

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 709

DATED 20th August 1897.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording Boards Progs. submg. to Govt.,
with remarks, — of the Godavari district
for the period ending 25th June 1897.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

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Revenue (1897) Department.

The Hon. Secy. to Govt.
14/8/97

CURRENT No. 6984

Printed 6/9/97
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117098/20th Aug. 1897.

The Board of Revenue
Sect.

Order (Print)

Recorded

17/8/97

244
148.97

No. 552

17.87.

Dated 5th August 1897.

Received

Registered

Enclosures

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SUBJECT.

Fortnightly narrative

Subj.

of the Godavari St. for the
period ending 25th June
1897

The Finance Comm.

The S.D.

The P.W.D.

The Commr.

The G.

RS
16-8-97

30/6

16.3.22.88

11/9/97
12/9/97

11/9

BACK PAPERS.

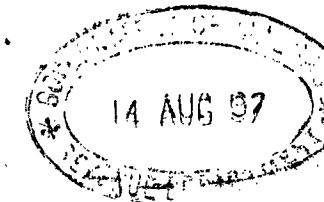
G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS. 0

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.



Board of Revenue

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

Recd.

Enclosures

Regd.

1897.

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Printed August th.

Proceedings, No. 552, 5th August 1897.

AUGUST.

Fortnightly Narrative.—Submitting to Government, with remarks, — of the Górávari District for the period ending 25th June 1897.

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

READ—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Special Assistant Agent's Division, Gódvári District, during the period ending 25th June 1897, Tour Dis. No. 22-S.A.A.:—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and Water-supply.—

	Rainfall during the period in inches.	Expected rainfall in inches.
Bhadráchalam taluk	5.35 on 13th, 16th to 18th	4.95
Polavaram Division	No statement has been received for this division. It will be submitted when received.	
Chódavaramu Division	3.8 on 18th	6.22
Yellavaram „	2.27	1.91

Water is sufficient for drinking purposes and also for dry cultivation in Bhadráchalam taluk. In Chódavaramu Division drinking-water is sufficient in river side villages. In the Yellavaram Division and in the interior of Chódavaramu Division water is in some places scarce. There is no water at all for irrigation purposes anywhere.

AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS AND CONDITIONS OF THE STANDING CROPS.

Bhadráchalam taluk.—Paddy, gingelly, chama, maize have been sown to a large extent and hill cholam is also being cultivated. The condition of all the crops is fair. More rain is wanted. *Polavaram Division.*—Statement not received. *Chódavaramu Division.*—The rain that fell on the 18th has given much encouragement to ryots and they are busy ploughing. In some villages gingelly and chama are doing well. *Yellavaram Division.*—There was heavy rain on the 18th throughout the whole division. Gingelly and ganti have been sown to a large extent, but for want of subsequent rain the crops are not doing well.

SUPPLY OF FODDER AND PASTURE AND CONDITION OF CATTLE.

Bhadráchalam taluk.—Fodder is not procurable, but pasture is growing and is available for cattle and their condition is improving. *Polavaram Division.*—Statement not received. *Chódavaramu Division.*—Fodder is sufficient. There is green-grass, everywhere but it has not grown high enough to allow the cattle to graze freely. One more good fall of rain will remove this anxiety. The condition of cattle on the whole is fair. *Yellavaram Division.*—There is a little fodder in some villages; pasture is available generally but is not quite sufficient. Cattle diseases are still prevalent in Yellavaram Division but not elsewhere.

GENERAL REMARKS ON THE PREVIOUS SUBJECTS.

The late rains have enabled the ryots to sow early crops and these crops are flourishing except in a few cases. More rain is now wanted to bring the crops on. The condition of cattle is generally improving owing to the springing up of new grass.

The river Gódvári came down in fresh about the 20th, but has since been getting lower.

If only there is a further fall of rain now, the early crops ought to be good.

