Revenue (1898) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 166

Dated 21st March

[Despatch Abstract.]

Fortnightly Narrative

Recording, with remarks, B.D.'s Progs. Submitting the —— of the Nellore Dt. for the period ending 15th February 1898

BACK PAPERS.

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

ENCLOSED PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
		1880 — 31-3-80				

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1898.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

MADRAS. MAR 98

Recd. 13 Mar } 1898. *Enclosures*

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Printed March th.

Proceedings, No. 103, 3rd March 1898.

MARCH.

Fortnightly Narrative.—Submitting to Government, with remarks, the — of the Nellore district for the period ending 15th February 1898.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

READ—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Nellore District during the period ending 15th February 1898 :—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and Water-supply—Sub-division—Ongole taluk.—The rainfall during this fortnight as registered in the several recording stations is given below :—

	INS.
Ongole	0·64
Addanki	0·43
Kanuparti	0·13

It has improved the pasture in parts, but generally has had little effect.

Water-supply is sufficient for drinking purposes throughout the taluk. Except two tanks which contain 12 to 18 days' supply, all other tanks are dry. The supply in the two tanks referred to is reported to be hardly sufficient for irrigation.

Kandukur taluk.—The following rain fall has been registered during the fortnight :—

	INS.
Kandukur	0·96
Pakala	0·55

It has improved the prospects of dry crops to some extent.

Water-supply sufficient for drinking purposes. All tanks are dry except the following which contain a supply hardly sufficient for irrigation :—

One tank ...	Bitragunta ...	One month and over.
Five tanks ...	Vardhinenipolem ...	Fifteen days and above.
	Vemur	
	Dharmavaram ...	
	Potlur	
	Kondapi	
Four tanks ...	Machavaram ...	Ten days and above.
	Gudlur	
	Kottapett	
	Kondikandukur ...	
Six tanks ...	Gudlur	Below ten days.
	Baddepudi ...	
	Chakicherla ...	
	Tammula	
	Vagour	
	Palukur	

Kanigiri taluk.—On the 10th instant 0·73 cents. of rain fell in Kanigiri. It appears to have been general throughout the taluk, but cannot affect the condition of matters to any appreciable extent.

Water-supply is sufficient for drinking purposes. All tanks in the taluk are dry.

Podili division—The rainfall in Podili was 28 cents. during the fortnight. Water-supply is insufficient for drinking purposes and difficulties felt in obtaining drinking water. Tanks are reported to contain no water.

Darsi division.—Darsi had 0·60 inch of rain during the fortnight. In the western villages drinking water is insufficient. All tanks in the division are reported to be dry.

Atmakúr division, Atmakúr taluk.—Rainfall *nil.* All the tanks in the taluk are empty except the following :—

Anantasagaram tank contains two months and fifteen days' supply.
Uppalapad tank contains two months' supply.
Kaluvoya tank contains two month's supply.
Patallapalli tank contains one month and fifteen days' supply.
Pallipad tank contains one month and ten days' supply.
Telugurayepuram tank contains one months' supply.

The supply in the Anantasagaram tank is sufficient for the standing crops under it. The supply in river channels is sufficient and garden wells have a fair supply. Some of the garden wells in the Atmakúr firka are being repaired by ryots. Water-supply is sufficient for drinking purposes except in five or six villages where it is obtained with difficulty.

Udayagiri taluk.—The rainfall in Udayagiri was 0·05 inch during the fortnight, but in parts of the taluk it exceeded one inch.

Water-supply is moderately sufficient for irrigation in the first and second ranges and inadequate in the third range except in Appasamudram. The Iskadamerla tank has a supply of 20 days. Drinking-water is generally sufficient throughout except in Udayagiri town.

Head-quarter division, Nellore taluk.—There was a rainfall of 0·15 cents. in the Nellore town. The Kanigiri reservoir contains 5·3 feet of water. Nellore tank has no irrigable supply. The ayakat is, however, receiving a small supply of water from the Pennar river through the tank supply channel. The supply in delta tanks varies from 15 days to one month. The non-deltaic tanks contain no supply. Drinking-water is generally sufficient except in a few villages in the south-west of the taluk.

Kávali taluk.—There has been rain in the undermentioned villages to the extent stated :—

	INCHES.
Kávali	0·73
Musunur	0·50
Tallapalem	0·10
Rudrakota	1·00
Chinnayapalem	1·10
Bogavolu	0·50
Kodamthala	0·70
Tummalapenta	0·20
Mungamur	0·40

All the tanks are empty. Drinking-water sufficient.

Head Assistant Collector's division, Gudur taluk.—The rainfall in the taluk is given below :—

	INCHES.
Gudur	0·09
Kota	0·10
Krishnapatam	0·29

Supply of water for irrigation is getting exhausted in the Gudur taluk except in the Muthukur firka and in a few villages in the other firkas. There is no scarcity of water for drinking purposes.

Rapur taluk.—Rainfall *nil* during the fortnight. There is still a few days' supply in six tanks. Scarcity of drinking-water is reported to be felt in two or three villages.

Polur division.—No rain except in Monapallem where it was 0·05 inch. The larger tanks and river channels still have some supply. The supply of drinking-water is sufficient for the present.

Venkatagiri division.—No rain. About twenty tanks are stated to contain some water. Want of drinking-water has not been felt yet.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops—Sub-division—Ongole taluk.—Ragi is being transplanted under wells. Variga, cholam, castor-oil, pulses and chillies in Addanki division and variga and pulses in the Ongole taluk have been harvested during the fortnight. The average outturn is below As. 8. The standing crops are variga, paddy, cholam, ragi, castor-oil and pulses. The condition of the first crop is bad while that of the others is fair. Paddy and pulses in Addanki division have withered on 100 acres.

Kandukur taluk.—Ragi is being transplanted under wells and doruvus. Sonnavari paddy in small extents and red-gram have been harvested during the fortnight with an average yield of As. 4. Wet crops under the empty tanks and variga in parts of Kondapi range have withered. The standing dry crops are reported to be fair. Ragi under wells is thriving.

