

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd.

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} 1915.

Enclosures

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G.O. No. 385, 10th April 1915.

Industries

Recording notes on certain — submitted by the Director of —.

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

Letter—from K. T. B. TRESSLER, Esq., Acting Director of Industries.
To—the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Dated—Madras, the 6th/8th February 1915.
No.—60-G.-1.

In continuation of my previous notes on the subject of Industries and the disposal of Indian produce, I have the honor to state that since last writing, commercial conditions appear to have settled down somewhat.

Ground-nuts.—I got into touch with an American concern who expressed their willingness to buy 150,000 tons of these nuts. The proposal fell through partly on account of the tariff and more particularly on account of the shortage of shipping. In other countries also there appears to be a certain demand for nuts and in my opinion a good deal of the crop might be sold if there were good shipping facilities. The price of the produce has fallen considerably and at the lower price it may be said that the chief if not the only impediment to the disposal is this lack of shipping. The same difficulty is experienced in connection with the other kinds of produce and it is a matter for the urgent consideration of Government whether the various enemy's steamers that have at different times been seized could not be set free to carry on trade.

Copra and Cotton.—I understand that the Director of Agriculture is dealing with these.

Hides continue to command a good price.

As regards the staple exports of this Presidency, I feel that beyond the provision of shipping facilities there is little more that Government can do.

As regards indigenous industries to replace imported goods, I have now established a Pencil Factory in Cocanada and am producing pencils of a cheap variety. The pencils appear to be regarded by merchants as of satisfactory quality and I am now on the point of producing them in larger quantities.

Glass.—I have made certain experiments in glass ware, completed two or three furnaces and made arrangements for labour. I hope to be able to produce sample lots in six weeks' time and will then have to approach Government for funds to manufacture on a more extensive scale.

Paper Pulp.—I have been in correspondence with the owners of the Paper Factory, Punalur, and had arranged with them to restart the factory when legal questions were raised by other individuals who claim to have a share in the factory. The dispute was likely to lead to lengthy litigation and I was reluctantly compelled to drop my work there. These negotiations throw a significant sidelight on Indian Industry. The chances of development here were unique. The plant was in fair working order; I had verified the supply of raw material and found an ample market for the pulp to be made; I was prepared to supply expert assistance to the factory but the whole scheme fell through on account of petty squabbles. I am now submitting to Government proposals for a small wood pulping plant of my own.

Matches.—I have been approached by the proprietors of the Tenmalai Match Factory to assist them in running their factory and I think it possible that some useful results may be obtained in this direction.

Soap.—I have obtained a soap making plant on loan and have applied to Government for the service of a man to look after experiments. I have also made arrangements with an individual interested in the manufacture to supply materials for manufacturing purposes.

Oil.—The Anderson Expeller recently purchased has now been working continuously since September. Proposals have been submitted to Government for the purchase of a lakh of rupees worth of other machinery. I am making arrangements with a man at Coimbatore to place his expeller at my disposal so as to provide facilities for crushing there. I am making similar arrangements with the proprietors of the Cuddalore Oil Mill and the plant I propose to buy to provide facilities for crushing at various other centres.

In the Bureau of Industrial Information I have circularised all Collectors offering to put any ryot into touch with the market and to obtain him quotations for his produce if he wishes to sell, and have had several enquiries most of which I have been able to dispose of.

As regards *Dye stuffs* I have addressed Government to urge on the British Government the necessity of issuing a license for the export of dye stuffs to this Presidency and I have not yet had any orders.

I request that this note, at any rate the part dealing with individual names, be regarded as confidential as the firms or individuals concerned might not wish to have their arrangements with the Department made public.

Order—No. 385, Educational, dated 10th April 1915.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR,
 Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Industries.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 385, EDUCATIONAL,
DATED 10TH APRIL 1915.

[SUBJECT.—Notes on Industries.]

From the Director of Industries, No. 60 G.-1, dated 6th February 1915.

Mr. Tressler's letter may, it is submitted, be circulated to His Excellency the Governor and the Honourable Members. The previous notes on industries were so circulated.

S.K.—16-2-15.

C.R.—16-2-15.

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR—18-2-15.

P[ENTLAND]—20-2-15.

The point raised in the paragraph regarding groundnuts seem worth considering.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—22-2-15.

A I do not think there are many enemy's ships in India. I would ask the views of the Chamber of Commerce on the subject of shipping with special reference to the groundnut crop and then address a strong letter to the Government of India; but I am not sanguine on the subject of getting more tonnage as it is required to bring wheat to the United Kingdom and to move and supply troops.