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 25th June 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		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.	
Bhadráchalam ..	8	9	12	12	..	..	Prices are falling because boats have been coming from Rajahmundry with grain.
Kachavaram ..	8	9	14	14	..	..	
Waddigudem ..	9	9	14	14	..	..	
Chódavaramu ..	9	8 and 8½	16	12	..	12	There were two market days during the fortnight. Their average prices are shown. The great rise in cholam has not been explained.
Devipatnam ..	9	8½ and 9½	18	12 or 13	..	..	
Addatigela ..	9	..	13	..	13	..	The prices are stationary at both the markets.
Jaddangi ..	9	..	13	..	13	..	
Average ..	8.7	8.6	14.3	12.8	13	12	

Activity of trade.—Private trade in rice and dry staple food-grains is moderate. No imports or exports by sea or rail. Sufficient quantity of rice and cholam has been imported from Rajahmundry to Bhadráchalam.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On Works.—People on relief work are in good condition. Koyas, Malas and Madigas form the bulk of relief workers, but there are some of other castes. The ordinary road works in Chódavaramu Division have been taken on contract by people from the plains. Road work (jungle clearing, &c.) in Bhadráchalam has been given to Koya villages on petty contracts.

In Villages.—The infirm and old Koyas and Panchamas in Bhadráchalam taluk are given gratuitous relief. The poorer people are living on jeelugu ambali (బెల్లంబలి) boddikúra, (బొద్దికూర), &c. Cholam and ragi are sold in Government depôts at normal rates to Koyas and Panchamas. The sales are very large. In Yellavaram Division the hill people are reported to be taking timber for sale to the plain villages of Peddapur and Rajahmundry taluks. People of Chódavaramu and Yellavaram Divisions are living mostly upon jungle roots, leaves, ambali of tamarind nuts, &c.

The condition of the people generally still appears to be good. Some of those on gratuitous relief in Bhadráchalam taluk are rather emaciated and the Assistant Collector reports that the people in the interior of the Marrigudem range are very thin.

Sickness and Mortality.—No deaths from starvation. There has been a good deal of cholera in Bhadráchalam taluk. Unfortunately, the hospital assistant on special duty has been laid up with fever.

Remarks.—On the whole it may be said that things are looking better than in the last fortnight. The rain has enabled agricultural operations to be begun and has caused the pasture to spring up. It has also allowed the Koyas to get at certain

roots in the jungles. It is marvellous that the people can keep their condition on their present diet of leaves and roots with occasional grain, but apparently it is what they are accustomed to and therefore they do not feel the want of grain so much.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

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

Taluk.	Number employed	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Bhadrachalam taluk at Dummagudem	800	399

Remarks.—The decrease is due to the rains but the number has since increased again.

Gratis relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

Taluk.	In villages.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Bhadrachalam	353	407
Taluk.	Number of villages in which relief was given.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Bhadrachalam	49	59
Number of relief-workers, children and infirm dependants receiving money-doles	376	312

Private charity.—The sale of food-grains at normal rates to Koyas, Malas and Madigas at depôts opened with the funds supplied by the Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committee, Madras, is going on regularly as reported in the last fortnightly narrative. The sum of Rs. 2,000 allotted will be insufficient, as the sales are considerable and the loss by resale is from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 per putti.

GENERAL REMARKS.

I was in the Polavaram Division until the 18th ultimo, and, as reported in the last narrative, did not see signs of much distress. The distress in Bhadrachalam taluk is considerable, but the measures already adopted, i.e., relief works at Dummagudem and gratuitous relief to infirm and other people throughout the taluk are sufficient for the present. The number on relief works decreased considerably during the fortnight owing to the commencement of agricultural operations. The increase, last fortnight, was due to increased distress and lack of work and was not due as suggested by me to immigration from Hyderabad.

From the Deputy Tahsildar's report it appears that the state of affairs in Chodavaram and Yellavaram divisions is satisfactory, and that famine need not be apprehended unless this monsoon is a complete failure.

INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT OFFICERS.

Taluks and places visited.—Polavaram Division—23rd and 25th—Jangareddigudem and Buttayagudem. On my way up the river to Bhadrachalam I visited Kondapadi, Pachavaram and Kunavaram.

This report has been delayed owing to the non-receipt of information from Polavaram, which has even now not been received.

STATEMENT OF LOANS—Nil.

Endorsement by V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Gódvári, dated Jangareddigudem, 15th July 1897, No. 2917-Ver.

Forwarded.

