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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

## Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Ency 13 to 57

G.O. No. 1910 Press Mis.

40-41

Dated 10 [illegible] 18 57

***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

23-37

*Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 13th October 1857.*

No. 40. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, in the Military Department, dated 16th September 1857, No. 3245.

Read letter from the Commissary General, 9th September 1857, No. 146, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.

In obedience to orders* of Government on two Telegrams received from the Officer Commanding the Province of Malabar and Canara connected with the great scarcity of rice which now exists at Cannanore, and directing me to report why the impending scarcity of rice was not earlier provided for by the Officer of this Department at Cannanore, I have the honor to state for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council that on reference to Captain Mackellar Acting Deputy Assistant Commissary General at Cannanore, I have received a reply† copy of which is annexed.

* No. 2855, dated the 25th August 1857.

† 26th August 1857, No. 272.

2. The imperfect communication during the South West Monsoon between the adjacent countries of Coorg and Mysore from whence rice is usually obtained in abundance and the unusual severity of the weather early and late in the season preventing communication between Canara and the rice countries along the Coast have been the cause of this sudden scarcity.

3. Cannanore has generally been so well supplied from the neighbourhood with rice that it has never been considered necessary to store rice there, and the favourable reports of the crops as well as the other gradual reduction in prices of grain after the fall of the first rains, prevented any apprehension of a scarcity.

4. I have received information by Telegram from Captain Mackellar that some Pattymars have arrived with rice and therefore I hope that the distress caused by the scarcity will cease almost immediately.

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From the Acting Deputy Assistant Commissary General, 26th August 1857, No. 272; to the Commissary General, Madras.

With reference to a Telegraph message received yesterday evening calling for an immediate report regarding the scarcity of rice at Cannanore, I have the honor to submit the following remarks upon the station and adjacent country.

2. Cannanore during the monsoons is almost completely cut off from communication with Coorg and Mangalore, the high roads from Mysore and Coorg to this place is at this season of the year in some places in so muddy a state that it is almost impassable.

3. The Merchants of Cannanore have in consequence for some time given up procuring supplies from Mysore, Coorg and the surrounding country where grain of every description is cheap and plentiful owing to the insuperable difficulty they meet with in conveying their merchandize from those parts to this place.

4. This remark is applicable to the road between Mangalore and this Station which is closed during the rains.

5. Under the circumstances the merchants and tradesman have hitherto depended almost entirely upon receiving their supplies of rice and wheat from Bombay, Mangalore and other Ports to the North of Cannanore; the price of the grains in the Market here consequently depends upon the state of the weather, should be Monsoon set in earlier or continue longer than usual the price of the grain is immediately raised by the dealers.

6. The trade of Cannanore more especially that connected with rice and wheat is almost exclusively in the hands of a few wealthy Natives living in the Town and beyond Military jurisdiction, and it is to these people that the grain dealers in the Cantonment Bazaars look for their supplies—the latter are not as is generally the case in most Indian Bazaars—men of substance and consequently cannot afford to keep up large stocks of grain.

7. This year it appears that the Monsoon set in earlier than usual and with such violence that the fleet of Pattymars conveying rice, wheat, &c. for this place had to put back again—I believe two of them were wrecked.

8. The merchants all seemed to expect the arrival about the beginning or middle of August, of the Pattymars that had been stopped in May and it was but reasonable to suppose that the rains which had set in much earlier than usual would cease about the time they usually do.

9. After the festival of Cocoanut day which on this Coast is kept at the breaking up of the Monsoon the weather instead of clearing up, became if possible more tempestuous than before, and has up to this period continued stormy, the consequence is the Pattymars instead of being here two weeks ago are still locked up in the harbours along the Coast, and rice which up to the 5th of August, had been selling at reasonable rates gradually reached the exorbitant price of 4 and 5 measures the Rupee, latterly it became evident that the stocks of rice of the Native merchants in Cannanore were becoming exhausted and one of them commenced selling off his wheat as he had no rice to dispose of.

10. With the concurrence of the Brigadier I offered to place the Elephants and Public Cattle at the disposal of merchants and dealers in grain but they told me that such a measure was of no use as the grain was as dear and scarce in the Country as in Cannanore and I found out through private sources that the people in Calicut, Tellicherry and adjacent districts were suffering as much from the scarcity of this necessary of life as the Troops and Inhabitants of Cannanore.

11. In conclusion I beg to state that I arrived here in the very middle of the rains and consequently have not had an opportunity of making myself personally acquainted with the state of the interior of the country with the exception of the Coorg road over which I have lately travelled.

12. The crops of last year were favorably reported upon by the Collector of Malabar and Canara—Since the Brigadier Commanding the Station applied for a Steamer with a supply of rice from Bombay, only one Pattymar with a very small quantity of rice has reached this place—Another and a fuller report shall be forwarded to you at the termination of the rains.

