

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 746

DATED 9th Feb. 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording B.P. subby report.
on the opening & closing of test works in Vizagapatam.
Dt. file. Satisfactory narrative for the period ending
15 January 1897.

BACK PAPERS.

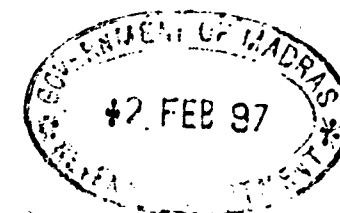
G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

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Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 955



From

The Board of Revenue

(Rev. Sett., L. R. & Agri.),

Madras

No. 51 Press

Dated 25 January 1897

Received 2-2-97.

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Enclosures

Spare copies 5.

SUBJECT.

Fortnightly Narrative -
Submitting to Government,
with remarks, report on the
opening and closing of test
works in Vizagapatam District
and the - for period ending
15 January 1897

The Hon. Secy. to Govt. of Madras
27/1/97

Order min. No. 74649
28-1-97

Recorded.

1/4/97

To the Board (Settlement) Sec. 12.2.97

Note. The test-works appear to have
been efficiently managed. The mit-
last for 13 class laborers is only
3 c. ft. but ^{as} the Collector says 3.25
C. ft. was not too high considering
that the laborers were habitual
laborers.

2. Under G. O. 754
26-12-96 rice with ragi
would seem to be the standard grain
of the district; but the Collector has
rightly ~~correctly~~ taken ragi for calculating
relief rations, having regard to the
habitual food of the laborers con-
sidered.

1/4/97

2/4/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RES. AND AGRI.), 25TH JAN. 1897, No. 51.

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

READ—the following letter from W. O. HORNE, Esq., Acting Collector of Vizagapatam District, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 11th January 1897, R. C. No. 4931 :—

I have the honour to report that I opened two test works under section 17 of the Famine Code and have now closed them, as they entirely failed to attract labour.

2. The two places selected were—

(1) Pendur at the crossing point of the Northern Trunk road and the Vizagapatam-Srungavarapukota road ; and

(2) Dakmarri half way between Bimlipatam and Vizianagram on the Vizianagram-Modavalasa road and near the point where the Trunk road joins the latter.

3. These places were selected after careful consideration as being central to the villages where there appeared to be most of the working classes without employment, and where I had reason to believe them to be so pinched as to make their acceptance of famine wages probable. The work was metal-breaking at quarries.

4. To give the history of each work separately—

Pendur.—The Huzur Deputy Collector, the Local Fund Engineer, the Deputy Tahsildar and the Local Fund Overseer attended at Pendur at day-break on the morning of Monday, January 4, to open the work. The opening of the work and the conditions of pay and employment had been thoroughly advertised beforehand for more than a week in the neighbourhood and also made known to some 800 coolies who were doing Local Fund ordinary work at Pendur, and to another large gang at Kottavalasa, 5 miles off. On that day the officers remained at the scene of the work all the morning, and a tom-tom was beaten to call workers. The same was repeated in the afternoon, but no coolies at all came in that day. Materials for kitchen and huts had been collected and the site for the kitchen was selected in a shady tope, with a good well, close to the work, and the ground plan marked out. The Deputy Collector reported progress to me that evening, and I ordered that while no persuasion or inducement was to be offered, still further publicity was to be given to the work and its conditions, and that it should be kept open and every chance given to persons in need of work to avail themselves of it.

5. On the 5th the same thing was repeated, and coolies would not even work at putting up the kitchen sheds. The same thing on the 6th. On the 7th at 9 A.M., 95 coolies, viz., 30 men (half of them under 15 years), 45 women and 20 children, all from one neighbouring village came in. The Divisional Officer reported that they were all in good condition and adds “no sooner did they hear them (the terms of payment) than they all dispersed—men, women and all—refusing to work at the rates allowed by the Code and abusing the aforesaid individual who induced them to come saying that they could earn almost the ordinary wages. Evidently they seem to have been deceived by that man, who wanted to make a profit out of this transaction. They say fetching firewood from the hills will pay men and women much better than this relief work.” “The male coolies ask what this under-rating of their work is due to.” It was carefully explained that on relief work the Government does not undertake to pay a wage which will support a family, but each working individual being paid a living wage for his work, those dependant on them and incapable of work will be fed.

6. On the 8th, having been detained at head-quarters till then by the sale of the Sáluru villages and by Agency Sessions, I proceeded to Pendur and after sufficient enquiry abandoned the test.

