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(1) Number of pages 14

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(3) Initials of the Referencer lam. ✓

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Jail DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	2499	Press. / Mis.

Dated 22. 12. 1881. 19XX.

Gr. I

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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No

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2499
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

22nd December 1881, No. 2499.

Stores.

Read the following paper:—

From Lieutenant-Colonel T. E. TENNANT, Inspector-General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 8th December 1881, *No.* 248 [*Current No.* 3414].

With reference to Mr. Assistant-Secretary Laffan's Memorandum, No. 1863, dated 19th November 1881, I have the honor to remark that Mr. Standish Lee, in his letter printed with G.O., No. 2002, dated 6th November 1878, requests to be allowed to supply Government Departments with articles of local manufactures in preference to Europe-made goods. So far as the Jail Department is concerned the materials required for prisoners' clothing, bedding, &c., are manufactured by the prisoners themselves in the jails, and I presume it is not the desire of Government to interfere with the jails supplying their own requirements.

Dated 25th October 1878.

2. In his letter dated 15th June 1881, Mr. Standish Lee, the Proprietor of the Woollen Factory at Bangalore, appeals to Government for encouragement and patronage, and states that the competition of the local jails in Indian manufactures has compelled him to close a portion of his business, and in order to give him a monopoly of certain articles he urges Government to prohibit the manufacture of carpets and woollen goods in jails. Writing with an imperfect knowledge of the details of jail competition with free labor in other Presidencies and Provinces it may be affirmed as regards the manufacture of woollen rugs and carpets in the Madras Jails that there has been no competition with free labor. At this moment the jails have received orders both from London and New York for far larger orders than they can perform, and if the Woollen Factory at Bangalore can turn out pile carpets of the same quality and texture and dyes as are made in our jails there is no reason whatsoever that Mr. Standish Lee should close this portion of his business.

Financial Department, 1st August 1881, No. 1398.

3. With regard to the general question of competition with free labor alleged against the industrial employment of prisoners, a great deal of opposition is now being made to the Government entering the market as manufacturers and competing with free labor. Of course, this is utterly unreasonable, and the agitation is not made in behalf of the public interest, but in order that a few speculative manufacturers may obtain a monopoly. These persons are naturally loud in their outcries against any competition, and can always find active advocates with the Press.

4. It is so obvious as hardly to require stating, that, as persons who are earning a livelihood whilst free are competing with some body or other, so it is perfectly reasonable that they should work, and therefore compete equally after being put in prison. Moreover, I submit that the Government in the interest of the tax-payer has

a right to demand that our prisons shall be as far as possible self-supporting; that the vast labor force placed by law at the disposal of the Prison authorities shall not be wasted or frittered away but shall be utilized to the best advantage consistent with the primary object of penal discipline and with a view to recoup as far as possible the cost of a prisoner's custody and maintenance in prison and also to afford the prisoner himself the means of livelihood on leaving the jail.

5. There are some objections to the Government entering the market on a considerable scale as sellers of articles made by prison labor, but to my mind there can be no more suitable or more legitimate object to which prison labor can be devoted than to furnishing articles required by the public service.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd December 1881, No. 2499.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

R. DAVIDSON,
Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector-General of Jails.

Exd. J. Wright.

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Govt. of 11881 Madras.

C

FINANCIAL.

To

The INSPECTOR-GENERAL of JAILS.

Dated December, 2218.

Issued

Recd

Encl

G.O., 22nd December 1881, No. 2199.

DECEMBER.

Stores.—Letter from the Inspector-General of Jails submitting remarks on Mr. Standish Lee's request to be allowed to supply Government Departments with articles from his factory at Bangalore, recorded

CURRENT No. 3414

No 248

Ootacamund 8 December 1881

3499/3

From

Lt Colonel J. E. Tennant

Inspector General of Jails

To

The Honble R Davidson C.S.I.

