

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 570

Dated 13th July

[Despatch Abstract.]

Relief operations.

Recording Board's Progress on letter from the
Collector of Nellore reporting on the prepa-
rations for starting — in case the south-
west monsoon fails.

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SUBJECT.

Recording letter from
 the Collr. of Bellary reporting
 on the preparations for
 starting relief operations
 in case the South-west
 monsoon fails.

19/7/97

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REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

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



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1897.

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Printed July th.

Proceedings, 18th June 1897, No. 449.

JUNE.

Relief Operations.—Recording, with remarks, letter from the Collector of Nellore reporting on the preparations for starting — in case the south-west monsoon fails.

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

READ—the following letter from E. SCOTT, Esq., Acting Collector of Nellore, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated Nellore, 2nd June 1897, No. 1667-Ver. :—

I have the honour to submit the report called for in paragraph 3 of Board's Proceedings, No. 352, dated 10th May 1897.

2. *Rainfall of the north-east monsoon of 1896-97.*—In this office letter No. 4016-Ver., dated 5th November 1896, disposed of in Board's Proceedings, dated 7th November 1896, No. 327, a report as to the state of the district with particulars as to the state of crops, &c., and statistics for the rainfall, cultivation and prices was furnished. In paragraph 4 it was shown that the south-west monsoon of the year was on the whole favourable. A statement showing the figures for the north-east monsoon for all the registering stations, as compared with the previous five years, is shown as enclosure A. The rainfall, though slightly short of the average, was in excess of the rainfall for the same period during the previous five years except 1893-94. But it was late and ill-distributed. The southern portion of the district more especially Gudur, Kota and Polur had the heaviest rainfall. It was fair in the centre of the district and extremely indifferent in the northern and western portions, Addanki, Podili, Darsi and Kanigiri faring the worst. The result has been that except in the south, crops in parts failed, while the outturn has been that except in the outturn are not at present available.

3. *Sowings of 1896-97.*—A statement showing the sowings of 1896-97, as compared with the previous five years, is shown as enclosure B. The total cultivation compares favourably with the previous two years though it falls slightly short of that in 1892-93 and 1893-94. Individually, Kanigiri, Udayagiri, Nellore and Atmakur show slight decreases, while Gudur, Kavali, Kandukur and Ongole show increase. There was a material fall in Rapur as compared with the previous years except in 1891-92 which occurs in dry sowings due evidently to late rains and the consequent rush for wet cultivation which shows a corresponding increase.

4. *The hot weather rainfall of 1897—April and May.*—The district rainfall at this period is generally light. A statement giving comparative figures for the period is shown as enclosure C. The actual rainfall during this year is 1.35 against 1.83, the district average, and compares favourably with all recent years except 1895-96. The northern portion of the district from Iskapalle (Nellore taluk) northwards has fared well, while the southern portion and the western taluks of Rapur, Udayagiri and Atmakur received a short supply. There need be no present anxiety about the southern portion of the district as it had a copious north-east monsoon and good crops. The district generally looks to the north-east monsoon for the bulk of its sowings, &c., and any forecast as to its prospects has to be made after the results of that monsoon are known. Moreover, there was a general rainfall throughout the district in January and February, the quantity being larger in the southern portions of the district. Though the rainfall reported for Atmakur and Udayagiri is small in quantity, my own personal observations during my recent tour in those taluks show that there was good rain in several non-reporting stations.

5. *Prices.*—Statement D compares the present prices with those of the same period during the previous seven years. In most cases the prices have either reached or are approaching the rates of 1892, when there was scarcity in the district. Rice

has gone below the scarcity rate in Kanigiri, Addanki and Darsi and has approached that rate in Podili. The warning rate has been exceeded in all other stations except Allur, Gudur, Atmakur, Venkatagiri, Polur and Rapur. Cholum has gone below the scarcity rate in Podili while the warning rate has been exceeded in all taluks. Similarly, ragi has approached the scarcity rate in Nellore and has exceeded the warning rate elsewhere. The price of cumbu is no better. These high prices are due more to demands from outside than to real local scarcity.

6. *Tracts most likely to be affected if the south-west monsoon should fail.*—The district depends mainly on the north-east monsoon and any failure of the south-west monsoon would not under ordinary circumstances be likely to affect the district in any serious measure. But seeing that the district has been visited by a succession of poor seasons, that the rains of the last north-east monsoon were late and ill-distributed, that famine prevails in the adjoining districts and prices consequently rule high, exceeding scarcity rates in various localities, it is possible that this year, the failure of the south-west monsoon may create some distress in portions of the district. As already stated, the north-east monsoon in the south was sufficiently copious and any failure of the south-west monsoon will not seriously affect that tract. I would therefore leave out of consideration the Government taluks of Gudur and Rapur and the zemindari divisions of Venkatagiri and Polur which form the Head Assistant Collector's division. The greater portion of the Nellore taluk is fed by the Pennér delta, and had a sufficiently good crop. The only villages that might cause anxiety in this taluk are those in the south-western portion where any demand for work can be met from ordinary works sanctioned for the year. Similarly the Kavali, Kandukur and Ongole taluks will not be affected before the north-east monsoon. The rainfall of April and May was favourable to this tract, where ploughing operations for the early dry crops are in progress. The only tract that is likely to be "distressed" is the western and the north-western portions of the district comprising (a) Podili division, (b) Darsi division, (c) Kanigiri taluk, (d) Udayagiri and (e) portion of the Atmakur taluk, north of the Pennér river. This tract consists mostly of dry lands depending upon rains. The few tanks that exist are rainfed. Generally speaking, the soil is poor and the outturn of crop indifferent. The last north-east monsoon was deficient and experience shows that this is the locality where distress is likely to show itself first on the approach of scarcity. It was the same tract that was affected in 1891-92.

