

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 757

DATED 4th September
1897.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording Board's Progress submg. to Govt., with
remarks, of the Gadavari St. for the period
ending 31st July 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.

Revenue (189) Department.

CURRENT No. 72489

Shree Hon. Mr. Anand Rao
As the Governor

Printed at
the Govt. Press
Bombay

From

No. 757 of 24th Sept. 1897

The Board of Revenue,
Satt.

By (Press)

Recorded

2/9/97

No. 583.

Dated 20th August 1897

Received

Registered

Enclosures

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SUBJECT.

Fortnightly narrative

of the Godavari St for the
period ending 31st July 1897

To the Secy of Rev. Coll.
P. W. D.
H. D.
H. M. Dept.
A. S.

6/15-9-97

8-47

2/9/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date

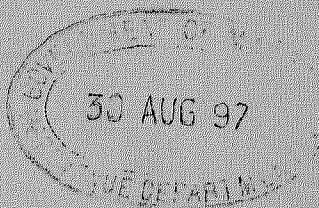
FURTHER PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

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



Recd.

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1897

Printed August th.

Proceedings, No. 583, 20th August 1897.

AUGUST.

Fortnightly narrative.—Submitting to Government, with remarks, — of the Górávari district for the period ending 31st July 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 31st July 1897:—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and Water-supply.—

	Rainfall during the period.	Expected rainfall.	Remarks.
	INCHES.	INCHES.	
1. Bhadráchalum taluk	4.0	4.39	There was rain on the 11th, 15th, 16th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd.
2. Polavaram division	5.35	7.75	
3. Chódavaramu division	5.1	6.22	There was rain on each day of the fortnight from 11th to 25th July.
4. Yellavaram division	..	..	The narrative for this division has not yet been received.

There was good rain during the fortnight and water is everywhere abundant for drinking purposes and for dry cultivation. In some riverside villages of Polavaram division and in parts of Yellavaram and Chódavaramu divisions there is even enough water in many tanks for wet cultivation. In fact, now, no fears need be entertained as to deficiency in the rainfall.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops—Bhadráchalum.—The standing crops paddy, gingelly, chama and cumbu, &c., are good. Ploughing is going on for the purpose of sowing the remaining crops, manjonna, &c. The crops already sown are now being fenced. Farther morkajonna and kondajonna are still being sown in parts. These two crops, where already sown, have been quite revived by the recent rain, except in a few cases. The cumbu crop first sown is now in ear and the gingelly in flower. *Polavaram division.*—Ploughing, sowing and weeding are progressing in respect of korra, nallachama, cumbu and kondajonna crops. The dry crops already sown in Kopalli and Kovvada muttas are fairly good. In the riverside villages paddy is also being sown. In other parts it is not attempted as the water-supply in the tanks is not sufficient to irrigate their ayacuts. *Chódavaramu division.*—Ploughing is going on for sowing dry paddy, cumbu, gingelly, chama, jonna, chodi, &c. Early dry crops are flourishing. Gingelly is being cut in some places. The cumbu and morkajonna crops are very good, and are already in ear in many places. *Yellavaram division.*—Cultivation is going on everywhere, ploughing and sowing. The standing crops are good except gingelly, which is only a good crop here and there.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle—Bhadráchalum taluk.—There is no fodder, but pasture is abundant. The condition of cattle is good. *Polavaram division.*—There is no fodder, but pasture is abundant. The condition of cattle is good. There were no cattle diseases. For want of fodder hitherto the condition of cattle has not been good, the consequence being that mortality amongst them during this fortnight was comparatively heavy. Their condition is rapidly improving. *Chódavaramu division.*—There is but little fodder, quite insufficient. Pasture is sufficient. The condition of cattle including those on riverside villages is good. *Yellavaram division.*—Fodder is very scarce. Pasture is good. Cattle are rapidly picking up, and may now be said to be in good condition.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—There was good rainfall during this fortnight throughout the whole division. It has improved the condition of the crops and cattle. The crops already sown are very promising. Agricultural operations are going on on a large scale. Gingelly is being cut in some parts of Chódavaramu division. In other parts it is in flower. Wet paddy cultivation is not yet undertaken except in some of the riverside villages of Polavaram division as the supply in the tanks is not quite sufficient. The river Gódvári has received new freshes during the fortnight. In the Chódavaramu and Yellavaram divisions, through which I have been touring, the condition of the country is first-rate, and the prospects of the early harvest are very promising. New sama was offered for sale at the last shandy at Gokavaram, a village just outside the agency, to which the hill people resort in large numbers, and in many places the cumbu crop should be harvested in two or three weeks.