Kanigiri taluk.—Agricultural operations are *nil*. Paddy, cholam, cumbu and aruga in the first range, paddy, cumbu and cholam in the third range, and paddy, cumbu, aruga and korra in the second range, have been harvested. The outturn of paddy generally is As. 12 to 4, cholam As. 8 to *nil*, cumbu As. 12 to *nil*, aruga As. 4 to *nil*, and korra *nil*. The standing crops are ragi, paddy and cholam.

The expected outturn varies from As. 8 to *nil*. Ragi in lands irrigated by wells has been benefited to some extent by the recent rain. It is, however, reported that dry crops generally in this taluk have withered.

Podili division.—Paddy in a small extent under the Podili and Marripudi tanks has been harvested. The average outturn is below As. 8. Elsewhere it has withered. Horse-gram has also withered throughout the division. Ragi under wells is fair.

Darsi division.—Castor-oil seeds have been harvested over a small extent. Ragi under wells is thriving.

Atmakúr division—Atmakúr taluk.—Ploughing is going on in a few villages of the Devarayapalli firka for 2nd crop under river channels. Kesari paddy is being sown in three villages. Paddy is being harvested under river channels and the Anantasagaram tank. Standing paddy crop under these irrigation sources is thriving, while that under Chejerla, Gollapalli, Paderu and Navur tanks is withering for want of water. Early and late cholam are thriving and are expected to yield between As. 16 to 4 and As. 8 to 4, respectively. Aruga is fair and is being cut; the outturn is estimated to vary from As. 8 to 1. Ragi, cotton and oil-seeds are fair, though the last crop is stated to have been damaged in some places by insects.

Udayagiri taluk.—Tobacco is being transplanted under wells. Horse-gram is being harvested in parts. The average outturn is *nil* to As. 4 in the second and third ranges and *nil* to As. 8 in the first range. Ragi is thriving under wells for the present. Cholam is being damaged by insects and where it is not so damaged the crop is fair throughout except in parts. Aruga has failed everywhere. Oil-seeds and cotton are bad in the second and third ranges and indifferent to fair in the first range.

Head-quarters division—Nellore taluk.—Ploughing for indigo and kesari paddy is going on in the deltaic parts of Alur range. Paddy and ragi have been harvested. The outturn of paddy is estimated to vary from As. 4 to 20, while that of ragi at As. 4. The standing crops are paddy in 85,063 acres, cholam in 118 acres, ragi in 1,676 acres, and oil-seeds in 337 acres. Paddy in deltaic tracts is thriving and in other parts withering. Dry crops are thriving.

Kávali taluk.—Paddy and aruga are being harvested. Otherwise, agricultural operations are *nil*. The outturn is given below :—

Crop.	Total area harvested.	16 annas.	12 annas.	8 annas.	4 annas.	*Nil.*
	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.
Paddy	10,303	522	1,580	2,265	1,970	3,966
Aruga	1,243	..	..	962	281	..

Nearly 4,000 acres of paddy have withered in the villages of Kávali, Bramhanakraka, Dundigam, Manabolepad and Gattupalle. The standing crops are paddy, cholam, ragi, oil-seeds, cotton and other pulses. Cholam is good and promises a yield varying from As. 4 to 12 except in the north-western villages of Sajipett, Veligandla, Nekunampett, Gudanallur and Uppulur. Aruga is generally a failure. Oil-seeds, cotton and other pulses are doing well.

Head Assistant Division, Gudur Taluk.—Paddy is being generally harvested. Cultivation is going on under wells, mostly in the Muthukur, Gudur, Sriharikota firkas of this taluk. In the Muthukur range sowings are going on for second crop to some extent. The surviving crops will probably pull through. Dry crops are generally in good condition.

Rapur Taluk.—No harvesting anywhere except in Rapur village where paddy in a small extent is harvested. Dry crops are generally in good condition though some of the late sown cholam is not likely to yield without rain.

Polur Division.—Paddy is harvested. Dry crops are generally in good condition.

Venkatagiri Division.—The three months' paddy has been harvested. Standing dry crops are generally in good condition.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.

Sub-Division.—Fodder is generally available but becoming insufficient in Kandukur. Pasture is scarce. Condition of cattle is generally fair. Rinderpest prevails in Rachapudi of Addanki Division. Attacks 100, deaths 40. Anthrax and diarrhœa have broken out in Chodavaram and Ramapuram and foot-and-mouth diseases in Ramabhadrapuram and Chalivendra of Darsi Division.

Atmakur Division.—Fodder is available to some extent in the Atmakur taluk but is scarce in Udayagiri. Pasture is scarce throughout. Condition of cattle is generally fair except in a few villages in Atmakur taluk where cattle diseases prevail and in parts of Udayagiri, where they are said to be getting weak for want of fodder and pasture. Further information will be received on this point.

Head-Quarter Division.—Fodder is insufficient and pasture is scanty. Condition of cattle is generally good. In one village of Kavali taluk there were eight deaths from rinderpest out of twenty attacks.

Head Assistant's Division.—Pasture is scarce everywhere. Fodder is available except in Rapur. The condition of cattle is generally good, though cattle diseases prevail in Gudur and Rapur.

General remarks on the previous subjects.

Sub-Division.—Prospects have not materially improved.

Head Assistant's Division.—The tracts which still continue to cause some anxiety are the Rapur taluk, the Kota range of Gudur taluk, the 5 or 6 villages in the Sríharikóta range and the villages south of Tada in the Polur Division. Even in these tracts there is no immediate fear. The present harvest which is going on generally is bringing fresh grain into the market, while also employing labour. The tract that the Head Assistant Collector considers worst is the portion of the Polur Division consisting of the villages south of Tada, where there appears to have been considerable

failure of crop. There, however, the railway is said to employ labour to a considerable extent. In Venkatagiri the state of things is reported to be decidedly re-assuring, a considerable area having been harvested and there being apparently few, if any, villages in which there is anything like a total failure.