7. *Dakmarri*.—Work was opened on the 5th January by the Principal Assistant Collector, the Local Fund Supervisor and Overseer and the Deputy Tahsildar. The work was previously advertised by tom-tom in 25 villages within a radius of 5 miles. The rate of payment was also advertised. On the 5th morning accordingly by 8 A.M. about 700 persons collected. There were tools for only 500, so 500 were retained and the other 200 told to come next day. These 500 were drafted into gangs and set to work but apparently the conditions of payment had been insufficiently explained or understood and on further enquiry as to them the coolies struck work and went away. On the 6th no coolies at all came in. On the 7th 200 persons, most of whom had not attended on the 5th, came and worked. The reason of their attendance may be gathered from the following extract from a report of the Bimlipatam Deputy Tahsildar, dated 6th January:—

"After a good deal of persuasion some of the coolies of the neighbouring villages consented to-day to come to work at our rates from to-morrow. Probably about 100 or 200 people may accordingly come for work."

8. These coolies worked all day from 7-30 to 12 and from 2 to sunset. They did exceedingly little work, less than 2 cubic feet of metal per unit, and earned less than the minimum wage. They were paid the same evening and declined to come again.

9. On the same day two infirm adults and 48 non-working children were fed in the kitchen attached to the work. The Principal Assistant Collector reports that though these were stated to be dependants of the workers he has ascertained that they were in many cases not so, some of them belonging to castes not represented among the workers, and the Deputy Tahsildar seems not to have been careful enough in admitting them. The Principal Assistant Collector reports that those who attended the work and kitchen were in good condition.

10. No coolies came on the 8th or 9th. On the 10th I met Mr. Scott at Chittivalsa and this morning, the 11th, proceeded with him to Dakmarri and neighbourhood. I interviewed many coolies who had been at the work. They complain of want of work, but say they want it at contract rates and to select their own gangs, and they decline to take daily payment under at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ anna. I said they now fully understood, as I think they do, the terms on which the Sircar undertook to protect them and if they should become sufficiently hard up to be willing to accept those terms, they might apply again to Mr. Scott or the Deputy Tahsildar. I ordered the closing of the test.

11. I believe that in the case of both these test works the requirements of the Code and the instructions contained in various Board's Proceedings and in the notes of the Commissioner on inspection of other districts were carefully attended to and fulfilled. Tools were ready in depôt at Pendur, and, with the exception of the deficiency on the first day at Neelaya Chuttram, within a few hundred yards of the quarry at Dakmarri in ample quantity. Supplies were for sale on the spot. Water was available in good wells close to the works and materials for kitchens and huts were ready. In the case of Dakmarri, the kitchen was partially erected and as it only wants thatching, I have ordered its completion and that the village munsif at Neelaya Chuttram shall be responsible for taking care of it in case it is required again. At Pendur I think I can utilise the materials which were brought from the race camp at Vizianagram otherwise.

12. *Tasks*.—At Pendur the Local Fund Engineer decided that, unless any exceptional cases should appear, the workers should be classed as B. He fixed the full task of 3 cubic feet per unit. This he reports he considered perfectly fair as he ascertained by measurement that the gangs working at the same quarry under ordinary conditions had turned out what averaged 2.79 cubic feet per unit during their own quarrying and in some cases had done as much as 3.21. He had arranged to put separate gangs to quarrying, so the task of 3 cubic feet per unit was very moderate. As no one worked it is impossible to comment on results.

At Dakmarri, the Supervisor classed the coolies on the only day on which they worked as class A. This, I think, was a mistake. I should have altered it had any remained or returned, but it was not absolutely wrong as they were all labourers by profession and practice and have all at times done stone-breaking and road work. He did not, however, fix the task at the maximum of 4 cubic feet per unit as the numbers had to collect their own stones, which are available on the spot, but fixed it at 3.25 cubic feet. I should probably have reduced it to 3 cubic feet, but I do not think it was excessive. The stone is not hard and the gangs were composed of a larger proportion of men than the typical gangs of the Code and a less proportion of children.

13. The gangs were composed as under—

	Men and boys over 12.	Women and girls over 12.	Working children.
First gang	30	40	30
Second gang	30	46	24

The tasks to be done worked out to—

First gang	748 cubic feet.
Second gang	767 "

The work turned out was—

First gang	431 cubic feet or 1.9 cubic feet per unit.
Second gang	418 " or 1.77 " "

I had ordered that the grain to be taken as the standard for calculating wages was ragi. I ascertained on investigation that all ordinary day labourers are now living on ragi varied only with cumbu, which is generally about the same price, and that they do not mix rice and ragi as in Ganjam. The price of ragi being 17 seers per rupee, the wages for class A were—men As. 1-3, women As. 1-1.

As the shortness of the work turned out was not due to weakness or other cause unpreventable by the workers, and as it was so very much shorter than what it had been shown they could turn out if they liked, the full deduction for short work was made and the wages for each gang for the day came to Rs. 3-3-1 and Rs. 3-4-9, respectively. The men earned only 7 pies. I have asked them about this and they say they can do the task right enough if they are paid proper daily cooly or given work on contract.