7. *Number of persons likely to require relief in each tract and the nature of relief.*—The following table gives the area and population of each tract and maximum number of persons likely to require relief. The period for which relief may be necessary has been taken to be the three months from July to the end of September :—

Taluk or division.	Area in square miles.	Population.	Average number of persons estimated to require work daily.	Average number of persons estimated to require gratuitous relief in kitchens, &c.	Maximum number on relief in 1891-92.
Kanigiri ..	1,014	131,262	(2 p.c.) 2,625	130	WORKS. 8,695
Podili ..	564	68,890	(4 p.c.) 2,755	137	KITCHENS. 247
Darsi ..	616	84,310	(3 p.c.) 2,529	125	8,776
Udayagiri ..	850	100,208	(2 p.c.) 2,004	100	5,933
Atmakur ..	638	101,184	(1 p.c.) 1,012	50	..

I have for the present adopted 4 per cent. as the maximum number requiring relief on works in Podili, 3 per cent. in Darsi, 2 per cent. in Udayagiri and Kanigiri and 1 per cent. in Atmakur. The estimate is, if anything, too high having regard to the figures of 1891-92 and will certainly not be exceeded. There will not in my opinion be any need for village relief or for poor houses. All that need be done will be to open kitchens at each work and additional kitchens at two or three selected places

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in each taluk. Steps are, however, being taken to divide the affected taluks into circles and inquiries are being made as directed under section 75 of the Famine Code.

8. *Works available for relief.*—Works for which estimates are ready are available for three months for the number of persons shown below and will meet any demand for labour before the north-east monsoon :—

	RS.
Kanigiri	6,208
Podili	5,600
Darsi	6,000
Udayagiri	5,543
Atmakur	7,589
Total ..	30,940

9. *Tools.*—The number of tools shown as available for famine-relief works in B.P., dated 4th May 1897, Mis. No. 3113, is sufficient for requirements except, perhaps, in respect to pick-axes. The Superintending Engineer, who will be here in a few days, will be consulted in the matter.

10. *Establishment.*—The question of establishment for the supervision of works will also be considered with the Superintending Engineer.

Other establishment, such as paymasters, circle inspectors, kitchen superintendents, &c., can be provided from the district establishment lists of persons suitable for such appointments are being prepared as directed by the Board.

11. *General remarks.*—The failure of the south-west monsoon will, as shown in paragraphs 6 and 7, cause no extensive distress in the district. Should any arise, we shall have, I think, little difficulty in dealing with it.

ENCLOSURE A.

COMPARATIVE statement of rainfall during the North-East Monsoon.

Taluku and divisions.	Rainfall from October to March (North-East Monsoon).						
	Average for 20 years (1870-89).	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
Addanki	11.87	2.17	15.16	14.66	15.93	10.26	8.28
Darsi				18.11	20.83	10.60	6.56
Podili				21.40	16.65	10.24	7.31
Kanigiri	12.87	4.20	11.48	21.80	16.05	11.90	7.09
Udayagiri	19.73	6.35	20.70	26.65	17.15	15.65	12.29
Kanuparti					17.62	16.23	14.58
Ongole	17.96	6.12	21.25	36.00	32.89	18.81	18.70
Pakala	18.43	5.27	23.88	31.31	22.21	14.61	19.51
Kandukur	19.21	6.24	20.77	34.16	19.10	12.09	16.42
Kavali	26.17	9.85	20.96	44.23	17.06	13.27	23.33
Iekapalli	27.11	7.12	21.19	36.47	19.16	15.20	23.55
Nellore	27.85	8.74	13.40	32.90	17.48	15.86	26.65
Krishnapatam	23.98	11.85	14.57	30.28	18.47	18.96	24.67
Kota					18.27	19.34	38.84
Dugurazpatam					20.61	20.59	33.58
Sulurpet	29.69	22.25	10.11	38.56	14.84	21.57	39.17
Tada	27.18	14.35	16.13	37.95	22.06	21.54	33.55
Manapollem	22.18	3.80	13.10	27.12	15.46	13.71	16.62
Atmakur	27.68	11.15	10.68	45.98	18.97	22.67	23.75
Rapur	22.81	8.90	9.90	37.61	14.03	18.10	32.06
Gaddur	26.68	21.25	12.82	41.37	15.91	25.48	24.65
Venkatagiri							
Total ..	361.30	149.61	256.10	679.56	408.35	384.15	483.26
Average ..	22.58	9.35	16.01	37.75	18.56	16.56	21.96

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ENCLOSURE B.