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 31st of July 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.	
Bhadráchalum	9	8	12	10	..	..	The rise in prices is due to insufficient supply from Rajahmundry and merchants are unwilling to sell even at exorbitant rates.
Kuchavaram	9	8½	14	12	..	..	
Waddigudem	9	8	14	12	..	..	
Polavaram	..	8	..	13	..	13	
Kannapuram	..	8	..	12	..	..	
Buttayagudem	..	8	..	12	..	..	
Jangareddigudem	..	8	..	12	..	..	
Chodavaramu	8	8	12	12	12	12	
Devipatnam	8	8	12	12	12	12	

Activity of trade.—Private trade in rice and dry staple food-grain is moderate. No imports or exports by sea or train. The import of rice from Rajahmundry during the fortnight has been insufficient.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On works.—The relief works at Dumagudem, as already reported, have been closed, but the Collector has since ordered them to be re-opened if any people demand work. So far, however, there have been no demands for work except from a few well-to-do Panchamas. Gratuitous relief is being given to the really deserving workers, and seed-grain advances are also being made. Under orders of the Collector an attempt was made to open a test relief work in Yellavaram division but it has not attracted any labour. I have, during my last visit, ordered the Deputy Tahsildar to make payments of gratuitous relief to deserving people from the funds supplied for relief works, pending the sanction of an allotment of Rs. 250 applied for by me for this division.

In Villages.—Cholam and ragi are being sold at normal rates by Government at different centres in Bhadráchalum taluk and at Chódavaramu in Chódavaramu division. The sales at the latter place are confined to the weekly market days. The old and infirm people are being given gratuitous relief in Bhadráchalum taluk and Chódavaramu and Yellavaram divisions. There are very few cases in the latter divisions but still a few people, mostly beggars, are becoming very emaciated. The people in the riverside villages of Polavaram division including Koyas are getting on well. The hill people in the interior are still living on jungle roots, leaves and ambalies of tamarind seeds and jeelugu stem. This state of things will continue for the next month or so after which cumbu, chama and other crops will be harvested.

Sickness and Mortality.—There were no deaths from starvation. Cholera has subsided in Bhadrachalam taluk, but there has been an outbreak in Polavaram division. The number of attacks and deaths that occurred here from 11th to 23rd instant are reported to be, respectively, 72 and 38. I am addressing the District Medical and Sanitary Officer to depute a Hospital Assistant, if available, to visit the affected villages.

Remarks.—There was one death at Addatigela while I was there, which was said to be due to starvation. The deceased was, however, a man absolutely wasted by leprosy and disease, and, although his death was no doubt accelerated by insufficient nourishment, it cannot be wholly attributed to starvation.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

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

Taluka.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fort- night.	This fort- night.	
<i>Bhadrachalam taluk.</i>			
Dumagudem	1,953	* 1,299	The work was closed from the 18th instant.

* This number exhibits the workers that attended on the 17th idem. The decrease is due to the fall of rains affording field work to the people.

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.
Bhadrachalam	..	..	..	..	..	..	581	† 315

Taluk.	Number of villages in which relief was given.		Weavers' relief.				Number of relief workers children and infirm dependants receiving money doles.	
			Number of persons relieved		Number of cloths manufactured.			
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	In the period.	Up to date.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Bhadrachalam	83	† 65	..	..	..	..	2,078	1,144

† This does not include figures for Rakapalle and Marrigudem ranges which have not been received.

Private charity.—The sale of cholam and ragi at normal rates to Koyas and Panchamas in the Bhadrachalam taluk, and at Chodavaramu from the funds supplied by the Famine Relief Committee is going on regularly.

General Remarks.—During the fortnight prospects have very much improved and unless anything unforeseen occurs, it is now merely a question of continuing gratuitous relief and sale of grain until the new crops are harvested. Gratuitous relief on a

small scale has had to be started in Chodavaramu and Yellavaram divisions, as, although the bulk of the people are in good condition, a few of the people are emaciated, and have no means of subsistence. These people are mostly beggars, who at the best of times are very badly off, and, now that hard times have checked private charity, have no means of obtaining food. So far they have got on all right, but are unable quite to last out without gratuitous relief, which will have to be given for about a month or so more. The numbers have not been given in this narrative as the lists were only begun in Yellavaram on the 23rd and in Chodavaramu on the 28th ultimo, I fancy that in Polavaram the people who were worst off before, i.e., the Koyas in the Kovvada and surrounding muttas, can now get along with the grain which they have looted, and which has not been taken from them for want of identification.

