Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 812

Dated 27th September 1897.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording Board's Progs. subsg. to Govt. with remarks, — of the Bellary Dt. for the period ending 31st August 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 (189) Department.

CURRENT No. 8121

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to H.E. the Governor

From The Board of Revenue Sett

No. 8120/27 dated 13th Sept. 1897

Recd 24/9/97

Order (Areas)

Recorded

No. 617

Dated 13th Septr. 1897

Received

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Fortnightly narrative

Sulkung.

of the Bellary Dt. for the period ending 31st August 1897

Recd 23/9/97

22-9-97

To The Sec
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L.M.D
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Issd 7-10-97

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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. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. } *Spare copies*

Printed September 1897.

Proceedings, No. 617, 13th September 1897.

BOARD OF REVENUE MADRAS

SEPTEMBER.

Fortnightly Narrative.—Submitting to Government, with remarks, — of the Bellary district for the period ending 31st of August 1897.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).

W. J. H. LeFanu, Esq.
(Famine Commissioner.)

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative of the Bellary district for the period ending 31st of August 1897 :—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and water-supply—

Name of station.	Rainfall		
	During the fortnight.	Up to the fortnight 1897.	From 1st April average of 25 years.
	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.
Yemmiganúru	0·53	10·91	12·66
Adóni	2·35	8·60	15·67
Alúr	2·99	12·41	10·97
Siruguppa	2·66	12·27	11·55
Kampli	2·09	12·94	8·64
Bellary	0·67	5·32	8·19
Rayadrug	3·76	11·59	8·08
Hospet	3·86	19·84	14·07
Kudligi	3·23	20·41	12·18
Harpanahalli	0·29	12·28	11·77
Hadagalli	1·18	11·24	10·14
Sandur	3·06	13·20	..

There has been good rain during the fortnight in all parts of the district except Yemmiganúru, Bellary, Harpanahalli and Hadagalli. Since the close of the fortnight, there has been good rain in Alúr, Bellary, Rayadrug and Hospet. The deficiency in Bellary, as compared with the average of 25 years, is large, but there is a great difference in the quantity of rain registered at the cantonment and the civil hospital, which are less than two miles apart from each other. In parts of the taluk, the fall has been much better than at Bellary itself. Water-supply for drinking purposes is generally sufficient all over the district. The Hagari and the Tungabhadra are in flood, and are giving a good supply to the channels and tanks fed by them. The Daroji tank in the Hospet taluk, and several tanks in Alúr and Hadagalli have received some supply. The kuntas in the east and middle of Adóni taluk, under which a little paddy is grown, are in urgent need of supply.

Agricultural Operations and Condition of the Standing Crops.

Adóni taluk.—Agricultural operations were practically at a standstill during the fortnight, owing to the break in monsoon. They will however be commenced very briskly now that rain has fallen. The mungari crop had begun to wither very seriously in many parts of the taluk, especially near Adóni. The rain just received may do some good even for these crops. Beyond the range of hills round Adóni the crops are better. In the middle, north and east of the taluk there was nearly as serious a break in August as round Adóni in July. With one more shower in about a fortnight or so, the mungari crop in many parts of the taluk may be declared successful.

Alúr taluk.—Black-cotton soil lands are being prepared for cultivation. Sowing operations have been commenced everywhere in the taluk. The standing crops are reviving under the recent rains. Crops under wells are in good condition.

Bellary division.—Korra, which is the next staple article of food to cholam, more especially in the black-cotton soil villages, is being sown, cotton being mixed with it in a few places. Crops under channels and wells are in good condition. The standing mungari crops have been much benefited by the recent rains.

Hospet division.—Ragi, korra and horsegram are being sown in Kúdligi and Harpanahalli. In Kúdligi taluk cotton also is being sown, and the fields are being weeded. Korra is being sown in Hadagalli. The crops under channels, tanks and wells are in good condition. The recent rains will doubtless improve the crops that were withering in Daroji and Gudiganuru firkas of the Hospet taluk. The gingelly crop in Hadagalli has sustained much damage for want of timely rain. Standing crops in Harpanahalli, especially cholam, are in good condition. More rain is urgently wanted in parts of Hadagalli to save the standing crops, but rain has fallen since this fact was reported.

Sandur state.—The standing crops are doing well since the recent rains. Crops which have already died will be replaced by korra, ragi and horsegram, &c.

Supply of Fodder and Pasture and Condition of Cattle.

Adoni taluk.—Pasture is abundant round Kosigi and Halvi, and along the river ; it is barely sufficient in the middle and east of the taluk, but will be much improved by the recent rains. Fodder is everywhere insufficient and dear, and this is more especially the case round Adóni. A good quantity of fodder has been transferred to Adóni from the Kosgi depôt, and is selling quickly. A proportion of cattle in all parts of the taluk are still poor and emaciated, and very few are fit for hard work.

Alúr taluk.—Pasture is not yet available in sufficient quantity and fodder is scanty. The Famine Fund depôt at Aspari supplies a good deal of fodder on favourable terms. The condition of cattle belonging to the poor is still indifferent. There is some little cattle disease in Muddanageri, there being two attacks and two deaths from that cause.