COMPARATIVE statement of cultivation from 1891-92 to 1896-97.

Taluka.	1891-92.			1892-93.			1893-94.		
	Dry.	Wet.	Total.	Dry.	Wet.	Total.	Dry.	Wet.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Kanigiri	ACS. 80,040	ACS. 724	ACS. 80,764	ACS. 91,942	ACS. 1,146	ACS. 92,388	ACS. 86,420	ACS. 918	ACS. 87,338
Udayagiri	65,502	2,379	67,881	70,439	3,389	73,828	66,046	2,784	68,830
Ongole	233,092	1,766	234,858	260,189	3,912	264,101	268,058	3,334	271,392
Kandukur	156,091	9,655	165,746	172,359	20,851	193,210	171,839	17,589	189,428
Kavali	57,997	20,374	78,371	65,247	28,143	93,390	62,131	27,460	89,591
Nellore	24,196	93,090	117,286	28,491	118,735	147,226	27,575	113,001	140,576
Atmakur	114,561	18,365	132,926	124,563	25,009	149,572	121,230	23,522	144,752
Rapur	63,199	5,030	68,229	71,405	7,968	79,373	71,314	8,273	79,587
Gaddur	30,217	46,139	76,356	35,542	56,459	92,001	34,076	54,956	89,032
Total ..	824,895	197,522	1,022,417	919,467	265,613	1,185,080	908,689	251,837	1,160,526

Taluka.	1894-95.			1895-96.			1896-97.		
	Dry.	Wet.	Total.	Dry.	Wet.	Total.	Dry.	Wet.	Total.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
Kanigiri	ACS. 81,274	ACS. 941	ACS. 82,215	ACS. 79,649	ACS. 893	ACS. 80,542	ACS. 76,257	ACS. 891	ACS. 77,148
Udayagiri	68,086	2,958	71,044	66,362	2,637	68,999	65,773	2,801	71,794
Ongole	263,884	3,031	266,915	263,338	2,622	265,960	276,427	2,800	279,227
Kandukur	165,940	16,626	182,566	163,077	14,969	178,046	171,774	16,443	188,217
Kavali	62,659	24,477	87,136	64,025	23,893	87,918	66,070	25,366	91,436
Nellore	26,573	112,245	138,823	26,274	113,316	139,590	25,737	111,433	137,170
Atmakur	121,963	23,397	145,360	124,666	24,527	149,193	123,344	22,557	145,901
Rapur	71,147	5,835	76,982	71,944	6,940	78,884	63,231	7,571	80,802
Gaddur	34,378	53,422	87,800	35,780	53,335	89,115	37,242	55,651	92,823
Total ..	898,909	242,742	1,141,651	900,165	243,132	1,143,297	905,855	245,443	1,151,298

ENCLOSURE C.

Taluka and divisions.	Rainfall up to end of May 1897 from April.		Rainfall up to May.]							
	Average for 20 years.	Actual.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	
Addanki	2.12	2.16	..	..	..	..	4.35	3.20	1.32	
Darsi	2.91	2.91	1.45	0.50	1.00	0.60	3.95	2.35	3.24	
Podili	2.20	2.20	..	..	..	..	1.65	3.13	1.93	
Kanigiri	1.75	3.67	1.50	2.20	0.45	1.25	4.40	2.80	1.85	
Udayagiri	2.23	0.76	1.25	0.95	1.10	0.40	2.90	4.80	1.50	
Kanuparti							1.06	1.52	1.03	
Ongole	1.00	1.00	..	..	..	..	3.31	2.46	0.38	
Pakala	1.91	1.85	0.30	..	0.64	3.62	0.30	1.47	1.00	
Kandukur	1.04	1.04	..	0.33	0.66	0.66	1.09	8.50	0.79	
Kavali	1.38	0.78	..	1.05	0.93	0.30	0.22	1.06	..	
Iekapalli	1.60	0.78	..	..	0.30	0.84	0.36	1.02	0.27	
Nellore	1.51	2.24	..	..	0.23	0.37	0.23	0.88	0.27	
Krishnapatam	1.10	2.87	..	..	0.45	0.81	0.32	0.40	0.01	
Kota	1.98	1.07	..	..	..	..	0.70	1.20	..	
Dugurazpatam	1.66	0.57	..	..	..	..	0.35	2.05	0.08	
Sulurpet		0.71	..	..	..	..	0.85	0.50	0.80	
Tada		0.78	..	..	..	..	0.52	0.62	1.24	
Manapollem	2.27	1.02	..	0.20	0.40	0.27	0.12	0.47	..	
Atmakur	1.53	0.68	..	0.30	..	1.00	1.59	3.96	1.15	
Rapur	2.06	0.23	..	0.50	..	2.20	0.78	4.21	1.06	
Gaddur	2.30	0.72	0.12	..	0.14	0.90	0.15	0.35	0.04	
Venkatagiri	1.49	0.88	1.50	..	0.49	0.42	1.49	3.88	0.44	
Total ..	29.29	29.81	7.52	6.03	7.55	14.09	30.69	45.83	18.40	
Average ..	1.83	1.35	0.47	0.38	0.47	0.88	1.39	2.08	0.84	

ENCLOSURE D.
COMPARATIVE statement of prices.