The relief works at Dumagudem were stopped rather hastily, but as events have turned out, it is perhaps as well that they have been stopped. The really deserving ones have been put on gratuitous relief, and there has been no demand for work. There is no doubt a great deal of work to be obtained now in cultivation operations, and this would, in any case, have largely reduced the numbers on the work, which did actually decrease considerably during the last two or three days that work was going on. Work has been ordered by the Collector to be recommenced, if necessary, but I do not think there will be any demand for it.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT OFFICERS.

Taluka and places visited—Polavaram Division.—Polavaram, Kannapuram, Jangareddigudem and Koyyalagudem.

Yellavaram Division.—Timmapuram, Papampet, Addatigela, Munnialapalem, Vetamamidi, Mittapalem, Kota, Karakapadu and Bodipalli.

Chodavaramu Division.—Chodavaramu.

Statement of loans.—Nil.

Endorsement by V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Gódvári, dated 8th August 1897, Dis. on C. No. 3327-Ver.

Forwarded. As the Special Assistant remarks, there is no cause for anxiety for the future. It is the immediate present that troubles us. The weather now is all that can be desired for dry crops and these are everywhere, and by everybody, reported to be in splendid condition, with the exception of gingelly which is patchy. Here and there one meets with fields with magnificent crops, whilst not far away the crop is only an 8-anna to a 4-anna one. In a few cases, the crop has died out altogether and fields have had to be re-sown, but such cases are not numerous. On the other hand, cumbu and sama are looking well and a good crop everywhere, and it is to them that I am looking for relief in the early future. As the Special Assistant says, new sama has made its appearance, though in very limited quantity, in the Gokavaram market and yesterday between Gokavaram and Rajahmundry I noticed many fields, both of sama and cumbu, with the crop in ear which should, like the gingelly, be harvested within the month, though I also saw many fields not yet in ear. Once the cumbu and sama come generally to harvest, the worst of our difficulties will be over, as then only can we hope for a marked fall in prices. This we cannot expect before the 21st instant and it may be a few days later. Meanwhile, we have a fortnight to get through with two very serious difficulties on our hands, viz., prices stationary at a very high level, and a lull in the agricultural labour market owing to dry cultivation operations having come nearly to an end and wet cultivation under tanks in the upland taluks not having as yet set in generally in many places.

2. The fact that prices are showing little or no tendency to fall is not easy to account for, in face of the greatly improved prospects of the season. All my information, however, and my belief, is that the present grain market is, to a great extent, a fictitious one due to hopes of yet higher prices on the part of holders—both ryots and merchants—

and not to short supplies compared with the demand. Still, whatever the cause, the effect is the same—much hardship temporarily; another reason possibly is that anxiety for the future still troubles smaller holders, who consequently are unwilling to sell the surplus in their hands, until they are certain of being able to replenish their stores, and the season is yet too early for this; one really good general fall of rain now, however, would, I think, have a good effect, as it would start wet cultivation everywhere, and, in most cases, make the result practically certain.

3. In regard to wet cultivation, the delay in commencing operations is due to two causes, viz., that many tanks have not yet received a supply or a sufficient supply to justify the commencement of transplantation, and, in the next place, because in many villages the seedlings are not ready for transplantation. About Gokavaram I found transplantation begun and going on briskly, but there was little doing at Kottapalli where 241 are on a relief work. The ryots, however, under the big tank there, which irrigates 900 acres, asked me to allow the sluice to be opened, though it would stop the relief work of raising the bund, as their seedlings could now be transplanted, and I have permitted this on condition of their cutting a trench to prevent the opening of the sluice stopping the relief work directly, though indirectly I believe it will have this effect, as the relief workers will at once be employed in cultivating the ayacut. The same is the case with many tanks. There is enough or nearly enough water in them, but either the seedlings, which were sown late, are not yet ready, or the ryots have not finished their dry cultivation. What wet crops have been transplanted are looking well everywhere, and the seedlings elsewhere appear nearly ready for transplantation. Most tanks have now enough water to justify starting operations, and some too much, for the Razu tank of Krishnapalam near Gokavaram burst in consequence of the rains about a week ago. Speaking generally, the supply of water in tanks is better north than south of the Gódavari, but all have received some water. All that is wanting now to fill all, is one good wet day and everything points to our getting it soon, as the Gódavari wind has been blowing hard yesterday and to-day. When it falls, we should get a downpour. If we should get a couple of inches generally in the upland taluks with the ground saturated as it is at present, another week should see wet cultivation in full swing everywhere and it will keep people going till the end of the month and prices fall, in my opinion. In the Delta things are everywhere reported all right. The river is not high as it has varied from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet over the anicut, but this is sufficient to keep the water in the canals at full supply level, and, although the rainfall has been light as a rule, it has generally been sufficient for the dry cultivation.