14. I must admit that I am surprised at the results of these tests and I regret it if I have unnecessarily alarmed the Board. At the same time I am not prepared to say that the necessity for works may not arise later on, but I shall be fully convinced of it before I propose them. The working classes do not show visible signs of deterioration beyond the fact that many of them are apparently in very light condition. I asked some male children this morning, who did not appear too well nourished, how many times they got food in the day. They said three, but probably it is a case of little and often. I think we must take it that the people are not now sufficiently distressed to render them willing to take famine wages, at the same time the cooly is a very obstinate person when he thinks any one is trying to get the better of him, as they appear to think, and the Divisional and Taluk Officers of the parts principally affected have been instructed to exercise great vigilance. There is no part of the district where the need of a test appears so great as the places where it has been tried, and none other is called for at present.

15. The small expenditure on the kitchen will be ascertained and sanction asked for immediately.

READ—also the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Vizagapatam district during the period ending 15th of January 1897:—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water-supply.—No rain at 20 stations during the fortnight. Koraput .01", Bissekatak 01", Srungavarapukota .4", Chódavaram .5", Narasapatam .03", Bimlipatam .27", and Waltair .57".

The rain has had no effect at all on supplies for drinking or irrigation, but it freshened up pasture and saved the necessity for a few days of baling to sugarcane, tobacco, ragi and other standing crops under wells. It fell moreover in absolutely the driest portion of the district.

Agricultural operations and condition of standing crops.—The only agricultural operation in progress is the raising of sugarcane, tobacco, ragi, vegetables, &c., under wells. This class of cultivation is being carried on most busily and in most parts of the district. Every village has an appreciable patch of well cultivation which is thriving. A few ryots in Vizagapatam and Srungavarapukota taluks ploughed and sowed gingelly after the late shower of rain.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Fodder is dear but obtainable. Pasture scarce, particularly in the central coast portion of the district.

Cattle are in ordinary hot weather condition, light but not starved. Some foot and mouth disease is reported from Srungavarapukota and also from Padwa, Pottangi and Koraput taluks of Jeypore.

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 January 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		Ragi.		Cumbu.		Remarks.
	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	
1. Párvatipuram	9-84	9-84	18-72	18-72	18-80	18-20	Prices have a yielding tendency and have fallen materially in the three most expensive reporting stations, viz., Vizagapatam, Chipurupalle and Chodavaram. No grain is above scarcity rate anywhere except cumbu in Vizagapatam town.
2. Sálúr	11-07	11-07	17-28	17-28	17-50	17-50	
3. Palkonda	9-60	9-60	17-17	17-17	22-77	22-77	
4. Gajapatinagaram	9-84	9-84	17-02	17-76	17-28	17-28	
5. Chipurupalle	8-20	9-02	15-12	15-84	17-28	17-28	
6. Vizianagaram	9-26	9-26	16-66	16-66	15-33	16-33	
7. Vizagapatam	7-91	9-60	16-66	15-65	14-85	14-85	
8. Chodavaram	8-50	9-00	19-11	19-11	18-48	18-48	
9. Anakápallo	10-00	10-00	17-29	18-20	..	..	
10. Yellamanchili	9-50	9-50	18-20	18-20	..	16-72	
11. Narasapatam	9-40	9-40	16-80	17-64	16-20	17-64	
Average	9-87	9-64	17-27	17-47	17-49	17-70	

Activity of trade.—Trade very active in all grains, especially in rice.

The railway returns have again not been received, in spite of reminders to the Traffic Manager. Import by cart from Gódávári district is considerable. By sea 105 bags for the fortnight ending 9th January 1897. By road from Jeypore 9,888 cart-loads for the fortnight ending 9th January 1897.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

1. *On works.*—Nil.

2. *In Villages.*—Normal generally. A few of the cooly class have been observed in rather light condition, but even these decline work at famine wages.

Sickness and Mortality.—The health of the district is normal. A few cases of cholera have occurred in Párvatipuram taluk.

Remarks.—There are no signs of visible distress. It cannot be doubted that the working classes are finding times very hard, but nothing worse at present.

Measures of Relief.—(1) *On works.*—Two test works at Pendur, Vizagapatam taluk, and Dakmarri, Bimlipatam taluk, opened and closed after a week's trial. Special report has been submitted. It is possible that, if ordinary works continue to afford employment on a considerable scale, relief works may never be needed. I would

again beg that Government be reminded about the Vizagapatam Water works. Much good would be done if funds were allotted for all possible works in the Public Works Department programme.

(2) *Gratuitous relief—Bimlipatam taluk.*—Number relieved at kitchens this fortnight 50; last fortnight nil. Fifty dependants fed at Dakmarri test relief work kitchen on one day only.