Bellary taluk.—Pasture is available to a limited extent in wet villages ; fodder is scanty. Hill grass and prickly-pear are much used as fodder. Hill grass of a bad quality is sold at Rs. 7 or 8 a cart-load. Paddy straw, which is imported chiefly from Hospet, Kampli and Avegondi (a village in the Nizam's territory), is sold at Rs. 12 a cart-load. Cholam is not generally available, and is very dear. The condition of cattle, except in the case of stall-fed animals, and those in wet villages, is fair in Rayadrug, and bad in Bellary.

Hospet division.—Pasture is available in the neighbourhood of Hospet, in the villages bordering the Tungabhadra channels, and in the northern half of Kúdligi. Of fodder there is little or none in the affected tracts, and it is insufficient elsewhere. Paddy straw is abundant only in Kamalápuram and other villages under river channels in Hospet ; a large quantity has been sent to Bellary, and some has been stored at Hospet. Cattle are emaciated in parts of Hospet, in moderate condition in Hadagalli taluk, fair in Kudligi, and said to be slightly deteriorating in Harpanahalli.

Sandur state.—There is no straw. Pasture is available in the hills, and grass is sold at high prices, most of the people, who ordinarily make a living by selling it, having been employed on relief works. I am addressing the Administrator on this point. The condition of cattle is fair.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—Prospects have been much improved by the recent rain, but it is feared that a small proportion of the mungari crop is irretrievably lost, while the yield of much that has been saved will be poor. The straw too will be very short, and the ryots must look to the hingari crop for most of their fodder supply. Pasture is springing up everywhere, but it will not be of much use till another fortnight or so. It is impossible to speak too highly of the enormous good done by the Famine Fund fodder depôts. These, supplemented by Government loans and grants from the District Famine Fund for the purchase of fodder, have saved the lives of hundreds of cattle. In the distress of 1891–92 it was, I am told, a common thing to see cattle dead or dying by the roadside, in the fields and in villages. There has been nothing of that kind this year, and the total mortality from starvation has been very slight.

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 August 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		White cholam.		Yellow cholam.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
Adóni	7·56	7·56	8·76	8·50	10·30	9·79	12·61	12 61	Prices are almost stationary, but a fall is generally anticipated.
Alúr	7·02	7·02	8·24	8·50	9·27	9·79	..	12·61	
Bellary	7·56	7·56	8·24	8·24	9·27	..	13·58	12·61	
Rayadrug	8·10	8·10	9·27	..	10·04	9·79	12·13	11·64	
Hospet	7·56	7·56	9·27	9·27	10·30	10·30	12·61	13·10	
Kúdligi	7·56	7·56	..	..	9·79	9·79	11·64	11·64	
Harpanahalli ..	7·56	7·56	..	..	10·82	11·33	12 61	13·10	
Hadagalli	7·56	7·56	..	..	10·30	10·30	12·61	12·61	
Sandur	7·29	7·56	..	..	9·79	9·79	12·61	12·13	
Average ..	7·53	7·56	8·76	8·63	9·99	10·11	12·55	12·45	

Activity of trade.—Private trade is active. There has been a net import by rail of 45,311 maunds of food-grain during the fortnight, against 35,372 maunds during the previous fortnight.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On works—Generally good. I went over the Adóni work with the Sanitary Commissioner in search of "famine babies", and he noted about 25 or 30 whom he considered emaciated. My unprofessional eye would have passed a number of these as merely thin. It was not shown that the emaciation was due to famine, and I found similar children in well-to-do families in Adóni town. The condition of the babies is worse in the Adóni taluk than elsewhere, especially on the Adóni and Chinnatumbalam works, and this is to some extent due to an outbreak of measles.

The mothers of the emaciated babies were put on gratuitous relief, and a small dole is given from the Famine Fund in addition.

In villages—Generally good. I found at Adóni a girl of about 14 or 15, who was undoubtedly suffering from starvation. Inquiry showed that she was on the grain dole list of her village, but she was a little wrong in the head and wandered about the country instead of staying at home. She was sent to the hospital and had already begun to improve before I left the town.

Sickness and Mortality—Cholera prevails in 31 villages of Adóni, 12 of Alúr and 7 of Bellary and there were during the last week—

370 attacks and 182 deaths in Adóni.
140 „ and 64 „ in Alúr.
70 „ and 33 „ in Bellary.

Besides the usual staff there are one apothecary and three hospital assistants on cholera duty in Adóni, three medical subordinates in Alúr, and two in Bellary. The necessary sanitary arrangements have been made and the wells disinfected. Adóni has suffered very severely as the disease has spread to a large number of villages. There were 9 attacks and 3 deaths from small-pox in Harpanahalli, and 13 attacks and 1 death in Sandur.

