

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 883

Dated 21st October

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording R.P. submitting fortnightly
narrative of the Canyon D.L. for the period
ending 15th Sept. 1897.

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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.

Enclosures

Regd.

Spare copies

1897.

Printed October th.

Proceedings, No. 645, 2nd October 1897.

OCTOBER.

Fortnightly Narrative.—Submitting to Government, with remarks, — of the Ganjam district for the period ending 15th September 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 Ganjam district for the period ending 15th September 1897:—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and Water-supply.—

	District rainfall.	
	Actual rainfall.	Expected rainfall.
	INCHES.	INCHES.
In the fortnight	7.19	3.98
Up to the fortnight from April	28.31	26.57

There has been a copious rainfall during the fortnight. Water-supply is ample both for irrigation and drinking purposes. Tanks and wells have received good supply. There have been good freshes in rivers and nalas. Water in Russellkonda reservoir rose 54 inches since 4th instant.

Agricultural operations, and condition of the standing crops.—Transplantation of paddy is almost completed, except in a few backward tracts, where it is being briskly carried on. The standing crops are paddy, ragi, gingelly, sugarcane, cotton, redgram and blackgram. All these are thriving well, except ragi and gingelly, the condition of which is reported to be poor. Early ragi, gingelly and chamalu were harvested. Outturn of the first two crops is bad to middling; that of last is fair.

Supply of fodder and pasture, and condition of cattle.—Fodder is scarce and dear, but chamalu straw is available in many places. Pasture is abundant. Condition of cattle is generally good.

General remarks on the previous subjects.—The state of the country at present looks favourable. Early paddy looks promising, and, in places, it is earing. The anxiety for food among the ryot classes is decreasing gradually. Prices show a tendency to fall; but no marked falling in the prices of food-grains can be anticipated, until the ordinary ragi crop is harvested. The ryots are hopeful of their crops, notwithstanding the fact that ragi is blighted in some parts.

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 11th of September 1897.

Stations.	Rice.				Ragi.		Corresponding prices of 1889.		Remarks.
	End of last period.		End of current period.		End of last period.	End of current period.	Rice	Ragi.	
	Raw.	Boiled.	Raw.	Boiled.					
Russellkonda ..	7.50	9.00	7.00	8.00	10.31	11.25	10.50	17.50	Rice is rising in two stations, falling in three stations, and stationary elsewhere. Ragi is rising in two stations, falling in four stations and stationary elsewhere. The rise and fall are due to the condition of the local markets.
Suradā ..	7.40	8.75	7.86	9.19	9.75	12.19	11.00	28.00	
Aska ..	7.22	7.95	7.22	7.95	8.90	8.90	10.00	19.20	
Purushottapur ..	7.50	8.00	7.80	8.40	11.00	12.00	10.50	26.00	
Chatrapur ..	7.00	7.75	7.50	8.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	19.00	
Berhampur ..	7.00	8.00	7.00	8.00	11.05	10.62	11.00	20.00	
Ichchhāpuram ..	7.50	8.00	7.50	8.00	10.80	10.80	10.50	22.00	
Sompēta ..	8.25	..	8.25	9.83	11.31	11.81	11.20	23.00	
Parlākīmedi ..	6.81	6.75	6.75	..	12.00	10.40	12.00	24.00	
Tekkālī ..	7.10	..	7.10	..	11.42	11.42	10.50	21.00	
Narsannāpet ..	7.50	..	7.50	..	10.62	10.62	12.00	27.00	
Chicacole ..	7.17	..	7.17	..	11.97	11.97	11.00	27.00	
Average ..	87.95	64.20	88.65	67.37	129.13	131.98	130.20	273.70	
	7.33	8.03	7.39	8.42	10.76	11.00	10.85	22.81	

Activity of trade.—Trade within the district is not active. 526 cart-loads of paddy are reported to have been imported from Nyaghar. Imports of paddy from Orissa still continue, but in limited quantities. 1,200 bales of rice were exported from Narsannapet to Parlakimedi and Tekkali taluks.