(3) *Private charity.*—None organised.

Remarks.—I do not expect that gratuitous relief apart from works will become necessary before next monsoon.

Inspections of the Collector—Taluk and places visited.—Test relief works at Pendur and Dakmarri. Ordinary Local Fund work on the Chipurupalle-Laveru road. Portions of Vizagapatam, Bimlipatam and Chipurupalle taluks. Chittivalasa, Pusapatirega, Ranastalam, Laveru, Chipurupalle and intervening villages.

General remarks.—The test relief works opened on the 4th and 5th January having failed to attract after every fair trial, it may be taken that distress does not at present exist. Signs of it will be watched for. Staple grains are cheaper than scarcity rate, with a downward tendency. I have been favourably impressed with the appearance of the Chipurupalle taluk which I had been led to suppose to be on the verge of distress. I do not regard the necessity for any form of relief as imminent or even probable in that taluk. I proceed from Chipurupalle to Srungavarapukota taluk which will conclude a circuit of the most affected parts of the district.

Loan Transactions—Golgonda.—Two hundred and forty-nine applications are reported to have been received in Golgonda taluk under the Agriculturists' Loans Act. Details not yet received. *Palkonda.*—Nine applications for Rs. 1,395 under the Land Improvement Loans Act and 236 applications for Rs. 23,021 under the Agriculturists' Loans Act are reported to have been received. Details have not yet been received.

Srungavarapukota.—One application for Rs. 200 pending.

READ—also the following season report of the Vizagapatam district for week ending 16th January 1897 :—

“Water for cultivation only obtainable by baling from wells; drinking water insufficient in parts; Taluk Boards sinking temporary wells. Greengram, gingelly and ragi sown, and ragi and chillies transplanted in parts. Sugarcane, the only wet crop under wells, dry crops fading in southern taluks, bad elsewhere, except under wells where they are doing fairly. Harvested sugarcane, outturn poor to middling; tobacco, middling or poor; horse-gram, cholam, ragi and red-gram, outturn poor. Pasture very scarce and fodder very dear but cattle not suffering. Prospects bad. Working classes still seem able to secure employment more profitable than on famine works. Food grains exported by sea 50 bags and imported 220 bags; imported from Jeypore 5,275 carts; also considerable local import from Gódávári by road. Exported by rail for week ending 9th January, 282 maunds; imported 5,807 maunds. Emigrants to Burma 42.”

RESOLUTION—dated 25th January 1897, No. 51.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. A few showers of rain early in the month did a little good in Vizagapatam, but the chief dependence of the people at present is on cultivation under wells, which are numerous. The cultivation returns for December, of which an abstract is appended, show that, except in Sarvasiddhi, there has been no material deficiency in the area brought under crop this year, but, owing to the failure of the water-supplies, the area of second crop on wet land will this year be small.

3. The condition of the people shows no change, nor does there appear to be any likelihood of their accepting relief wages for the present. The test works of which Mr. Horne gives a full report in his letter first read above appear to have been most efficiently managed and prove this.

(True Copies and Extract.)

R. V. Srinivasan
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Vizagapatam.
Copy to Collectors of other affected districts.
" to the Sanitary Commissioner.

APPENDIX.

STATEMENT showing the areas sown in the Vizagapatam district in 1896 up to December compared with the averages of five years up to that date and the averages for the whole year.

Taluka.	First crop.					
	Dry.			Wet.		
	Up to December.		Annual average.	Up to December.		Annual average.
	1896.	Average.		1896.	Average.	
	2	3		5	6	
1			4			7
Palkonda	ACS. 16,257	ACS. 14,674	ACS. 14,726	ACS. 35,622	ACS. 33,074	ACS. 33,081
Golgonda	49,419	53,190	53,688	17,116	18,234	18,353
Sarvasiddhi	21,238	22,251	22,383	12,844	24,744	24,845
Agency Tracts	19	17	20	17	20	30
Total ..	86,933	90,132	90,817	65,599	76,072	76,309

Taluka.	Second crop.					
	Dry.			Wet.		
	Up to December.		Annual average.	Up to December.		Annual average.
	1896.	Average.		1896.	Average.	
	8	9		11	12	
8			10			13
Palkonda	ACS. 4,278	ACS. 5,974	ACS. 6,528	ACS. 8,262	ACS. 7,852	ACS. 18,504
Golgonda	18,144	21,566	22,367	2,784	3,958	8,162
Sarvasiddhi	9,048	10,618	11,565	2,009	2,044	8,446
Agency Tracts	..	..	..	..	..	2
Total ..	31,470	38,158	40,460	13,055	13,854	30,114

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records
and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed January 28th.

Proceedings, 25th Jan. 1897, No. 51.

Fortnightly narrative.—Submitting to Govern-
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189.

READ AGAIN G.O., No
189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

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