Remarks.—The Head Assistant Collector at my request made a special examination of the villages in the south and east of the Kúdligi taluk during the fortnight, and found that in two or three places the condition of the people gave cause for anxiety. A central kitchen has accordingly been opened at Gudekota, and gratuitous relief is being given in the other villages where aid is needed. I have ordered the ordinary repairs of the Gudekota road to be put in hand, and as there has been excellent rain there recently, this and agricultural operations will prove sufficient.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

Works.—

Taluks.	Number employed. Last fortnight.	Number employed. This fortnight.	Remarks.
Adóni	43,265	42,371	There has been a further fall in the numbers on works in Adóni and Alúr, but this has been more than counterbalanced by the rise elsewhere. The changes, however, are in no case large and do not call for remark. The number of weavers on relief continues to rise especially in Rayadrug. The decline in the number in receipt of gratuitous relief is due to careful scrutiny of the lists. The opinion formed from my personal inquiries is that the number in receipt of grain doles is susceptible of still further reductions, but there may be an increase in the number attending kitchens. The Bellary town kitchens show a fall which the Divisional Officer thinks is due to the introduction of ragi and the reduction of the ration. Ragi, however, has been given here for some time, the people are accustomed to use it, and they have never complained to me on this subject. If the decline in numbers means that the meal is no longer tempting, but is the minimum subsistence ration, the fact is significant. To people who are starving, half a loaf is better than no bread.
Alúr	54,313	53,554	
Bellary	25,792	26,771	
Hospet	11,751	12,690	
Kúdligi	1,766	2,021	
Hadagalli	10,822	12,334	
	147,709	149,741	
Sandur	926	1,369	
Total ..	148,635	151,110	

Gratuitous relief.—

Taluks.	Number relieved: At kitchens. Dependants. Last fortnight.	At kitchens. Dependants. This fortnight.	At kitchens. Others. Last fortnight.	At kitchens. Others. This fortnight.	In poor houses. Last fortnight.	In poor houses. This fortnight.	In villages. Last fortnight.	In villages. This fortnight.
Adóni	1,726	1,690	1,382	1,499	..	..	3,203	3,688
Alúr	2,700	2,734	350	350	..	..	3,268	2,952
Bellary	1,106	1,043	1,148	1,032	..	..	5,726	5,284
Rayadrug	157	144	..	..	..	..	5	22
Hospet	617	617	280	271	..	..	2,859	3,383
Kúdligi	44	49	1	10	..	..	238	282
Hadagalli	271	303	30	38	..	..	2,425	1,623
Total ..	6,621	6,580	3,191	3,200	..	..	17,724	17,234
Sandur	..	..	..	..	..	..	96	166

Taluks.	Number of villages in which relief was given. Last fortnight.	Number of villages in which relief was given. This fortnight.	Weavers' relief. Number of persons relieved. Last fortnight.	Number of persons relieved. This fortnight.	Number of cloths manufactured. In the period.	Number of cloths manufactured. Up to date.
Adóni	180	186	4,624	4,750	10,670	40,876
Alúr	106	106	..	..	..	..
Bellary	140	147	1,072	1,505	797	3,007
Rayadrug	3	10	1,800	2,477	2,288	2,866
Hospet	55	60	..	..	..	..
Kúdligi	42	55	..	..	..	..
Hadagalli	51	33	..	..	..	..
Sandur	7	9	..	..	..	..

Private charity.—The principal source of private charity is the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. Its work in respect of fodder has already been referred to. It is also making grants everywhere for the purchase of seed, and many a ryot will owe his hingari crop to this timely aid. Grants for the purchase of cattle are also being made.

General Remarks.

The general prospects have materially improved since the submission of the last report, and, provided we receive normal rains in September, we may expect a moderate harvest in October, but only a moderate one.

I am afraid that punctuality and tasks are not enforced on all works. Whenever I visit a work in the early morning, I find a large number of the workers coming late, and the experience of my Divisional Officers is the same. This can only mean that late attendance is customary, and I have little doubt that, directly our backs are turned, it again becomes the custom.

The consumption of arrack in the district, as a whole, was less in July of this year than in July 1896, but in Alúr taluk the reverse was the case both for July and for the four months ending with July. With reference to the Famine Commissioner's suggestion that the increased consumption of arrack on the Alúr-Chippagiri road is due to the presence of the head coolies and maistries, I have made some inquiries, and find that the total number of officials of these classes is only 166 on the whole road, and that only 66 belong to castes in which the use of alcohol is permitted. Moreover nearly all are natives of villages on the road, so that, unless they drink more than usual now, their presence will not explain the increased consumption.

The offences against property again show an excess over the average. I do not give the figures, as the Famine Commissioner has expressed a preference for those furnished by the Inspector-General of Prisons. The latter, however, are misleading so far as Bellary is concerned, for the Bellary district jail is the prison for the four Ceded Districts and not for Bellary alone.

There have been complaints that ryots cannot get labour for their agricultural work, but I find that, as a rule, they are not willing to offer the usual wage. I have offered to give as many coolies as are required in their neighbourhood (Alúr-Chippagiri road) if a fair wage is paid, but so far I have had no applications. The wage offered is only one seer of grain, which is less than the B wage, and one-half of the customary wage.

Loan Transactions.—Statement showing particulars of loan transactions under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts.