4. As regards the condition of the people in the Agency, I have nothing to add to the remarks of my Special Assistant, except that I have ordered him to give gratuitous relief to those persons in the Polavaram division, whom he reports to be living upon roots and leaves if they are at all emaciated. There are none such about Kannapuram and south and west of it, and if there are any, they must be confined to a very small area. In the Yellavaram and Chódavaram divisions, the only cases requiring relief are isolated cases of old and infirm people who usually live by begging. In the non-agency portions of the district, distress appears to be most acute in the Kottapalli portion of the Rajahmundry taluk and in the Chintalapudi division of Ellore. I have just visited Gokavaram and Kottapalli and do not think the relief works at this last place will attract labour after the sluice of the big tank has been opened, and I have ordered this to be done. At Kapavaram (Komkonda) the numbers rose two days ago to 500, but there was heavy rain that night and there has been more since, and the number at work to-day is reported to be only 150. Strictly speaking, I am doubtful if relief works—even test works—will be necessary, once transplantation becomes general, and when the works they are now working on are finished; it will not be necessary, I hope, to undertake any more till prices fall appreciably, though it will be necessary to give gratuitous relief in isolated cases of hardship. The number of such cases in the Kottapalli range should not exceed 150 to 200 cases, and they consist entirely of old people with none to support them, cripples and sick, unable to work, and children. At the best of times these people must live by begging and their livelihood is precarious. At the present time they are in great straits and becoming emaciated.

5. The only other tract said to be affected is the Chintalapudi division of the Ellore taluk, whence I have just received a report, dated the 3rd instant, that 25 * persons have come for famine wages to the Chintalapudi-Jilugumilli road which had been kept open for three weeks without attracting any one. Should we get rain they will all go away again, I suppose. It is of no use keeping open a work, however, for coolies, who can get no work for the day in the neighbourhood to go to, as such casual labourers in such small numbers are not likely to do much work, and the money will simply be wasted as they can do no appreciable or permanent work on an important work like a road. I have now ordered the Deputy Collector to close it for the present, and not re-start it unless there are signs that it is really wanted, and there is a prospect of its attracting at least 100 coolies, if opened. It can be kept by him in reserve, not as a permanently-open test work, for people casually out of a job for the day to go to, but to be opened when complaints of want of labour appear to be becoming chronic and numerous. In the same report he says that the Deputy Tahsildar reports the condition of the Nayik community, which numbers 621 in all, to be becoming very serious, and he proposes starting a relief work for them though he is doubtful if they will come to one. These people are jungle-people who live entirely on podu cultivation and are consequently a thorn in the flesh to the Forest Department, and it is just as useless to ask them to come to works as it is to ask the Koyas. They have their own cultivation to attend to and will stick to their jungles as long as they will support them or longer, till they die. I have told him that it is only prolonging their sufferings unnecessarily, to defer help till he has opened works for them, which he knows must fail, and directed him to put all, that look at all like suffering from want, on gratuitous relief, at once, even if he has to put the whole community on his list. This, however, is just another case in which the Code wants amendment. They won't work, so the only alternative is gratuitous relief. I don't complain of this, but of the fact that consequently gratuitous relief must be on too extended a scale. Every individual is in the same boat. He can get something but not enough to live upon and keep up his strength, so, the Code says, he must be given enough to live upon independently of what he is now getting. It makes no provision for merely supplementing supplies, whereas dealing with jungle tribes, who must be treated not individually but villagewar, and by whole communities, and who won't work, some such provision seems necessary. If they were given loans they might perhaps take no more than they wanted, and not so much as the Code gives them gratuitously, as the obligation to payback might induce them to cut down their demands for assistance as much as possible. On the other hand, for loans we have no security whatever, and an unpaid debt does not heavily burden their consciences. An alternative might be not to lend more than the Code would give gratuitously, in which case failure to repay would mean no loss and be an obligation added, because they won't work, and I must say other castes must consider it partial treatment on the part of Government to insist on their working, and neither to insist on these hill people working nor to insist on their paying some penalty for the privilege of exemption. Besides these Nayiks, relief must be given to isolated cases of distress in this division too, as the people generally can no longer afford to maintain drones or at any rate will not. Government must therefore assist the helpless poor who can't work and have no natural protectors to maintain them.

