with the approval of Government.

4. The following letter will be despatched to the Government of the North-West Provinces and Oudh.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
the Accountant-General.

Ed. P. Seetharam.

40 Copies.