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.						Other purposes.						Total.						Number of wells.	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Adóni	12	2,710	10	1,180	32	7,749	157	13,420	154	13,010	204	8,845	169	16,130	164	14,190	236	16,594	..	11
Alúr	44	11,390	44	8,445	32	11,410	1,499	1,62,170	1,480	16,695	47	21,655	1,543	1,73,560	1,524	1,69,140	79	33,065	..	44
Bellary	44	6,300	44	6,300	26	8,421	933	90,582	933	90,582	132	45,142	977	96,882	977	96,882	158	53,563	..	44
Rayadrug	84	18,522	77	12,269	30	8,550	335	44,640	328	42,690	97	13,245	419	63,162	405	54,959	127	2.,795	..	75
Hospet	20	4,520	20	2,360	21	4,200	55	4,325	54	4,225	22	2,600	75	8,845	74	6,585	43	6,800	..	11
Kúdligi	1	100	..	..	35	7,090	..	..	..	..	7	900	1	100	..	..	42	7,990	..	..
Harpanahalli	1	100	1	50	1	250	59	7,105	53	6,305	34	3,635	60	7,205	54	6,355	35	3,385	..	1
Hadagalli	14	1,675	12	788	13	4,200	124	15,135	112	13,465	32	5,700	138	16,810	124	14,253	45	9,900	..	8
Total ..	220	45,317	208	31,392	190	51,870	3,162	3,37,377	3,114	1,86,972	575	1,01,722	3,382	3,82,694	3,322	3,62,364	765	1,53,592	..	194

Taluks.	Purchase of fodder.						Cattle and seed-grain.						Total.					
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Application pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Adóni	707	26,093	502	18,164	117	21,113	41	1,682	17	1,197	108	5,283	748	27,775	519	19,361	225	26,396
Alúr	2,374	87,293	2,209	80,123	388	23,819	45	2,160	35	1,700	147	8,166	2,419	89,453	2,244	81,823	535	31,985
Bellary	1,665	63,841	1,665	63,841	349	28,836	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,665	63,841	1,665	63,841	349	28,836
Rayadrug	418	21,004	416	20,854	244	12,323	25	1,460	25	1,460	19	1,402	443	22,464	441	22,314	263	13,725
Hospet	146	6,560	146	6,560	134	3,985	..	..	..	..	..	..	146	6,560	146	6,560	134	3,985
Kúdligi	482	12,438	481	12,418	298	13,466	..	..	..	..	..	..	482	12,438	481	12,418	298	13,466
Harpanahalli	366	13,778	326	12,738	434	22,418	..	..	..	..	..	..	366	13,778	326	12,738	434	22,418
Hadagalli	371	10,192	340	9,239	365	15,929	..	..	..	..	..	..	371	10,192	340	9,239	365	15,929
Total ..	6,529	2,41,199	6,085	2,23,937	2,329	1,41,889	111	5,302	77	4,357	274	14,851	6,640	2,46,501	6,162	2,28,294	2,603	1,56,740

Note.—The total amount disbursed in the month is Rs. 51,349, of which sum the greater part (Rs. 43,281) was for loan for the purchase of fodder and seed-grain and for relief of distress. The grant of loans of the last class is now being pushed on.

Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and places visited.

By the Collector.—Hirehal road work, Adóni-Siruguppa work, Adóni section of Adoni-Alúr and Madhavaram road works, and Alúr-Chippagiri southern section, the four kitchens in Adóni, the weavers' relief operations at Adóni and the distribution of grain doles in Adóni and Chippagiri.

Assistant Collector, Adóni.—Adóni, Jalawadi, Yemmiganúru and Mullapalli and the relief operations there.

Deputy Collector, Alúr.—Alúr-Chippagiri road (two sections), Adóni-Siruguppa road (two sections), Alúr-Aspari road (Aspari section), Alúr-Moka road (northern section), the kitchens at Chippagiri, Harivanam, Peddahotúr, Aspari, Alúr, Molagavalli, Námakkal, Nagardoni and the villages of Santakudlur, Hebbatam, Lingatahalli, Muddangiri, Kharidiguddum, Beldona and Nagaradona.

Head-quarter Deputy Collector.—Bellary, Brucepetta and Paramadevenhalli kitchens.

Head Assistant Collector.—Gudicota, Mahadevapuram, Appayavoholi, Daroji (work and kitchen), Devalapur (kitchen and grain doles), Metri (grain dole list), Kampli (grain dole list) Hospet, Gadiginúr (work and kitchens) Buvvanahalli, Kurikuppa and Waddigiri.

Resolution—No. 617, dated 13th September 1897.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall of the fortnight was good except in Yemmiganúru, Bellary, Harpanahalli and Hadagalli, but a further good and general fall has been since received. A portion of the early crops had, however, it is feared, been already lost, and what is saved will give but a poor outturn. The outlook has considerably improved, but even now, but a moderate harvest in October can be expected. No further anxiety need be felt for cattle.

3. Prices were almost stationary at the close of the fortnight. The comparative position of prices is shown by the subjoined figures :—

Rate.	Measures per rupee.		
	Rice.	Cholam.	Ragi.
Normal	13·2	30·0	..
Warning	10·6	22·5	..
Scarcity	7·9	15·0	..
Current	7·6	9·4	12·4
August 1892	9·8	19·2	21·7
Do. 1877	5·3	5·6	6·3

4. The condition of the people was generally good, but cholera prevailed to a considerable extent in Adóni, Alúr, and Bellary. The Collector has taken timely measures to grapple with it. The numbers on relief increased very slightly. This appears to be due to the fact that ryots do not offer a fair wage for field labour. The Sanitary Commissioner will deal with the question of the famine babies. The supplementing of the gratuitous relief to the mothers of these children is right in practice, but wrong in principle. If the mothers are fit subjects for gratuitous relief, that relief should be sufficient, and not require to be supplemented, as it does. The matter deserves notice, as this deviation from principle has been noticed in another province, and crops up now for the first time in Madras.