H. A. S[TUART]—23-2-15.

P. S. S[IVASWAMI AYYAR]—23-2-15.

Please take action at once as at A.

P.R.—25-2-15.

A draft letter to the Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, Madras, is submitted below for approval.

S.K.—26-2-15.

C.R.—26-2-15.

Issue it demi-officially.

P.R.—26-2-15.

Demi-official—from the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, C.I.E.,
Secretary to Government, Educational Department.

To—GORDON FRASER Esq., Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, Madras.

Dated—26th February 1915.

No.—493-1 Edl.

It has been brought to the notice of the Government that, owing to the lack of shipping facilities caused by the present war, difficulty is experienced in finding markets for groundnut and other produce of this Presidency and that, if adequate shipping facilities are provided, a good deal of the groundnut crop can be shipped to countries where there is demand for the commodity. I am directed to request that the Chamber of Commerce will favour Government with its views on this matter, with special reference to the export of groundnut.

Demi-official—from GORDON FRASER, Esq., Chairman, Chamber of Commerce,
Madras.

To—the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, C.I.E., Secretary to
Government, Educational Department.

Dated—the 19th March 1915.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter D.O. No. 493-1, Edl., dated the 26th February, and to advise that the same has been circulated to the Members of the Madras Chamber of Commerce.

In reply to the suggestion put before Government, that, owing to the lack of shipping facilities caused by the present war, difficulty is experienced in finding markets for kernels and other produce of this Presidency, I have the honour to inform you that, in the opinion of the Members of this Chamber, the shortage of tonnage combined with the abnormally high level of freight rates has certainly added to the difficulties of marketing the groundnut crop this year.

The question of freight, however, is not the most serious obstacle to the disposal of the crop. Adequate shipping facilities and a lower level of rates might mean the sale of a further few thousand tons, but unfortunately it is the general European demand which is lacking. The serious advance in the rate of shipping freight has fallen mainly on the ryot, who has had to accept a correspondingly lower price for his produce. The rates at which Marseilles crushers are prepared to purchase small quantities of the crop are considerably below the level of the past few years. With a record crop on hand, it is, unfortunately, impossible for the seller in India to hold out for higher prices, and so long as prices offered will cover expenses, the seller has no option but to accept the equivalent of the Marseilles prices less the high freight.

At present, Marseilles is the only buyer in any quantity, and this only on a scale much below the normal. Calcutta is taking more kernels than usual, and Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom are small buyers. The total demand up to date is but a very small percentage of the estimated outturn of the crop.

The Chamber does not think it is correct that "if adequate shipping facilities are provided, a good deal of the groundnut crop can be shipped to countries where there is demand for the commodity." The trouble is, the demand does not exist, irrespective of whether the freight is available or not. The Chamber is afraid it cannot see in what direction Government can assist the situation. Were Government to provide one or two steamers at rates of freight below the current market level for tonnage, it is probable that such action would stimulate temporarily the demand from Marseilles. This demand, however, would probably be from speculators and later shipments would be reduced in quantity to the extent of the stimulated demand. The high level of freights seems to have been brought about as the result of the demand for tonnage throughout the world exceeding the supply available for mercantile purposes.

At the moment, the Chamber can suggest no feasible manner in which Government can render assistance to ameliorate present conditions, but should the situation change the matter will be at once brought to the notice of Government.

Please see the Hon'ble Sir Harold Stuart's note on page 1 and the letters to and from the Chamber of Commerce on page and above. In the opinion of the Chamber, additional shipping facilities will not improve the export of groundnut but the real difficulty in regard to the disposal of groundnuts is the lack of general European demand for the commodity. The Chamber is unable at present to suggest any feasible way in which the Government could help the situation. It is for orders whether any further action should be taken; none seems necessary.

S.K.—24-3-15.

C.R.—25-3-15.

There is nothing further to be done.

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR—26-3-15.

P[ENTLAND]—27-3-15.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—28-3-15.

H. A. S[TUART]—29-3-15.

P. S. S[IVASWAMI AYYAR]—30-3-15.

A draft order recording the papers is submitted for approval. It does not appear that the Government Order should be placed on Editors' Table; please see the last sentence of Mr. Tressler's letter.

S.K.—3-4-15.

C.R.—8-4-15.

F.R.—9-4-15.

[G.O. No. 385, Educational, dated 10th April 1915.]

” ” ” ” ” 191 .

C. No. 493, From the D. I., No. 60 Gp, dated 6. 2. 1915.

” ” ” ” ” ” ” ” 191

" " ; " " "..... ; " " ; " "

No. 3856, dated 10-4-19

Recorded.

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DEPARTMENT.

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