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Stations.		Rice, 2nd sort.								Cholum.						
1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Nellore ..	13-50	11-66	8-48	13-78	14-84	14-84	15-37	10-60	22-00	20-08	12-36	22-66	20-60	26-78	28-84	13-39
Allur ..	..	..	..	14-31	14-84	19-08	20-14	12-72	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gaddur ..	12-00	..	9-01	13-78	14-84	14-84	14-84	12-72	..	20-21	13-39	..	..	23-69	30-90	..
Kota ..	..	..	9-54	10-60	12-72	12-72	12-72	10-60	..	16-48	12-36	18-54	..	..	..	..
Venkatagiri ..	12-00	11-13	10-07	11-66	12-72	13-25	12-72	11-13	21-00	21-63	14-42	21-63	19-82	25-23	..	15-45
Polur ..	..	11-66	9-54	10-60	10-60	12-72	14-84	11-66	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rápur ..	11-52	10-34	..	10-34	15-04	15-04	13-16	11-28	23-40	16-80	12-60	23-40	20-70	27-15	28-80	14-40
Atmakur ..	11-00	12-69	7-52	13-16	13-16	15-98	15-98	12-22	26-00	24-43	13-67	27-15	25-34	27-15	30-77	18-00
Kavali ..	13-00	11-75	10-34	13-16	13-63	15-04	14-10	10-34	23-00	23-53	12-67	21-72	20-81	28-96	28-96	14-48
Udayagiri ..	11-00	12-22	..	15-98	15-98	16-92	..	..	24-50	25-34	14-48	23-53	23-53	25-34	28-96	18-10
Kandukur ..	13-23	14-10	11-28	13-63	15-04	16-92	14-57	9-87	22-94	27-15	15-38	21-72	30-77	25-34	25-34	12-67
Podili ..	..	13-16	8-93	12-69	13-16	14-57	13-16	8-46	..	22-62	12-67	21-72	30-77	25-34	25-34	14-48
Darsi ..	9-76	11-28	8-45	11-28	11-28	14-57	11-28	7-52	21-17	21-72	13-57	21-72	30-77	25-34	25-34	14-48
Ongole ..	..	11-28	9-40	11-28	13-16	12-22	12-22	9-40	21-00	21-60	14-40	18-00	21-60	26-10	25-34	15-45
Addanki ..	11-37	13-16	9-40	9-40	12-22	13-16	15-04	7-52	21-00	19-80	12-60	16-20	21-60	25-20	25-20	16-20
Kanigiri ..	..	12-22	7-52	9-40	10-34	11-23	11-23	7-52	24-50	..	..	..	..	27-15	29-86	14-48
Total ..	129-68	135-03	119-49	195-05	178-55	227-04	211-42	155-56	229-51	281-39	174-47	236-27	231-42	320-67	311-93	181-83
Average ..	11-79	12-23	9-19	12-19	12-75	14-19	14-09	10-24	22-95	21-65	13-42	21-48	23-19	26-72	28-36	15-13

Stations.		Ragi.							Cumbu.						
1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
Nellore ..	23-00	21-12	12-43	23-04	21-12	27-84	28-80	14-88	26-00	22-56	11-28	19-74	..	18-80	22-56	12-23
Allur ..	..	23-04	13-44	20-16	23-04	30-72	30-72	17-28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gaddur ..	..	21-12	13-44	20-16	23-04	24-96	30-24	17-28	..	13-16	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kota ..	..	20-16	13-44	20-16	23-04	23-04	28-80	17-28	..	18-80	11-75	16-45	18-09	23-03	..	13-16
Venkatagiri ..	28-00	23-52	13-44	20-16	21-60	26-88	26-88	17-28	28-00	18-80	..	..	..	..	..	..
Polur ..	..	20-16	12-48	20-16	20-16	24-00	26-88	..	..	16-40	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atmakur ..	23-40	20-62	16-15	25-50	27-20	28-90	30-60	20-40	26-35	16-40	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kavali ..	28-00	24-65	13-60	27-20	27-20	27-20	34-00	17-65	26-00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Udayagiri ..	26-00	25-50	14-45	25-50	25-50	30-60	30-60	16-15	26-00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kandukur ..	28-00	27-20	15-30	27-20	27-20	27-20	30-60	17-42	24-50	22-06	13-12	18-04	..	22-96	27-83	..
Podili ..	..	26-35	13-60	25-50	30-60	28-90	30-60	17-00	..	19-68	13-94	18-04	22-96	21-32	24-60	11-43
Darsi ..	..	23-80	13-60	22-10	25-50	25-50	25-50	15-30	21-17	19-68	12-30	16-40	19-68	19-68	19-68	13-12
Ongole ..	28-00	25-50	17-00	20-40	22-95	28-05	..	15-30	19-25	19-80	13-20	18-40	18-15	19-80	22-96	13-20
Addanki ..	..	23-80	15-30	20-40	25-50	80-60	34-00	16-56	..	18-15	11-55	14-85	16-50	23-10	23-10	13-20
Venkatagiri ..	26-25	30-60	13-60	27-20	32-30	80-60	30-60	17-00	20-12	21-45	11-55	18-15	22-27	21-45	21-48	13-20
Total ..	239-77	337-14	215-10	352-84	348-33	414-99	447-72	221-40	191-39	191-64	110-17	141-47	117-65	170-14	162-23	89-58
Average ..	26-64	23-81	14-34	23-52	24-89	27-67	29-85	17-03	23-92	19-16	12-34	17-68	19-64	21-27	23-18	12-80

BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGRI.), 18TH JUNE 1897, No. 449. 7

RESOLUTION—dated 18th June 1897, No. 449.

Recorded.

2. The Collector should have the tracts, referred to at the close of paragraph 6, inspected at an early date, with a view to get trustworthy information as to the present condition of the inhabitants.

3. The Commissioner, Revenue Settlement, and the Chief Engineer will shortly submit to Government their views as to what provision of tools is required.

(True Copy and Extract.)

Amellay 1/2
Famine Secretary.

To the Collector of Nellore.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

W. D'Moed.

GOVERNMENT PAPERS

Government {1897} of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

1897.

Enclosures,

Regd.

Spare copies

G.O., No. 570, 13th July 1897.

JULY.

Relief Operations.

Recording Board's Proceedings on letter from the Collector of Nellore reporting on the
preparations for starting — in case the south-west monsoon fails.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 18th June 1897, No. 449 :—

Read—the following letter from E. SCOTT, Esq., Acting Collector of Nellore, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated Nellore, 2nd June 1897, No. 1667-Ver. :—

I have the honour to submit the report called for in paragraph 3 of Board's Proceedings, No. 352, dated 10th May 1897.

2. *Rainfall of the north-east monsoon of 1896-97.*—In this office letter No. 4016-Ver., dated 5th November 1896, disposed of in Board's Proceedings, dated 7th November 1896, No. 327, a report as to the state of the district with particulars as to the state of crops, &c., and statistics for the rainfall, cultivation and prices was furnished. In paragraph 4 it was shown that the south-west monsoon of the year was on the whole favourable. A statement showing the figures for the north-east monsoon for all the registering stations, as compared with the previous five years, is shown as enclosure A. The rainfall, though slightly short of the average, was in excess of the rainfall for the same period during the previous five years except 1893-94. But it was late and ill-distributed. The southern portion of the district more especially Gudur, Kota and Polur had the heaviest rainfall. It was fair in the centre of the district and extremely indifferent in the northern and western portions, Addanki, Podili, Darsi and Kanigiri faring the worst. The result has been that except in the south, crops in parts failed, while the outturn in others was very poor. Statistics of outturn are not at present available.

3. *Sowings of 1896-97.*—A statement showing the sowings of 1896-97, as compared with the previous five years, is shown as enclosure B. The total cultivation compares favourably with the previous two years though it falls slightly short of that in 1892-93 and 1893-94. Individually, Kanigiri, Udayagiri, Nellore and Atmakur show slight decreases, while Gudur, Kavali, Kandukur and Ongole show increase. There was a material fall in Rapur as compared with the previous years except in 1891-92 which occurs in dry sowings due evidently to late rains and the consequent rush for wet cultivation which shows a corresponding increase.

4. *The hot weather rainfall of 1897—April and May.*—The district rainfall at this period is generally light. A statement giving comparative figures for the period is shown as enclosure C. The actual rainfall during this year is 1.35 against 1.83, the district average, and compares favourably with all recent years except 1895-96. The northern portion of the district from Iskapalle (Nellore taluk) northwards has fared well, while the southern portion and the western taluks of Rapur, Udayagiri and Atmakur received a short supply. There need be no present anxiety about the southern portion of the district as it had a copious north-east monsoon and good crops. The district generally looks to the north-east monsoon for the bulk of its sowings, &c., and any forecast as to its prospects has to be made after the results of that monsoon are known. Moreover, there was a general rainfall throughout the district in January and February, the quantity being larger in the southern portions of the district. Though the rainfall reported for Atmakur and Udayagiri is small in quantity, my own personal observations during my recent tour in those taluks show that there was good rain in several non-reporting stations.

5. *Prices.*—Statement D compares the present prices with those of the same period during the previous seven years. In most cases the prices have either reached or are approaching the rates of 1892, when there was scarcity in the district. Rice

has gone below the scarcity rate in Kanigiri, Addanki and Darsi and has approached that rate in Podili. The warning rate has been exceeded in all other stations except Allur, Gudur, Atmakur, Venkatagiri, Polur and Rapur. Cholum has gone below the scarcity rate in Podili while the warning rate has been exceeded in all taluks. Similarly, ragi has approached the scarcity rate in Nellore and has exceeded the warning rate elsewhere. The price of cumbu is no better. These high prices are due more to demands from outside than to real local scarcity.