FOOD-SUPPLIES AND THE STATE OF THE MARKETS.

Prices of principal food-grains at principal markets in the affected tracts, in seers of 80 tolas per rupee, for the period ending 15th of February 1898.

Stations.	Rice, 2nd sort.		Cholam.		Ragi.		Cumbu.		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.	
1. Ongole ..	8·46	8·46	10·80	12·15	12·75	14·03	10·73	11·14	
2. Addanki ..	7·52	7·99	11·70	13·50	..	..	10·31	11·55	
3. Darsi ..	9·40	9·40	..	12·67	13·60	13·60	12·30	10·66	
4. Podili ..	8·46	8·46	10·86	10·86	12·75	12·75	13·12	13·12	
5. Kandukur ..	7·99	7·99	11·31	11·31	12·33	12·33	10·46	10·46	
6. Kanigiri ..	7·52	7·52	..	11·77	11·90	12·75	9·90	9·90	
7. Atmakur ..	8·93	9·40	..	..	11·90	12·33	..	..	
8. Udaiyagiri ..		..	11·77	12·57	11·90	11·90	10·66	11·07	
9. Kavali ..	9·40	9·40	10·86	11·77	11·90	12·75	10·66	13·12	
10. Nellore ..	9·01	9·01	11·33	13·90	13·44	13·44	11·75	11·75	
11. Allur ..	8·48	8·48	..	..	11·52	11·52		..	
12. Gudur ..	8·48	8·48	12·36	12·36	13·44	13·44	11·28	11·28	
13. Kota ..	7·42	7·42	..	..	11·52	10·56	..	10·34	
14. Polur ..	8·48	8·48	..	..	..	11·76	..	..	
15. Rapur ..	..	..	10 80	10·80	..	..	10·73	10 73	
16. Venkatagiri.	8·48	8·48	..	..	14·40	13·44	11·28	13·12	
Average ..	8·43	8·50	11·31	12·16	12·57	12·61	11·10	11·40	

—	Scarcity rate.	Warning rate.
Rice ..	8·40	11·20
Cholam ..	13·00	19·50
Ragi ..	14·00	21·00
Cumbu ..	12·00	18·00

Activity of trade—Sub-division.—Private trade active. Paddy and some other food-grains are imported from the Northern districts. Cholam is also imported from the western districts.

Atmakúr division.—Private trade is active generally. In the Atmakúr taluk, paddy is being exported to Cuddapah district which supplies ragi, cumbu and cholam to the Udayagiri taluk.

Head-quarters division.—Private trade is active and food-grains are easily procurable. There are exports of paddy from the Nellore taluk to Madras and the Northern taluks of the district, while Kávali receives large imports of paddy from the Kistna district.

Head Assistant Collector's division.—Private trade is generally active and food-grains are being freely sold.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On works—Sub-division.—Generally good.

Atmakúr division.—Generally good, but a few children depending on labourers on Naravada relief work are bad; they are being fed at the kitchen attached to it.

In Villages—Sub-division.—Generally good, but want of labour is much felt in the western villages of Darsi division, whence people are migrating.

Atmakúr division.—Generally good.

Head-quarters division.—Generally good.

Head Assistant's division.—Generally good.

SICKNESS AND MORTALITY.

There have been no deaths from starvation.

Sub-division.—Cholera prevails in one village of Kanigiri taluk. Attacks 11, deaths 7. There were 4 attacks and 2 deaths in Addanki. In Chendalur, of Darsi division, there were 16 attacks and 5 deaths. In two villages of Kandukur, there were 12 attacks and 6 deaths. In four villages of Ongole there were 51 attacks and 26 deaths.

Atmakúr division.—Cholera is prevailing in both taluks. There were in all 121 attacks and 55 deaths in the division. Small-pox, measles and chicken-pox also prevail in both the taluks.

Head-quarters division.—Cholera prevails in twenty villages of Nellore taluk. There were 128 attacks, of which 70 proved fatal.

Head Assistant Collector's division.—There have been cases of cholera throughout the division, but no serious outbreaks anywhere, except in three or four villages of Rapur taluk, there having been 100 attacks in Rapur village alone.

REMARKS.

Sub-division.—Prospects continue as before. More works will be needed in Podili and Kanigiri. The prospects in the Ongole taluk are fair for the present. The labourers in the eastern villages of Kandukur taluk find employment on the railway works.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Kanigiri taluk.			
Narramarella near Pamur	660	841	Continues as a task work with an attached kitchen.
Nandanavanam	..	378	Was closed for some time after the intermediate system was started, but coolies have again begun to resort to it. Intermediate system continues. No kitchen.
Podili division.			
Pedarikatla	2,727	2,906	Continues as task work with kitchen.
Udayagiri taluk.			
Narravada	1,299	1,403	Is worked under the intermediate system with a kitchen.
Nelatur	259	920	Under the intermediate system. No kitchen.

Gratuitous relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

Taluks.	Number relieved.							
	At kitchens.				In poor-houses.		In villages.	
	Dependents.		Others.					
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Kanigiri taluk.								
Narramarella	31	63	17	14	..	..	..	..
Podili division.								
Pedarikatla	7	28	1	4	..	..	..	2
Udayagiri taluk.								
Narravada	60	80	11	13	..	..	..	..

Private charity.—Nil.

General Remarks.