5. Good work was done in disbursing loans, progress being as follows :—

Up to end of week ending	Amount disbursed. Rs.
August 14th	5,39,309
„ 21st	5,64,474
„ 28th	5,89,608
September 4th	6,07,936

Applications for about three lakhs remain, but it is probable that it will be found unnecessary to grant most of those for the purchase of fodder, aggregating nearly one and half lakhs.

(True Copy and Extract.)

Famine Secretary.

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

Exd. Md. Pahilvan.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. } 1897. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 812, 27th September 1897.

SEPTEMBER.

Fortnightly Narrative.

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

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 617, dated 13th September 1897 :—

W. J. H. LeFanu, Esq.
(Famine Commissioner.)

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative of the Bellary district for the period ending 31st of August 1897 :—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and water-supply.—

Name of station.	Rainfall		
	During the fortnight.	Up to the fortnight from 1st April	
		1897.	Average of 25 years.
	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.
Yemmiganúru	0·53	10·91	12·66
Adóni	2·35	8·60	15·67
Alúr	2·99	12·41	10·97
Siruguppa	2·66	12·27	11·55
Kampli	2·09	12·94	8·64
Bellary	6·67	5·32	8·19
Rayadrug	3·76	11·59	8·08
Hospet	3·86	19·84	14·07
Kudligi	3·23	20·41	12·18
Harpanahalli	0·29	12·28	11·77
Hadagalli	1·18	11·24	10·14
Sandur	3·06	13·20	..

There has been good rain during the fortnight in all parts of the district except Yemmiganúru, Bellary, Harpanahalli and Hadagalli. Since the close of the fortnight, there has been good rain in Alúr, Bellary, Rayadrug and Hospet. The deficiency in Bellary, as compared with the average of 25 years, is large, but there is a great difference in the quantity of rain registered at the cantonment and the civil hospital, which are less than two miles apart from each other. In parts of the taluk, the fall has been much better than at Bellary itself. Water-supply for drinking purposes is generally sufficient all over the district. The Hagari and the Tungabhadra are in flood, and are giving a good supply to the channels and tanks fed by them. The Daroji tank in the Hospet taluk, and several tanks in Alúr and Hadagalli have received some supply. The kuntas in the east and middle of Adóni taluk, under which a little paddy is grown, are in urgent need of supply.

Agricultural Operations and Condition of the Standing Crops.

Adóni taluk.—Agricultural operations were practically at a standstill during the fortnight, owing to the break in monsoon. They will however be commenced very briskly now that rain has fallen. The mungari crop had begun to wither very seriously in many parts of the taluk, especially near Adóni. The rain just received may do some good even for these crops. Beyond the range of hills round Adóni the crops are better. In the middle, north and east of the taluk there was nearly as serious a break in August as round Adóni in July. With one more shower in about a fortnight or so, the mungari crop in many parts of the taluk may be declared successful.

Alúr taluk.—Black-cotton soil lands are being prepared for cultivation. Sowing operations have been commenced everywhere in the taluk. The standing crops are reviving under the recent rains. Crops under wells are in good condition.

Bellary division.—Korra, which is the next staple article of food to cholam, more especially in the black-cotton soil villages, is being sown, cotton being mixed with it in a few places. Crops under channels and wells are in good condition. The standing mungari crops have been much benefited by the recent rains.

Hospet division.—Ragi, korra and horsegram are being sown in Kúdligi and Harpanahalli. In Kúdligi taluk cotton also is being sown, and the fields are being weeded. Korra is being sown in Hadagalli. The crops under channels, tanks and wells are in good condition. The recent rains will doubtless improve the crops that were withering in Daroji and Gudiganuru firkas of the Hospet taluk. The gingelly crop in Hadagalli has sustained much damage for want of timely rain. Standing crops in Harpanahalli, especially cholam, are in good condition. More rain is urgently wanted in parts of Hadagalli to save the standing crops, but rain has fallen since this fact was reported.

Sandur state.—The standing crops are doing well since the recent rains. Crops which have already died will be replaced by korra, ragi and horsegram, &c.

Supply of Fodder and Pasture and Condition of Cattle.

Adoni taluk.—Pasture is abundant round Kosigi and Halvi, and along the river ; it is barely sufficient in the middle and east of the taluk, but will be much improved by the recent rains. Fodder is everywhere insufficient and dear, and this is more especially the case round Adóni. A good quantity of fodder has been transferred to Adóni from the Kosgi depôt, and is selling quickly. A proportion of cattle in all parts of the taluk are still poor and emaciated, and very few are fit for hard work.

Alúr taluk.—Pasture is not yet available in sufficient quantity and fodder is scanty. The Famine Fund depôt at Aspari supplies a good deal of fodder on favourable terms. The condition of cattle belonging to the poor is still indifferent. There is some little cattle disease in Muddanageri, there being two attacks and two deaths from that cause.

Bellary taluk.—Pasture is available to a limited extent in wet villages ; fodder is scanty. Hill grass and prickly-pear are much used as fodder. Hill grass of a bad quality is sold at Rs. 7 or 8 a cart-load. Paddy straw, which is imported chiefly from Hospet, Kampli and Avegondi (a village in the Nizam's territory), is sold at Rs. 12 a cart-load. Cholam is not generally available, and is very dear. The condition of cattle, except in the case of stall-fed animals, and those in wet villages, is fair in Rayadrug, and bad in Bellary.

