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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	Press No.
Dated	13-1-39

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
for the month of January 1860.*

No. 36. Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Head Assistant Collector of Nellúr; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated Vadagiri, 29th December 1859.

In accordance with the order of Government, No. 2962, dated the 21st instant, I have the honor to forward you, for the information of Government, the following brief statement of facts in explanation of my conduct in issuing an order during the month of November 1858, prohibiting the exportation of grain from the ports of Negapatám and Nagúr.

2. The floods caused by the excessive quantity of rain that fell in the district of Tanjúr during the month of November 1858, were productive of many disasters, amongst the chief of which was the great damage done to most of the main lines of road, whereby all communication was cut off between the various chief towns of the district, the grain dealers and marchants at once closed their shops and resolutely refused to sell rice to the multitudes that beset them daily with applications for food. They persevered in this line of conduct for some time, and eventually the populace of several of the largest towns rendered desperate by hunger, committed serious grain riots, in one instance attended with loss of life, as well as much property of all kinds.

3. The towns of Negapatám and Nagúr were cut off so completely from the interior of the country by the floods, that on one occasion for a whole week no tappal was despatched or received, and even when the floods did abate slightly, the roads were perfectly impassable so that no grain from the surrounding villages could be brought into the market.

4. As in other places the Nattucottay chetties closed their grain godowns and obstinately refused to sell to any one on any terms, the stock in trade of the petty retail dealers, of course dependant for supplies upon the wholesale merchants, was soon exhausted, and the inhabitants of both of the towns suffered severely, after a few days the streets of Negapatám became crowded with strangers from the different villages along the sea coast who had made their way in the hope of being able to buy grain; disappointed in their expectation and literally starving, these people were difficult to keep in order and a source of considerable uneasiness, particularly to the grain merchants, who had stated openly that they only waited for the tempestuous weather that then prevailed at sea to moderate, when they intended to export the whole of their very large stock of grain to the Ceylon market.

5. As soon as this intention of theirs was generally known, the great mass of inhabitants of the two towns became much excited, threatening placards were posted at night on the street walls and even on the Custom House doors, denouncing the merchants by name and inciting the people to plunder their godowns as had been done elsewhere in the district. A deputation of the chief merchants visited me and applied for protection of their stores and property, in the shape of peons or sepoy to be posted at their shops which they still refused to open, I had several interviews with them and as they continued firm it became at last a matter of very serious consideration what was to be done to preserve the peace of the town, and at the same time supply the population with food for a short time. The grain ships expected from Kákináda did not arrive, and little or no grain could be got in the district supposing the state of the roads permitted its being brought into the town. The rice godowns were surrounded night and day by large crowds of people who were rapidly becoming less amenable to control, and more clamorous in their demands.

6. Under these circumstances, after much consideration, I resolved, as a last resource, to issue an order that for the reasons above given, no grain should be exported until a supply should be received in the town either by sea or land. I wrote the same day a full report of the whole matter to Mr. Phillips, and the day but one after, (so far as I can remember at this length of time), I received a demi-official letter from him, requesting me to lose no time, in withdrawing the order I had mentioned, as the principle was objectionable although no doubt my position was one of considerable difficulty.

7. In the interval that took place between my writing to and hearing from Mr. Phillips, (then at Vellam,) I had persuaded several of the chief merchants to open their shops and sell grain to the people, this was done under my personal inspection and under the guard of a num-

ber of peons and a small party of sepoys; a considerable quantity of paddy had been sold in this manner before Mr. Phillips' letter arrived; *I at once* rescinded the order in question, it had not been then issued more than three or four days, and no instance had occurred of a necessity to enforce it, as owing to the unsettled state of the weather, no vessels dared approach the shore or put out to sea, and no grain was, I believe, exported until the commencement of the present year, when the weather had moderated.

8. Before that time several vessels arrived with paddy, most of which was sold by retail under my own inspection and protection, for the rush of eager purchasers was so great that the merchant was afraid to open his doors.