Collector's remarks.—There has been a slight rainfall here and there during the fortnight, but it has not appreciably altered the state of things. In parts of the district, harvesting operations are employing agricultural labour to some extent and it is not likely that the numbers on works will increase largely for some time to come. Still, the number of works in Kanigiri, Podili and Darsi requires to be increased; for want of information, I doubt if work is urgently required in the Kandukur taluk. In the last fortnightly narrative, I reported that owing to the orders passed by Government that works should not yet be made over to the Public Works Department, I had deferred opening additional works in Podili, Darsi and Kandukur (*vide* also paragraph 12 of my letter No. 385-Ver., dated 9th February 1898). The Pedarikatla work continues to attract large numbers, and I have been obliged to send the Local Fund Assistant Engineer to look after it as one overseer is insufficient. The Sub-Collector has reported that the work is properly conducted and that the large attendance is not due to any laxity in exacting the prescribed task. It was reported in the last fortnightly narrative that the Nandanavanam work was temporarily closed, partly because there was work available in transplanting ragi and partly because the labourers objected to work on the intermediate system. The work has, however, been kept open with the result that labourers have again resorted to it. The following figures show the daily attendance on this work since it was re-opened :—

31st January 1898	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	199
1st February 1898	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	524
2nd " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	660
3rd " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	700
4th " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	691
5th " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	671
6th " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Sunday.
7th " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	536
8th " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	464
9th " "	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	343
10th " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	378

The falling off appears to be mainly due to delay in the supply of funds by the D.P.W. Assistant Engineer to the paymaster and consequent delay in paying the coolies. The Head-quarter and the Head Assistant Collector's divisions are not in need of any State relief at present. The Rajah of Venkatagiri has started some of the tank-restoration works which he has been required to undertake under the Railway Protection Act. With these—the harvesting operations and the work on the railway—there is abundant labour in the estate. The minor irrigation works in Kávali and Atmakúr taluks referred to in my previous report are going on under the piece-work system. The two cases under village relief in Podili division are two helpless pariah women of Podili division, to whom grain doles were ordered to be granted by the Sub-Collector. One of these is defective in sight and both have been living hitherto by private charity. I have asked the Sub-Collector to report if they cannot be taken to the kitchen at Pedarikatla.

Loan Transactions.—Nil.

Inspections of the District Officers—Taluks and places visited—

Sub-Collector.

Ongole taluk.

Pernamitta. | Chimakurti.
Santanutalapad.

Kanigiri taluk.

Nandanamarella. | Kanigiri.

Podili division.

Uppalapad. | Kambalapad.
Talamalla. | Chinarikatla.
Podili. | Pedarikatla.

Atmakur Deputy Collector.

Udayagiri taluk.

Nandanavaram. | Timmayapollem. | Udayagiri. | Gandipalem.
Chinamachanur. | Kampasamudram. | Nelatur. | Totalcheruvupalli.
Yepelagunta. | Bramhanapalle.

Head-Quarter Deputy Collector.

Nellore taluk. *Kávali taluk.*

Razupollem. | Yellayapollem. | Kávali.
Patur. | Kovur.

Head Assistant Collector.

Venkatagiri division. *Polur division.*

Venkatagiri. | Nellaballi. | Nayudupet. | Sulurpet.
Gollapalli.

Resolution—No. 103, dated 3rd March 1898.

Submitted to Government.

2. There were slight showers in the district during the fortnight, but the affected tracts were not materially benefited thereby. There was no fall in Atmakúr and Rapur taluks, or in the Venkatagiri division. In the areas within which rain fell, the water-supply has not been appreciably improved, and scarcity of drinking-water is felt in parts of Atmakúr, Udayagiri, Nellore and Rapur taluks, and the Podili and Darsi divisions. The Collector is requested to report what steps he has taken to improve the supply.

3. The standing crops are withering except under the few irrigation sources which possess any supply, and the yield of the harvests has been generally poor to middling. Prospects have not materially improved in the sub-division; there appears to be no reason for immediate fear in the Head Assistant's division, where the present harvests and the railway work afford employment to the labouring classes.

4. Pasture and fodder are growing scarce everywhere. The condition of cattle is generally good, but is reported to be deteriorating in parts of Udayagiri.

5. The tendency of prices to fall, noticed in the previous fortnight, was maintained during the fortnight under review. Trade continues active.

6. The condition of the people on works and villages is generally good. There were five works open during the fortnight, three of which were conducted on the intermediate system and two were continued as task works. The numbers on works increased by 30 per cent. during the fortnight. The Collector has already been ordered to discontinue feeding at kitchens those who are not dependents of workers. Gratuitous relief in villages should not be granted without the sanction of Government. Orders are solicited in the cases of the two helpless Panchama women.

7. The Board presumes that, when the Collector states that "in Venkatagiri, the state of things is reported to be decidedly re-assuring" he refers to the Venkatagiri division only and not to the whole of the Venkatagiri Zamindari.

(True Copy and Extract.)

Famine Secretary.

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

Exd. A. F. Eccleston.

Read B. P. 103/3.3.98 (Cno 2047).

Fortnightly narrative of the Nellore district for the period ending 15.2.98

Note. Prices of all the food grains fell during the period, but and some rain fell. The Collector however states that the prospects have not materially improved. Scarcity of drinking water is felt in parts and the Collector has been asked to report the steps taken to improve the water-supply. Pastury and fodder are growing scarce. Coolies are beginning to come on intermediate works and the numbers are rising. The numbers on the Nandanavanam work which rose to 700 in the first week of the fortnight, fell down to 378 in the second week. The Collector reports that "the falling off appears to be mainly due to delay in the supply of funds by the D. P. W. Asstt Engineer to the paymaster and consequent delay in paying the Coolies." The attention of the P. W. D. may be drawn to the Collector's remark. It is not known if the Deptt have as yet taken charge of the works carried out on the intermediate system, as direct

G.6 166/21-3-98

C. 17/3/98
R. 19/3/98

in f.8 ... 112 dy 25. 2. 98.

