

Revenue (1898) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 53

Dated 29th January

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording B. P. subm^s to Govt.
with remarks for fortnightly narrative
of the Mellone Wt. for the period ending
31-12-97.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Revenue (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 640.



From
The Board of Revenue
Revenue Settlement, Land Record
and Agriculture - Madras.

No. 37 Press.

Dated 22nd January 1898

Received 24th

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Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Fortnightly Narrative —

Submitting
with remarks, — of the
district for the period end
31st December 1897.

Order

No. 53 of 29th Jan. 1898.

Recorded.

27-1-98

The Board (sett)
P.W.D.
Land
S.D.
A.G.

15/6

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22-9-2-98

C-27/1/98
2-27/1/98
7-1-98

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGRI.), No. 37, 22nd JAN. 1898.
 PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
 (REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

W. J. H. LaFare, Esq.,
 (Revenue Commissioner).

READ—the following fortnightly Narrative for the Nellore district during the period ending 31st December 1897.

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and Water-supply.

SUB-DIVISION.

Ongole taluk.—There was no rainfall in December, the average fall for the month being 1·08 inches. The total rainfall up to end of December from 1st April was 27·35 inches against a 25-years' average of 34·50 inches.

The supply in tanks ranges from one month and twenty days in Kanuparti to nil in eight tanks. These tanks are small with very small ayacuts. In five villages in the Addanki division the garden wells contain water sufficient for the crops under them.

Kandukur taluk.—The rainfall in December was 0·04 against an average of 1·87 for the month. The total rainfall up to end of December was 24·23 against 32·58, the average for the period.

Out of 70 tanks, 22 have not sufficient supply for irrigation, the supply being below 10 days; 25 between 10 and 15 days; 15 between 15 days and a month; and 8 over a month.

The wells in garden lands contain sufficient water.

Kanigiri taluk.—Rainfall in the month nil, average for the month 1·10, total rainfall up to end of December 21·20, and average for that period 23·69.

The Kanigiri tank has three months' supply. The tanks at Inimerla and Gudipad are dry. The wet cultivation in this taluk is very small.

Darsi division.—Rainfall in December nil, average for December 1·14, actual up to end of December 20·93, average for the period 25·82.

Except under one tank, viz., the Pullipad tank, which contains 2 months' supply, the supply in other tanks is sufficient only to mature the early crops. The garden wells contain sufficient water for the crops under them, but they are fast drying up. The wells in the western villages have little water.

PODILI DIVISION.

Rain fall.—There was no rain in December. The actual fall up to the end of December 27·20 against an average of 28·00.

The tanks are all dry. The supply of drinking-water is generally sufficient every where though Panchamas in the villages bordering the Veligondas, complain of want of wells, which will be attended to.

The December rainfall was thus nil throughout the sub-division with the exception of the very inappreciable fall of 4 cents in Kandukur taluk. Taking the total rainfall up to end of December, the averages for Kanigiri, Podili and Ongole are not much above the actuals, which accounts for the somewhat moderate supplies in some tanks. But the bulk of the rainfall being confined to the south-west monsoon, the situation has grown precarious. Water for drinking purposes is stated to be sufficient throughout.

ATMAKUR DIVISION.

Atmakur taluk.—In the Cusba village of Atmakur there was a rainfall of 0·88 on the 30th and 31st December against an average of 2·53 for the month. There was, however, throughout the taluk an average fall of about an inch, ranging from 2·10 in Kaluvoya to 0·30 in Nagulapad. But the total rainfall up to the end of the month was 16·01 against an average of 30·56.

The water-supply in Anantasagaram tank and under river channels is sufficient for the standing crops as well as for the second-crop now being raised here and there, while that in other tanks is said to be insufficient ranging from two months to one week.

Udayagiri taluk.—There was a slight rainfall of 0.22 in December against an average of 2.14 for the month. The rain was general over the taluk varying from 1.20 in Nandavaram to 0.10 in Tamidapadi and Sankavaram. It was one inch and more in six villages, between 0.50 and one inch in twelve villages, between 0.20 and 0.50 in five villages, and below 0.20 in two villages. The total rainfall up to the end of December was, however, only 17.47 against an average of 28.09.

There is water in only 9 tanks. In these 9 tanks the supply ranges from a month to 20 days in 4 tanks, one tank contains about 10 days' supply, while 4 other tanks contain a few days' supply. In one of the firkas the wells have already begun to fail. It is, however, reported that water for drinking purposes is sufficient, though it is somewhat limited in the Cusba village of Udayagiri.

HEAD-QUARTER DIVISION.

Nellore taluk.—There was a rainfall of 2.20 against an average of 2.56 for the month. The total fall, however, was quite deficient being only 19.89 against 37.35, the average for the period ending December. The Kanigiri reservoir contains about 9.3 feet of water and the Nellore tank 25 days' supply. The Pennert river received slight freshes in December which helped the crops under the Nellore ariyat. The supply is generally sufficient for irrigation except in non-deltaic tracts where the supply in tanks varies from 7 to 20 days.

Kavali taluk.—The rainfall in December was 0.35 against an average of 2.16 for the month. The rainfall up to end of December was 29.11 against an average of 37.56.

Water-supply is insufficient for irrigation and sufficient for drinking purposes. The supply in one tank will last for one month and 15 days, while that in eight other tanks will last for 15 days, and in one tank 20 days. The other tanks contain 10 to 2 days' supply.

HEAD ASSISTANT COLLECTOR'S DIVISION.

Gudur taluk.—The average rainfall registered in all the four registering stations in December was 0.58 against an average of 2.95. The total rainfall for the taluk up to the end of December was 23.84 against an average of 34.5. There was a general rainfall in the non-registering stations, which helped the standing crops to some extent.

The supply for irrigation is inadequate, especially in a few villages of the Muttukur, Kanupur and Gudur firkas in all the villages of the Kota firka except 4, and in all the western villages of Sriharikota except two, where extensive failure of wet crop is apprehended.

Rapur taluk.—The rainfall in December was 1.32 against an average of 3.71 for the month. The total rainfall up to the end of December was 22.95 against an average of 36.82. The December rainfall was however general throughout the taluk and has helped the standing cholam crop to a considerable extent.

The supply in tanks is generally insufficient. There is some supply in half a dozen villages where the crops are reported to be still fair. In one or two villages water is reported to be inadequate for cattle also.

Venkatagiri Division.—Rainfall in December 0.33 against an average of 4.07; up to the end of December 28.06 against 37.36. The water-supply in the division is reported to be deficient. Out of the 37 tanks mentioned by the Deputy-Tahsildar, in not more than half-a-dozen is there a month's supply. The Head-Assistant Collector remarks as follows:—

"It was only to be expected that the state of things should be worse than in Government villages, many of the tanks being of a primitive sort, and the crops at the best of times being largely rain-fed. There is some inferior crop sown early (extent not ascertained) which will yield all right."

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Pólur Division.—Rainfall in December (average for registering stations) 0.97 against a 25-years' average of 3.46. Rainfall up to end of December 28.14 against 39.10.

This division comprises the Srīharikōta firka of the Gudur taluk and Zamindari villages. In the latter the prospects are better than in the Venkatagiri division. The Deputy-Tahsildar gives a list of 20 tanks and most of these have a month's supply.

Agricultural Operations and Condition of the Standing Crops—Sub-Division—Ongole taluk.—Agricultural operations have almost ceased except that ragi is being transplanted under wells in Addanki division. The standing crops are paddy, variga, cholam, cotton, oil-seeds and tobacco. Paddy is fair for the present; but the supply in the irrigation sources is not everywhere sufficient to mature the crop. Early variga is in ears, but late variga is precarious. So is late cholam. Cotton, oil-seeds, tobacco, &c., are fair and will be harvested in March.

Kandukur taluk.—Agricultural operations nil, but some ryots are sowing cumbu in wet lands.

Standing Crops.—Paddy is withering in some villages, where it is being substituted by cumbu. Elsewhere fair. Aruka harvested, outturn poor. Late cholam, variga, ragi, oil-seeds, cotton and pulses are fair.

Kanigiri taluk.—Ragi is being transplanted under wells.

Standing Crops.—Paddy under Kanigiri tank, good. Oil-seeds, cotton and horsegram are green for the present, but are estimated to yield a poor outturn.

Darsi Division.—Ragi is being transplanted under wells and paddy under one tank, viz., Pullipad.

Early paddy is thriving. Late paddy, fair. Variga, fading. Ragi under wells, withering. Castor-oil and cotton stunted and fading. Horse-gram is fading, but red-gram is thriving.

Podili Division.—Ragi is being transplanted under wells. Oil-seeds withering.

ATMAKUR Division.

Atmakur taluk.—Lands are being ploughed up for tobacco and ragi under wells in Devarayapalli and Chejerla ranges. Ragi and kasari (paddy) are being sown in wet fields under the Anantasagaram tank and under private wells. Tobacco is also being transplanted in the Devarayapalli range.

Paddy in villages under river-channels is thriving well and has withered to an extent of 1,443 acres in 13 villages not under river-channels. Cholam destroyed by insects to an extent of nearly 5,300 acres. Aruka, a total extent of 12,950 acres, appears to have been cultivated with this crop. Of these, the crop in 2,000 acres is said to have been lost. It is believed to have revived elsewhere with the December rain. Cotton and oil-seeds are fair.

Udayagiri taluk.—Agricultural operations ceased except that ragi is being transplanted under wells.

Standing Crops.—Aruka has completely gone except in the tract south of the Duttalur Bhatya road, where it is fading. Horse-gram is in good condition in the tracts south of the Duttalur Bhatya road and is partly fading and partly withering elsewhere. Oil-seeds and cotton flourishing in garden lands. Elsewhere there is little prospect of any outturn. Cholam, about half the extent, has been damaged by insects and what remains is fair for the present. Paddy under tanks containing no supply is withering. Ragi is thriving.

HEAD-QUARTER Division.

Nellore taluk.—Kasari paddy is being sown in some parts. The condition of standing crops is good except in the non-deltaic tracts where rain is urgently wanted for both dry and wet crops.

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Kavali taluk.—Ragi is being sown and transplanted under wells in gardens and on the banks of the Upputeru and the Manneru rivers. Karukesari and Pichavari were cut during the fortnight in three villages to the extent of 34 acres with an outturn of 8 to 12 annas. 213 acres of aruka were cut in two villages with an outturn of 4 annas. The standing crops are paddy, cholam, aruka, ragi, cotton, indigo, oil-seeds, horse-gram, &c.

There is a large extent of 21,232 acres of paddy crop standing on the ground. A portion of this has already been lost or is withering, while the rest, which will be about 75 per cent. of the standing crop, will yield 4 to 16 annas. There is an extent of 25,421 acres under cholam, which is bad in Nikunampet, Sayipet, Veligandla, Gudanallur and Uppulur. The standing crop is moreover thin and scattered. It may, however, give an average yield of 8 annas. Aruka failed in the villages named above, but what remains is expected to give an average outturn of 4 annas. Horse-gram which is about 1,500 acres will yield about 8 annas, while cotton and oil-seeds are all good and are expected to yield a fair outturn.