6. The poor-house at Cocanada has been opened in conjunction with a small test relief work, but neither is intended for the benefit of the local population who require nothing of the kind, but for the benefit of pauper immigrants from Vizagapatam; many of whom are emaciated and some unable to work and all complained of by the local public as being an unmitigated nuisance. I have not seen any recent report of

+ 195 on 1st August 1897.

the numbers on the relief work, but it must be small and getting smaller+. The poor-house opened with 49 inmates, but the number rapidly fell to 43, as six were struck off for making their way into the town to beg between meals. To prevent this, they are mustered between meals, and I have now ordered them to be mustered twice a day between meals to prevent this still more effectually.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have to report that we had a fall of 1.20 inches of rain here last night and there is every prospect of still more, as the wind which fell last night is now blowing again strongly and the sky cloudy. If it falls towards evening as I hope and expect another downpour should result and in this district generally it is one blessing that the rainfall has been heaviest in the upland taluks which are the worst affected and require it most. With another such fall soon every tank in the district should be full and relief works not necessary anywhere. I have also found out I was wrong in saying prices were tending to fall. They were doing so, but during the last four or five days I am told Agents of the Government and others from Hyderabad have bought about a lakh of bags of rice and cholam in Rajahmundry for export, with the natural consequence that rice has risen from 8 seers to $7\frac{1}{2}$ seers per rupee and cholam from $61\frac{1}{2}$ to $65\frac{1}{2}$ rupees per putti. I must say that I object very strongly to the reckless and wholesale buying of these Agents, for they can't want a lakh of bags all at once and could probably have got all they wanted without much affecting prices, within the time it was wanted, by buying in smaller quantities and not going above a fixed limit.

RESOLUTION—No. 583, dated 20th August 1897.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. Since the date of the Collector's endorsement good rain has fallen throughout the district, and the safety of the district—except perhaps in Tuni, Pithapuram and Ellore—would appear assured though gratuitous relief will be necessary till the next harvest.

3. The method of relieving jungle tribes in famine times has been discussed in B.P., No. 527-A., dated 24th July 1897.

4. The Collector's attention is requested to the remarks about punctuation contained in paragraph 12 of B.P., No. 468-A., dated 28th June 1897.

(True Copy and Extract.)

H. Nelson 27/8
Famine Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

„ Collector of Gódvári.

Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

Government { 1897 } of Madras. REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 757, 4th September 1897.

SEPTEMBER.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting to Government, with remarks, — of the Gódvári district for the period ending 31st July 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 583, dated 20th August 1897 :—

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General remarks on the previous subjects.—There was good rainfall during this fortnight throughout the whole division. It has improved the condition of the crops and cattle. The crops already sown are very promising. Agricultural operations are going on on a large scale. Gingelly is being cut in some parts of Chódavaramu division. In other parts it is in flower. Wet paddy cultivation is not yet undertaken except in some of the riverside villages of Polavaram division as the supply in the tanks is not quite sufficient. The river Gódvári has received new freshes during the fortnight. In the Chódavaramu and Yellavaram divisions, through which I have been touring, the condition of the country is first-rate, and the prospects of the early harvest are very promising. New sama was offered for sale at the last shandy at Gokavaram, a village just outside the agency, to which the hill people resort in large numbers, and in many places the cumbu crop should be harvested in two or three weeks.

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 31st of July 1897.

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	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
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Kachavaram	9	8½	14	12	..	..	
Waddigudem	9	8	14	12	..	13	
Polavaram	..	8	..	12	..	..	
Kannapuram	..	8	..	12	..	..	
Buttayagudem	..	8	..	12	..	..	
Jangaredigudem	..	8	12	12	12	12	
Chódavaramu	8	8	12	12	12	12	
Devipatnam	8	8	12	12	12	12	

Activity of trade.—Private trade in rice and dry staple food-grain is moderate. No imports or exports by sea or train. The import of rice from Rajahmundry during the fortnight has been insufficient.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On works.—The relief works at Dumagudem, as already reported, have been closed, but the Collector has since ordered them to be re-opened if any people demand work. So far, however, there have been no demands for work except from a few well-to-do Panchamas. Gratuitous relief is being given to the really deserving workers, and seed-grain advances are also being made. Under orders of the Collector an attempt was made to open a test relief work in Yellavaram division but it has not attracted any labour. I have, during my last visit, ordered the Deputy Tahsildar to make payments of gratuitous relief to deserving people from the funds supplied for relief works, pending the sanction of an allotment of Rs. 250 applied for by me for this division.

In Villages.—Cholam and ragi are being sold at normal rates by Government at different centres in Bhadráchalám taluk and at Chódavaramu in Chódavaramu division. The sales at the latter place are confined to the weekly market days. The old and infirm people are being given gratuitous relief in Bhadráchalám taluk and Chódavaramu and Yellavaram divisions. There are very few cases in the latter divisions but still a few people, mostly beggars, are becoming very emaciated. The people in the riverside villages of Polavaram division including Koyas are getting on well. The hill people in the interior are still living on jungle roots, leaves and ambalies of tamarind seeds and jeelugu stem. This state of things will continue for the next month or so after which cumbu, chama and other crops will be harvested.