3. The Sub-Collector ordered the grant of grain doles to two helpless Panchama women in the Podili Division. He has been asked by the Coll. to report if they cannot be taken to the Kitchen at Pedarikatla. Section 64 of the Famine Code directs that "in the early stages of distress, unless otherwise directed by Govt., relief for all who cannot earn wages on relief works and are otherwise unable to support themselves shall be restricted to the grant of cooked food at central Kitchens established for the purpose." Perhaps it will be more economical to allow grain doles to these women if they cannot be induced to go to the Kitchen at Pedarikatla. But the Collector should be distinctly told that the grant of cooked food is the best form of dispensing gratuitous relief and that if the number requiring such relief should be found be large, he should not, without special sanction, extend the "grant of grain dole, but should open a few central Kitchens for the distribution of cooked food, as required by section 64 of the Famine Code.

If the women are in want they need of course be fed. But why formal change and has slipped in their case only is not clear. H.M.

16/3/98

I don't think we need issue special instructions. We must presume he knows the Code: if he wants special orders he can ask for them. He has not done so.

I don't think we need enter into a discussion with Bd. as they evident want us to do, about the opening of kitchens for such people. I wd. simply make no reference to the case of the two women, wh. is, so far, exceptional. Please see draft below. S.H. 17. 3. 8

Yes but the Mr. has asked the S.C. to report why they should not be sent to Pedarikatla

Jm

JG
19/3/98

Order No: 166, Press dy 21st March 1898

NUE.

... of the D.P.Co
... the statement
... general remarks"
... the payment
... fangs
3. The ...
... be divided

are c.

S.H. 17.

To
The Board of Rev. Sett.
P.W.D.
F.D.
L. Sin. D.
A-C

Recd 22/3/98

Recd 30/3/98

Government {1898} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1898. Enclosures.

Regd. } Spare copies

G.O., No. 166, 21st March 1898.

MARCH.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording, with remarks, Board's Proceedings submitting the — of the Nellore district for the period ending 15th February 1898.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 103, dated 3rd March 1898:—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Nellore District during the period ending 15th February 1898:—

State of the Country.

Rainfall and Water-supply—Sub-division—Ongole taluk.—The rainfall during this fortnight as registered in the several recording stations is given below:—

	Ins.
Ongole	0·64
Addanki	0·43
Kanuparti	0·13

It has improved the pasture in parts, but generally has had little effect.

Water-supply is sufficient for drinking purposes throughout the taluk. Except two tanks which contain 12 to 18 days' supply, all other tanks are dry. The supply in the two tanks referred to is reported to be hardly sufficient for irrigation.

Kandukur taluk.—The following rain fall has been registered during the fortnight:—

	Ins.
Kandukur	0·96
Pakala	0·55

It has improved the prospects of dry crops to some extent.

Water-supply sufficient for drinking purposes. All tanks are dry except the following which contain a supply hardly sufficient for irrigation:—

One tank	Bitragunta	One month and over.
Five tanks	Vardhinenipolem, Vemur, Dharmavaram, Potlur, Kondapi	Fifteen days and above.
Four tanks	Machavaram, Gudlur, Kottapett, Kondikandukur	Ten days and above.
Six tanks	Gudlur, Baddepudi, Chakicherla, Tammula, Vagour, Palukur	Below ten days.

Kanigiri taluk.—On the 10th instant 0·73 cents. of rain fell in Kanigiri. It appears to have been general throughout the taluk, but cannot affect the condition of matters to any appreciable extent.

Water-supply is sufficient for drinking purposes. All tanks in the taluk are dry.

Podili division.—The rainfall in Podili was 28 cents. during the fortnight. Water-supply is insufficient for drinking purposes and difficulties felt in obtaining drinking water. Tanks are reported to contain no water.

Darsi division.—Darsi had 0·60 inch of rain during the fortnight. In the western villages drinking water is insufficient. All tanks in the division are reported to be dry.

Atmakúr division, Atmakúr taluk.—Rainfall *nil*. All the tanks in the taluk are empty except the following:—

Anantasagaram tank contains two months and fifteen days' supply.
Uppalápad tank contains two months' supply.
Kaluvoya tank contains two month's supply.
Patallapalli tank contains one month and fifteen days' supply.
Pallipad tank contains one month and ten days' supply.
Telugurayepuram tank contains one months' supply.

The supply in the Anantasagaram tank is sufficient for the standing crops under it. The supply in river channels is sufficient and garden wells have a fair supply. Some of the garden wells in the Atmakúr firka are being repaired by ryots. Water-supply is sufficient for drinking purposes except in five or six villages where it is obtained with difficulty.

Udayagiri taluk.—The rainfall in Udayagiri was 0·05 inch during the fortnight, but in parts of the taluk it exceeded one inch.

Water-supply is moderately sufficient for irrigation in the first and second ranges and inadequate in the third range except in Appasamudram. The Iskadamerla tank has a supply of 20 days. Drinking-water is generally sufficient throughout except in Udayagiri town.

Head-quarter division, Nellore taluk.—There was a rainfall of 0·15 cents. in the Nellore town. The Kanigiri reservoir contains 5·3 feet of water. Nellore tank has no irrigable supply The ayakat is, however, receiving a small supply of water from the Pennér river through the tank supply channel. The supply in delta tanks varies from 15 days to one month. The non-deltaic tanks contain no supply. Drinking-water is generally sufficient except in a few villages in the south-west of the taluk.

Kávali taluk.—There has been rain in the undermentioned villages to the extent stated:—

	Inches.
Kávali	0·73
Musunur	0·50
Tallapalem	0·10
Rudrakota	1·00
Chinnayapalem	1·10
Bogavolu	0·50
Kodamthala	0·70
Tummalapenta	0·20
Mungamur	0·40

All the tanks are empty. Drinking-water sufficient.

Head Assistant Collector's division, Gudur taluk.—The rainfall in the taluk is given below:—

	Inches.
Gudur	0·09
Kota	0·10
Krishnapatam	0·29

Supply of water for irrigation is getting exhausted in the Gudur taluk except in the Muthukur firka and in a few villages in the other firkas. There is no scarcity of water for drinking purposes.