Head Assistant Collector's division—Gudur taluk.—Agricultural operations almost ceased except cultivation under gardens, which is comparatively insignificant.

A total failure of wet crops is apprehended in the Kota range, except in about four villages and also in about half the extent in Kanupur in about one-third the extent in Gudur and nearly all the western villages of Sriharikóta. The dry crops are in a good condition. Fuller details of the several standing crops, &c., have not been furnished by the Head Assistant Collector.

ur taluk.—Cumbu already harvested gave an outturn of 4 to 8 annas. As regards standing crops the wet ayacut bears a very small proportion to the dry. Much of the wet ayacut was not sown with wet crop at all, but is left waste or sown with dry crops. Where wet crops have been raised they have been mostly lost. The taluk depends mainly on the cholam crop. The early cholam is decidedly good, and some of it is already coming into ear and is expected to yield not less than 12 annas. The late cholam looks promising so far, having been helped by the recent rains. With a further fall of rain a month or so hence the crop is expected to do well.

Venkatagiri and Polur divisions.—No details under this head are given, beyond the remarks under "rainfall and water-supply."

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle—Sub-division.—Pasture available, but is fast drying up. Fodder is available, though scarce in parts of Kandukur and Kanigiri and insufficient in Podili. The condition of cattle is generally good, but there were 34 deaths from diarrhoea (Pedda cheeda) in Kanigiri taluk.

Atmakūru division.—Fodder is becoming scarce, while little pasture is available. Condition of cattle is, for the present, fair. Cattle diseases are prevalent in two villages in the Atmakūru taluk.

Head-quarter division.—In Nellore taluk it is reported that the condition of cattle is good. But fodder and pasture are insufficient. In Kavali fodder is getting scarce in the north-west, west and south-western portions of the taluk, while it is obtainable in the eastern villages. It is, however, reported that it is generally sufficient for a month. The condition of cattle is generally good, though there were 25 attacks and 10 deaths from Peddacheeda.

Head Assistant Collector's division.—Fodder is everywhere becoming scarce, while pasture is still available and was improved by the rain in December. Cattle diseases are prevalent.

General remark on the previous subjects—Sub-Collector's division.—Rain within a fortnight may improve the standing crops, though the prospects of rain are slight.

Atmakūru division.—In Atmakūru taluk dry crops have been considerably improved by the recent rains. The paddy crop under the Mahimalur tank will also revive. In Udayagiri taluk, there were some freshes in the Boggeru and the recent rain has also improved the standing crops to some extent.

Head-quarter division.—There need be no anxiety about the Nellore taluk. In the few non-deltaic tracts where wet crops are indifferent, the dry crops will yield to some extent. In Kárali taluk, the standing crops are not hopelessly bad, though there may be failure of crop to some extent.

Head Assistant Collector's division.—There is a likelihood of extensive failure of wet crop in this division especially in Gudur which depends mostly on wet crops. The two zemindari divisions of Venkatagiri and Polur appear to be worse than the rest of the division and distress may arise there. The Head Assistant Collector considers the situation less serious in Gudur taluk, where he thinks "any serious scarcity may be averted." Rapur taluk, he is of opinion, will not suffer from distress.

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 December 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		Cholam.		Ragi.		Cumbu.	
	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.
Ongole	8-46	8-46	9-60	10-80	..	12-33	9-90	10-31
Addanki	7-52	7-52	10-80	11-70	..	12-75	10-73	10-73
Darsi	7-62	8-40	..	..	11-90	12-75	11-48	12-30
Podili	9-40	8-46	10-86	10-86	12-75	12-75	13-12	13-12
Kandukur	7-99	7-99	10-41	10-41	12-33	12-33	10-46	10-46
Kanik	7-05	7-62	..	..	11-90	12-75	9-90	9-90
At	9-40	8-46	13-12	11-77	13-60	11-90	..	..
Udayagiri	..	..	12-67	10-86	11-90	11-90	11-48	10-66
Kavali	9-40	8-46	..	10-86	11-90	11-90	10-66	10-66
Nellore	10-07	9-28	11-33	10-30	12-00	11-28	10-61	11-28
Allur	9-54	8-48	..	..	12-48	12-48	..	..
Gudur	10-60	9-54	..	..	..	..	13-16	..
Kota	10-60	10-60	..	..	16-80	16-80	19-74	..
Polur	9-54	9-01	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rapur	..	..	..	..	..	..	12-38	11-55
Venkatagiri	10-07	8-48	..	..	13-44	11-52	13-16	11-28
Average	9-08	8-69	11-39	10-95	12-82	12-57	12-08	11-11
Scarcity rate	8-40	..	13-00	..	14-00	..	12-00	..
Warning rate	11-20	..	19-50	..	21-00	..	18-00	..

Activity of trade—Sub-division.—Trade is active. Food-grains are being imported from Kistna district. No food-grains are exported. The amount of imports is not known. Darsi gets its supply by rail and Ongole by canal.

Atmakur division—Atmakur taluk.—Trade not active. No exports. Paddy is imported from Nellore taluk. About 10 candies were imported during the fortnight as also the same quantity of cumbu.

Udayagiri taluk.—Trade is active. Merchants are selling food-grains freely. A quantity of ragi and rice was imported from Cuddapah side last fortnight.

Head-quarter division—Nellore taluk.—Trade is brisk. Food-grains easily procurable in markets.

Kavali taluk.—Paddy is being imported from Gódávri and Kistna. The merchants of Lingasamudram in Kandukur taluk are selling food-grains in the western villages of this taluk. There is sufficient stock of paddy. Cholam not available.

Head Assistant Collector's division.—Trade is brisk and food-grains available throughout the division except in Rapur taluk where they are being imported now to some extent.

Candy =
Paddy = 80 S
Cumbu = 80 S

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On works.—Work is going on in Udayagiri and Kanigiri taluks and the Podili division. Condition of the people on the works is reported to be generally good. No sickness nor emaciation. The District Surgeon has recently visited the works in the Udayagiri taluk, and he considers the condition of the people on the works satisfactory.

In villages—Sub-division.—The Sub-Collector remarks as follows:—

“People are generally healthy. The Panchamas and 50 per cent. of others in Darsi division are stinting themselves by taking less food. Some are eating cucumbers, prickly-pear fruits, and seeds of Gollagandi and Garuga (*Garuga pinnata Roxb*) and roots of species of grass (*Cyperus*). Scarcity is more severely felt in the western portion.”

Atmakur division.—Generally good.

Head-quarter division.—Condition of people is generally good. Labour is procurable in delta villages. In non-delta villages the poorer classes go to neighbouring villages for work and to railway works. Some ordinary works are being started where necessary.

Head Assistant Collector's division.—Condition of people is still good in villages. The state of the Penuberti firka, Rapur taluk, which was for some time causing anxiety, has improved. Ryots are disposed to give advances more freely as the harvest gets within measurable distance.

Sickness and mortality.—No deaths from starvation. Cholera is prevalent in Ongole, Kandukur, Gudur, Rapur, Nellore, Udayagiri and Darsi. Fever is also prevalent in the Udayagiri taluk. There is no sickness or mortality in excess or such as could be traced to the state of the season. Health of the people appears to be normal except for cases of cholera and fever reported above which prevail to a limited extent. The unusually low temperature accounts for the fever.

Remarks.—Nil.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

On works.—In what taluks open and comparison of numbers—

Taluku.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
<i>Kanigiri.</i>			
Narramarella near Pamur ..	..	530	This work was started on the 25th December. The number of labourers that attended the work is as follows:— 25th December 1897 .. 152 29th December 1897 .. 473 26th " " .. 452 30th " " .. 531 27th " " .. 613 31st " " .. 530 28th " " .. 400 The labourers mostly come from villages within a radius of 5 miles.
<i>Udayagiri.</i>			
1. Udayagiri	851	491	The fall in the numbers on the 31st was due to the slight rainfall on the 30th and 31st. The numbers have since been increasing, but the work has now been moved to Nellatur.
2. Narravada	..	1,150	This work was started on the 22nd. The following are the numbers on the work since then:— 23rd December 1897 .. 758 28th December 1897 .. 1,377 24th " " .. 1,046 29th " " .. 1,386 25th " " .. 1,151 30th " " .. 1,414 26th " " .. 1,048 31st " " .. 1,150 27th " " .. 1,385 The labourers come from villages with in a radius of 8 miles.
<i>Podili division.</i>			
Metal-breaking on Kanigiri-Podili road at Pedarikatla.	..	325	The work was started on 31st December 1897. The numbers rose to 1,439 on the 6th January 1898.
Total ..	851	2,496	

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Gratuitous relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise :—

Taluku.	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	..	30	..	..	..	..	..	..
Udayagiri taluk—								
Udayagiri	..	98	..	..	..	..	..	..
Narravada	..	46	..	..	..	..	..	..
Podili division—								
Pedarikatla	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Private charity.—Nil.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Sub-Collector's remarks.—Prospects continue to be gloomy. Want of labour is felt everywhere, especially in Darsi and Addanki divisions and in parts of Kandukur taluk (Ponnalur range). The labouring classes from these taluks are reported to be migrating to Kistna district in quest of work. The test works started at Nandanavanam on January 3rd and Pedarikatla on December 31st attracted 1,200 and 400 labourers, respectively.

Head-quarter Deputy Collector's remarks.—I have not been able to visit the villages of the Nellore taluk, but from the information given by the Tahsildar and the Stationary Sub-Magistrate there seems to be no anxiety for that taluk. As regards Kávali, only a few villages seem to be affected, but if labour is provided for some of the cooly classes in those villages by sanctioning some ordinary works, no distress will be felt and no famine operations need be started.

Head Assistant Collector's remarks.—The Penubarti firka of Rapur is the part which has received most attention in respect of relief works so far, and I do not consider that even there, works would draw labour in any quantity. Even when offered wages sufficient to give them two meals a day and food gratis to their children, &c., they want the work in their own villages and object even to going 2 or 3 miles. And if it is not found necessary to open any work this month, I hope it will not be necessary to do so at all there. Elsewhere the necessity for works is not at all pressing as yet except possibly in Venkatagiri and even there I think the time has hardly come yet. In another fortnight distress may begin to declare itself to a serious extent there, but I think hardly before. Elsewhere there need be little cause for anxiety before the end of the month.