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Communicated to the Department Public Works with reference to the Statements made on the subject of the communications Inland from Cannanore.

(True Extract and Copies.)

(Signed) C. A. BROWNE, Colonel,
*Secretary to Government.*

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No. 41. ORDER THEREON, No. 1910; dated 10th October 1857.

The Government having in Extract Minutes Consultation of this day's date No. 1909, taken the necessary measures for keeping open the communication between Malabar and Mysore, no separate orders are required on the representations contained in the papers accompanying the above Extract.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
*Acting Secretary to Government.*

39

THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

No. 3245.

*Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, 16th September* 1857.

*Read letter, from the Commissary General, 9th September* 1857, *No.* 146; *to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.*

In obedience to orders* of Government on two Telegrams received from the Officer Commanding the Province of Malabar and Canara connected with the great scarcity of rice which now exists at Cannanore, and directing me to report why the impending scarcity of rice was not earlier provided for by the Officer of this Department at Cannanore, I have the honor to state for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council that on reference to Captain Mackellar Acting Deputy Assistant Commissary General at Cannanore, I have received a reply† copy of which is annexed.

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3. Cannanore has generally been so well supplied from the neighbourhood with rice that it has never been considered necessary to store rice there, and the favorable reports of the crops as well as the other gradual reduction in prices of grain after the fall of the first rains, prevented any apprehension of a scarcity.

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*From the Acting Deputy Assistant Commissary General, 26th August* 1857, *No.* 272; *to the Commissary General, Madras.*

With reference to a Telegraph message received yesterday evening calling for an immediate report regarding the scarcity of rice at Cannanore, I have the honor to submit the following remarks upon the station and adjacent country.

2. Cannanore during the monsoons is almost completely cut off from communication with Coorg and Mangalore, the high roads from Mysore and Coorg to this place is at this season of the year in some places in so muddy a state that it is almost impassable.

3. The Merchants of Cannanore have in consequence for some time given up procuring supplies from Mysore, Coorg and the surrounding country where grain of every description is cheap and plentiful owing to the insuperable difficulty they meet with in conveying their merchandize from those parts to this place.

4. This remark is applicable to the road between Mangalore and this Station which is closed during the rains.

5. Under these circumstances the merchants and tradesman have hitherto depended almost entirely upon receiving their supplies of rice and wheat from Bombay, Mangalore and other Ports to the North of Cannanore; the price of the grains in the Market here consequently depends upon the state of the weather, should the Monsoon set in earlier or continue longer than usual the price of grain is immediately raised by the dealers.

6. The trade of Cannanore more especially that connected with rice and wheat is almost exclusively in the hands of a few wealthy Natives living in the Town and beyond Military jurisdiction, and it is to these people that the grain dealers in the Cantonment Bazars look for their supplies—the latter are not as is generally the case in most Indian Bazars—men of substance and consequently cannot afford to keep up large stocks of grain.

7. This year it appears that the Monsoon set in earlier than usual and with such violence that the fleet of Pattymars conveying rice, wheat &c. for this place had to put back again—I believe two of them were wrecked.

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9. After the festival of Cocoanut day which on this Coast is kept at the breaking up of the Monsoon the weather instead of clearing up, became if possible more tempestuous than before, and has up to this period continued stormy, the consequence is the Pattymars instead of being here two weeks ago are still locked up in the harbours along the Coast, and rice which up to the 5th of August, had been selling at reasonable rates gradually reached the exorbitant price of 4 and 5 measures the Rupee, latterly it became evident that the stocks of rice of the Native merchants in Cannanore were becoming exhausted and one of them commenced selling off his wheat as he had no rice to dispose of.

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Communicated to the Department Public Works with reference to the Statements made on the subject of the communications inland from Cannanore.

**(True Extract and Copies.)**

*Secretary to Government.*

To the Department Public Works. With 2 Spare Copies.
„ Commissary General.
„ Adjutant General.

**Exd. R. Spears.**

Public Works Dpt. to Cons: 13th Oct. 1857 Dispartment

No. 1904.

Extract from the Mins of Cons: in the Military Dispartment.

Dated 9th
Recvd 25th } Jaffna

No. 3245.

Communicating to the D.P.W. the statement made by the Commissary General on the subject of the imperfect communication inland from Cannanore adverted to by him in assigning reasons for the impending scarcity being not earlier provided for by the officers of the Commissariat.

No. 1910. 10th Oct.

With an order

No. 1910.

The Government having in Extract Mins: Cons: of this date 7th: 1909 day [illegible] taken the necessary measures for keeping open the communication between Madalai and Mayaone, no separate orders are required on the representations contained in the papers accompanying the above Extract.

Fort Saint George
10th October 1857

3 Copies to the Chief Secr. Cuttack