Rapur taluk.—Rainfall *nil* during the fortnight. There is still a few days' supply in six tanks. Scarcity of drinking-water is reported to be felt in two or three villages.

Polur division.—No rain except in Monapallem where it was 0·05 inch. The larger tanks and river channels still have some supply. The supply of drinking-water is sufficient for the present.

Venkatagiri division.—No rain. About twenty tanks are stated to contain some water. Want of drinking-water has not been felt yet.

Agricultural operations and condition of the standing crops—Sub-division—Ongole taluk.—Ragi is being transplanted under wells. Variga, cholam, castor-oil, pulses and chillies in Addanki division and varig and pulses in the Ongole taluk have been harvested during the fortnight. The average outturn is below As. 8. The standing crops are variga, paddy, cholam, ragi, castor-oil and pulses. The condition of the first crop is bad while that of the others is fair. Paddy and pulses in Addanki division have withered on 100 acres.

Kandukur taluk.—Ragi is being transplanted under wells and doruvus. Sonnavari paddy in small extents and red-gram have been harvested during the fortnight with an average yield of As. 4. Wet crops under the empty tanks and variga in parts of Kondapi range have withered. The standing dry crops are reported to be fair. Ragi under wells is thriving.

Kanigiri taluk.—Agricultural operations are *nil*. Paddy, cholam, cumbu and aruga in the first range, paddy, cumbu and cholam in the third range, and paddy, cumbu, aruga and korra in the second range, have been harvested. The outturn of paddy generally is As. 12 to 4, cholam As. 8 to *nil*, cumbu As. 12 to *nil*, aruga As. 4 to *nil*, and korra *nil*. The standing crops are ragi, paddy and cholam.

The expected outturn varies from As 8 to *nil*. Ragi in lands irrigated by wells has been benefited to some extent by the recent rain. It is, however, reported that dry crops generally in this taluk have withered.

Podili division.—Paddy in a small extent under the Podili and Marripudi tanks has been harvested. The average outturn is below As. 8. Elsewhere it has withered. Horse-gram has also withered throughout the division. Ragi under wells is fair.

Darsi division.—Castor-oil seeds have been harvested over a small extent. Ragi under wells is thriving.

Atmakúr division—Atmakúr taluk.—Ploughing is going on in a few villages of the Devarayapalli firka for 2nd crop under river channels. Kesari paddy is being sown in three villages. Paddy is being harvested under river channels and the Anantasagaram tank. Standing paddy crop under these irrigation sources is thriving, while that under Chejerla, Gollapalli, Paderu and Navur tanks is withering for want of water. Early and late cholam are thriving and are expected to yield between As. 16 to 4 and As. 8 to 4, respectively. Aruga is fair and is being cut; the outturn is estimated to vary from As. 8 to 1. Ragi, cotton and oil-seeds are fair, though the last crop is stated to have been damaged in some places by insects.

Udayagiri taluk.—Tobacco is being transplanted under wells. Horse-gram is being harvested in parts. The average outturn is *nil* to As. 4 in the second and third ranges and *nil* to As. 8 in the first range. Ragi is thriving under wells for the present. Cholam is being damaged by insects and where it is not so damaged the crop is fair throughout except in parts. Aruga has failed everywhere. Oil-seeds and cotton are bad in the second and third ranges and indifferent to fair in the first range.

Head-quarters division—Nellore taluk.—Ploughing for indigo and kesari paddy is going on in the deltaic parts of Alur range. Paddy and ragi have been harvested. The outturn of paddy is estimated to vary from As. 4 to 20, while that of ragi at As. 4. The standing crops are paddy in 85,063 acres, cholam in 118 acres, ragi in 1,676 acres, and oil-seeds in 337 acres. Paddy in deltaic tracts is thriving and in other parts withering. Dry crops are thriving.

Kávali taluk.—Paddy and aruga are being harvested. Otherwise, agricultural operations are *nil*. The outturn is given below:—

Crop.	Total area harvested.	16 annas.	12 annas.	8 annas.	4 annas.	*Nil.*
	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.
Paddy	10,303	522	1,580	2,265	1,970	3,966
Aruga	1,243	..	..	962	281	..

Nearly 4,000 acres of paddy have withered in the villages of Kávali, Bramhanakraka, Dundigam, Manabolepad and Gattupalle. The standing crops are paddy, cholam, ragi, oil-seeds, cotton and other pulses. Cholam is good and promises a yield varying from As. 4 to 12 except in the north-western villages of Sayipett, Veligandla, Nekunampett, Gudanallur and Uppulur. Aruga is generally a failure. Oil-seeds, cotton and other pulses are doing well.

Head Assistant Division, Gudur Taluk.—Paddy is being generally harvested. Cultivation is going on under wells, mostly in the Muthukur, Gudur, Sriharikota firkas of this taluk. In the Muthukur range sowings are going on for second crop to some extent. The surviving crops will probably pull through. Dry crops are generally in good condition.

Rapur Taluk.—No harvesting anywhere except in Rapur village where paddy in a small extent is harvested. Dry crops are generally in good condition though some of the late sown cholam is not likely to yield without rain.

Polur Division.—Paddy is harvested. Dry crops are generally in good condition.

Venkatagiri Division.—The three months' paddy has been harvested. Standing dry crops are generally in good condition.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.

Sub-Division.—Fodder is generally available but becoming insufficient in Kandukur. Pasture is scarce. Condition of cattle is generally fair. Rinderpest prevails in Rachapudi of Addanki Division. Attacks 100, deaths 40. Anthrax and diarrhœa have broken out in Chodavaram and Ramapuram and foot-and-mouth diseases in Ramabhadrapuram and Chalivendra of Darsi Division.

Atmakur Division.—Fodder is available to some extent in the Atmakur taluk but is scarce in Udayagiri. Pasture is scarce throughout. Condition of cattle is generally fair except in a few villages in Atmakur taluk where cattle diseases prevail and in parts of Udayagiri, where they are said to be getting weak for want of fodder and pasture. Further information will be received on this point.