2. Since the 3rd instant, there has been rain somewhere nearly every day, but today at last and for the first time this year, we are having a wet day which looks as if it were a wet day everywhere throughout the District, and, if so, it will be a blessing of which it is impossible to overestimate the value. On the 3rd instant, things in all the upland taluks were rapidly becoming most critical, but the rain on that day was pretty general, and on the 6th instant it was followed by an excellent fall in the Peddapuram taluk and Pittapuram and Tunj Divisions as well as at Chintalapudi and parts of the Yernagudem taluk and in the Polavaram, Chodavaram and Yellavaram Divisions; one effect was a rapid fall in the price of cholam at Rajahmundry from Rs. 61 to Rs. 56 per putti. After the 6th, the rains were more partial and not so good, and prices rose again rapidly. Now, however, I trust that prices will fall and stay down, for, not only are we now having very seasonable weather for dry crops, but the river, which had fallen to only 3 inches over the anicut on the 9th instant, has risen again and the delta is now getting a full supply of water. The rain and the rise of the river should make things safe everywhere, for, not only should prices fall, but every one who wants employment should now be able to get it.

3. In Bhadrachalam there appears to be no great change, one way or the other. The Special Assistant Agent, who has just returned from there, tells me, that the condition of those on the relief works is distinctly good, and that when there, he came across very few cases of emaciation anywhere. The only cause of anxiety is the statement of the Assistant Collector, Mr. Coleridge, that the people are looking emaciated in some of the out-of-the-way interior villages. He has been directed in dealing with them to be liberal in the distribution of gratuitous relief, but they are not easy to relieve, as they will not leave their villages apparently even to go a few miles for gratuitous relief. This last fact makes me hesitate to believe that they are so hard up as they represent themselves to be.

4. The season has not been very propitious either; I hear, as the rainfall, which was pretty heavy and general up to the 18th of June, was very scanty afterwards, but on the 10th July there was good rain in many parts of the taluk and some rain everywhere, which the Special Assistant Agent tells me would be, in time, to save the young crops, and now they must be getting ample rain. Owing to the cessation of the rains and also, no doubt, to the fact that supervision at the works is necessarily not so efficient as desirable, as the Assistant Engineer has hardly any one to help him, the number of relief-workers has greatly increased and there are now over 1,900, I hear. With reference to this I think I cannot do better than quote from a demi-official just received by the Special Assistant Agent from Mr. Woodhouse. "I visited the relief works this morning at half past nine; crowds of 'workers' were squatting under trees doing nothing. I have given verbal notice that the wage will be reduced as although the Public Works Department estimate for the work is Rs. 1,550, considerably over Rs. 3,000 has been spent. This proves them 'able-bodied persons not accustomed to labour.' So I am issuing instructions to the Assistant Engineer to pay only the C wage for this week with allowances for dependants. The Panchamas are the worst offenders. For half an hour, I watched, from a distance, a gang from Dantavaram. Three-fourths of the gang did absolutely nothing, and rest simply played at carrying earth. The men of this gang had gorgeous cloths on and silver bracelets and were absolutely 'fat.' Where the B wage is to be got for working in this fashion, the wonder is not that there should be 1,900 on the works, but that there are not many more. I have sent orders, however, already that the gangs are to be sorted according to their physique and working capacity and a proper task exacted from them on pain of fine."

5. As regards the rest of the District I have sent you a full report only a day or two ago, so need add nothing here. In this part of the District there is now ample pasture for cattle and the country is beginning to look beautifully green. What

crops are standing are also in capital condition and the ryots everywhere to-day are ploughing and sowing more land. The same is, I believe, the state of things throughout the district. The general condition of the people in this locality and of the Koyas, that I have seen, is distinctly good.

RESOLUTION—No. 552, dated 5th August 1897.

Submitted to Government.

2. The Special Assistant Agent's narrative is for the period ending 25th June last and it reached this office only on the 20th July. The delay on the part of the Special Assistant Agent is ascribed by him to the non-receipt of information from Polavaram. The Collector is requested to take prompt measures to ensure the punctual submission of these narratives. Similar delays on previous occasions were noticed in B.P., No. 448, dated 18th June 1897. It is also observed that the previous narrative submitted by the Special Assistant Agent was for the period ending 31st May 1897.

3. The Collector's endorsement gives information about the condition of the affected tracts up to the 15th current. The rainfall since the commencement of July has improved the situation a good deal. The following amounts have been reported from the affected tracts:—

	INCHES.
Bhadrachalam	4.30
Chodavaramu	8.32
Yellavaram	4.74
Polavaram	6.43

The Godavari was three feet over the anikat on the 24th July. The prospects, which were gloomy for all the upland taluks at the beginning of the month, have since brightened, and the Collector thinks that the rain and the rise of the river should make things safe everywhere.