Hospet division.—Pasture is available in the neighbourhood of Hospet, in the villages bordering the Tungabhadra channels, and in the northern half of Kúdligi. Of fodder there is little or none in the affected tracts, and it is insufficient elsewhere. Paddy straw is abundant only in Kamalápuram and other villages under river channels in Hospet ; a large quantity has been sent to Bellary, and some has been stored at Hospet. Cattle are emaciated in parts of Hospet, in moderate condition in Hadagalli taluk, fair in Kudligi, and said to be slightly deteriorating in Harpanahalli.

Sandur state.—There is no straw. Pasture is available in the hills, and grass is sold at high prices, most of the people, who ordinarily make a living by selling it, having been employed on relief works. I am addressing the Administrator on this point. The condition of cattle is fair.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—Prospects have been much improved by the recent rain, but it is feared that a small proportion of the mungari crop is irretrievably lost, while the yield of much that has been saved will be poor. The straw too will be very short, and the ryots must look to the hingari crop for most of their fodder supply. Pasture is springing up everywhere, but it will not be of much use till another fortnight or so. It is impossible to speak too highly of the enormous good done by the Famine Fund fodder depôts. These, supplemented by Government loans and grants from the District Famine Fund for the purchase of fodder, have saved the lives of hundreds of cattle. In the distress of 1891–92 it was, I am told, a common thing to see cattle dead or dying by the roadside, in the fields and in villages. There has been nothing of that kind this year, and the total mortality from starvation has been very slight.

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 August 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		White cholam.		Yellow cholam.		Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	End of last period.	End of current period.	
Adóni	7·56	7·56	8·76	8·50	10·30	9·79	12·61	12·61	Prices are almost stationary, but a fall is generally anticipated.
Alúr	7·02	7·02	8·24	8·50	9·27	9·79	..	12·61	
Bellary	7·56	7·56	8·24	8·24	9·27	..	13·58	12·61	
Rayadrug	8·10	8·10	9·27	..	10·04	9·79	12·13	11·64	
Hospet	7·56	7·56	9·27	9·27	10·30	10·30	12·61	13·10	
Kúdligi	7·56	7·56	..	..	9·79	9·79	11·64	11·64	
Harpanahalli ..	7·56	7·56	..	..	10·82	11·33	12 61	13·10	
Hadagalli	7·56	7·56	..	..	10·30	10·30	12·61	12·61	
Sandur	7·29	7·56	..	..	9·79	9·79	12·61	12·13	
Average ..	7·53	7·56	8·76	8·63	9·99	10·11	12·55	12·45	

Activity of trade.—Private trade is active. There has been a net import by rail of 45,311 maunds of food-grain during the fortnight, against 35,372 maunds during the previous fortnight.

Condition of the People.

On works—Generally good. I went over the Adóni work with the Sanitary Commissioner in search of "famine babies", and he noted about 25 or 30 whom he considered emaciated. My unprofessional eye would have passed a number of these as merely thin. It was not shown that the emaciation was due to famine, and I found similar children in well-to-do families in Adóni town. The condition of the babies is worse in the Adóni taluk than elsewhere, especially on the Adóni and Chinnatumbalam works, and this is to some extent due to an outbreak of measles.

The mothers of the emaciated babies were put on gratuitous relief, and a small dole is given from the Famine Fund in addition.

In villages—Generally good. I found at Adóni a girl of about 14 or 15, who was undoubtedly suffering from starvation. Inquiry showed that she was on the grain dole list of her village, but she was a little wrong in the head and wandered about the country instead of staying at home. She was sent to the hospital and had already begun to improve before I left the town.

Sickness and Mortality.—Cholera prevails in 31 villages of Adóni, 12 of Alúr and 7 of Bellary and there were during the last week—

370 attacks and 182 deaths in Adóni.
140 „ and 63 „ in Alúr.
70 „ and 33 „ in Bellary.

Besides the usual staff there are one apothecary and three hospital assistants on cholera duty in Adóni, three medical subordinates in Alúr, and two in Bellary. The necessary sanitary arrangements have been made and the wells disinfected. Adóni has suffered very severely as the disease has spread to a large number of villages. There were 9 attacks and 3 deaths from small-pox in Harpanahalli, and 13 attacks and 1 death in Sandur.

Remarks.—The Head Assistant Collector at my request made a special examination of the villages in the south and east of the Kúdligi taluk during the fortnight, and found that in two or three places the condition of the people gave cause for anxiety. A central kitchen has accordingly been opened at Gudekota, and gratuitous relief is being given in the other villages where aid is needed. I have ordered the ordinary repairs of the Gudekota road to be put in hand, and as there has been excellent rain there recently, this and agricultural operations will prove sufficient.

Measures of Relief.