Sickness and Mortality—There were no deaths from starvation. Cholera has subsided in Bhadrachalam taluk, but there has been an outbreak in Polavaram division. The number of attacks and deaths that occurred here from 11th to 23rd instant are reported to be, respectively, 72 and 38. I am addressing the District Medical and Sanitary Officer to depute a Hospital Assistant, if available, to visit the affected villages.

Remarks—There was one death at Addatigela while I was there, which was said to be due to starvation. The deceased was, however, a man absolutely wasted by leprosy and disease, and, although his death was no doubt accelerated by insufficient nourishment, it cannot be wholly attributed to starvation.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Bhadrachalam taluk.			
Dumagudem	1,953	* 1,299	The work was closed from the 18th instant.

* This number exhibits the workers that attended on the 17th idem. The decrease is due to the fall of rains affording field work to the people.

Gratuitous relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

Taluka.	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.
Bhadrachalam	..	..	..	..	..	..	531	† 315

Taluk.	Number of villages in which relief was given.		Weavers' relief.				Number of relief workers children and infirm dependants receiving money doles.	
			Number of persons relieved		Number of cloths manufactured.			
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	In the period.	Up to date.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Bhadrachalam	83	† 65	..	..	..	..	2,078	1,144

† This does not include figures for Rekapalle and Marrigudem ranges which have not been received.

Private charity.—The sale of cholam and ragi at normal rates to Koyas and Panchamas in the Bhadrachalam taluk, and at Chodavaramu from the funds supplied by the Famine Relief Committee is going on regularly.

General Remarks.—During the fortnight prospects have very much improved and unless anything unforeseen occurs, it is now merely a question of continuing gratuitous relief and sale of grain until the new crops are harvested. Gratuitous relief on a

small scale has had to be started in Chodavaramu and Yellavaram divisions, as, although the bulk of the people are in good condition, a few of the people are emaciated, and have no means of subsistence. These people are mostly beggars, who at the best of times are very badly off, and, now that hard times have checked private charity, have no means of obtaining food. So far they have got on all right, but are unable quite to last out without gratuitous relief, which will have to be given for about a month or so more. The numbers have not been given in this narrative as the lists were only begun in Yellavaram on the 23rd and in Chodavaramu on the 28th ultimo, I fancy that in Polavaram the people who were worst off before, *i.e.*, the Koyas in the Kovvada and surrounding muttas, can now get along with the grain which they have looted, and which has not been taken from them for want of identification.

The relief works at Dumagudem were stopped rather hastily, but as events have turned out, it is perhaps as well that they have been stopped. The really deserving ones have been put on gratuitous relief, and there has been no demand for work. There is no doubt a great deal of work to be obtained now in cultivation operations, and this would, in any case, have largely reduced the numbers on the work, which did actually decrease considerably during the last two or three days that work was going on. Work has been ordered by the Collector to be recommenced, if necessary, but I do not think there will be any demand for it.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT OFFICERS.

Taluks and places visited.—*Polavaram Division*.—Polavaram, Kannapuram, Jangareddigudem and Koyyalagudem.

Yellavaram Division.—Timmapuram, Papampet, Addatigela, Munnialapalem, Vetamamidi, Mittapalem, Kota, Karakapadu and Bodipalli.

Chodavaramu Division.—Chodavaramu.

Statement of loans.—Nil.

Endorsement by V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Gódvári, dated 8th August 1897, Dis. on C. No. 3327-Ver.

Forwarded. As the Special Assistant remarks, there is no cause for anxiety for the future. It is the immediate present that troubles us. The weather now is all that can be desired for dry crops and these are everywhere, and by everybody, reported to be in splendid condition, with the exception of gingelly which is patchy. Here and there one meets with fields with magnificent crops, whilst not far away the crop is only an 8-anna to a 4-anna one. In a few cases, the crop has died out altogether and fields have had to be re-sown, but such cases are not numerous. On the other hand, cumbu and sama are looking well and a good crop everywhere, and it is to them that I am looking for relief in the early future. As the Special Assistant says, new sama has made its appearance, though in very limited quantity, in the Gokavaram market and yesterday between Gokavaram and Rajahmundry I noticed many fields, both of sama and cumbu, with the crop in ear which should, like the gingelly, be harvested within the month, though I also saw many fields not yet in ear. Once the cumbu and sama come generally to harvest, the worst of our difficulties will be over, as then only can we hope for a marked fall in prices. This we cannot expect before the 21st instant and it may be a few days later. Meanwhile, we have a fortnight to get through with two very serious difficulties on our hands, viz., prices stationary at a very high level, and a lull in the agricultural labour market owing to dry cultivation operations having come nearly to an end and wet cultivation under tanks in the upland taluks not having as yet set in generally in many places.