Exports and imports of food-grains by rail and by sea are as follows:—

	Exports.	Imports.
	MDS.	MDS.
By rail	1,567	22,425
By sea	..	4,137

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On works.—The condition of people on works is generally good.

In villages.—The condition of people in villages is improving. Now that work is available in fields, most of them are engaged in field work. The Kapu Savaras in Parlakimedi taluk, and some of the lower classes, especially Samantias in the Uddanam or coast tracts elsewhere, are reported to be in need of relief. These are either fed at kitchens or given grain doles.

The following remittances are reported from emigrants to Burma through the Post offices noted below:—

	Rs.
Jalmur	80
Kasibugga	4,983
Tekkali	266
Kotabommali	757
Total	6,086

Sickness and mortality.—Fever and small-pox are generally prevalent. Cholera has been subsiding.

	Cholera deaths.
Goomsur division	38
Head-quarters Deputy Collector's division	35
Berhampur division	30
Chicacole division	47
Total	150

Remarks.—The following kitchens and relief works are closed during the fortnight:—

Kitchens.		Relief works.	
Ganjám taluk ...	Sabulia.	Ganjám taluk ...	Santhoshapur.
Ichchhapuram taluk ...	Khojiria.	Purushottapur taluk ...	Bhatkumarada.
Narsannapet taluk ...	Surangi.	Sómpéta taluk ...	Kanchili.
Purushottapur taluk ...	Narsannapet.	Berhampur taluk ...	Guntubanda.
	Jalmur.	Ichchhapuram taluk.	Ichchhapuram East Coast Railway quarry.
	Tilaru.		
	Sorasingi.		
	Haripur.		
	Talatampara.		
Sómpéta taluk ...	Baruva.		
	Jarada.		
	Siripur.		
Tekkali taluk ...	Nowpada.		
	Kaviti.		
Berhampur taluk ...	Narayanapur.		
	Guntubanda.		

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
1. Guntubanda (B Branch), Berhampur taluk.	718	..	Closed.
2. Ankoli, Berhampur taluk ..	664	831	
3. East Coast Railway quarry, Ichchhapuram taluk.	423	203	Do.
4. Rothini Hill quarry, Ichchhapuram taluk.	530	625	
5. Kanchili quarry, Sómpéta taluk ..	246	..	Do.
6. Johomi, Ganjám taluk ..	553	495	
7. Santhoshapur, Ganjám taluk ..	98	..	Do.
8. Hill quarry, Ganjám taluk ..	1,781	2,471	
9. Sorasingi, Purushottapur taluk ..	734	740	
10. Mukundapur, Purushottapur taluk ..	632	596	
11. Boirani, Purushottapur taluk ..	837	876	
12. Bhatkumarada, Purushottapur taluk.	433	..	Do.
13. Hingili, Purushottapur taluk ..	1,569	1,135	
14. Mottosorasingi, Purushottapur taluk ..	344	464	
15. Rajapur, Peddakimedi taluk ..	..	373	
Total ..	9,592	8,809	This was temporarily, but not formally, closed owing to the illness and resignation of the overseer.

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.
Russellkonda ..	..	..	66	50	..	..	1,662	705
Surada ..	..	..	33	13	..	..	98	70
Aska ..	..	..	61	54	..	..	1,917	1,136
Bodogodo ..	..	..	31	30	..	..	334	156
Pedda Kimedi ..	..	..	281	219	..	..	859	782
Berhampur ..	..	..	275	173	..	..	4,468	2,902
Sómpéta ..	..	..	210	78	..	..	833	904
Ichchhapuram ..	..	..	95	32	..	..	1,846	1,432
Ganjám ..	..	..	18	..	..	..	1,815	1,603
Purushottapur ..	..	..	160	110	..	..	1,712	1,044
Tekkali ..	..	..	369	286	..	..	407	215
Narasannapeta ..	..	..	381	..	..	..	56	..
Parlakimedi ..	..	..	793	741	..	..	571	1,007
Chicacole ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	72	..
Total ..	65	..	2,773	1,786	..	..	16,650	11,956