Collector's remarks.—The foregoing remarks show that the distress is as yet confined to the Government taluks of Kanigiri and Udayagiri and the zemindari divisions of Podili and Darsi. In Kandukur taluk, the Sub-Collector remarks that want of labour is being felt in Ponnalur range. The Sub-Collector has been instructed to visit the locality and to report if a relief work is required. I am going there myself in a few days with the Executive Engineer. There is a proposal to construct a tank near Mogilicherla, Kanigiri taluk, which adjoins Kandukur taluk, and after personally inspecting the side I have requested the Executive Engineer, who had previously reported that the work would not be suitable as a relief work, to prepare an estimate at once. This work will provide labour for large numbers for 2 or 3 months. The Sub-Collector apprehends some distress in the Addanki division of the Ongole taluk,

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but I doubt if it will be necessary to furnish any extensive relief there. I am calling upon him to report more fully upon the state of things there and shall take the necessary steps to start such works as are required. In the Kanigiri taluk, the Nandanavanam tank work was opened on the 3rd instant, with a kitchen and is attracting a large number of labourers; but I have since ordered the work to be converted into an intermediate work with reference to the recent orders of Government on the subject. The kitchen there will be closed. The other work in that taluk, at Narramarella and the work at Pedarikatla in Podili division are being continued as task relief works with kitchens as reported in this office letter, Ref. No. 11-G.B.-Ver., dated 11th January 1898. I am taking steps to start a work in the Darsi division. In the Atmakuru division there are already two works—one at Udayagiri and the other at Narravada. There are two kitchens attached to these. The Udayagiri work will, as already reported, be closed now that a work is started at Nellatur on the intermediate system. The Narravada work will be continued as a task-relief work as already reported. An additional work has also recently been started at Sitarampuram on the intermediate system. As regards Atmakuru taluk I have already proposed to the Board in letter, No. 13-Ver., dated 7th January 1898, the starting of the excavation of the Anamasamudram supply channel from the Birapera on the intermediate system and some minor irrigation works. I have directed the Deputy Collector to start such of the petty works as he considers necessary at once. In the Kávali taluk of the Head-quarter division, I have given orders for the execution of some tank works and propose starting some more after receipt of Board's sanction to the allotment application submitted with this office letter, Ref. No. 72-Ver., dated 6th January 1898.

With reference to the orders issued in B.P., Mis. No. 10176, dated 28th December 1897, I have requested the Executive Engineer to start the repair to the Penubarti Nalla tank at once in the Penubarti range of the Rapur taluk. I have deferred other works with regard to the Head Assistant Collector's recent report on the state of the Rapur taluk. With reference to the Head Assistant Collector's remarks about the Venkatagiri division, a number of tank restoration works in the zemindari are available. The Rajah of Venkatagiri has already been requested to have these works executed with reference to the Railway Protection Act. He will again be addressed on the subject and will be requested to start the works at once. I am also getting estimates prepared for certain roads in the division. The Rajah has already promised to start the following works at once:—

Name of work.	Amount. RS.
Kanigiri taluk—	
(1) Kankanampodu tank	2,123
(2) Ballepalle tank	168
(3) Punugodu anicut repairs	150
Podili division—	
(4) Ponnalur tank	1,160
(5) Marripudi tank	214
(6) Kakarlaladur Seshareddi tank	430
Darsi division—	
(7) Rajampalli tank	1,226
(8) Kocherlakota Potlapudi tank	302
Total	5,773

The delay in the submission of this report is due to the Sub-Collector's report having been received only on the 9th instant.

Loan Transactions.—Nil.

INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT OFFICERS.

(Taluk and places visited.)

The Sub-Collector visited the following villages:—

Kanigiri taluk—
Pamur.
Narramavella.
Ballipalli.
Kanigiri.
Hanumantunipad.

Kanigiri taluk—*cont.*
Timmareddipalli.
Gollapalli.
Nandanavanam.
Gutipadpalli.

The Deputy Collector of Atmakuru visited the following villages:—

Atmakuru taluk—
Depur.
Devarayapalli.
Kaluvoya.
Teluguroyapuram.
Kolavapalli.
Kullur.
Bramhanapalli.
Anamasamudram.
Dubagunta.

Udayagiri taluk—
Vinjamur.
Duttalur.
Udayagiri.
Dasaripalli.
Basivimenipalli.
Sitarampuram.

The Head-quarter Deputy Collector visited the following villages of the Kávali taluk:—

Tummalapenta.
Kávali.
Puladoruva.
Kottapalli.
Sayipet.
Veligandla.
Kaligiri.
Dundigam.
Ananthapuram.
Brahmanakraka.
Zaladanki.
Marrigunta.
Nekunampet (fields).

• Chintaldevi.
Uppulur (fields).
Brahmanapalli.
Tangalapalli.
China Annalur.
Polampad.
Pedapad.
Siddamkondur.
Manulolepad.
Bodagudipad.
Takkepalligudur.
Chamadala.

Head Assistant Collector's Division.—Not reported in detail. He visited some villages in the Rapur taluk.

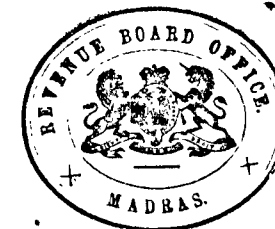
Collector.

Kávali taluk—
Nekunampet.
Kandukur taluk—
Kandukur.
Boganapad.
Ponnalur.
Gudlur.
Mopad.
Kanigiri taluk—
Pamur.
Narramarella.

Kanigiri taluk—*cont.*
Ayyavaripalli.
Mogalicherla.
Ayyamkota.
Bodavanur.
Udayagiri taluk—
Udayagiri.
Naravada.
Appasamudram.
Varigantipadu.
Nelatur.

(True Copy)

[Signature]
Famine Secretary.



Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.)

Dated 22nd January 1898.

No. 37 Press.

READ.....

Copies attached.

Fortnightly Narrative of the Vellore District, for the period ending 31st December 1897.

Resolution

Submitted to Government

" The rainfall during the South-west and North-East Monsoon has been as given below:—

Statement showing the Rainfall in each Taluk in the Mellore District as compared with the averages.

Taluk	June to September		October to December	
	25 years average	1897	25 years average	1897
Darsi	12.39	16.23	11.41	1.79
Podili	12.52	20.73	11.22	3.62
Kanigiri	9.78	16.14	12.12	0.52
Udayagiri	7.99	13.45	18.05	3.23
Angole	14.63	20.79	18.18	4.89
Kandukur	11.77	20.15	18.71	3.22
Kavali	11.89	17.89	24.38	9.05
Mellore	11.63	11.42	24.52	7.54
Atmakur	8.64	10.74	20.16	5.04
Rapur	10.23	16.73	24.63	5.50
Gudur	10.58	16.91	24.10	8.46
Polur Division	13.77	16.96	17.50	8.40
Venkatagiri (3)	10.10	22.33	25.15	5.65
Dt. average	11.03	16.94	21.06	5.85

*averages of 3 years only.

The fall from June to September was excessive, while that from October to December was very deficient; the total fall during the two monsoons was less than the average by 20 to 30 per cent. in the Northern half of the district and in Venkatagiri, and by 35 to 50 per cent in the remaining portions. The supply of drinking water is generally sufficient. The want of wells for the Pannas in parts of the Podili division.

attended to. The water supply for irrigation is deficient except under river channels and a few tanks. The portions of the district worst off in this respect are the Udayagiri, Gudur, and Rapur taluks and the Venkatagiri and Podili divisions.

3. Agricultural operations have almost ceased. The condition of the early crops is fair in parts, and the rains that fell towards the end of the fortnight have revived the standing crops to some extent. Failure of crops to a large extent is reported from Atmakur, Udayagiri and Gudur taluks and the standing crops in a large area in most taluks are expected to yield but a poor return.

4. Pasture and fodder are getting scarce; the condition of the cattle is for the present fair.

5. Prices are very high; their comparative positions are exhibited below:-

Rates	Measures per rupee			
	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
Current	8.7	12.6	11.0	11.1
December 1896	11.4	20.5	18.8	16.2
December 1891	9.3	15.0	14.0	13.6
December 1877	7.5	9.2	8.9	8.7

Trade is said to be active and there is no want of food supplies in the markets.

b. The Condition of the people is generally good. Test works have been opened in Udayagiri Kanigiri and Podili with kitchens attached to them. The attendance during the fortnight was not large, but the numbers are steadily increasing. Want of employment for the labouring classes is also reported to be felt in parts of Kandukur and Ongole Taluks and the Venkatagiri division. Orders have already been issued for the expansion of extraordinary works and the starting of works on the gang and piece work system wherever necessary.

(True Extract)

Famine Secretary

The Secretary to Government Revenue Department
with a proof copy of the fortnightly narrative
Collector of Nellore

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1898.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Recd.

Enclosures

Regd.

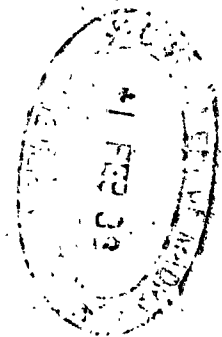
1898.

Spare copies

Printed January th.

Proceedings, No. 37, 22nd January 1898.

JANUARY.



6.58
29.1.98

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

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

READ—the following Fortnightly Narrative of the Nellore district for the period ending 31st December 1897 :—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and Water-supply.—

Sub-division—Ongole taluk.—There was no rainfall in December, the average fall for the month being 1·08 inches. The total rainfall up to end of December from 1st April was 27·35 inches against a 25-years' average of 34·50 inches.

The supply in tanks ranges from one month and twenty days in Kanuparti to *nil* in eight tanks. These tanks are small with very small ayakats. In five villages in the Addanki division the garden wells contain water sufficient for the crops under them.

Kandukur taluk.—The rainfall in December was 0·04 against an average of 1·87 for the month. The total rainfall up to end of December was 24·28 against 32·58, the average for the period.

Out of 70 tanks, 22 have not sufficient supply for irrigation, the supply being below 10 days; 25 between 10 and 15 days; 15 between 15 days and a month; and 8 over a month.

The wells in garden lands contain sufficient water.

Kanigiri taluk.—Rainfall in the month *nil*, average for the month 1·10, total rainfall up to end of December 21·20, and average for that period 23·69.

The Kanigiri tank has three months' supply. The tanks at Inimerla and Gudipad are dry. The wet cultivation in this taluk is very small.

Darsi division.—Rainfall in December *nil*, average for December 1·14, actual up to end of December 20·93, average for the period 25·82.

Except under one tank, viz., the Pullipad tank, which contains 2 months' supply, the supply in other tanks is sufficient only to mature the early crops. The garden wells contain sufficient water for the crops under them, but they are fast drying up. The wells in the western villages have little water.

Podili division.—There was no rain in December. The actual fall up to the end of December was 27·20 against an average of 28·00.

The tanks are all dry. The supply of drinking-water is generally sufficient every where, though Panchamas in the villages bordering the Veligondas complain of want of wells, which will be attended to.

The December rainfall was thus *nil* throughout the sub-division with the exception of the very inappreciable fall of 4 cents in Kandukur taluk. Taking the total rainfall up to end of December, the averages for Kanigiri, Podili and Ongole are not much above the actuals, which accounts for the somewhat moderate supplies in some tanks. But the bulk of the rainfall being confined to the South-West monsoon, the situation has grown precarious. Water for drinking purposes is stated to be sufficient throughout.

Atmakur division—Atmakur taluk.—In the Cusba village of Atmakur there was a rainfall of 0·88 on the 30th and 31st December against an average of 2·53 for the month. There was, however, throughout the taluk an average fall of about an inch, ranging from 2·10 in Kaluvoya to 0·30 in Nagulapad. But the total rainfall up to the end of the month was 16·01 against an average of 30·56.