2. The fact that prices are showing little or no tendency to fall is not easy to account for, in face of the greatly improved prospects of the season. All my information, however, and my belief, is that the present grain market is, to a great extent, a fictitious one due to hopes of yet higher prices on the part of holders—both ryots and merchants—

and not to short supplies compared with the demand. Still, whatever the cause, the effect is the same—much hardship temporarily; another reason possibly is that anxiety for the future still troubles smaller holders, who consequently are unwilling to sell the surplus in their hands, until they are certain of being able to replenish their stores, and the season is yet too early for this; one really good general fall of rain now, however, would, I think, have a good effect, as it would start wet cultivation everywhere, and, in most cases, make the result practically certain.

3. In regard to wet cultivation, the delay in commencing operations is due to two causes, viz., that many tanks have not yet received a supply or a sufficient supply to justify the commencement of transplantation, and, in the next place, because in many villages the seedlings are not ready for transplantation. About Gokavaram I found transplantation begun and going on briskly, but there was little doing at Kottapalli where 241 are on a relief work. The ryots, however, under the big tank there, which irrigates 900 acres, asked me to allow the sluice to be opened, though it would stop the relief work of raising the bund, as their seedlings could now be transplanted, and I have permitted this on condition of their cutting a trench to prevent the opening of the sluice stopping the relief work directly, though indirectly I believe it will have this effect, as the relief workers will at once be employed in cultivating the ayacut. The same is the case with many tanks. There is enough or nearly enough water in them, but either the seedlings, which were sown late, are not yet ready, or the ryots have not finished their dry cultivation. What wet crops have been transplanted are looking well everywhere, and the seedlings elsewhere appear nearly ready for transplantation. Most tanks have now enough water to justify starting operations, and some too much, for the Razu tank of Krishnapalam near Gokavaram burst in consequence of the rains about a week ago. Speaking generally, the supply of water in tanks is better north than south of the Godavari, but all have received some water. All that is wanting now to fill all, is one good wet day and everything points to our getting it soon, as the Godavari wind has been blowing hard yesterday and to-day. When it falls, we should get a downpour. If we should get a couple of inches generally in the upland taluks with the ground saturated as it is at present, another week should see wet cultivation in full swing everywhere and it will keep people going till the end of the month and prices fall, in my opinion. In the Delta things are everywhere reported all right. The river is not high as it has varied from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet over the anicut, but this is sufficient to keep the water in the canals at full supply level, and, although the rainfall has been light as a rule, it has generally been sufficient for the dry cultivation.

4. As regards the condition of the people in the Agency, I have nothing to add to the remarks of my Special Assistant, except that I have ordered him to give gratuitous relief to those persons in the Polavaram division, whom he reports to be living upon roots and leaves if they are at all emaciated. There are none such about Kannapuram and south and west of it, and if there are any, they must be confined to a very small area. In the Yellavaram and Chodavaram divisions, the only cases requiring relief are isolated cases of old and infirm people who usually live by begging. In the non-agency portions of the district, distress appears to be most acute in the Kottapalli portion of the Rajahmundry taluk and in the Chintalapudi division of Ellore. I have just visited Gokavaram and Kottapalli and do not think the relief works at this last place will attract labour after the sluice of the big tank has been opened, and I have ordered this to be done. At Kapavaram (Komkonda) the numbers rose two days ago to 500, but there was heavy rain that night and there has been more since, and the number at work to-day is reported to be only 150. Strictly speaking, I am doubtful if relief works—even test works—will be necessary, once transplantation becomes general, and when the works they are now working on are finished; it will not be necessary, I hope, to undertake any more till prices fall appreciably, though it will be necessary to give gratuitous relief in isolated cases of hardship. The number of such cases in the Kottapalli range should not exceed 150 to 200 cases, and they consist entirely of old people with none to support them, cripples and sick, unable to work, and children. At the best of times these people must live by begging and their livelihood is precarious. At the present time they are in great straits and becoming emaciated.