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.
Russellkonda ..	237	207	689	610	163	1,592
Surada ..	24	22	..	..	..	..
Aska ..	207	190	1,680	1,481	1,424	10,185
Bodogodo ..	74	51	..	..	..	..
Pedda Kimedi ..	133	141	152	42	650	1,649
Berhampur ..	446	191	691	1,143	9,022	13,305
Sómpéta ..	245	228	1,909	1,048	8,399	34,058
Ichchhapuram ..	191	146	609	881	1,356	2,117
Ganjám ..	218	240	214	214	921	6,052
Purushottapur ..	206	168	1,784	1,146	1,895	10,418
Tekkali ..	60	39	2,005	1,688	16,085	18,078
Narasannapeta ..	17	..	2,492	426	1,740	5,182
Parlakimedi ..	137	95	42	787	..	..
Chicacole ..	12	..	767	360	649	2,789
Total ..	2,227	1,718	13,034	9,826	37,304	105,425

Private charity.—There is no organized private charity at work. The Zemindar of Kallikóta and Atagada continues to feed about 82 persons at his kitchen at Haradamali. He has also opened a relief work at Maridi. Some gentlemen at Aska are still feeding between 20 and 40 helpless people a day. The Zemindar of Chinnakimedi is also granting relief in the shape of cooked food in some of his mutts and temples.

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

Taluk.	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.								
																	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1																				20	21			
Berhampur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	196	19,845	161	15,605	478	54,013	196	19,845	161	15,605	479	54,213	..	..			
Goomsur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			
Chitacole	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	200	20,565	165	16,325	479	54,138	200	20,565	165	16,325	480	54,338	..	..			

Taluk.	Purchase of fodder.										Cattle and seed-grain.						Total.				
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.				
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.			
																			22	23	24
Berhampur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Goomsur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chitacole	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT OFFICERS.

Taluk and places visited.—The Principal Assistant Collector has visited twenty-four villages, the Senior Assistant Collector nine villages, the General Deputy Collector, Goomsur, forty villages and the Head-Quarter Deputy Collector twenty villages in their respective divisions.

I was detained at head-quarters by civil suits, and treasury examinations for the first half of the fortnight, and have subsequently visited the following places:—

Chatrapur. †
Hinjili. * †
Aska. * †
Shergada.

* Kitchen.

† Relief work.

Pattapur.
Digupudi. * † †
Chikati. * †

‡ Weavers' dept.

My tour has been interrupted by having to return to meet the Famine Commissioner.

There has been no material change in prices, though a slight tendency to fall was exhibited; there has since been a re-action consequent upon the failure of the ragi crop. Until recently ragi everywhere looked promising, and in excellent condition, but it now almost generally declines to ear and has run into stalk and leaf. Many of the heads that do appear are merely chaff, and contain no grain. The yield is estimated at from As. 2 to 4 in the sub-division, and it is not much better anywhere along the coast, except perhaps near Ichchhapuram. From Goomsur, details are not yet to hand, as the ragi is only just beginning to come into ear. I attribute this to too much surface water on a dry sub-soil, accompanied by want of sufficient sunshine. Old inhabitants report that the same phenomenon occurred after the famine of 1866, and this was also observed with the Gôdâvari imported seed-grain after 1889.

I fear that this will retard the anticipated fall in prices for another month, until the success of the paddy crop, which is everywhere most promising, is assured. Field work still continues to be greatly restricted. Weeding operations should now be in progress, but I have observed very few engaged in that occupation. I fear that many ryots have not sufficient resources for the employment of the necessary labour. In spite of high prices, and the restricted demand for field labour, the condition of the people is improving, except in the Kallikôta circle, where there has been an increase in the number on gratuitous relief. There has, however, been no increase in the number of relief workers as anticipated by me, and several additional works have been closed, only ten remaining. Of these, one is in Ichchhapuram taluk, one in Pedda Kimedi estate, one in Berhampur, two in Ganjam, and five in Purushottapur taluks, respectively. All works south of Ichchhapuram are finally closed.