4. Prices were almost stationary, but at Chodavaramu and Devipatnam there was a sharp rise in the price of cholam towards the end of June, which is not explained.

5. The condition of cattle is stated to be improving, owing to the growth of pasture after the recent rains.

6. The condition of people on works and in villages is reported to be good. People in some of the out-of-the-way villages are said to be looking emaciated, and the Collector has ordered a liberal distribution of gratuitous relief in such cases. The numbers on relief have fallen of late, as will be seen from the following figures reported in the weekly season reports:—

Week-ending.	Relief workers.	Gratuitous relief.
July 10th	9,739	4,238
" 17th	2,172	1,689
" 24th	1,675	1,647

The failure to enforce tasks at the works must have attracted a good many persons who were not really in need of relief and who will be driven away by the strict enforcement of tasks recently ordered by the Collector. The reported immigration from the Nizam's Dominions appears to have been a mistake, and the increase in numbers on works attributed to it is now stated to have been due to increased distress and lack of work, or perhaps, as the Famine Commissioner fears, to failure to enforce discipline on the works. This is no easy matter in the Agency, where the people are like children, though sometimes very naughty children. An Outram is wanted in those parts, for, such people can be managed, *teste* the wonderful influence obtained by Mr. Sim among the Chentsus of the Nallamalais.

7. The special reports received from the Collector on the condition of the district have already been submitted to Government. These reports showed that the test works opened in the upland taluks had failed, as the people would not come to work on famine wages, and that a Local Fund work opened near the town of Cocanada, and managed in accordance with the provisions of the Famine Code, provided employment for the immigrants from the Vizagapatam District who were flocking into the delta.

(True Copy and Extract.)

Amulay. 78
Famine Secretary.

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

Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

Government (1897) of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 709, 20th August 1897.

AUGUST.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting to Government, with remarks, — of the
Goddavari district for the period ending 25th June 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 552, dated 5th August 1897:—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Special Assistant Agent's Division, Gódvári District, during the period ending 25th June 1897, Tour Dis. No. 22-S.A.A.:—

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This report has been delayed owing to the non-receipt of information from Polavaram, which has even now not been received.

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Endorsement by V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Gódvári, dated Jangareddigudem, 15th July 1897, No. 2917-Ver.

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2. Since the 3rd instant, there has been rain somewhere nearly every day, but today at last and for the first time this year, we are having a wet day which looks as if it were a wet day everywhere throughout the District, and, if so, it will be a blessing of which it is impossible to overestimate the value. On the 3rd instant, things in all the upland taluks were rapidly becoming most critical, but the rain on that day was pretty general, and on the 6th instant it was followed by an excellent fall in the Peddapuram taluk and Pittapuram and Tuni Divisions as well as at Chintalapudi and parts of the Yernagudem taluk and in the Polavaram, Chodavaram and Yellavaram Divisions; one effect was a rapid fall in the price of cholam at Rajahmundry from Rs. 61 to Rs. 56 per putti. After the 6th, the rains were more partial and not so good, and prices rose again rapidly. Now, however, I trust that prices will fall and stay down, for, not only are we now having very seasonable weather for dry crops, but the river, which had fallen to only 3 inches over the anicut on the 9th instant, has risen again and the delta is now getting a full supply of water. The rain and the rise of the river should make things safe everywhere, for, not only should prices fall, but every one who wants employment should now be able to get it.

3. In Bhadrachalam there appears to be no great change, one way or the other. The Special Assistant Agent, who has just returned from there, tells me, that the condition of those on the relief works is distinctly good, and that when there, he came across very few cases of emaciation anywhere. The only cause of anxiety is the statement of the Assistant Collector, Mr. Coleridge, that the people are looking emaciated in some of the out-of-the-way interior villages. He has been directed in dealing with them to be liberal in the distribution of gratuitous relief, but they are not easy to relieve, as they will not leave their villages apparently even to go a few miles for gratuitous relief. This last fact makes me hesitate to believe that they are so hard up as they represent themselves to be.