The water-supply in Anantasagaram tank and under river channels is sufficient for the standing crops as well as for the second-crop now being raised here and there, while that in other tanks is said to be insufficient ranging from two months to one week.

Udayagiri taluk.—There was a slight rainfall of 0·22 in December against an average of 2·14 for the month. The rain was general over the taluk varying from 1·20 in Nandavaram to 0·10 in Tamidapad and Sankavaram. It was one inch and more in six villages, between 0·50 and one inch in twelve villages, between 0·20 and 0·50 in five villages, and below 0·20 in two villages. The total rainfall up to the end of December was, however, only 17·47 against an average of 28·09.

There is water in only 9 tanks. In these 9 tanks the supply ranges from a month to 20 days in 4 tanks, one tank contains about 10 days', while 4 other tanks contain a few days' supply. In one of the firkas the wells have already begun to fail. It is, however, reported that water for drinking purposes is sufficient, though it is somewhat limited in the Cusba village of Udayagiri.

Head-quarter division—Nellore taluk.—There was a rainfall of 2·20 against an average of 2·56 for the month. The total fall, however, was quite deficient being only 19·89 against 37·35, the average for the period ending December. The Kanigiri reservoir contains about 9·3 feet of water and the Nellore tank 25 days' supply. The Pennér river received slight freshes in December which helped the crops under the Nellore anikat. The supply is generally sufficient for irrigation except in non-deltaic tracts where the supply in tanks varies from 7 to 20 days.

Kavali taluk.—The rainfall in December was 0·35 against an average of 2·16 for the month. The rainfall up to end of December was 29·11 against an average of 37·56.

Water-supply is insufficient for irrigation and sufficient for drinking purposes. The supply in one tank will last for one month and 15 days, while that in eight other tanks will last for 15 days, and in one tank 20 days. The other tanks contain 10 to 2 days' supply.

Head Assistant Collector's division—Gudur taluk.—The average rainfall registered in all the four registering stations in December was 0·58 against an average of 2·95. The total rainfall for the taluk up to the end of December was 23·84 against an average of 34·5. There was a general rainfall in the non-registering stations, which helped the standing crops to some extent.

The supply for irrigation is inadequate, especially in a few villages of the Muttukur, Kanupur and Gudur firkas, in all the villages of the Kota firka except 4, and in all the western villages of Sriharikóta except two, where extensive failure of wet crop is apprehended.

Rapur taluk.—The rainfall in December was 1·32 against an average of 3·71 for the month. The total rainfall up to the end of December was 22·95 against an average of 36·82. The December rainfall was however general throughout the taluk and has helped the standing cholam crop to a considerable extent.

The supply in tanks is generally insufficient. There is some supply in half a dozen villages where the crops are reported to be still fair. In one or two villages water is reported to be inadequate for cattle also.

Venkatagiri division.—Rainfall in December 0·33 against an average of 4·07; up to the end of December 28·06 against 37·36. The water-supply in the division is reported to be deficient. Out of the 37 tanks mentioned by the Deputy Tahsildar, in not more than half-a-dozen is there a month's supply. The Head Assistant Collector remarks as follows :—

"It was only to be expected that the state of things should be worse than in Government villages, many of the tanks being of a primitive sort, and the crops at the best of times being largely rain-fed. There is some inferior crop sown early (extent not ascertained) which will yield all right."

Pólur division.—Rainfall in December (average for registering stations) 0·97 against a 25-years' average of 3·46. Rainfall up to end of December 28·14 against 39·10.

This division comprises the Sriharikóta firka of the Gudur taluk and zamindari villages. In the latter the prospects are better than in the Venkatagiri division. The Deputy Tahsildar gives a list of 20 tanks and most of these have a month's supply.

AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS AND CONDITIONS OF THE STANDING CROPS.

Sub-division—Ongole taluk.—Agricultural operations have almost ceased except that ragi is being transplanted under wells in Addanki division. The standing crops are paddy, variga, cholam, cotton, oil-seeds and tobacco. Paddy is fair for the present; but the supply in the irrigation sources is not everywhere sufficient to mature the crop. Early variga is in ears, but late variga is precarious. So is late cholam. Cotton, oil-seeds, tobacco, &c., are fair and will be harvested in March.

Kandukur taluk.—Agricultural operations nil, but some ryots are sowing cumbu in wet lands. Paddy is withering in some villages, where it is being substituted by cumbu. Elsewhere fair. Aruka harvested, outturn poor. Late cholam, variga, ragi, oil-seeds, cotton and pulses are fair.

Kanigiri taluk.—Ragi is being transplanted under wells. Paddy under Kanigiri tank, good. Oil-seeds, cotton and horse-gram are green for the present, but are estimated to yield a poor outturn.

Darsi division.—Ragi is being transplanted under wells and paddy under one tank, viz., Pullipad. Early paddy is thriving. Late paddy, fair. Variga, fading. Ragi under wells, withering. Castor-oil and cotton stunted and fading. Horse-gram is fading, but red-gram is thriving.

Podili division.—Ragi is being transplanted under wells. Oil-seeds withering.

Atmakur division—Atmakur taluk.—Lands are being ploughed up for tobacco and ragi under wells in Devarayapalli and Chejerla ranges. Ragi and kasari (paddy) are being sown in wet fields under the Anantasagaram tank and under private wells. Tobacco is also being transplanted in the Devarayapalli range.

Paddy in villages under river-channels is thriving well and has withered to an extent of 1,443 acres in 13 villages not under river-channels. Cholam destroyed by insects to an extent of nearly 5,300 acres. Aruka, a total extent of 12,950 acres, appears to have been cultivated with this crop. Of these, the crop in 2,000 acres is said to have been lost. It is believed to have revived elsewhere with the December rain. Cotton and oil-seeds are fair.

Udayagiri taluk.—Agricultural operations ceased except that ragi is being transplanted under wells. Aruka has completely gone except in the tract south of the Duttalur Bhata road, where it is fading. Horse-gram is in good condition in the tracts south of the Duttalur Bhata road and is partly fading and partly withering elsewhere. Oil-seeds and cotton flourishing in garden lands. Elsewhere there is little prospect of any outturn. Cholam, about half the extent, has been damaged by insects and what remains is fair for the present. Paddy under tanks containing no supply is withering. Ragi is thriving.

Head-quarter division—Nellore taluk.—Kasari paddy is being sown in some parts. The condition of standing crops is good except in the non-deltaic tracts where rain is urgently wanted for both dry and wet crops.

Kávali taluk.—Ragi is being sown and transplanted under wells in gardens and on the banks of the Upputeru and the Manneru rivers. Karukesari and Pichavari were cut during the fortnight in three villages to the extent of 34 acres with an outturn of 8 to 12 annas. 213 acres of aruka were cut in two villages with an outturn of 4 annas. The standing crops are paddy, cholam, aruka, ragi, cotton, indigo, oil-seeds, horse-gram, &c. There is a large extent of 21,232 acres of paddy crop standing on the ground. A portion of this has already been lost or is withering, while the rest, which will be about 75 per cent. of the standing crop, will yield 4 to 16 annas. There is an extent of 25,421 acres under cholam, which is bad in Nikunampet, Sayipet, Veligandla, Gudanalur and Uppulur. The standing crop is moreover thin and scattered. It may, however, give an average yield of 8 annas. Aruka failed in the

villages named above, but what remains is expected to give an average outturn of 4 annas. Horse-gram which is about 1,500 acres will yield about 8 annas, while cotton and oil-seeds are all good and are expected to yield a fair outturn.

Head Assistant Collector's division—Gudur taluk.—Agricultural operations almost ceased except cultivation under gardens, which is comparatively insignificant.

A total failure of wet crops is apprehended in the Kota range, except in about four villages, and also in about half the extent in Kanupur, in about one-third the extent in Gudur, and nearly all the western villages of Sriharikóta. The dry crops are in a good condition. Fuller details of the several standing crops, &c., have not been furnished by the Head Assistant Collector.

Rapur taluk.—Cumbu already harvested gave an outturn of 4 to 8 annas. As regards standing crops the wet ayakat bears a very small proportion to the dry. Much of the wet ayakat was not sown with wet crop at all, but is left waste or sown with dry crops. Where wet crops have been raised they have been mostly lost. The taluk depends mainly on the cholam crop. The early cholam is decidedly good, and some of it is already coming into ear and is expected to yield not less than 12 annas. The late cholam looks promising so far, having been helped by the recent rains. With a further fall of rain a month or so hence, the crop is expected to do well.

Venkatagiri and Polur divisions.—No details under this head are given, beyond the remarks under "rainfall and water-supply."

SUPPLY OF FODDER AND PASTURE AND CONDITION OF CATTLE.

Sub-division.—Pasture available, but is fast drying up. Fodder is available, though scarce in parts of Kandukur and Kanigiri and insufficient in Podili. The condition of cattle is generally good, but there were 34 deaths from diarrhoea (Pedda cheeda) in Kanigiri taluk.

Atmakur division.—Fodder is becoming scarce, while little pasture is available. Condition of cattle is, for the present, fair. Cattle diseases are prevalent in two villages in the Atmakur taluk.

Head-quarter division.—In Nellore taluk it is reported that the condition of cattle is good. But fodder and pasture are insufficient. In Kávali fodder is getting scarce in the north-west, west and south-western portions of the taluk, while it is obtainable in the eastern villages. It is, however, reported that it is generally sufficient for a month. The condition of cattle is generally good, though there were 25 attacks and 10 deaths from Pedda cheeda.

Head Assistant Collector's division.—Fodder is everywhere becoming scarce, while pasture is still available and was improved by the rain in December. Cattle diseases are prevalent.

GENERAL REMARKS ON THE PREVIOUS SUBJECTS.

Sub-Collector's division.—Rain within a fortnight may improve the standing crops though the prospects of rain are slight.

Atmakur division.—In Atmakur taluk dry crops have been considerably improved by the recent rains. The paddy crop under the Mahimalur tank will also revive. In Udayagiri taluk, there were some freshes in the Boggeru and the recent rain has also improved the standing crops to some extent.

Head-quarter division.—There need be no anxiety about the Nellore taluk. In the few non-deltaic tracts where wet crops are indifferent, the dry crops will yield to some extent. In Kávali taluk, the standing crops are not hopelessly bad, though there may be failure of crop to some extent.

Head Assistant Collector's division.—There is a likelihood of extensive failure of wet crop in this division especially in Gudur which depends mostly on wet crops. The two zamindari divisions of Venkatagiri and Polur appear to be worse than the rest of the division and distress may arise there. The Head Assistant Collector considers the situation less serious in Gudur taluk, where he thinks "any serious scarcity may be averted." Rapur taluk, he is of opinion, will not suffer from distress.