The existing distress is now confined to the Samantias of the coast tracts in Ganjam and Ichchhapuram taluks, and to the Kapu Savaras of Tekkali and Parlakimedi. The former are an idle and improvident set of people. They decline to work or to accept cooked food, and their condition is, at the best of times, poor. The condition of the Kapu Savaras is reported by Mr. Parsons to be improving. Of the rest, those on relief consist mainly of professional beggars, cripples, lepers and the like, who may, as in ordinary years, be left to the charity of their fellow villagers after the close of the current month.

The disposal of loans applications is not proceeding as rapidly as I could wish, but as the term of the Special Loans Tahsildar expired at the end of July, the Tahsildars have to work with their ordinary staff. It is, however, but little use now granting applications for advances for cattle and seed-grain, as ploughing is practically over, and the land all under cultivation. Some further advance may be required in dry tracts, where the ragi has failed, for a second crop of grain. There has been a serious outbreak of cholera at Patrapur in Sompeta taluk, and a Special Hospital Assistant has been sent to deal with it. Small-pox is bad in parts of Pedda Kimedi, Chinrakimedi and Shergada zemindaris. Otherwise the health of the people is fair.

RESOLUTION—No. 645, dated 2nd October 1897.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall in the fortnight was very good, and the general outlook is favourable, but for the fact that the ragi harvest is likely to be a failure.

3. Prices fell slightly, and the Collector anticipates no considerable fall till the paddy is harvested, owing to the poor condition of ragi. The comparative position of prices is shown by the following figures:—

							Measures for a rupee.	
							Rice.	Ragi.
Normal	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.0	30.0
Warning	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.6	22.5
Scarcity	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.2	15.0
Current	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.9	11.0
September 1889	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.2	24.7
" 1878	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.1	13.0

4. The condition of the people is improving, and distress is confined to the Kapu Savaras, the idle Samantias, and the class that ordinarily depends upon private charity for its existence. All relief works south of Ichchhápúram have been closed, and only ten now remain. The numbers on works fell by 8 per cent. and on gratuitous relief by 29 per cent. The Famine Commissioner presumes that work No. 8, on which an increase of numbers is shown is the quarry near Chatrapur, where many of the workers are in bad condition. These are not the same persons who were on the work before and left it in good condition, but people who held off from relief too long and have come to it in a low physical state.

5. Loans have been disbursed as follows:—

							Amount disbursed. RS.
Up to end of week ending—							
August 28th	...	...	...	...	...	...	68,854
September 4th	...	...	...	...	...	...	70,349
" 11th	...	...	...	...	...	...	77,446
" 18th	...	...	...	...	...	...	88,273

(True Copy and Extract.)

[Signature]
Famine Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department. ✓
" Collector of Ganjam.
" Sanitary Commissioner.

Government { 1897 } of Madras. REVENUE.

Recd.

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1897.

Spare copies

G.O., No. 883, 21st October 1897.

OCTOBER.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Board's Proceedings submitting — of the Ganjam district for the period ending 15th September 1897, recorded.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

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Parlakimedi	..	6.81	6.75	6.75	..	12.00	10.40	12.00	24.00	
Tekkali	..	7.10	..	7.10	..	11.42	11.42	10.50	21.00	
Narsannapet	..	7.50	..	7.50	..	10.62	10.62	12.00	27.00	
Chicacole	..	7.17	..	7.17	..	11.97	11.97	11.00	27.00	
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	Narsannapet.	Berhampur taluk ...	Guntubanda.
	Jalmur.	Ichchhápúram taluk.	East Coast Railway quarry.
	Tilaru.		
Purushottapur taluk	Sorasingi.		
	Haripur.		
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	Baruva.		
	Jarada.		
	Siripur.		
Tekkali taluk ...	Nowpada.		
	Kaviti.		
Berhampur taluk ...	Narayanapur.		
	Guntubanda.		