6. *Tracts most likely to be affected if the south-west monsoon should fail.*—The district depends mainly on the north-east monsoon and any failure of the south-west monsoon would not under ordinary circumstances be likely to affect the district in any serious measure. But seeing that the district has been visited by a succession of poor seasons, that the rains of the last north-east monsoon were late and ill-distributed, that famine prevails in the adjoining districts and prices consequently rule high, exceeding scarcity rates in various localities, it is possible that this year, the failure of the south-west monsoon may create some distress in portions of the district. As of the south-west monsoon in the south was sufficiently copious and any already stated, the north-east monsoon in the south was sufficiently copious and any failure of the south-west monsoon will not seriously affect that tract. I would therefore leave out of consideration the Government taluks of Gudur and Rapur and the zemindari divisions of Venkatagiri and Polur which form the Head Assistant Collector's division. The greater portion of the Nellore taluk is fed by the Pennér delta, and had a sufficiently good crop. The only villages that might cause anxiety in this taluk are those in the south-western portion where any demand for work can be met from ordinary works sanctioned for the year. Similarly the Kavali, Kandukur and Ongole taluks will not be affected before the north-east monsoon. The rainfall of April and May was favourable to this tract, where ploughing operations for the early dry crops are in progress. The only tract that is likely to be "distressed" is the western and the north-western portions of the district comprising (a) Podili division, (b) Darsi division, (c) Kanigiri taluk, (d) Udayagiri and (e) portion of the Atmakur taluk, north of the Pennér river. This tract consists mostly of dry lands depending upon rains. The few tanks that exist are rainfed. Generally speaking, the soil is poor and the outturn of crop indifferent. The last north-east monsoon was deficient and experience shows that this is the locality where distress is likely to show itself first on the approach of scarcity. It was the same tract that was affected in 1891-92.

7. *Number of persons likely to require relief in each tract and the nature of relief.*—The following table gives the area and population of each tract and maximum number of persons likely to require relief. The period for which relief may be necessary has been taken to be the three months from July to the end of September :—

Taluk or division.	Area in square miles.	Population.	Average number of persons estimated to require work daily.	Average number of persons estimated to require gratuitous relief in kitchens, &c.	Maximum number on relief in 1891-92.
					WORKS. KITCHENS.
Kanigiri ..	1,014	131,262	(2 p.c.) 2,625	130	8,695 247
Podili ..	564	68,390	(4 p.c.) 2,755	125	8,776 221
Darsi ..	616	84,310	(3 p.c.) 2,529	100	5,933 7
Udayagiri ..	850	100,208	(2 p.c.) 2,004	50	
Atmakur ..	638	101,184	(1 p.c.) 1,012	..	

I have for the present adopted 4 per cent. as the maximum number requiring relief on works in Podili, 3 per cent. in Darsi, 2 per cent. in Udayagiri and Kanigiri and 1 per cent. in Atmakur. The estimate is, if anything, too high having regard to the figures of 1891-92 and will certainly not be exceeded. There will not in my opinion be any need for village relief or for poor houses. All that need be done will be to open kitchens at each work and additional kitchens at two or three selected places

in each taluk. Steps are, however, being taken to divide the affected taluks into circles and inquiries are being made as directed under section 75 of the Famine Code.

8. *Works available for relief.*—Works for which estimates are ready are available for three months for the number of persons shown below and will meet any demand for labour before the north-east monsoon :—

Kanigiri	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Rs.
Podili	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,208
Darsi	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,600
Udayagiri	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,000
Atmakur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,543
									7,589

Total ... 30,940

9. *Tools.*—The number of tools shown as available for famine-relief works in B.P., dated 4th May 1897, Mis. No. 3113, is sufficient for requirements except, perhaps, in respect to pick-axes. The Superintending Engineer, who will be here in a few days, will be consulted in the matter.

10. *Establishment.*—The question of establishment for the supervision of works will also be considered with the Superintending Engineer.

Other establishment, such as paymasters, circle inspectors, kitchen superintendents, &c., can be provided from the district establishment lists of persons suitable for such appointments are being prepared as directed by the Board.

11. *General remarks.*—The failure of the south-west monsoon will, as shown in paragraphs 6 and 7, cause no extensive distress in the district. Should any arise, we shall have, I think, little difficulty in dealing with it.

ENCLOSURE A.

COMPARATIVE statement of rainfall during the North-East Monsoon.