4. The season has not been very propitious either; I hear, as the rainfall, which was pretty heavy and general up to the 18th of June, was very scanty afterwards, but on the 10th July there was good rain in many parts of the taluk and some rain everywhere, which the Special Assistant Agent tells me would be, in time, to save the young crops, and now they must be getting ample rain. Owing to the cessation of the rains and also, no doubt, to the fact that supervision at the works is necessarily not so efficient as desirable, as the Assistant Engineer has hardly any one to help him, the number of relief-workers has greatly increased and there are now over 1,900, I hear. With reference to this I think I cannot do better than quote from a demi-official just received by the Special Assistant Agent from Mr. Woodhouse. "I visited the relief works this morning at half past nine; crowds of 'workers' were squatting under trees doing nothing. I have given verbal notice that the wage will be reduced as although the Public Works Department estimate for the work is Rs. 1,550, considerably over Rs. 3,000 has been spent. This proves them 'able-bodied persons not accustomed to labour.'" So I am issuing instructions to the Assistant Engineer to pay only the C wage for this week with allowances for dependants. The Panchamas are the worst offenders. For half an hour, I watched, from a distance, a gang from Dantavaram. Three-fourths of the gang did absolutely nothing, and rest simply played at carrying earth. The men of this gang had gorgeous cloths on and silver bracelets and were absolutely "fat." Where the B wage is to be got for working in this fashion, the wonder is not that there should be 1,900 on the works, but that there are not many more. I have sent orders, however, already that the gangs are to be sorted according to their physique and working capacity and a proper task exacted from them on pain of fine.

5. As regards the rest of the District I have sent you a full report only a day or two ago, so need add nothing here. In this part of the District there is now ample pasture for cattle and the country is beginning to look beautifully green. What

crops are standing are also in capital condition and the ryots everywhere to-day are ploughing and sowing more land. The same is, I believe, the state of things throughout the district. The general condition of the people in this locality and of the Koyas, that I have seen, is distinctly good.

Resolution—No. 552, dated 5th August 1897.

Submitted to Government.

2. The Special Assistant Agent's narrative is for the period ending 25th June last and it reached this office only on the 20th July. The delay on the part of the Special Assistant Agent is ascribed by him to the non-receipt of information from Polavaram. The Collector is requested to take prompt measures to ensure the punctual submission of these narratives. Similar delays on previous occasions were noticed in B.P., No. 448, dated 18th June 1897. It is also observed that the previous narrative submitted by the Special Assistant Agent was for the period ending 31st May 1897.

3. The Collector's endorsement gives information about the condition of the affected tracts up to the 15th current. The rainfall since the commencement of July has improved the situation a good deal. The following amounts have been reported from the affected tracts:—

								INCHES.
Bhadrachalam	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.30
Chodavaramu	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.32
Yellavaram	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.74
Polavaram	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6.43

The Gódavari was three feet over the anikat on the 24th July. The prospects, which were gloomy for all the upland taluks at the beginning of the month, have since brightened, and the Collector thinks that the rain and the rise of the river should make things safe everywhere.

4. Prices were almost stationary, but at Chodavaramu and Devipatnam there was a sharp rise in the price of cholam towards the end of June, which is not explained.

5. The condition of cattle is stated to be improving, owing to the growth of pasture after the recent rains.

6. The condition of people on works and in villages is reported to be good. People in some of the out-of-the-way villages are said to be looking emaciated, and the Collector has ordered a liberal distribution of gratuitous relief in such cases. The numbers on relief have fallen of late, as will be seen from the following figures reported in the weekly season reports:—

Week ending.								Relief workers.	Gratuitous relief.
July 10th	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,739	4,238
" 17th	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,172	1,689
" 24th	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,675	1,647

The failure to enforce tasks at the works must have attracted a good many persons who were not really in need of relief and who will be driven away by the strict enforcement of tasks recently ordered by the Collector. The reported immigration from the Nizam's Dominions appears to have been a mistake, and the increase in numbers on works attributed to it is now stated to have been due to increased distress and lack of work, or perhaps, as the Famine Commissioner fears, to failure to enforce discipline on the works. This is no easy matter in the Agency, where the people are like children, though sometimes very faughty children. An Outram is wanted in those parts, for, such people can be managed, *teste* the wonderful influence obtained by Mr. Sim among the Chentsus of the Nallamalais.

7. The special reports received from the Collector on the condition of the district have already been submitted to Government. These reports showed that the test works opened in the upland taluks had failed, as the people would not come to work on famine wages, and that a Local Fund work opened near the town of Cocanada, and managed in accordance with the provisions of the Famine Code, provided employment for the immigrants from the Vizagapatam District who were flocking into the delta.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

ORDER—No. 709, Revenue, dated 20th August 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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