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4. Bothini Hill quarry, Ichchhápúram taluk.	630	625	
5. Kanchili quarry, Sómpéta taluk ..	246	..	Do.
6. Johomi, Ganjám taluk ..	553	495	
7. Santhoshapur, Ganjám taluk ..	98	..	Do.
8. Hill quarry, Ganjám taluk ..	1,781	2,471	
9. Sorasingi, Purushottapur taluk ..	734	740	
10. Mukundapur, Purushottapur taluk ..	632	596	
11. Boirani, Purushottapur taluk ..	837	876	
12. Bhatkumarada, Purushottapur taluk.	433	..	Do.
13. Hingili, Purushottapur taluk ..	1,569	1,135	
14. Motosorosingi, Purushottapur taluk ..	344	464	
15. Rajapur, Peddakimedi taluk ..	..	373	
Total ..	9,592	8,809	This was temporarily, but not formally, closed owing to the illness and resignation of the overseer.

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.
Russellkonda ..	..	..	66	50	..	..	1,662	705
Surada ..	..	..	33	13	..	..	98	70
Aska ..	..	..	61	54	..	..	1,917	1,136
Bodogodo ..	..	..	31	30	..	..	334	156
Pedda Kimedi ..	..	..	281	219	..	..	859	782
Berhampur ..	..	..	275	173	..	..	4,468	2,902
Sómpéta ..	..	7	210	78	..	..	833	904
Ichchhápúram ..	..	33	95	32	..	..	1,846	1,432
Ganjám ..	..	..	18	..	..	..	1,815	1,603
Purushottapur ..	..	..	160	110	..	..	1,712	1,044
Tekkali ..	..	..	369	286	..	..	407	215
Narasannapéta ..	..	25	381	..	..	..	56	..
Parlakimedi ..	..	..	793	741	..	..	571	1,007
Chicacole ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	72	..
Total ..	65	..	2,773	1,786	..	..	16,650	11,956

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.
Russellkonda ..	..	..	257	207	689	610
Surada ..	..	..	24	22	..	..
Aska ..	..	..	207	190	1,680	1,481
Bodogodo ..	..	..	74	51	..	..
Pedda Kimedi ..	..	..	133	141	152	42
Berhampur ..	..	..	446	191	691	1,143
Sómpéta ..	..	..	245	228	1,909	1,048
Ichchhápúram ..	..	..	191	146	609	881
Ganjám ..	..	..	218	240	214	214
Purushottapur ..	..	..	206	168	1,784	1,146
Tekkali ..	..	..	60	39	2,005	1,688
Narasannapéta ..	..	..	17	..	2,492	426
Parlakimedi ..	..	..	137	95	42	787
Chicacole ..	..	..	12	..	767	360
Total ..	2,227	1,718	13,034	9,826	37,304	105,425

Private charity.—There is no organized private charity at work. The Zemindar of Kallikóta and Atagada continues to feed about 82 persons at his kitchen at Haradamali. He has also opened a relief work at Maridi. Some gentlemen at Aska are still feeding between 20 and 40 helpless people a day. The Zemindar of Chinnakimedi is also granting relief in the shape of cooked food in some of his mutts and temples.

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

Taluka.		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.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.			
		Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	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						
Berhampur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			
Goomsur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			
Chicacole	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			
Total ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			
Cattle and seed-grain.																											
Taluka.		Purchase of fodder.					Applications pending.					Loans disbursed.					Applications accepted.					Total.					
		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Amount.	Applications pending.		Loans disbursed.		Amount.	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Amount.	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Amount.	Applications pending.		Amount.			
		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										
Berhampur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			
Goomsur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			
Chicacole	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			
Total ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			
Total.																											

INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT OFFICERS.

Taluks and places visited.—The Principal Assistant Collector has visited twenty-four villages, the Senior Assistant Collector nine villages, the General Deputy Collector, Goomsur, forty villages and the Head-Quarter Deputy Collector twenty villages in their respective divisions.

I was detained at head-quarters by civil suits, and treasury examinations for the first half of the fortnight, and have subsequently visited the following places:—

Chatrapur. †
Hinjili. * †
Aska. * †
Shergada.

Pattapur.
Digupudi. * † †
Chikati. * †

* Kitchen.

† Relief work.

‡ Weavers' depot.

My tour has been interrupted by having to return to meet the Famine Commissioner.