9. I have thus endeavoured to shew as succinctly as possible the pressure at that time bearing upon me, I had the responsibility of preserving the peace of two large towns then in a state of much excitement, with the example before my eyes of what had just occurred in other places in the district where the grain merchants had to the last persisted in their infatuated determination not to sell; information had been made, (I am not aware on what grounds) to the Officer Commanding the 34th Regiment N. I. at Trichinopoly, that the detachment stationed at Negapatam was dissatisfied and unruly, consequently, I felt somewhat doubtful as to the amount of assistance I could expect in case of a disturbance in the town, and I respectfully trust that Government will be of the opinion that acting as I did, I was exerting myself to the best of my ability and adopting only what appeared, under the circumstances, to be one of the best and readiest means of tranquilising public feeling.

10. In conclusion, and in support of what I have stated, I may mention that considering my absence from Negapatam, even for a single day, inadvisable, Mr. Phillips objected to my attending the examination of Assistants that was held at Kumbakonam in December, and my examination was deferred for that reason until January. For six days preceding and subsequent to my order now under explanation, I was constantly in the streets of the town endeavouring to quiet the crowds of people; pickets of sepoys also were posted at night in the street where the grain shops were situated and near the Custom House.

11. Absence from Nellur prevents my referring to such papers as I have for the dates, &c., that might, perhaps, have rendered my explanation plainer and more full.

No. 37. ORDER THEREON, 23rd January 1860, No. 174.

In this letter Mr. Whiteside explains the circumstances under which, when acting Head Assistant Magistrate of Tanjūr, he prohibited the export of grain from Negapatām and Nagūr.

2. The Government have considered all that Mr. Whiteside urges in excuse in vindication of his proceeding. They admit that he was in a position of difficulty; but not only was the course which he took illegal, it was also unsound and indefensible in policy. Nothing is more certain than that the one essential to the fullest and freest supply of any article, is confidence on the part of the dealers that their property will be protected, and that their control over it will not be interfered with. Any act tending to shake that confidence, though it may seem adapted to remedy a temporary inconvenience, is certain in reality to have an injurious effect.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Pelona District
 Head of the Pelona District
 Pelona, California
 29th December 1888
 From: L. O. Boardman Esq.
 Special Agent in Charge of Pelona
 L. O. Boardman Esq.
 Director of Government
 Fort Saint George
 In accordance with the orders
 of Government No. 2502 dated the 1st
 of April 1888 the work of for-
 warding for the information of Government
 the following being a statement of goods
 and a description of same conducted in various
 ways as per paper No. 1000 of 1000
 1888 including the collection of same
 from the ports of San Antonio & San Jose.
 2. The goods caused by the expenses
 of a party of men sent to the District
 of San Jose for the month of November
 1888 were produced from various

amongst the chief of the tribe, the
great damage done to most of the
main lines of trade, & nearly all com-
munication between the different
tribes, & the various parts of the country.
The grain dealers in various places
closed their stores & refused to buy, or
to sell rice to the natives, & the
boats from each side refused to
go on. The merchants in the
at present for some time, & the
the business a considerable
town & persons in each of the
councils & persons in each of the
instance attended with the
authorities, & the people in each
of the towns of the nation, &
Lagos are all very anxious
from the interior of the country, in
the floor, & in one occasion
for a while, & the people in each

despatched a reinforcement, and were
when the floods did not slightly
the work more perfectly impassable
so that no grain from the surrounding
villages could be brought into the
market.

4. In other places, the Russian
collection, close to their main po-
stons & systematically refused to sell to
anyone on any terms, the shore in
the rest of the delta being entirely
of course dependent for supplies
upon the Asiatic Merchant, who
soon exhausted, & the inhabitants
of both of the towns suffered severely,
after a few days the streets of
Kasablan became crowded with
strangers from the different villages
along the sea coast who had sought
their way in the hope of buying the
few grains & supplies that were

expectation & literally starving,
these people were difficult to buy
in order a source of considerable
uneasiness, particularly to the
main merchants. The latter stated
plainly that they only wanted for
the American market but their
preference was to be made to
have their interest to export the whole
of their very large stock of grain
to the English market.