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 December 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		Cholam.		Ragi.		Cumbu.	
	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.
Ongole	8-46	8-46	9-90	10-80	..	12-33	9-90	10-31
Adauanki	7-52	7-52	10-80	11-70	..	12-75	10-73	10-73
Darsi	7-52	9-40	..	..	11-90	12-75	11-48	12-30
Podili	9-40	8-46	10-86	10-86	12-75	12-75	13-12	13-12
Kandukur	7-99	7-99	10-41	10-41	12-33	12-33	10-46	10-46
Kanigiri	7-05	7-52	..	..	11-90	12-75	9-90	9-90
Atmakor	9-40	8-46	13-12	11-77	13-60	11-90	..	..
Udayagiri	..	..	12-67	10-86	11-90	11-90	11-48	10-66
Kavali	9-40	8-46	..	10-86	11-90	11-90	10-66	10-66
Nellore	10-07	9-28	11-33	10-30	12-00	11-28	10-51	11-28
Allur	9-54	8-48	..	..	12-48	12-48	..	..
Gudur	10-60	9-54	..	..	..	..	13-16	..
Kota	10-60	10-60	..	..	16-80	16-80	19-74	..
Polur	9-54	9-01	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rapur	..	..	..	..	..	..	12-38	11-55
Venkatagiri	10-07	8-48	..	..	13-44	11-52	13-16	11-28
Average ..	9-08	8-69	11-39	10-95	12-82	12-57	12-08	11-11
Scarcity rate	8-40		13-00		14-00		12-00	
Warning rate	11-20		19-50		21-00		18-00	

ACTIVITY OF TRADE.

Sub-division.—Trade is active. Food-grains are being imported from Kistna district. No food-grains are exported. The amount of imports is not known. Darsi gets its supply by rail and Ongole by canal.

Atmakūr division—Atmakūr taluk.—Trade not active. No exports. Paddy is imported from Nellore taluk. About 10 candies were imported during the fortnight as also the same quantity of cumbu.

Udayagiri taluk.—Trade is active. Merchants are selling food-grains freely. A quantity of ragi and rice was imported from Cuddapah side last fortnight.

Head-quarter division—Nellore taluk.—Trade is brisk. Food-grains easily procurable in markets.

Kavali taluk.—Paddy is being imported from Gó dá vari and Kistna. The merchants of Lingasamudram in Kandukur taluk are selling food-grains in the western villages of this taluk. There is sufficient stock of paddy. Cholam not available.

Head Assistant Collector's division.—Trade is brisk and food-grains available throughout the division except in Rapur taluk where they are being imported now to some extent.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On works.—Works are going on in Udayagiri and Kanigiri taluks and the Podili division. Condition of the people on the works is reported to be generally good. No sickness nor emaciation. The District Surgeon has recently visited the works in the Udayagiri taluk, and he considers the condition of the people on the works satisfactory.

In villages—Sub-division.—The Sub-Collector remarks as follows :—

"People are generally healthy. The Panchamas and 50 per cent. of others in Darsi division are stinting themselves by taking less food. Some are eating cucumbers, prickly-pear fruits, and seeds of Gollagandi and Garuga (*Garuga pinnata* Reab.) and roots of species of grass (*Cyperus*). Scarcity is more severely felt in the western portion."

Atmakúr division.—Generally good.

Head-quarter division.—Condition of people is generally good. Labour is procurable in delta villages. In non-delta villages the poorer classes go to neighbouring

villages for work and to railway works. Some ordinary works are being started where necessary.

Head Assistant Collector's division.—Condition of people is still good in villages. The state of the Penubarti firka, Rapur taluk, which was for some time causing anxiety, has improved. Ryots are disposed to give advances more freely as the harvest gets within measurable distance.

Sickness and mortality.—No deaths from starvation. Cholera is prevalent in Ongole, Kandukur, Gudur, Rapur, Nellore, Udayagiri and Darsi. Fever is also prevalent in the Udayagiri taluk. There is no sickness or mortality in excess or such as could be traced to the state of the season. Health of the people appears to be normal except for cases of cholera and fever reported above which prevail to a limited extent. The unusually low temperature accounts for the fever.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

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

Taluka.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
<i>Kanigiri.</i>			
Narramarella near Pamur	..	530	This work was started on the 25th December. The number of labourers that attended the work is as follows:— 25th December 1897 .. 152 24th December 1897 .. 473 26th " " " .. 452 30th " " " .. 531 27th " " " .. 613 31st " " " .. 539 28th " " " .. 400 The labourers mostly come from villages within a radius of 5 miles.
<i>Udayagiri.</i>			
1. Udayagiri	851	491	The fall in the numbers on the 31st was due to the slight rainfall on the 30th and 31st. The numbers have since been increasing, but the work has now been moved to Nellatur
2. Narravada	..	1,150	This work was started on the 22nd. The following are the numbers on the work since then:— 23rd December 1897 .. 758 28th December 1897 .. 1,377 24th " " " .. 1,046 29th " " " .. 1,386 25th " " " .. 1,151 30th " " " .. 1,414 26th " " " .. 1,048 31st " " " .. 1,150 27th " " " .. 1,385 The labourers come from villages within a radius of 8 miles.
<i>Podili division.</i>			
Metal-breaking on Kanigiri-Podili road at Pedarikatla. ..	..	325	The work was started on 31st December 1897. The numbers rose to 1,439 on the 6th January 1898.
Total ..	851	2,496	

Gratuitous relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

[illegible]

Private charity.—Nil.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Sub-Collector's remarks.—Prospects continue to be gloomy. Want of labour is felt everywhere, especially in Darsi and Addanki divisions and in parts of Kandukur taluk (Ponnalur range). The labouring classes from these taluks are reported to be migrating to Kistna district in quest of work. The test works started at Nandanavanam on January 3rd and Pedarikatla on December 31st attracted 1,200 and 400 labourers, respectively.

Head-quarter Deputy Collector's remarks.—I have not been able to visit the villages of the Nellore taluk, but from the information given by the Tahsildar and the Stationary Sub-Magistrate there seems to be no anxiety for that taluk. As regards Kávali, only a few villages seem to be affected, but if labour is provided for some of the cooly classes in those villages by sanctioning some ordinary works, no distress will be felt and no famine operations need be started.

Head Assistant Collector's remarks.—The Penubarti firka of Rapur is the part which has received most attention in respect of relief works so far, and I do not consider that even there, works would draw labour in any quantity. Even when offered wages sufficient to give them two meals a day and food gratis to their children, &c., they want the work in their own villages and object even to going 2 or 3 miles. And if it is not found necessary to open any work this month, I hope it will not be necessary to do so at all there. Elsewhere the necessity for works is not at all pressing as yet except possibly in Venkatagiri and even there I think the time has hardly come yet. In another fortnight distress may begin to declare itself to a serious extent there, but I think hardly before. Elsewhere there need be little cause for anxiety before the end of the month.

Collector's remarks.—The foregoing remarks show that the distress is as yet confined to the Government taluks of Kanigiri and Udayagiri and the zamindari divisions of Podili and Darsi. In Kandukur taluk, the Sub-Collector remarks that want of labour is being felt in Ponnalur range. The Sub-Collector has been instructed to visit the locality and to report if a relief work is required. I am going there myself in a few days with the Executive Engineer. There is a proposal to construct a tank near Mogilicherla, Kanigiri taluk, which adjoins Kandukur taluk, and after personally inspecting the site I have requested the Executive Engineer, who had previously reported that the work would not be suitable as a relief work, to prepare an estimate at once. This work will provide labour for large numbers for 2 or 3 months. The Sub-Collector apprehends some distress in the Addanki division of the Ongole taluk, but I doubt if it will be necessary to furnish any extensive relief there. I am calling upon him to report more fully upon the state of things there and shall take the necessary steps to start such works as are required. In the Kanigiri taluk, the Nandanavanam tank work was opened on the 3rd instant, with a kitchen and is attracting a large number of labourers; but I have since ordered the work to be converted into an intermediate work with reference to the recent orders of Government on the subject. The kitchen there will be closed. The other work in that taluk, at Narramavella and the work at Pedarikatla in Podili division are being continued as task relief works with kitchens as reported in this office letter, Ref. No. 11-G.B.-Ver., dated 11th January 1898. I am taking steps to start a work in the Darsi division. In the Atmakúr division there are already two works—one at Udayagiri and the other at Narravada. There are two kitchens attached to these. The Udayagiri work will, as already reported, be closed now that a work is started at Nellatur on the intermediate system. The Narravada work will be continued as a task-relief work as already reported. An additional work has also recently been started at Sitarampuram on the intermediate system. As regards Atmakúr taluk I have already proposed to the Board in letter, No. 13-Ver., dated 7th January 1898, the starting of the excavation of the Anamasamudram supply channel from the Birapera on the intermediate system and some minor irrigation works. I have directed the Deputy Collector to start such of the petty works as he considers necessary at once. In the Kávali taluk of the

Head-quarter division, I have given orders for the execution of some tank works and propose starting some more after receipt of Board's sanction to the allotment application submitted with this office letter, Ref. No. 72-Ver., dated 6th January 1898.

With reference to the orders issued in B.P., Mis. No. 10176, dated 28th December 1897, I have requested the Executive Engineer to start the repair to the Penubarti Nalla tank at once in the Penubarti range of the Rapur taluk. I have deferred other works with regard to the Head Assistant Collector's recent report on the state of the Rapur taluk. With reference to the Head Assistant Collector's remarks about the Venkatagiri division, a number of tank restoration works in the zenindari are available. The Rajah of Venkatagiri has already been requested to have these works executed with reference to the Railway Protection Act. He will again be addressed on the subject and will be requested to start the works at once. I am also getting estimates prepared for certain roads in the division. The Rajah has already promised to start the following works at once:—

Name of work.	Amount. RS.
Kanigiri taluk—	
(1) Kankanampodu tank	2,123
(2) Ballepalle tank	168
(3) Punugodu anikat repairs	150
Podili division—	
(4) Ponnalur tank	1,160
(5) Marripudi tank	214
(6) Kakarladalur Seshareddi tank	430
Darsi division—	
(7) Rajampalli tank	1,226
(8) Kochoerlakota Potlapudi tank	302
Total	5,773

The delay in the submission of this report is due to the Sub-Collector's report having been received only on the 9th instant.

Joan Transactions.—Nil.

INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT OFFICERS.

(Taluk and places visited.)

The Sub-Collector visited the following villages:—

Kanigiri taluk—	Kanigiri taluk—cont.
Pamur.	Timmareddipalli.
Narramavella.	Gollapalli.
Ballipalli.	Nandanavanam.
Kanigiri.	Gutipadpalli.
Hanumantunipad.	

The Deputy Collector of Atmakúr visited the following villages:—

Atmakúr taluk—	Udayagiri taluk—
Depur.	Vinjamur.
Devarayapalli.	Duttalur.
Kaluvoya.	Udayagiri.
Teluguroyapuram.	Dasaripalli.
Kolavapalli.	Basivimenipalli.
Kullur.	Sitarampuram.
Br mhanapalli.	
Anamasamudram.	
Dubagunta.	