There has been no material change in prices, though a slight tendency to fall was exhibited; there has since been a re-action consequent upon the failure of the ragi crop. Until recently ragi everywhere looked promising, and in excellent condition, but it now almost generally declines to ear and has run into stalk and leaf. Many of the heads that do appear are merely chaff, and contain no grain. The yield is estimated at from As. 2 to 4 in the sub-division, and it is not much better anywhere along the coast, except perhaps near Ichchhapuram. From Goomsur, details are not yet to hand, as the ragi is only just beginning to come into ear. I attribute this to too much surface water on a dry sub-soil, accompanied by want of sufficient sunshine. Old inhabitants report that the same phenomenon occurred after the famine of 1866, and this was also observed with the Gódavari imported seed-grain after 1839.

I fear that this will retard the anticipated fall in prices for another month, until the success of the paddy crop, which is everywhere most promising, is assured. Field work still continues to be greatly restricted. Weeding operations should now be in progress, but I have observed very few engaged in that occupation. I fear that many ryots have not sufficient resources for the employment of the necessary labour. In spite of high prices, and the restricted demand for field labour, the condition of the people is improving, except in the Kallikóta circle, where there has been an increase in the number on gratuitous relief. There has, however, been no increase in the number of relief workers as anticipated by me, and several additional works have been closed, only ten remaining. Of these, one is in Ichchhapuram taluk, one in Pedda Kimedi estate, one in Berhampur, two in Ganjam, and five in Purushottapur taluks, respectively. All works south of Ichchhapuram are finally closed.

The existing distress is now confined to the Samantias of the coast tracts in Ganjam and Ichchhapuram taluks, and to the Kapu Savaras of Tekkali and Parlakimedi. The former are an idle and improvident set of people. They decline to work or to accept cooked food, and their condition is, at the best of times, poor. The condition of the Kapu Savaras is reported by Mr. Parsons to be improving. Of the rest, those on relief consist mainly of professional beggars, cripples, lepers and the like, who may, as in ordinary years, be left to the charity of their fellow villagers after the close of the current month.

The disposal of loans applications is not proceeding as rapidly as I could wish, but as the term of the Special Loans Tahsildar expired at the end of July, the Tahsildars have to work with their ordinary staff. It is, however, but little use now granting applications for advances for cattle and seed-grain, as ploughing is practically over, and the land all under cultivation. Some further advance may be required in dry tracts, where the ragi has failed, for a second crop of grain. There has been a serious outbreak of cholera at Patrapur in Sompeta taluk, and a Special Hospital Assistant has been sent to deal with it. Small-pox is bad in parts of Pedda Kimedi, Chinnakimedi and Shergada zemindaris. Otherwise the health of the people is fair.

Resolution—No. 645, dated 2nd October 1897.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall in the fortnight was very good, and the general outlook is favourable, but for the fact that the ragi harvest is likely to be a failure.

3. Prices fell slightly, and the Collector anticipates no considerable fall till the paddy is harvested, owing to the poor condition of ragi. The comparative position of prices is shown by the following figures:—

								Measures for a rupee.	
								Rice.	Ragi.
Normal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.0	30.0
Warning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.6	22.5
Scarcity	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.2	15.0
Current	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.9	11.0
September 1889	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.2	24.7
" 1878	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.1	13.0

4. The condition of the people is improving, and distress is confined to the Kapu Savaras, the idle Samantias, and the class that ordinarily depends upon private charity for its existence. All relief works south of Ichchhapuram have been closed, and only ten now remain. The numbers on works fell by 8 per cent. and on gratuitous relief by 29 per cent. The Famine Commissioner presumes that work No. 8, on which an increase of numbers is shown is the quarry near Chatrapur, where many of the workers are in bad condition. These are not the same persons who were on the work before and left it in good condition, but people who held off from relief too long and have come to it in a low physical state.

5. Loans have been disbursed as follows:—

								Amount disbursed. RS.
Up to end of week ending—								
August 28th	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68,854
September 4th	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70,349
" 11th	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	77,446
" 18th	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	88,273

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

" Collector of Ganjam.

" Sanitary Commissioner.

ORDER—No. 883, Revenue, dated 21st October 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.

" the Public Works Department.

" the Local and Municipal Department.

" the Financial Department.

" the Accountant-General.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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