Head-Quarter Division.—Fodder is insufficient and pasture is scanty. Condition of cattle is generally good. In one village of Kavali taluk there were eight deaths from rinderpest out of twenty attacks.

Head Assistant's Division.—Pasture is scarce everywhere. Fodder is available except in Rapur. The condition of cattle is generally good, though cattle diseases prevail in Gudur and Rapur.

General remarks on the previous subjects.

Sub-Division.—Prospects have not materially improved.

Head Assistant's Division.—The tracts which still continue to cause some anxiety are the Rapur taluk, the Kota range of Gudur taluk, the 5 or 6 villages in the Sríharikóta range and the villages south of Tada in the Polur Division. Even in these tracts there is no immediate fear. The present harvest which is going on generally is bringing fresh grain into the market, while also employing labour. The tract that the Head Assistant Collector considers worst is the portion of the Polur Division consisting of the villages south of Tada, where there appears to have been considerable

failure of crop. There, however, the railway is said to employ labour to a considerable extent. In Venkatagiri the state of things is reported to be decidedly re-assuring, a considerable area having been harvested and there being apparently few, if any, villages in which there is anything like a total failure.

Food-supplies and the State of the Markets.

Prices of principal food-grains at principal markets in the affected tracts, in seers of 80 tolas per rupee, for the period ending 15th of February 1898.

Stations.	Rice, 2nd sort.		Cholam.		Ragi.		Cumbu.		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.	
1. Ongole ..	8·46	8·46	10·80	12·15	12·75	14·03	10·73	11·14	
2. Addanki ..	7·52	7·99	11·70	13·50	..	..	10·31	11·55	
3. Darsi ..	9·40	9·40	..	12·67	13·60	13·60	12 30	10·66	
4. Podili ..	8 46	8·46	10·86	10·86	12·75	12 75	13·12	13·12	
5. Kandukur ..	7·99	7·99	11·31	11·31	12·33	12·33	10·46	10·46	
6. Kanigiri ..	7·52	7·52	..	11·77	11·90	12·75	9·90	9·90	
7. Atmakur ..	8·93	9·40	..	..	11·90	12·33	..	..	
8. Udayagiri ..	..	..	11·77	12·57	11·90	11·90	10·66	11·07	
9. Kavali ..	9·40	9·40	10·86	11·77	11·90	12 75	10·66	13·12	
10. Nellore ..	9·01	9·01	11·33	13·90	13·44	13·44	11·75	11·75	
11. Allur ..	8·48	8·48	..	..	11·52	11·52	..	..	
12. Gudur ..	8·48	8·48	12·36	12·36	13·44	13·44	11·28	11·28	
13. Kota ..	7·42	7·42	..	..	11·52	10·56	..	10·34	
14. Polur ..	8·48	8·48	..	..	..	11·76	..	..	
15. Rapur ..	..	..	10·80	10·80	..	..	10·73	10 73	
16. Venkatagiri.	8·48	8·48	..	..	14·40	13·44	11·28	13·12	
Average ..	8·43	8·50	11·31	12·16	12·57	12·61	11·10	11·40	

—	Scarcity rate.	Warning rate.
Rice ..	8·40	11·20
Cholam ..	13·00	19·50
Ragi ..	14·00	21·00
Cumbu ..	12·00	18·00

Activity of trade—Sub-division.—Private trade active. Paddy and some other food-grains are imported from the Northern districts. Cholam is also imported from the western districts.

Atmakúr division.—Private trade is active generally. In the Atmakúr taluk, paddy is being exported to Cuddapah district which supplies ragi, cumbu and cholam to the Udayagiri taluk.

Head-quarters division.—Private trade is active and food-grains are easily procurable. There are exports of paddy from the Nellore taluk to Madras and the Northern taluks of the district, while Kávali receives large imports of paddy from the Kistna district.

Head Assistant Collector's division.—Private trade is generally active and food-grains are being freely sold.

Condition of the People.

On works—Sub-division.—Generally good.

Atmakúr division.—Generally good, but a few children depending on labourers on Naravada relief work are bad; they are being fed at the kitchen attached to it.

In Villages—Sub-division.—Generally good, but want of labour is much felt in the western villages of Darsi division, whence people are migrating.

Atmakúr division.—Generally good.

Head-quarters division.—Generally good.

Head Assistant's division.—Generally good.

Sickness and Mortality.

There have been no deaths from starvation.

Sub-division.—Cholera prevails in one village of Kanigiri taluk. Attacks 11, deaths 7. There were 4 attacks and 2 deaths in Addanki. In Chendalur, of Darsi

division, there were 16 attacks and 5 deaths. In two villages of Kandukur, there were 12 attacks and 6 deaths. In four villages of Ongole there were 51 attacks and 26 deaths.

Atmakúr division.—Cholera is prevailing in both taluks. There were in all 121 attacks and 55 deaths in the division. Small-pox, measles and chicken-pox also prevail in both the taluks.

Head-quarters division.—Cholera prevails in twenty villages of Nellore taluk. There were 128 attacks, of which 70 proved fatal.

Head Assistant Collector's division.—There have been cases of cholera throughout the division, but no serious outbreaks anywhere, except in three or four villages of Rapur taluk, there having been 100 attacks in Rapur village alone.

Remarks.

Sub-division.—Prospects continue as before. More works will be needed in Podili and Kanigiri. The prospects in the Ongole taluk are fair for the present. The labourers in the eastern villages of Kandukur taluk find employment on the railway works.

Measures of Relief.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Kanigiri taluk.			
Narramarella near Pamur	660	841	Continues as a task work with an attached kitchen.
Nandanavanam	..	378	Was closed for some time after the intermediate system was started, but coolies have again begun to resort to it. Intermediate system continues. No kitchen.
Podili division.			
Pedarikatla	2,727	2,906	Continues as task work with kitchen.
Udayagiri taluk.			
Narravada	1,299	1,403	Is worked under the intermediate system with a kitchen.
Nelatur	259	920	Under the intermediate system. No kitchen.