The Head-quarter Deputy Collector visited the following villages of the Kávali taluk :—

Tummalapenta.
Kávali.
Puladoruvu.
Kottapalli.
Sayipet.
Veligandla.
Kaligiri.
Dundigam.
Ananthapuram.
Brahmanakraka.
Zaladanki.
Marrigunta.
Nekunampet (fields).

Chintaldevi.
Uppulur (fields).
Brahmanapalli.
Tangalapalli.
China Annalur.
Polampad.
Pedapad.
Siddamkondur.
Manulolepad.
Bodagudipad.
Takkepalligudur.
Chamadala.

Head Assistant Collector's Division.—Not reported in detail. He visited some villages in the Rapur taluk.

Collector.

Kávali taluk—
Nekunampet.
Kandukur taluk—
Kandukur.
Boganapad.
Ponnalur.
Gudlur.
Mopad.
Kanigiri taluk—
Pamur.
Nararamella.

Kanigiri taluk—cont.
Ayyavaripalli.
Mogalichorla.
Ayyamkota.
Bodavanur.
Udayagiri taluk—
Udayagiri.
Naravada.
Appasamudram.
Varigantipadu.
Nelatur.

RESOLUTION—No. 37, dated 22nd January 1898.

Submitted to Government.

2. The rainfall during the South-West and North-East monsoons has been as given below :—

Taluk or divisions.	June to September.		October to December.	
	25 years' Average.	1897.	25 years' Average.	1897.
Darsi	12.39	16.23	11.41	1.79
Podili	12.52	20.73	11.22	3.62
Kanigiri	9.78	16.14	12.12	0.52
Udayagiri	7.99	13.45	18.05	3.23
Ongole	14.63	20.79	18.18	4.89
Kandukur	11.77	20.15	18.71	3.22
Kávali	11.89	17.89	24.38	9.05
Nellore	11.63	11.42	24.52	7.54
Atmakúr	8.64	10.74	20.16	5.04
Rapur	10.23	16.73	24.63	5.60
Gudur	10.58	16.91	24.10	8.46
Polár	13.77	16.96	17.50	8.40
Venkatagiri	10.10	22.33	25.15	5.65
District Average ..	11.03	16.94	21.06	5.85

* Three years only.

The fall from June to September was excessive, while that from October to December was very deficient; the total fall during the two monsoons was less than the average by 20 to 30 per cent. in the northern half of the district and in Venkatagiri

and by 35 to 50 per cent. in the remaining portion. The supply of drinking-water is generally sufficient. The want of wells for the Panchamas in parts of the Podili division should be promptly attended to. The water-supply for irrigation is deficient except under river-channels and a few tanks. The portions of the district worst off in this respect are the Udayagiri, Gudur and Rapur taluks and the Venkatagiri and Podili divisions.

3. Agricultural operations have almost ceased. The condition of the early crops is fair in parts and the rains that fell towards the end of the fortnight have revived the standing crops to some extent. Failure of crops to a large extent is reported from Atmakúr, Udayagiri and Gudur taluks, and the standing crops on a large area in most taluks are expected to yield but a poor outturn.

4. Pasture and fodder are getting scarce; the condition of the cattle is for the present fair.

5. Prices are very high; their comparative positions are exhibited below :—

Rates.	Measures per rupee.			
	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
Current	8.7	12.6	11.0	11.1
December 1896	11.4	20.5	18.8	16.2
" 1891	9.3	15.0	14.0	13.6
" 1877	7.5	9.2	8.9	8.7

Trade is said to be active and there is no want of food supplies in the markets.

6. The condition of the people is generally good. Test-works have been opened in Udayagiri, Kanigiri and Podili with kitchens attached to them. The attendance during the fortnight was not large, but the numbers are steadily increasing. Want of employment for the labouring classes is also reported to be felt in parts of Kandukur and Ongole taluks and the Venkatagiri division. Orders have already been issued for the expansion of ordinary works and the starting of works on the gang and piece-work system wherever necessary.

(True Copy and Extract.)

Famine Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

" Collector of N.lore.
" Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. P. Seetharam.

Government (1898) of Madras.
REVENUE.

<i>Recd.</i>	} 1898.	<i>Enclosures</i>
<i>Regd.</i>		<i>Spare copies</i>

G.O., No. 53, 29th January 1898.

JANUARY.

Fortnightly Narrative.

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

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 37, dated 22nd January 1898 :—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative of the Nellore district for the period ending 31st December 1897 :—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and Water-supply.—

Sub-division—Ongole taluk.—There was no rainfall in December, the average fall for the month being 1·08 inches. The total rainfall up to end of December from 1st April was 27·35 inches against a 25-years' average of 34·50 inches.

The supply in tanks ranges from one month and twenty days in Kanuparti to *nil* in eight tanks. These tanks are small with very small ayakats. In five villages in the Addanki division the garden wells contain water sufficient for the crops under them.

Kandukur taluk.—The rainfall in December was 0·04 against an average of 1·87 for the month. The total rainfall up to end of December was 24·23 against 32·58, the average for the period.

Out of 70 tanks, 22 have not sufficient supply for irrigation, the supply being below 10 days; 25 between 10 and 15 days; 15 between 15 days and a month; and 8 over a month.

The wells in garden lands contain sufficient water.

Kanigiri taluk.—Rainfall in the month *nil*, average for the month 1·10, total rainfall up to end of December 21·20, and average for that period 23·69.

The Kanigiri tank has three months' supply. The tanks at Inimerla and Gudipad are dry. The wet cultivation in this taluk is very small.

Darsi division.—Rainfall in December *nil*, average for December 1·14, actual up to end of December 20·93, average for the period 25·82.

Except under one tank, viz., the Pullipad tank, which contains 2 months' supply, the supply in other tanks is sufficient only to mature the early crops. The garden wells contain sufficient water for the crops under them, but they are fast drying up. The wells in the western villages have little water.

Podili division.—There was no rain in December. The actual fall up to the end of December was 27·20 against an average of 28·00.

The tanks are all dry. The supply of drinking-water is generally sufficient everywhere, though Panchamas in the villages bordering the Veligondas complain of want of wells, which will be attended to.

The December rainfall was thus *nil* throughout the sub-division with the exception of the very inappreciable fall of 4 cents in Kandukur taluk. Taking the total rainfall up to end of December, the averages for Kanigiri, Podili and Ongole are not much above the actuals, which accounts for the somewhat moderate supplies in some tanks. But the bulk of the rainfall being confined to the South-West monsoon, the situation has grown precarious. Water for drinking purposes is stated to be sufficient throughout.

Atmakur division—Atmakur taluk.—In the Cusba village of Atmakur there was a rainfall of 0·88 on the 30th and 31st December against an average of 2·53 for the month. There was, however, throughout the taluk an average fall of about an inch, ranging from 2·10 in Kaluvoya to 0·30 in Nagulapad. But the total rainfall up to the end of the month was 16·01 against an average of 30·56.

The water-supply in Anantasagaram tank and under river channels is sufficient for the standing crops as well as for the second-crop now being raised here and there, while that in other tanks is said to be insufficient ranging from two months to one week.

Udayagiri taluk.—There was a slight rainfall of 0·22 in December against an average of 2·14 for the month. The rain was general over the taluk varying from 1·20 in Nandavaram to 0·10 in Tamidapad and Sankavaram. It was one inch and more in six villages, between 0·50 and one inch in twelve villages, between 0·20 and 0·50 in five villages, and below 0·20 in two villages. The total rainfall up to the end of December was, however, only 17·47 against an average of 28·09.

There is water in only 9 tanks. In these 9 tanks the supply ranges from a month to 20 days in 4 tanks, one tank contains about 10 days' supply, while 4 other tanks contain a few days' supply. In one of the firkas the wells have already begun to fail. It is, however, reported that water for drinking purposes is sufficient, though it is somewhat limited in the Cusba village of Udayagiri.

Head-quarter division—Nellore taluk.—There was a rainfall of 2·20 against an average of 2·56 for the month. The total fall, however, was quite deficient being only 19·89 against 37·35, the average for the period ending December. The Kanigiri reservoir contains about 9·3 feet of water and the Nellore tank 25 days' supply. The Pennér river received slight freshes in December which helped the crops under the Nellore anikat. The supply is generally sufficient for irrigation except in non-deltaic tracts where the supply in tanks varies from 7 to 20 days.

Kavali taluk.—The rainfall in December was 0·35 against an average of 2·16 for the month. The rainfall up to end of December was 29·11 against an average of 37·56.

Water-supply is insufficient for irrigation and sufficient for drinking purposes. The supply in one tank will last for one month and 15 days, while that in eight other tanks will last for 15 days, and in one tank 20 days. The other tanks contain 10 to 2 days' supply.

Head Assistant Collector's division—Gudur taluk.—The average rainfall registered in all the four registering stations in December was 0·58 against an average of 2·95. The total rainfall for the taluk up to the end of December was 23·84 against an average of 34·5. There was a general rainfall in the non-registering stations, which helped the standing crops to some extent.

The supply for irrigation is inadequate, especially in a few villages of the Muttukur, Kanupur and Gudur firkas, in all the villages of the Kota firka except 4, and in all the western villages of Srirharikóta except two, where extensive failure of wet crop is apprehended.

Rapur taluk.—The rainfall in December was 1·32 against an average of 3·71 for the month. The total rainfall up to the end of December was 22·95 against an average of 36·82. The December rainfall was however general throughout the taluk and has helped the standing cholam crop to a considerable extent.

The supply in tanks is generally insufficient. There is some supply in half a dozen villages where the crops are reported to be still fair. In one or two villages water is reported to be inadequate for cattle also.

Venkatagiri division.—Rainfall in December 0·33 against an average of 4·07; up to the end of December 28·06 against 37·36. The water-supply in the division is reported to be deficient. Out of the 37 tanks mentioned by the Deputy Tahsildar, in not more than half-a-dozen is there a month's supply. The Head Assistant Collector remarks as follows :—

“It was only to be expected that the state of things should be worse than in Government villages, many of the tanks being of a primitive sort, and the crops at the best of times being largely rain-fed. There is some inferior crop sown early (extent not ascertained) which will yield all right.”

Pólur division.—Rainfall in December (average for registering stations) 0·97 against a 25-years' average of 3·46. Rainfall up to end of December 28·14 against 39·10.

This division comprises the Srīharikōta firka of the Gudur taluk and zamindari villages. In the latter the prospects are better than in the Venkatagiri division. The Deputy Tahsildar gives a list of 20 tanks and most of these have a month's supply.

AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS AND CONDITIONS OF THE STANDING CROPS.

Sub-division—Ongole taluk.—Agricultural operations have almost ceased except that ragi is being transplanted under wells in Addanki division. The standing crops are paddy, variga, cholam, cotton, oil-seeds and tobacco. Paddy is fair for the present; but the supply in the irrigation sources is not everywhere sufficient to mature the crop. Early variga is in ears, but late variga is precarious. So is late cholam. Cotton, oil-seeds, tobacco, &c., are fair and will be harvested in March.

