Revenue (1898) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 198

Dated 5th April 1898.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Affected district of Nellore in the Madras Presidency

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting to Govt. of India Monthly report on the —— for December 1897 & January 1898.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Print 5.4.98.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1898. Current No. 2242.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Recd. 19 Mar } 1898.
Regd. 21 "

Enclosures /

Spare copies

Printed March th.

Proceedings, No. 113A, 9th March 1898.

Miscellaneous Order (Revs.) No. 198 d/5th April.

Recorded

MARCH.

C.R. 1/4/98.

To the Board of Rev. Settt.
" Fr. D.
" Agri. D.
" P. W. D.
" A. G.

Dept. 19.4.98

Affected district of Nellore in the Madras Presidency.—Submitting to Government of India monthly report on the — for December 1897 and January 1898 and a copy thereof to the Local Government.

MS 31.3.98.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

RESOLUTION— No. 113A, dated 9th March 1898.

The following letter will be despatched to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, Calcutta :—

"I am directed to submit herewith the Board's report on the affected district of Nellore for the months of December 1897 and January 1898, prepared in accordance with the instructions conveyed in Government of India Circular No. 5-F., dated 2nd March 1892, embodied in section 48 of the Madras Famine Code.

"Two copies of the map prepared as directed in rule VII are also enclosed."

2. Copy will be submitted for the information of Government with a copy of the map.

(True Extract.)

Famine Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with a copy of map.
Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner, with a copy of map.
" to all Collectors.

Ed. P. Seetharam.

APPENDIX.

STATEMENT A for the periods ending 25th December 1897 and 29th January 1898.

District.	Area.	Population in thousands.	Affected area.	Estimated population for area in column 4 in thousands.	Numbers on relief works including weavers.				
					Class A.	Class B.	Class C.	Class D.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Nellore.	SQ. MLS.		SQ. MLS.						
December 1897	8,765	1,464	..	..	† 1,019	955	..	205	2,179
January 1898	8,765	1,464	* 3,852	* 533	..	3,171	..	154	‡ 5,115

District.	Number on gratuitous relief.	Prices of principal food-grains in seers of 80 tolas per rupee.				Monthly death-rate per mille.	Deaths due to starvation.
		Rice.	Ragi.	Cholam.	Cumbu.		
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Nellore.							
December 1897	150	9·0	12·6	11·0	10·5	19·3	..
January 1898	150	8·5	12·5	11·3	11·0	19·8	..

* Information not available. † Explanation called for. ‡ Includes 1,790 unspecified.

The area affected lies in the north-western portion of the district adjoining the Kistna district and those portions of the Kurnool and Cuddapah districts which were unaffected in 1897. It comprises the four Government taluks of Kanigiri, Udayagiri, Atmakúr and Kandukur and two zamindari divisions, Podili and Darsi. The economic condition of this tract in ordinary times has already been described in the report submitted to Government in Board's Proceedings, No. 101, dated 2nd March 1898. Information is not available as to the exact area of the tract affected in December, but in January it comprised 3,852 square miles with a population of 533,000.

2. The North-East monsoon of 1895 was in slight defect, but was most unseasonable, nearly the whole of the fall being registered in the month of November. The South-West monsoon of 1896 was fair, but it was succeeded by a second unseasonable North-East monsoon. October was nearly dry; the first half of November was absolutely dry, but there was a heavy fall in the latter part of the month. This, however, was of but little use to the standing crops which perished to a considerable extent. The South-West monsoon of 1897 started late, but was heavy in August and September. The North-East monsoon was a failure, the average fall in the affected tract having been only 2·77 inches as against a normal fall of 15·28 inches. Agricultural operations were carried on to some extent, but the outturn of the late sown crops which are being harvested is poor.

3. Pasture and fodder are scarce, but the condition of cattle is on the whole good.

4. Prices were very high almost throughout 1897. They nearly touched scarcity rates in August and exceeded them in November. In January 1898, the price of the staple food-grain of the district, cholam, was 130 per cent. above the normal.

The fluctuations in prices since September last are shown in the annexed statement.

COURSE of Prices of staple food-grains, Nellore.

Rates.	Prices in seers of 80 tolas per rupee of			
	Rice.	Ragi.	Cholam.	Cumbu.
Normal	14·0	28·0	26·0	24·0
Warning	11·2	21·0	19·5	18·0
Scarcity	8·4	14·0	13·0	12·0
September 1897	10·3	16·3	13·1	11·5
October ,, ...	10·3	15·9	13·1	12·3
November ,, ...	9·6	14·0	12·1	11·9
December ,, ...	9·0	12·6	11·0	10·5
January 1898	8·5	12·5	11·3	11·0

5. The condition of the people is generally good.

6. *Nature of works.*—Orders were issued in December for the expansion of ordinary works and the introduction of the gang and piece-work system of works, wherever necessary. There were four test works with 1,070 labourers at the end of December and six works with 5,115 workers in January. Four out of the six works were conducted on the gang and piece-work system, and the remaining two as task works. The work consisted mainly of breaking and stacking road metal.

7. *Wages.*—Wages on task works have been calculated on prices varying from 12 to 12½ seers per rupee; the labourers were mostly in class B in January; explanation has not yet been furnished for the large numbers in class A in December. Wages on piece-work were paid at the same rate as in ordinary years.

8. *Gratuitous relief* was given in the form of cooked-food in kitchens attached to works. The numbers fed were 150 nearly all of whom were dependents. Under recent orders of Government, gratuitous relief has been restricted to the dependents of test workers.