5. The only other tract said to be affected is the Chintalapudi division of the Ellore taluk, whence I have just received a report, dated the 3rd instant, that 25 *
* The number has since risen to 36.

persons have come for famine wages to the Chintalapudi-Jilugumilli road which had been kept open for three weeks without attracting any one. Should we get rain they will all go away again, I suppose. It is of no use keeping open a work, however, for coolies, who can get no work for the day in the neighbourhood to go to, as such casual labourers in such small numbers are not likely to do much work, and the money will simply be wasted as they can do no appreciable or permanent work on an important work like a road. I have now ordered the Deputy Collector to close it for the present, and not re-start it unless there are signs that it is really wanted, and there is a prospect of its attracting at least 100 coolies, if opened. It can be kept by him in reserve, not as a permanently-open test work, for people casually out of a job for the day to go to, but to be opened when complaints of want of labour appear to be becoming chronic and numerous. In the same report he says that the Deputy Tahsildar reports the condition of the Nayik community, which numbers 621 in all, to be becoming very serious, and he proposes starting a relief work for them though he is doubtful if they will come to one. These people are jungle-people who live entirely on podu cultivation and are consequently a thorn in the flesh to the Forest Department, and it is just as useless to ask them to come to works as it is to ask the Koyas. They have their own cultivation to attend to and will stick to their jungles as long as they will support them or longer, till they die. I have told him that it is only prolonging their sufferings unnecessarily, to defer help till he has opened works for them, which he knows must fail, and directed him to put all, that look at all like suffering from want, on gratuitous relief, at once, even if he has to put the whole community on his list. This, however, is just another case in which the Code wants amendment. They won't work, so the only alternative is gratuitous relief. I don't complain of this, but of the fact that consequently gratuitous relief must be on too extended a scale. Every individual is in the same boat. He can get something but not enough to live upon and keep up his strength, so, the Code says, he must be given enough to live upon independently of what he is now getting. It makes no provision for merely supplementing supplies, whereas dealing with jungle tribes, who must be treated not individually but village-war, and by whole communities, and who won't work, some such provision seems necessary. If they were given loans they might perhaps take no more than they wanted, and not so much as the Code gives them gratuitously, as the obligation to payback might induce them to cut down their demands for assistance as much as possible. On the other hand, for loans we have no security whatever, and an unpaid debt does not heavily burden their consciences. An alternative might be not to lend more than the Code would give gratuitously, in which case failure to repay would mean no loss and be an obligation added, because they won't work, and I must say other castes must consider it partial treatment on the part of Government to insist on their working, and neither to insist on these hill people working nor to insist on their paying some penalty for the privilege of exemption. Besides these Nayiks, relief must be given to isolated cases of distress in this division too, as the people generally can no longer afford to maintain drones or at any rate will not. Government must therefore assist the helpless poor who can't work and have no natural protectors to maintain them.

6. The poor-house at Cocanada has been opened in conjunction with a small test relief work, but neither is intended for the benefit of the local population who require nothing of the kind, but for the benefit of pauper immigrants from Vizagapatam; many of whom are emaciated and some unable to work and all complained of by the local public as being an unmitigated nuisance. I have not seen any recent report of

the numbers on the relief work, but it must be small and getting smaller †. The poor-house opened with 49 inmates, but the number rapidly fell to 43, as six were struck off for making their way into the town to beg between meals. To prevent this, they are mustered between meals, and I have now ordered them to be mustered twice a day between meals to prevent this still more effectually.

† 195 on 1st August 1897.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have to report that we had a fall of 1·20 inches of rain here last night and there is every prospect of still more, as the wind which fell last night is now blowing again strongly and the sky cloudy. If it falls towards evening as I hope and expect another downpour should result and in this district generally it is one blessing that the rainfall has been heaviest in the upland taluqs which are the worst affected and require it most. With another such fall soon every tank in the district should be full and relief works not necessary anywhere. I have also found out I was wrong in saying prices were tending to fall. They were doing so, but during the last four or five days I am told Agents of the Government and others from Hyderabad have bought about a lakh of bags of rice and cholam in Rajahmundry for export, with the natural consequence that rice has risen from 8 seers to $7\frac{1}{2}$ seers per rupee and cholam from $61\frac{1}{2}$ to $65\frac{1}{2}$ rupees per putti. I must say that I object very strongly to the reckless and wholesale buying of these Agents, for they can't want a lakh of bags all at once and could probably have got all they wanted without much affecting prices, within the time it was wanted, by buying in smaller quantities and not going above a fixed limit.

Resolution—No. 583, dated 20th August 1897.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. Since the date of the Collector's endorsement good rain has fallen throughout the district, and the safety of the district—except perhaps in Tuni, Pithapuram and Ellore—would appear assured though gratuitous relief will be necessary till the next harvest.

3. The method of relieving jungle tribes in famine times has been discussed in B.P., No. 527-A., dated 24th July 1897.

4. The Collector's attention is requested to the remarks about punctuation contained in paragraph 12 of B.P., No. 468-A., dated 28th June 1897.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

ORDER—No. 757, Revenue, dated 4th September 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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

„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Local and Municipal Department.
„ the Accountant-General.

Exd. Shalk Karim.

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