Kandukur taluk.—Agricultural operations nil, but some ryots are sowing cumbu in wet lands. Paddy is withering in some villages, where it is being substituted by cumbu. Elsewhere fair. Aruka harvested, outturn poor. Late cholam, variga, ragi, oil-seeds, cotton and pulses are fair.

Kanigiri taluk.—Ragi is being transplanted under wells. Paddy under Kanigiri tank, good. Oil-seeds, cotton and horse-gram are green for the present, but are estimated to yield a poor outturn.

Darsi division.—Ragi is being transplanted under wells and paddy under one tank, viz., Pullipad. Early paddy is thriving. Late paddy, fair. Variga, fading. Ragi under wells, withering. Castor-oil and cotton stunted and fading. Horse-gram is fading, but red-gram is thriving.

Podili division.—Ragi is being transplanted under wells. Oil-seeds withering.

Atmakur division—Atmakur taluk.—Lands are being ploughed up for tobacco and ragi under wells in Devarayapalli and Chejerla ranges. Ragi and kasari (paddy) are being sown in wet fields under the Anantasagaram tank and under private wells. Tobacco is also being transplanted in the Devarayapalli range.

Paddy in villages under river-channels is thriving well and has withered to an extent of 1,443 acres in 13 villages not under river-channels. Cholam destroyed by insects to an extent of nearly 5,300 acres. Aruka, a total extent of 12,950 acres, appears to have been cultivated with this crop. Of these, the crop in 2,000 acres is said to have been lost. It is believed to have revived elsewhere with the December rain. Cotton and oil-seeds are fair.

Udayagiri taluk.—Agricultural operations ceased except that ragi is being transplanted under wells. Aruka has completely gone except in the tract south of the Duttalur Bhata road, where it is fading. Horse-gram is in good condition in the tracts south of the Duttalur Bhata road and is partly fading and partly withering elsewhere. Oil-seeds and cotton flourishing in garden lands. Elsewhere there is little prospect of any outturn. Cholam, about half the extent, has been damaged by insects and what remains is fair for the present. Paddy under tanks containing no supply is withering. Ragi is thriving.

Head-quarter division—Nellore taluk.—Kasari paddy is being sown in some parts. The condition of standing crops is good except in the non-deltaic tracts where rain is urgently wanted for both dry and wet crops.

Kāvali taluk.—Ragi is being sown and transplanted under wells in gardens and on the banks of the Upputeru and the Manneru rivers. Karukesari and Pichavari were cut during the fortnight in three villages to the extent of 34 acres with an outturn of 8 to 12 annas. 213 acres of aruka were cut in two villages with an outturn of 4 annas. The standing crops are paddy, cholam, aruka, ragi, cotton, indigo, oil-seeds, horse-gram, &c. There is a large extent of 21,282 acres of paddy crop standing on the ground. A portion of this has already been lost or is withering, while the rest, which will be about 75 per cent. of the standing crop, will yield 4 to 16 annas. There is an extent of 25,421 acres under cholam, which is bad in Nikunampet, Sayipet, Veligandla, Gudanalur and Uppulur. The standing crop is moreover thin and scattered. It may, however, give an average yield of 8 annas. Aruka failed in the

villages named above, but what remains is expected to give an average outturn of 4 annas. Horse-gram which is about 1,500 acres will yield about 8 annas, while cotton and oil-seeds are all good and are expected to yield a fair outturn.

Head Assistant Collector's division—Gudur taluk.—Agricultural operations almost ceased except cultivation under gardens, which is comparatively insignificant.

A total failure of wet crops is apprehended in the Kota range, except in about four villages, and also in about half the extent in Kanupur, in about one-third the extent in Gudur, and nearly all the western villages of Srīharikōta. The dry crops are in a good condition. Fuller details of the several standing crops, &c., have not been furnished by the Head Assistant Collector.

Rapur taluk.—Cumbu already harvested gave an outturn of 4 to 8 annas. As regards standing crops the wet ayakat bears a very small proportion to the dry. Much of the wet ayakat was not sown with wet crop at all, but is left waste or sown with dry crops. Where wet crops have been raised they have been mostly lost. The taluk depends mainly on the cholam crop. The early cholam is decidedly good, and some of it is already coming into ear and is expected to yield not less than 12 annas. The late cholam looks promising so far, having been helped by the recent rains. With a further fall of rain a month or so hence, the crop is expected to do well.

Venkatagiri and Polur divisions.—No details under this head are given, beyond the remarks under "rainfall and water-supply."

SUPPLY OF FODDER AND PASTURE AND CONDITION OF CATTLE.

Sub-division.—Pasture available, but is fast drying up. Fodder is available, though scarce in parts of Kandukur and Kanigiri and insufficient in Podili. The condition of cattle is generally good, but there were 34 deaths from diarrhoea (Pedda cheeda) in Kanigiri taluk.

Atmakur division.—Fodder is becoming scarce, while little pasture is available. Condition of cattle is, for the present, fair. Cattle diseases are prevalent in two villages in the Atmakur taluk.

Head-quarter division.—In Nellore taluk it is reported that the condition of cattle is good. But fodder and pasture are insufficient. In Kāvali fodder is getting scarce in the north-west, west and south-western portions of the taluk, while it is obtainable in the eastern villages. It is, however, reported that it is generally sufficient for a month. The condition of cattle is generally good, though there were 25 attacks and 10 deaths from Pedda cheeda.

Head Assistant Collector's division.—Fodder is everywhere becoming scarce, while pasture is still available and was improved by the rain in December. Cattle diseases are prevalent.

GENERAL REMARKS ON THE PREVIOUS SUBJECTS.

Sub-Collector's division.—Rain within a fortnight may improve the standing crops though the prospects of rain are slight.

Atmakur division.—In Atmakur taluk dry crops have been considerably improved by the recent rains. The paddy crop under the Mahimalur tank will also revive. In Udayagiri taluk, there were some freshes in the Boggeru and the recent rain has also improved the standing crops to some extent.

Head-quarter division.—There need be no anxiety about the Nellore taluk. In the few non-deltaic tracts where wet crops are indifferent, the dry crops will yield to some extent. In Kāvali taluk, the standing crops are not hopelessly bad, though there may be failure of crop to some extent.

Head Assistant Collector's division.—There is a likelihood of extensive failure of wet crop in this division especially in Gudur which depends mostly on wet crops. The two zamindari divisions of Venkatagiri and Polur appear to be worse than the rest of the division and distress may arise there. The Head Assistant Collector considers the situation less serious in Gudur taluk, where he thinks "any serious scarcity may be averted." Rapur taluk, he is of opinion, will not suffer from distress.

Prices of principal food-grains at principal markets in the affected tracts, in seers of 80 tolas per rupee, for the period ending 31st December 1897.

Stations.	Rice.		Cholam.		Ragi.		Cumbu.	
	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.
Ongole	8-46	8-46	9-90	10-80	..	12-33	9-90	10-31
Addanki	7-52	7-52	10-80	11-70	..	12-75	10-73	10-73
Darsi	7-52	9-40	..	..	11-90	12-75	11-48	12-30
Podili	9-40	8-46	10-86	10-86	12-75	12-75	13-12	13-12
Kandukur	7-99	7-99	10-41	10-41	12-83	12-33	10-46	10-46
Kanigiri	7-05	7-52	..	..	11-90	12-75	9-90	9-90
Atmakūr	9-40	8-46	13-12	11-77	13-60	11-90	..	..
Udayagiri	..	..	12-67	10-86	11-90	11-90	11-48	10-66
Kāvali	9-40	8-46	..	10-86	11-90	11-90	10-66	10-66
Nellore	10-07	9-28	11-33	10-30	12-00	11-28	10-61	11-28
Allur	9-54	8-48	..	..	12-48	12-48	..	..
Gudur	10-60	9-54	..	..	..	..	13-16	..
Kota	10-60	10-60	..	..	16-80	16-80	19-74	..
Polur	9-54	9-01	..	..	..	..	12-38	11-55
Rapur	..	..	..	..	..	..	13-16	11-28
Venkatagiri	10-07	8-48	..	..	13-44	11-52	..	..
Average	9-08	8-69	11-39	10-95	12-82	12-57	12-08	11-11
Scarcity rate	8-40	..	13-00	..	14-00	..	12-00	..
Warning rate	11-20	..	19-50	..	21-00	..	18-00	..

ACTIVITY OF TRADE.

Sub-division.—Trade is active. Food-grains are being imported from Kistna district. No food-grains are exported. The amount of imports is not known. Darsi gets its supply by rail and Ongole by canal.

Atmakúr division—Atmakúr taluk.—Trade not active. No exports. Paddy is imported from Nellore taluk. About 10 candies were imported during the fortnight as also the same quantity of eumbu.

Udayagiri taluk.—Trade is active. Merchants are selling food-grains freely. A quantity of ragi and rice was imported from Cuddapah side last fortnight.

Head-quarter division.—*Nellore taluk*.—Trade is brisk. Food-grains easily procurable in markets.

Kávali taluk.—Paddy is being imported from Gódávri and Kistna. The merchants of Lingasamudram in Kandukur taluk are selling food-grains in the western villages of this taluk. There is sufficient stock of paddy. Cholan not available.

Head Assistant Collector's division.—Trade is brisk and food-grains available throughout the division except in Rapur taluk where they are being imported now to some extent.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

On works.—Works are going on in Udayagiri and Kanigiri taluks and the Podili division. Condition of the people on the works is reported to be generally good. No sickness nor emaciation. The District Surgeon has recently visited the works in the Udayagiri taluk, and he considers the condition of the people on the works satisfactory.

In villages—Sub-division.—The Sub-Collector remarks as follows:—
“People are generally healthy. The

"People are generally healthy. The Panchamas and 50 per cent. of others in Darsi division are stinting themselves by taking less food. Some are eating cucumbers, prickly-pear fruits, and seeds of Gollagandi and Garuga (*Garuga pinnata* Roxb.) and roots of species of grass (*Cyperus*). Scarcity is more severely felt in the western portion."

Atmakúr division.—Generally good.

Head-quarter division.—Condition of people is generally good. Labour is procurable in delta villages. In non-delta villages the poorer classes go to neighbouring

villages for work and to railway works. Some ordinary works are being started where necessary.

Head Assistant Collector's division.—Condition of people is still good in villages. The state of the Penubarti firka, Rapur taluk, which was for some time causing anxiety, has improved. Ryots are disposed to give advances more freely as the harvest gets within measurable distance.