Taluks and divisions.	Rainfall from October to March (North-East Monsoon).						
	Average for 20 years (1870-89).	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
Addanki ..	...	...	...	14.66	15.93	10.26	8.28
Darsi ..	...	...	...	18.11	20.83	10.60	6.66
Podili ..	...	...	...	21.40	16.65	10.24	7.81
Kanigiri ..	...	...	...	21.80	16.05	11.90	7.09
Udayagiri ..	...	...	...	26.65	17.15	15.65	12.29
Kanuparti ..	...	...	...	...	17.62	16.23	14.58
Ongole ..	...	...	...	36.00	32.89	18.81	18.70
Pakala ..	...	...	...	31.81	22.21	14.61	19.61
Kandukur ..	...	...	...	34.16	19.10	12.09	16.42
Kavali ..	...	...	...	44.23	17.06	13.27	23.83
Iskapalli ..	...	...	...	36.47	19.16	15.20	23.65
Nellore ..	...	...	...	32.90	17.48	15.86	26.65
Krishnapatam ..	...	...	...	80.28	18.47	18.96	24.67
Kota ..	...	...	...	...	18.37	19.34	38.84
Dugurazpatam ..	...	...	...	...	20.61	20.59	38.58
Sulurpet ..	...	...	...	...	18.00	19.47	32.10
Tada ..	...	...	...	38.56	14.84	21.57	39.17
Manapollem ..	...	...	...	37.95	22.06	21.64	33.65
Atmakur ..	...	...	...	27.12	15.46	13.71	16.62
Rapuri ..	...	...	...	48.98	18.97	22.67	23.75
Gudur ..	...	...	...	37.61	14.03	16.10	32.06
Venkatagiri ..	...	...	...	41.87	15.91	25.48	24.65
Total ..	361.30	149.61	256.10	679.66	408.35	364.15	483.26
Average ..	22.58	9.35	16.01	37.75	18.66	16.66	21.96

ENCLOSURE B.

COMPARATIVE statement of cultivation from 1891-92 to 1896-97.

Taluka.	1891-92.			1892-93.			1893-94.		
	Dry.	Wet.	Total.	Dry.	Wet.	Total.	Dry.	Wet.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Kanigiri	ACS. 80,040	ACS. 724	ACS. 80,764	ACS. 91,242	ACS. 1,146	ACS. 92,388	ACS. 86,420	ACS. 918	ACS. 87,338
Udayagiri	65,502	2,379	67,881	70,439	3,389	73,828	66,046	2,784	68,830
Ongole	233,092	1,766	234,858	260,189	3,912	264,101	268,058	3,334	271,392
Kandukur	156,091	9,655	165,746	172,359	20,861	193,210	171,839	17,589	189,428
Kavali	57,997	20,374	78,371	63,247	28,143	93,390	62,131	27,460	89,591
Nellore	24,196	93,090	117,286	28,491	118,735	147,226	121,230	113,001	140,578
Atmakur	114,561	18,365	132,926	124,563	25,009	149,572	121,230	23,522	144,752
Rapur	63,199	5,030	68,229	71,405	7,968	79,373	71,314	8,273	79,587
Gudur	30,217	46,139	76,356	35,542	56,459	92,001	34,076	54,956	89,032
Total	824,895	197,522	1,022,417	919,467	265,613	1,185,080	908,689	251,837	1,160,526

Taluka.	1894-95.			1895-96.			1896-97.		
	Dry.	Wet.	Total.	Dry.	Wet.	Total.	Dry.	Wet.	Total.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
Kanigiri	ACS. 81,274	ACS. 941	ACS. 82,215	ACS. 79,649	ACS. 893	ACS. 80,542	ACS. 76,257	ACS. 891	ACS. 77,148
Udayagiri	63,080	2,958	66,038	66,362	2,637	68,999	65,773	2,801	68,574
Ongole	263,884	3,031	266,915	263,338	2,622	265,960	276,427	2,800	279,227
Kandukur	165,940	16,626	182,566	168,077	14,969	183,046	171,774	16,443	188,217
Kavali	62,659	24,477	87,136	64,025	23,893	87,918	66,070	25,366	91,436
Nellore	26,578	112,245	138,823	26,274	113,316	139,590	25,737	111,433	137,170
Atmakur	121,963	23,397	145,360	124,666	24,527	149,193	123,344	22,557	145,901
Rapur	71,147	5,835	76,982	71,944	6,940	78,884	63,231	7,571	70,802
Gudur	34,378	53,422	87,800	35,780	53,335	89,115	37,242	55,681	92,923
Total	898,909	242,742	1,141,651	900,165	243,132	1,143,297	905,855	245,443	1,151,298

ENCLOSURE C.