Works.—

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Adóni	43,265	42,371	There has been a further fall in the numbers on works in Adóni and Alúr, but this has been more than counterbalanced by the rise elsewhere. The changes, however, are in no case large and do not call for remark. The number of weavers on relief continues to rise especially in Rayadrug. The decline in the number in receipt of gratuitous relief is due to careful scrutiny of the lists. The opinion formed from my personal inquiries is that the number in receipt of grain doles is susceptible of still further reductions, but there may be an increase in the number attending kitchens. The Bellary town kitchens show a fall which the Divisional Officer thinks is due to the introduction of ragi and the reduction of the ration. Ragi, however, has been given here for some time, the people are accustomed to use it, and they have never complained to me on this subject. If the decline in numbers means that the meal is no longer tempting, but is the minimum subsistence ration, the fact is significant. To people who are starving, half a loaf is better than no bread.
Alúr	54,313	53,554	
Bellary	25,792	26,771	
Hospet	11,751	12,690	
Kúdligi	1,766	2,021	
Hadagalli	10,822	12,334	
	147,709	149,741	
Sandur	926	1,369	
Total ..	148,635	151,110	

Gratuitous relief.—

Taluks.	Number relieved							
	At kitchens.				In poor houses.		In villages.	
	Dependants.		Others.					
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Adóni	1,726	1,690	1,382	1,499	..	..	3,203	3,688
Alúr	2,700	2,734	350	350	..	..	3,268	2,952
Bellary	1,106	1,043	1,148	1,032	..	..	5,726	5,284
Rayadrug	157	144	..	..	..	..	5	22
Hospet	617	617	280	271	..	..	2,859	3,383
Kúdligi	44	49	1	10	..	..	238	282
Hadagalli	271	302	30	38	..	..	2,425	1,623
Total ..	6,621	6,580	3,191	3,200	..	..	17,724	17,234
Sandur	..	..	..	..	..	..	96	166

Taluks.	Number of villages in which relief was given.		Weavers' relief.			
			Number of persons relieved.		Number of cloths manufactured.	
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	In the period.	Up to date.
Adóni	180	186	4,624	4,750	10,670	40,876
Alúr	106	106	..	..	..	..
Bellary	140	147	1,072	1,305	797	3,007
Rayadrug	3	10	1,800	2,477	2,288	2,866
Hospet	55	60	..	..	..	..
Kúdligi	42	55	..	..	..	..
Hadagalli	51	33	..	..	..	..
Sandur	7	9	..	..	..	..

Private charity.—The principal source of private charity is the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. Its work in respect of fodder has already been referred to. It is also making grants everywhere for the purchase of seed, and many a ryot will owe his hingari crop to this timely aid. Grants for the purchase of cattle are also being made.

General Remarks.

The general prospects have materially improved since the submission of the last report, and, provided we receive normal rains in September, we may expect a moderate harvest in October, but only a moderate one.

I am afraid that punctuality and tasks are not enforced on all works. Whenever I visit a work in the early morning, I find a large number of the workers coming late, and the experience of my Divisional Officers is the same. This can only mean that late attendance is customary, and I have little doubt that, directly our backs are turned, it again becomes the custom.

The consumption of arrack in the district, as a whole, was less in July of this year than in July 1896, but in Alúr taluk the reverse was the case both for July and for the four months ending with July. With reference to the Famine Commissioner's suggestion that the increased consumption of arrack on the Alúr-Chippagiri road is due to the presence of the head coolies and maistries, I have made some inquiries, and find that the total number of officials of these classes is only 166 on the whole road, and that only 66 belong to castes in which the use of alcohol is permitted. Moreover nearly all are natives of villages on the road, so that, unless they drink more than usual now, their presence will not explain the increased consumption.

The offences against property again show an excess over the average. I do not give the figures, as the Famine Commissioner has expressed a preference for those furnished by the Inspector-General of Prisons. The latter, however, are misleading so far as Bellary is concerned, for the Bellary district jail is the prison for the four Ceded Districts and not for Bellary alone.

There have been complaints that ryots cannot get labour for their agricultural work, but I find that, as a rule, they are not willing to offer the usual wage. I have offered to give as many coolies as are required in their neighbourhood (Alúr-Chippagiri road) if a fair wage is paid, but so far I have had no applications. The wage offered is only one seer of grain, which is less than the B wage, and one-half of the customary wage.

Loan Transactions.—Statement showing particulars of loan transactions under the Land Improvement and Agriculturi[illegible]' Loans Acts.

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.						Other purposes.						Total.						Number of wells	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
Adóni	12	2,710	10	1,180	32	7,749	157	13,420	154	13,010	204	8,845	169	16,130	164	14,190	236	16,594	..	11
Alúr	44	11,390	44	8,445	32	11,410	1,499	1,62,170	1,480	16,695	47	21,655	1,543	1,73,560	1,524	1,69,140	79	33,065	..	44
Bellary	44	6,300	44	6,300	26	8,421	933	90,582	933	90,582	132	45,142	977	96,882	977	96,882	158	53,563	..	75
Rayadrug	84	18,522	77	12,269	30	8,550	335	44,640	328	42,690	97	13,245	419	63,162	405	54,959	127	21,795	..	11
Hospet	20	4,520	20	2,360	21	4,200	55	4,325	54	4,225	22	2,600	75	8,845	74	6,585	43	6,800	..	..
Kúdligi	1	100	..	..	35	7,090	..	..	..	..	7	900	1	100	..	..	42	7,990	..	..
Harpanahalli	1	100	1	50	1	250	59	7,105	53	6,305	34	3,635	60	7,205	54	6,355	35	3,885	..	1
Hadagalli	14	1,675	12	788	13	4,200	124	15,135	112	13,465	32	5,700	138	16,810	124	14,253	45	9,900	..	8
Total ..	220	45,317	208	31,392	190	51,870	3,162	3,37,377	3,114	1,86,972	575	1,01,722	3,382	3,82,694	3,322	3,62,364	765	1,53,592	..	194