Sickness and mortality.—No deaths from starvation. Cholera is prevalent in Ongole, Kandukur, Gudur, Rapur, Nellore, Udayagiri and Darsi. Fever is also prevalent in the Udayagiri taluk. There is no sickness or mortality in excess or such as could be traced to the state of the season. Health of the people appears to be normal except for cases of cholera and fever reported above which prevail to a limited extent. The unusually low temperature accounts for the fever.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

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

Taluks.	Number employed		Remarks.
	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
<i>Kanigiri.</i>			
Narramarella near Pamur ..	..	530	This work was started on the 25th December. The number of labourers that attended the work is as follows:— 25th December 1897 .. 152 26th " " .. 452 27th " " .. 613 28th " " .. 400 29th December 1897 .. 473 30th " " .. 531 31st " " .. 530
<i>Udayagiri.</i>			The labourers mostly come from villages within a radius of 5 miles.
1. Udayagiri	851	491	The fall in the numbers on the 31st was due to the slight rainfall on the 30th and 31st. The numbers have since been increasing, but the work has now been moved to Nellatur.
2. Narravada	..	1,150	This work was started on the 22nd. The following are the numbers on the work since then:— 23rd December 1897 .. 758 24th " " .. 1,046 25th " " .. 1,151 26th " " .. 1,048 27th " " .. 1,385 28th December 1897 .. 1,377 29th " " .. 1,386 30th " " .. 1,414 31st " " .. 1,150
<i>Podili division.</i>			The labourers come from villages within a radius of 8 miles.
Metal-breaking on Kanigiri-Podili road at Pedarikatha.	..	325	The work was started on 31st December 1897. The numbers rose to 1,439 on the 6th January 1898.
Total ..	851	2,496	

Gratuitous relief.—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise—

[illegible]

Private charity.—Nil.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Sub-Collector's remarks.—Prospects continue to be gloomy. Want of labour is felt everywhere, especially in Darsi and Addanki divisions and in parts of Kandukur taluk (Ponnalur range). The labouring classes from these taluks are reported to be migrating to Kistna district in quest of work. The test works started at Nandanavanam on January 3rd and Pedarikatla on December 31st attracted 1,200 and 400 labourers, respectively.

Head-quarter Deputy Collector's remarks.—I have not been able to visit the villages of the Nellore taluk, but from the information given by the Tahsildar and the Stationary Sub-Magistrate there seems to be no anxiety for that taluk. As regards Kávali, only a few villages seem to be affected, but if labour is provided for some of the cooly classes in those villages by sanctioning some ordinary works, no distress will be felt and no famine operations need be started.

Head Assistant Collector's remarks.—The Penubarti firka of Rapur is the part which has received most attention in respect of relief works so far, and I do not consider that even there, works would draw labour in any quantity. Even when offered wages sufficient to give them two meals a day and food gratis to their children, &c., they want the work in their own villages and object even to going 2 or 3 miles. And if it is not found necessary to open any work this month, I hope it will not be necessary to do so at all there. Elsewhere the necessity for works is not at all pressing as yet except possibly in Venkatagiri and even there I think the time has hardly come yet. In another fortnight distress may begin to declare itself to a serious extent there, but I think hardly before. Elsewhere there need be little cause for anxiety before the end of the month.

Collector's remarks.—The foregoing remarks show that the distress is as yet confined to the Government taluks of Kanigiri and Udayagiri and the zamindari divisions of Podili and Darsi. In Kandukur taluk, the Sub-Collector remarks that want of labour is being felt in Ponnalur range. The Sub-Collector has been instructed to visit the locality and to report if a relief work is required. I am going there myself in a few days with the Executive Engineer. There is a proposal to construct a tank near Mogilicherla, Kanigiri taluk, which adjoins Kandukur taluk, and after personally inspecting the site I have requested the Executive Engineer, who had previously reported that the work would not be suitable as a relief work, to prepare an estimate at once. This work will provide labour for large numbers for 2 or 3 months. The Sub-Collector apprehends some distress in the Addanki division of the Ongole taluk, but I doubt if it will be necessary to furnish any extensive relief there. I am calling upon him to report more fully upon the state of things there and shall take the necessary steps to start such works as are required. In the Kanigiri taluk, the Nandanavanam tank work was opened on the 3rd instant, with a kitchen and is attracting a large number of labourers; but I have since ordered the work to be converted into an intermediate work with reference to the recent orders of Government on the subject. The kitchen there will be closed. The other work in that taluk, at Narramarella and the work at Pedarikatla in Podili division are being continued as task relief works with kitchens as reported in this office letter, Ref. No. 11-G.B.-Ver., dated 11th January 1898. I am taking steps to start a work in the Darsi division. In the Atmakúr division there are already two works—one at Udayagiri and the other at Narravada. There are two kitchens attached to these. The Udayagiri work will, as already reported, be closed now that a work is started at Nellatur on the intermediate system. The Narravada work will be continued as a task-relief work as already reported. An additional work has also recently been started at Sitarampuram on the intermediate system. As regards Atmakúr taluk I have already proposed to the Board in letter, No. 13-Ver., dated 7th January 1898, the starting of the excavation of the Anamasamudram supply channel from the Birapera on the intermediate system and some minor irrigation works. I have directed the Deputy Collector to start such of the petty works as he considers necessary at once. In the Kávali taluk of the

Head-quarter division, I have given orders for the execution of some tank works and propose starting some more after receipt of Board's sanction to the allotment application submitted with this office letter, Ref. No. 72-Ver., dated 6th January 1898.

With reference to the orders issued in B.P., Mis. No. 10176, dated 28th December 1897, I have requested the Executive Engineer to start the repair to the Penubarti Nalla tank at once in the Penubarti range of the Rapur taluk. I have deferred other works with regard to the Head Assistant Collector's recent report on the state of the Rapur taluk. With reference to the Head Assistant Collector's remarks about the Venkatagiri division, a number of tank restoration works in the zemindari are available. The Rajah of Venkatagiri has already been requested to have these works executed with reference to the Railway Protection Act. He will again be addressed on the subject and will be requested to start the works at once. I am also getting estimates prepared for certain roads in the division. The Rajah has already promised to start the following works at once:—

Name of work.	Amount. RS.
Kanigiri taluk—	
(1) Kankanampodu tank	2,123
(2) Ballepalle tank	168
(3) Punugodu anikat repairs	150
Podili division—	
(4) Ponnalur tank	1,160
(5) Marripudi tank	214
(6) Kakarladulur Seshareddi tank	430
Darsi division—	
(7) Rajampalli tank	1,226
(8) Kocherlakota Potlapudi tank	302
Total	5,773

The delay in the submission of this report is due to the Sub-Collector's report having been received only on the 9th instant.

Loan Transactions.—Nil.

INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT OFFICERS.

(Taluks and places visited.)

The Sub-Collector visited the following villages:—

Kanigiri taluk—
Pamur.
Narramavella.
Ballipalli.
Kanigiri.
Hanumantunipad.

Kanigiri taluk—cont.
Timmareddipalli.
Gollapalli.
Nandanavanam.
Gutipadpalli.

The Deputy Collector of Atmakúr visited the following villages:—

Atmakúr taluk—
Depur.
Devarayapalli.
Kaluvoya.
Teluguroyapuram.
Kolavapalli.
Kullur.
Bramhanapalli.
Anamasamudram.
Dubagunta.

Udayagiri taluk—
Vinjamur.
Duttalur.
Udayagiri.
Dasaripalli.
Basivimenipalli.
Sitarampuram.

The Head-quarter Deputy Collector visited the following villages of the Kávali taluk :—

Tummalapenta.	Chintaldevi.
Kávali.	Uppulur (fields).
Puladornvu.	Brahmanapalli.
Kottapalli.	Tangalapalli.
Sayipet.	China Annalur.
Veligandla.	Polampad.
Kaligiri.	Pedapad.
Dundigam.	Siddamkondur.
Ananthapuram.	Manulolepad.
Brahmanakraka.	Bodagudipad.
Zaladanki.	Takkepalligudur.
Marrigunta.	Chamadala.
Nekunampet (fields).	

Head Assistant Collector's Division.—Not reported in detail. He visited some villages in the Rapur taluk.

Collector.

Kávali taluk—	Kanigiri taluk—cont.
Nekunampet	Ayyavaripalli.
Kandukur taluk—	Mogalicherla.
Kandukur.	Ayyamkota.
Boganapad.	Bodavanur.
Ponnalur.	Udayagiri taluk—
Gudlur.	Udayagiri.
Mopad.	Narravada.
Kanigiri taluk—	Appasamudram.
Pamur.	Varigantipadu.
Narramarella.	Nelatur.

Resolution—No. 37, dated 22nd January 1898.

Submitted to Government.

2. The rainfall during the South-West and North-East monsoons has been as given below :—

Taluk or divisions.	June to September.		October to December.	
	25 years' Average.	1897.	25 years' Average.	1897.
Darsi	12.39	16.23	11.41	1.79
Podili	12.62	20.73	11.22	3.62
Kanigiri	9.78	16.14	12.12	0.62
Udayagiri	7.99	13.45	18.05	3.23
Ongole	14.63	20.79	18.18	4.89
Kandukur	11.77	20.15	18.71	3.22
Kávali	11.89	17.89	24.38	9.05
Nellore	11.63	11.42	24.52	7.64
Atmakúr	8.64	10.74	20.16	6.04
Rapur	10.23	16.73	24.63	6.60
Gudur	10.58	16.91	24.10	8.46
Podlur	13.77	16.96	17.60	8.40
Venkatagiri	10.10	22.33	25.15	6.65
District Average ..	11.03	16.94	21.06	5.85

* Three years only.

The fall from June to September was excessive, while that from October to December was very deficient; the total fall during the two monsoons was less than the average by 20 to 30 per cent. in the northern half of the district and in Venkatagiri and by 35 to 50 per cent. in the remaining portion. The supply of drinking-water is generally sufficient. The want of wells for the Panchamas in parts of the Podili division should be promptly attended to. The water-supply for irrigation is deficient

except under river-channels and a few tanks. The portions of the district worst off in this respect are the Udayagiri, Gudur and Rapur taluks and the Venkatagiri and Podili divisions.

3. Agricultural operations have almost ceased. The condition of the early crops is fair in parts and the rains that fell towards the end of the fortnight have revived the standing crops to some extent. Failure of crops to a large extent is reported from Atmakúr, Udayagiri and Gudur taluks, and the standing crops on a large area in most taluks are expected to yield but a poor outturn.

4. Pasture and fodder are getting scarce; the condition of the cattle is for the present fair.

5. Prices are very high; their comparative positions are exhibited below :—

Rates.	Measures per rupee.			
	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
Current	8.7	12.6	11.0	11.1
December 1896	11.4	20.5	18.8	16.2
" 1891	9.3	15.0	14.0	13.6
" 1877	7.6	9.2	8.9	8.7

Trade is said to be active and there is no want of food supplies in the markets.

6. The condition of the people is generally good. Test-works have been opened in Udayagiri, Kanigiri and Podili with kitchens attached to them. The attendance during the fortnight was not large, but the numbers are steadily increasing. Want of employment for the labouring classes is also reported to be felt in parts of Kandukur and Ongole taluks and the Venkatagiri division. Orders have already been issued for the expansion of ordinary works and the starting of works on the gang and piece-work system wherever necessary.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

" Collector of Nellore.
" Sanitary Commissioner.

ORDER—No. 53, Revenue, dated 29th January 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 Public Works Department.
" the Local and Municipal Department.
" the Financial Department.
" Accountant-General.

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