Dr. C. saw no intention of
their being generally known the
great mass of inhabitants of the
two towns became much excited,
threatening placards were posted at
night on the street walls &
even on the Custom House doors,
denouncing the merchants for causing
the people to plunder
their provisions and to burn houses.

elsewhere in the District. A
deputation of the chief merchants
visited me & offered for protection
a large store of property in the shape
of provisions to be posted at
their own risk which they still refused
to give. I had several interviews with
him & he continued to insist that he
came at this a matter of mere business
consideration which would be done
in view of the peace of the town
& at the same time supply the popula-
lation with food for a short time.
The grain ships which from Cocacaca
did not arrive, & little or no grain
could be got in the District supposing
the state of the roads permitted &
it being brought into the town. The
rice granaries were surrounded night
& day by large crowds of people
who were rapidly becoming more

amenable to consideration, & more
 clamorous in their demands.
 b. Under these circumstances, a
 much more liberal, & more
 liberal measure than an
 that will be more liberal than
 the price would be expected to be
 should be received to be more
 policy in the case of the
 a full report of the same matter
 to the Committee on the same
 matter for further consideration
 at the length of time & resources
 to some official letter from him
 to question me to his mother in order
 to draw the order & to mention
 as the principle or object in the
 matter no doubt my position was
 one of considerable difficulty
 in the interest of the
 to the same measure.

receiving from Mr. Phillips a letter of
 invitation to be a member of several
 of the churches in the city. This
 subject will be in the hands of the
 board and under my personal inspection.
 I am not the person to remember of
 having a small party of persons in
 a communicable quantity of persons
 and have acted in this manner
 before the Phillips letter arrived.
 I have been in the city in
 question, in the case of some of the
 issues of more than 3000 copies, and
 no instance has occurred of a
 necessity to enforce it, or any
 of the unsettled state of the weather
 no necessity to see a person in
 a case of not only to see a person
 in the case of a person until the
 commencement of the present
 winter.

8. Japan that the mineral
products arrived with purity, and
of which was solidly retained under
my own inspection & selection, for
the next 2 days the business was
so great that the merchants were
unable to come in during

[illegible][illegible]

10. In conclusion, and in support of
that I have stated, I may mention
that considerable numbers of
Gospel laborers, even for a single day, is
unobtainable. The Phillips objects a
large attendance the examination of
the students. It was held on the 10th

Rum has been in December and
my examination was deferred for
that reason until January. I
have been in consequence of my
order now under examination. I
was constant in the study of the
town encumbrance to great the number
of people, the city has also been
partially at night in the street and
the main side more extensive and
near the Custom house.

Mr. Thomas from the House of Commons
my reference to him in his examination
for the date. He that night perhaps
have reviewed my explanation before
and more full.

Thank the donor to be,
Yours most Obedient

Head Assistant Collector

D.W. Dept

2/10/74

Proceedings of the Madras Government
under date the 23rd January/60.

Read the following letter
from W. S. Whiteside Esq
Head Asst. Col. of Madras

Explaining the circumstances
under which he issued an order
prohibiting the exportation of
rice from Negapatam and
Tanjore.

(Here enter 29. Dec. 59 etc.)

In this letter Mr

Whiteside contains the cir-
cumstances under which,
when acting as Asst. Comm.
of Tanjore, he prohibited
the export of grain from
Negapatam & Tanjore.

2. The Govt. has since
considered & all that
Mr. Whiteside urges in ex-
cuse or vindication of
his conduct proceeding they
admit that he was in a
position of difficulty; but
not only was the course
which he took illegal, it

CLG
WLL

S/M

Cons. 31st December 1874

23rd Jan 1860

1860

23rd Jan 1860

23rd Jan 1860

23rd Jan 1860

23rd Jan 1860

Explaining the

circumstances under
which he issued an
order prohibiting the
exportation of rice
from Negapatam

26. 2/10

26. 2/10

was also measured & inde-
fensible in policy. Nothing
is more certain than that
the one essential to the fullest
freedom of any article,
is confidence on the part
of the dealer that their
interests will be protected &
that their control over it
will not be interfered
with. any act tending
to shake that confidence,
though it may seem adapted
to remedy a temporary
inconvenience, is certain in reality
to have as
injurious ~~an~~ effect.

Copies
To the Board of Directors
and to W. S. Whitcomb Esq.

W. S.