9. *Mortality.*—The number of deaths in the district compares with the normal as follows:—

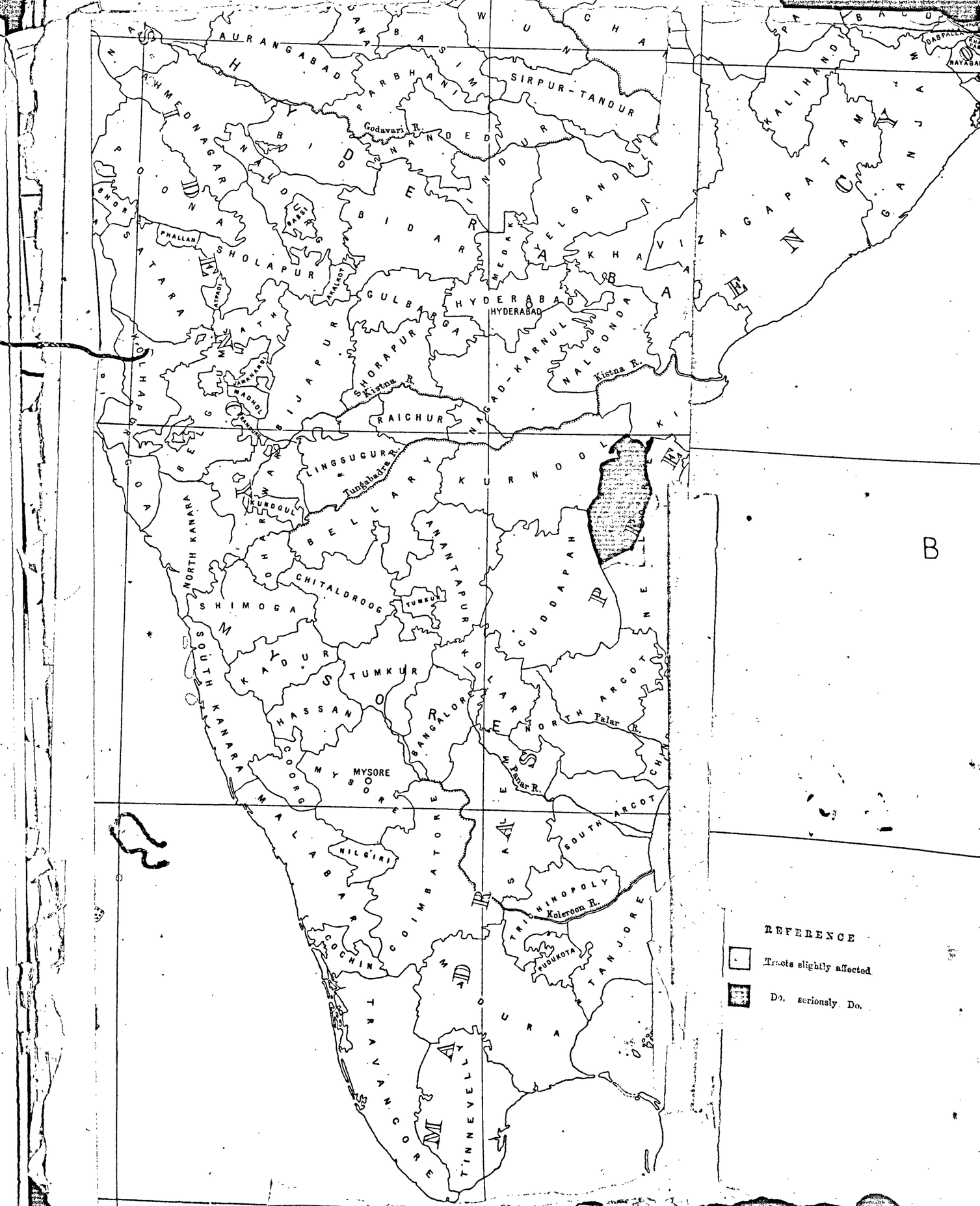
	1897-98.	Normal.
December	2,672	2,234
January	2,745	2,170
Total ...	5,417	4,404

The increase over the normal, which is mostly due to cholera, is 23 per cent.

STATEMENT B for the periods ending 25th December 1897 and 29th January 1898.

District.	Maximum number for whom relief is estimated to be required in the case of serious famine.	Number for whom relief was provided in programme of famine relief works.			Maximum number for whom relief can be provided by works remaining in programme on date of report.	
		Date of programme.	On large works.	Others.	On large works.	Others.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nellore.						
December 1897	292,700	10th July 1897..	167,911	151,463	167,801	150,950
January 1898	292,700				164,662	149,967

District.	Expenditure from 1st April up to the latest date for which figures are available.			Advances given since 1st April up to the end of the period under		Revenue suspended beyond the current official year.
	Date up to which expenditure is known.	On relief works.	On gratuitous relief.	Land Improvement Loans Act.	'Agriculturists' Loans Act.	
	8	9	10	11	12	13
Nellore.		Rs.	Rs.			Rs.
December 1897	25th Dec. 1897.	1,000	129	..	..	..
January 1898	29th Jan. 1898.	11,000	498	..	..	70,000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KHANDALA
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Government {1898} of Madras.

REVENUE.

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Regd.		*Spare copies*

G.O., No. 198, 5th April 1898.

APRIL.

Affected district of Nellore in the Madras Presidency.

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting to Government of India monthly report on the — for December 1897 and January 1898.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

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(Signed) L. E. BUCKLEY,
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Nellore.		Rs.	Rs.			Rs.
December 1897	25th Dec. 1897.	1,000	129	..	..	..
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Order—No. 198, Revenue, dated 5th April 1898.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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

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