Chief Secretary to Government

Fort St. George

Sir

With reference to Mr assistant Secretary Laffan's Memorandum No 7863 dated 19th November 1881 I have the honor to remark that Mr Standish Lee in his letter printed with G.O. 2002 dated 6th November 1878 requests to be allowed to supply Government Departments with articles of local manufacture in preference to European-Goods. So far the Jail Department

ment

ment is concerned the materials
required for prisoners clothing
bedding &c are manufactured by
the prisoners themselves in the
jails, and I presume it is not
the desire of Government to interfere
with the Jails supplying their
own requirements.

2. In his letter dated 15th
June 1881 Mr Standish Lee the
proprietor of the woollen factory
at Bangalore appeals to Government
for encouragement and patronage and
states that the competition of the
local jails in Indian manufactures
has compelled him to close a portion
of his business, and in order to
give him a monopoly of certain
articles he urges Government to
prohibit

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prohibit the manufacture of Carpets
and woollen goods in jails.
Writing with an imperfect knowledge
of the details of Jail competition
with free labor in other Presidencies
and Provinces it may be affirmed
as regards the manufacture of
woollen rugs and carpets in the
Madras Jails that there has been
no competition with free labor. At
this moment the Jails have received
orders both from London and New
York for far larger orders than
they can perform and if the Woollen
Factory at Bangalore can turn
out like carpets of the same
quality and texture and dyes as
are made in our jails there is
no reason whatsoever that Mr
Standish

Standish Lee should cease this
portion of his business.

3. With regard to the general
question of competition with free
labor alleged against the industrial
employment of prisoners. A great
deal of opposition is now being
made to the Government entering the
market as manufacturers and
competing with free labor. Of
course this is utterly unreasonable,
and the agitation is not made
in behalf of the Public interest
but in order that a few speculative
manufacturers may obtain a
monopoly. These persons are
naturally loud in their outcries
against any competition and can
always find active advocates with
the Press.

It

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4 It is so obvious as hardly
to require stating, that, as persons
who are earning a livelihood whilst
free are competing with somebody
or other, so it is perfectly reasonable
that they should work, and therefore
compete equally after being put in
prison. Moreover I submit that
the Government in the interest of the
tax payer has a right to demand
that our Prisons shall be as far
as possible self-supporting; that
the vast labor force placed by law
at the disposal of the Prison Authorities
shall not be wasted or frittered
away but shall be utilized to the
best advantage consistent with
the primary object of penal disci-
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in prison and also to afford the
prisoner himself the means of
livelihood on leaving the jail.

5. There are some objections
to the Government entering the market
on a considerable scale as sellers
of articles made by Prison labor,
but to my mind, there can be no
more suitable or more legitimate
object to which prison labor can
be devoted than to furnishing
articles required by the Public Service.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant

J. T. Tennant

Inspector General of Jails

Financial

Jail (1881) Department.

(Stores) C

From

THE INSPR.-GENERAL OF JAILS,

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVT.,

Fort St. George.

R. D.

Dated 8 December 1881.

Received 10 Dec

CURRENT No. 3414

No. 248

ENCLOSURE.

Subject.

Remarks on Mr Standish Lees request to Mr Shinn to supply Govt Department with articles from his factory at Bangalore in preference to those manufactured in India.

W. H. Archer

Ordered that the Inspector-General's letter be forwarded to the Govt. of India for consideration in connection with their office letter No. 2344 dy the 30th Nov. 1881.

To the I.G. of Jails.

H.S.

Copy to the Govt. of India, Dept. of Finance & Commerce.

H.S. 4 Mrs.

22nd Dec. 1881 No. 2499.

Dept. 7/1/82.

Note. 40

It is presumed that Govt. will not at present comment on this letter & that will await the return of the letter of the 30th ult.

12/1/82 in 15/2-A17-12

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Govt. of 1884 Madras.

Jail

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22 DEC 84

BY G.O. No. 2499.

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Stores. Letter from the Superintendent of Jails submitting remarks on the Standish Lee's request to be allowed to supply Govt. Depts with articles from his Factory at Bangalore, recorded.