Taluka and divisions.	Rainfall up to end of May 1897 from April.		Rainfall up to May.							
	Average for 20 years.	Actual.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	
Addanki	...	2.16	...	...	...	...	...	4.35	3.20	1.32
Darsi	...	2.91	...	...	...	...	...	3.95	2.35	3.24
Podili	...	2.20	...	...	...	...	...	1.65	3.13	1.93
Kanigiri	...	3.67	...	...	...	...	...	4.40	2.80	1.85
Udayagiri	...	0.75	...	...	...	...	...	2.90	4.80	1.50
Kanuparti	...	0.76	...	...	...	...	...	1.06	1.62	1.03
Ongole	...	1.00	...	...	...	...	...	3.31	2.46	0.38
Pakala	...	0.30	...	...	...	...	...	0.30	1.47	1.00
Kandukur	...	1.85	...	...	...	...	...	3.52	3.50	0.79
Kavali	...	1.04	...	...	...	...	...	0.66	1.09	1.06
Iskapalli	...	1.38	...	...	...	...	...	0.93	0.22	...
Nellore	...	1.60	...	...	...	...	...	0.30	0.36	0.27
Krishnapatam	...	0.78	...	...	...	...	...	0.84	0.23	0.27
Kota	...	2.24	...	...	...	...	...	0.25	0.87	0.01
Dugurazpatam	...	2.87	...	...	...	...	...	0.81	0.32	...
Sulurpet	...	1.10	...	...	...	...	...	0.45	0.70	...
Tada	...	1.07	...	...	...	...	...	0.71	0.35	...
Manapollem	...	1.67	...	...	...	...	...	0.85	0.50	...
Atmakur	...	0.57	...	...	...	...	...	0.52	0.62	...
Rapur	...	0.71	...	...	...	...	...	0.12	0.47	...
Gudur	...	0.78	...	...	...	...	...	0.27	0.52	...
Venkatagiri	...	1.02	...	...	...	...	...	1.00	1.59	...
Total	29.29	29.51	7.52	6.03	7.55	14.09	30.69	45.83	18.40	
Average	1.83	1.35	0.47	0.38	0.47	0.88	1.39	2.08	0.84	

ENCLOSURE D.
COMPARATIVE statement of prices.

Stations.	Rice, 2nd sort.										Cholum.									
	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Nellore ..	13.50	11.66	8.48	13.78	14.84	14.84	15.37	10.60	22.00	20.08	12.36	22.66	20.60	26.78	28.84	18.89	28.84	18.89	28.84	18.89
Allur ..	12.00	..	9.01	13.78	14.84	14.84	20.14	12.72	..	20.21	13.39	..	..	23.69	30.90	..	30.90	..	30.90	..
Gaddur ..	12.00	..	9.01	13.78	14.84	14.84	20.14	12.72	..	20.21	13.39	..	..	23.69	30.90	..	30.90	..	30.90	..
Kota ..	12.00	..	9.01	13.78	14.84	14.84	20.14	12.72	..	20.21	13.39	..	..	23.69	30.90	..	30.90	..	30.90	..
Venkatagiri ..	12.00	..	9.01	13.78	14.84	14.84	20.14	12.72	..	20.21	13.39	..	..	23.69	30.90	..	30.90	..	30.90	..
Polur ..	11.52	11.66	9.54	13.78	14.84	14.84	20.14	12.72	..	20.21	13.39	..	..	23.69	30.90	..	30.90	..	30.90	..
Rapur ..	11.52	11.66	9.54	13.78	14.84	14.84	20.14	12.72	..	20.21	13.39	..	..	23.69	30.90	..	30.90	..	30.90	..
Atmakur ..	13.00	11.75	10.34	13.16	13.63	15.04	15.98	12.22	23.40	16.80	12.60	23.40	20.70	27.15	28.80	14.40	28.80	14.40	28.80	14.40
Kavali ..	13.23	12.22	11.28	13.63	13.63	15.04	15.98	12.22	23.40	16.80	12.60	23.40	20.70	27.15	28.80	14.40	28.80	14.40	28.80	14.40
Udayagiri ..	13.23	12.22	11.28	13.63	13.63	15.04	15.98	12.22	23.40	16.80	12.60	23.40	20.70	27.15	28.80	14.40	28.80	14.40	28.80	14.40
Kandukur ..	13.23	12.22	11.28	13.63	13.63	15.04	15.98	12.22	23.40	16.80	12.60	23.40	20.70	27.15	28.80	14.40	28.80	14.40	28.80	14.40
Podili ..	9.76	13.16	8.46	11.28	11.28	11.28	11.28	9.40	21.00	21.72	13.57	18.00	21.60	26.10	25.34	15.45	25.34	15.45	25.34	15.45
Darsi ..	11.37	13.16	9.40	11.28	11.28	11.28	11.28	9.40	21.00	21.72	13.57	18.00	21.60	26.10	25.34	15.45	25.34	15.45	25.34	15.45
Ongole ..	11.37	13.16	9.40	11.28	11.28	11.28	11.28	9.40	21.00	21.72	13.57	18.00	21.60	26.10	25.34	15.45	25.34	15.45	25.34	15.45
Adanki ..	11.30	12.22	7.52	9.40	10.34	11.28	11.28	7.52	24.50	..	..	..	..	27.15	29.86	14.48	29.86	14.48	29.86	14.48
Kanigiri ..	11.30	12.22	7.52	9.40	10.34	11.28	11.28	7.52	24.50	..	..	..	..	27.15	29.86	14.48	29.86	14.48	29.86	14.48
Total ..	129.68	135.03	119.49	195.05	178.55	227.04	211.42	165.56	229.51	281.39	174.47	236.27	231.92	320.67	311.93	181.58	311.93	181.58	311.93	181.58
Average ..	11.79	12.28	9.19	12.19	12.75	14.19	14.09	10.24	22.95	21.65	13.42	21.48	23.19	26.72	28.36	16.13	28.36	16.13	28.36	16.13

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