

Revenue Department
Minutes of Consultation

23rd Feb 1858.

Back No 23 & 24.

Order No 224 22nd Feb 1858.

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 23d February 1858.

No. 23. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th January 1858, No. 415.

Read letter from T. J. KNOX, Esq., Acting Collector of Masulipatam; to J. D. SIM, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George; dated Vijeshwarum 13th January 1858.

Sir,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge Extract from Minutes of Consultation, dated 23d December 1857, forwarded by the Board on 5th January 1858, regarding the impressment of carts.

2. I regret exceedingly my letter to Captain Fergusson appeared offensive or uncourteous. I admit that now I see it in print, it is not what I should wish, but it was written to an officer on the spot with whom I conversed nearly every morning about this business, and it was in reality my decision after I had personally examined the contractor and the bandymen.

3. But as to the principle involved, I must solicit a hearing, because the public interests are at stake, and I respectfully affirm that my position is not clearly understood.

4. The only officer I impress bandies for, is the Commissariat Officer, either writing to me direct, or through the Officer Commanding, and whether he requires bandies for Ordnance and Commissariat Stores, or Troops or Electric wire, matters not to me. I impress for him alone, and deliver to him or to his agents, so that I do not, as Government appear to think, impress for one Department to the prejudice of another.

5. I submit that when the Commissariat Officer, by his contractor cannot supply bandies, &c., for the public service, it is evidently an impediment to my obtaining bandies, if every driver can turn round and say that he is already engaged, and so secure time to escape, ere the truth of his assertion can be tested; why has the contractor, if any engagement existed, not supplied the Commissariat Officer? and what harm is there in my peons taking carts to the Commissariat Officer? are questions to which no satisfactory answer can be given.

6. I beg to inform the Board, that as every Commissariat Officer here well knows, though the Commissary General appears to have forgotten it, the contract is on-sided, the Rajah will supply bandies as long as he can make money by so doing, and if he refuses, he cannot be punished, the consequence is, when any requisition for carts is made, that is not agreeable, such as for sepoys' families, or Europeans, the contractor hangs back, and the Commissariat Officer has to come to me.

7. For instance the Head Quarters and Right Wing of Her Majesty's Royals could not march for want of 100 bandies, a requisition was sent me to supply them in two days; and at that time, the person whom both Captain Fergusson and I call, the Contractor, Seethiah Naidoo, had 80 bandies in the town, which were not supplied to the troops, either because the cart men preferred stores, or for some other reason known to the Commissariat Department.

8. I did not then press them by my own peons, but I pointed them out to the Officer Commanding the Royals, who acted energetically, and got these carts for his men, but I saw clearly the necessity of the principle, I asserted in my letter to Captain Fergusson, in case I met with a Commanding Officer, who preferred routine.

9. I can only add, that now, whether true or false the assertion has to be enquired into, every cartman vows he is engaged by the Contractor, and as his agents are not as numerous as my peons, my action can neither be speedy nor certain. Hitherto I have given the Commissariat Department very effectual assistance, for, I have had the contractor constantly in my office, shown him where carts could be procured, and given him peons and orders as he required, but I have also have made him tell me what measures he was taking to procure carriage, and where; and I have always kept urging him to his duties, for I am well aware that I had a most slippery man to deal with, and if the present rule is maintained, he has weakened my power of aiding, and not increased his own, of promoting the interests of Government.

10. Perhaps the Board will be pleased to submit this explanation to Government. I feel I have done all I could for the public service, and I regret Government should think I had impeded it.

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Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 23d February 1858.

Resolved that the above letter be submitted for the information of Government, with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation, dated 13th December 1857, No. 1347, R. D.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM, Sub-Secretary.

No. 24.

ORDER THEREON, No. 224; dated 20th February 1858.

The above Extract, and the letter which it encloses, will be referred to the Military Department, for transmission to the Commissary General, who will be requested to ascertain and report to Government the terms under which Seethah Naidoo contracts to supply the Commissariat with carriage, with particular reference to the Acting Collector's assertion that he is subject to no penalties for breach of engagement.

2. It does not appear reasonable that, if the Commissariat Officer has a contract for carriage, the contractor should, whenever it suits him, throw the whole burthen of his duty on the Collector.

(Signed) H. FORBES,

Acting Secretary to Government.

Revenue Department

No. 415

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 24 January 1858.

Read letter from the Acting Collector of Madras dated 15 January 1858.

(Here Enter A.)

Resolved that the above letter be submitted for the information of Government with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation dated 23 December 1857, No. 1347, R. D.

(A true Extract)

J. D. SIM
Sub-Secretary

H. Forbes Esq.
Acting Secretary to Government
Revenue Department.

Com. 26 December 1937
 Received 13.5.38
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Extract from the
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Board of Directors

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Living Collectors of

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Excerpt from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 20th February 1888

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A Generalization of the

Journal of Revenue.

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Chesapeake, 29th January 1885

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opinion that he is
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sariat Officer has a
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the Contractor should,
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throw the whole burden
of his duty on the Collector.

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Approved by
the Collector
to be sent to the
Government

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Received of Mr. [illegible]
the sum of [illegible]

£ 29.2.24
Capt. [illegible]
Dated 20th [illegible]

Referring to the
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