Taluks.	Purchase of fodder.						Cattle and seed-grain.						Total.					
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Application pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Adóni	707	26,093	502	18,164	117	21,113	41	1,682	17	1,197	108	5,283	748	27,775	519	19,361	225	26,396
Alúr	2,374	87,293	2,209	80,123	388	23,819	45	2,160	35	1,700	147	8,166	2,419	89,453	2,244	81,823	535	31,985
Bellary	1,665	63,841	1,665	63,841	349	28,836	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,665	63,841	1,665	63,841	349	28,836
Kayadrug	418	21,004	416	20,854	244	12,323	25	1,460	25	1,460	19	1,402	443	22,464	441	22,314	263	13,725
Hospet	146	6,560	146	6,560	134	3,985	..	..	..	..	..	..	146	6,560	146	6,560	134	3,985
Kúdligi	482	12,438	481	12,418	208	13,466	..	..	..	..	..	..	482	12,438	481	12,418	208	13,466
Harpanahalli	366	13,778	326	12,738	434	22,418	..	..	..	..	..	..	366	13,778	326	12,738	434	22,418
Hadagalli	371	10,192	340	9,239	365	15,929	..	..	..	..	..	..	371	10,192	340	9,239	365	15,929
Total ..	6,529	2,41,199	6,085	2,23,937	2,329	1,41,889	111	5,302	77	4,357	274	14,851	6,640	2,46,501	6,162	2,28,294	2,603	1,56,740

Note.—The total amount disbursed in the month is Rs. 51,349, of which sum the greater part (Rs. 43,281) was for loan for the purchase of fodder and seed-grain and for relief of distress. The grant of loans of the last class is now being pushed on.

Inspections of the District Officers.

Taluks and places visited.

By the Collector.—Hirehal road work, Adóni-Siruguppa work, Adóni section of Adoni-Alúr and Madhavaram road works, and Alúr-Chippagiri southern section, the four kitchens in Adóni, the weavers' relief operations at Adóni and the distribution of grain doles in Adóni and Chippagiri.

Assistant Collector, Adóni.—Adóni, Jalawadi, Yemmiganúru and Mullapalli and the relief operations there.

Deputy Collector, Alúr.—Alúr-Chippagiri road (two sections), Adóni-Siruguppa road (two sections), Alúr-Aspari road (Aspari section), Alúr-Moka road (northern section), the kitchens at Chippagiri, Harivanam, Peddahotúr, Aspari, Alúr, Molagavalli, Námakkal, Nagardoni and the villages of Santakudlur, Hebbatam, Lingatahalli, Muddangiri, Kharidiguddum, Beldona and Nagaradona.

Head-quarter Deputy Collector.—Bellary, Brucepetta and Paramadevenhallí kitchens.

Head Assistant Collector.—Gudicota, Mahadevapuram, Appayavoholi, Darojí (work and kitchen), Devalapur (kitchen and grain doles), Metri (grain dole list), Kampli (grain dole list) Hospet, Gadiginúr (work and kitchens) Buvvanahalli, Kurikuppa and Waddigiri.

Resolution—No. 617, dated 13th September 1897.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall of the fortnight was good except in Yemmiganúru, Bellary Harpanahalli and Hadagalli, but a further good and general fall has been since received. A portion of the early crops had, however, it is feared, been already lost, and what is saved will give but a poor outturn. The outlook has considerably improved, but even now, but a moderate harvest in October can be expected. No further anxiety need be felt for cattle.

3. Prices were almost stationary at the close of the fortnight. The comparative position of prices is shown by the subjoined figures:—

Rate.	Measures per rupee.		
	Rice.	Cholam.	Ragi.
Normal	13·2	30·0	..
Warning	10·6	22·5	..
Scarcity	7·9	15·0	..
Current	7·6	9·4	12·4
August 1892	9·8	19·2	21·7
De. 1877	5·3	5·6	6·3

4. The condition of the people was generally good, but cholera prevailed to a considerable extent in Adóni, Alúr, and Bellary. The Collector has taken timely measures to grapple with it. The numbers on relief increased very slightly. This appears to be due to the fact that ryots do not offer a fair wage for field labour. The Sanitary Commissioner will deal with the question of the famine babies. The supplementing of the gratuitous relief to the mothers of these children is right in practice, but wrong in principle. If the mothers are fit subjects for gratuitous relief, that relief should be sufficient, and not require to be supplemented, as it does. The matter deserves notice, as this deviation from principle has been noticed in another province, and crops up now for the first time in Madras.

5. Good work was done in disbursing loans, progress being as follows:—

Up to end of week ending	Amount disbursed. Rs.
August 14th	5,39,309
„ 21st	5,64,474
„ 28th	5,89,608
September 4th	6,07,936

Applications for about three lakhs remain, but it is probable that it will be found unnecessary to grant most of those for the purchase of fodder, aggregating nearly one and half lakhs.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—No. 812, Revenue, dated 27th September 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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