Gratuitous relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

Taluks.	Number relieved.							
	At kitchens.				In poor-houses.		In villages.	
	Dependents.		Others.					
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Kanigiri taluk.								
Narramarella	31	63	17	14	..	..	..	..
Podili division.								
Pedarikatla	7	28	1	4	..	..	..	2
Udayagiri taluk.								
Narravada	60	80	11	13	..	..	..	..

Private charity.—Nil.

General Remarks.

Collector's remarks.—There has been a slight rainfall here and there during the fortnight, but it has not appreciably altered the state of things. In parts of the district, harvesting operations are employing agricultural labour to some extent and it is not likely that the numbers on works will increase largely for some time to come. Still, the number of works in Kanigiri, Podili and Darsi requires to be increased; for want of information, I doubt if work is urgently required in the Kandukur taluk. In the last fortnightly narrative, I reported that owing to the orders passed by Government that works should not yet be made over to the Public Works Department, I had deferred opening additional works in Podili, Darsi and Kandukur (*vide* also paragraph 12 of my letter No. 385-Ver., dated 9th February 1898). The Pedarikatla work continues to attract large numbers, and I have been obliged to send the Local Fund Assistant Engineer to look after it as one overseer is insufficient. The Sub-Collector has reported that the work is properly conducted and that the large attendance is not due to any laxity in exacting the prescribed task. It was reported in the last fortnightly narrative that the Nandanavanam work was temporarily closed, partly because there was work available in transplanting ragi and partly because the labourers objected to work on the intermediate system. The work has, however, been kept open with the result that labourers have again resorted to it. The following figures show the daily attendance on this work since it was re-opened :—

31st January 1898	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	199
1st February 1898	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	524
2nd " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	660
3rd " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	700
4th " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	691
5th " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	671
6th " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Sunday.
7th " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	536
8th " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	464
9th " "	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	343
10th " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	378

The falling off appears to be mainly due to delay in the supply of funds by the D.P.W. Assistant Engineer to the paymaster and consequent delay in paying the coolies. The Head-quarter and the Head Assistant Collector's divisions are not in need of any State relief at present. The Rajah of Venkatagiri has started some of the tank-restoration works which he has been required to undertake under the Railway Protection Act. With these—the harvesting operations and the work on the railway—there is abundant labour in the estate. The minor irrigation works in Kávali and Atmakúr taluks referred to in my previous report are going on under the piece-work system. The two cases under village relief in Podili division are two helpless pariah women of Podili division, to whom grain doles were ordered to be granted by the Sub-Collector. One of these is defective in sight and both have been living hitherto by private charity. I have asked the Sub-Collector to report if they cannot be taken to the kitchen at Pedarikatla.

Loan Transactions.—Nil.

Inspections of the District Officers—Taluks and places visited—

Sub-Collector.

Ongole taluk.

Pernamitta. | Chimakurti.
Santanutalapad.

Kanigiri taluk.

Nandanamarella. | Kanigiri.

Podili division.

Uppalapad. | Kambalapad.
Talamalla. | Chinarikatla.
Podili. | Pedarikatla.

Atmakur Deputy Collector.

Udayagiri taluk.

Nandanavaram. | Timmayapollem. | Udayagiri. | Gandipalem.
Chinamachanur. | Kampasamudram. | Nelatur. | Totalcheruvupalli.
Yepelagunta. | Bramhanapalle.

Head-Quarters Deputy Collector.

Nellore taluk. *Kávali taluk.*

Razupollem. | Yellayapollem. | Kávali.
Patur. | Kovur.

Head Assistant Collector.

Venkatagiri division. *Polur division.*

Venkatagiri. | Nellaballi. | Nayudupet. | Sulurpet.
Gollapalli.

Resolution—No. 103, dated 3rd March 1898.

Submitted to Government.

2. There were slight showers in the district during the fortnight, but the affected tracts were not materially benefited thereby. There was no fall in Atmakúr and Rapur taluks, or in the Venkatagiri division. In the areas within which rain fell, the water-supply has not been appreciably improved, and scarcity of drinking-water is felt in parts of Atmakúr, Udayagiri, Nellore and Rapur taluks, and the Podili and Darsi divisions. The Collector is requested to report what steps he has taken to improve the supply.

3. The standing crops are withering except under the few irrigation sources which possess any supply, and the yield of the harvests has been generally poor to middling. Prospects have not materially improved in the sub-division; there appears to be no reason for immediate fear in the Head Assistant's division, where the present harvests and the railway work afford employment to the labouring classes.

4. Pasture and fodder are growing scarce everywhere. The condition of cattle is generally good, but is reported to be deteriorating in parts of Udayagiri.

5. The tendency of prices to fall, noticed in the previous fortnight, was maintained during the fortnight under review. Trade continues active.

6. The condition of the people on works and villages is generally good. There were five works open during the fortnight, three of which were conducted on the intermediate system and two were continued as task works. The numbers on works increased by 30 per cent. during the fortnight. The Collector has already been ordered to discontinue feeding at kitchens those who are not dependents of workers. Gratuitous relief in villages should not be granted without the sanction of Government. Orders are solicited in the cases of the two helpless Panchama women.

7. The Board presumes that, when the Collector states that "in Venkatagiri, the state of things is reported to be decidedly re-assuring" he refers to the Venkatagiri division only and not to the whole of the Venkatagiri Zamindari.

(True Copy and Extract).

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

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

Order—No. 166, Revenue, dated 21st March 1898.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The attention of the Public Works Department will be invited to the statement in the Collectors "general remarks" regarding the delay in the payment of the gangs.

3. The fortnightly narratives should be divided into numbered paragraphs.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture.
" Public Works Department.
" Financial Department.
" Local and Municipal Department.
" Accountant-General.

Exd. P. Seetharam,

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