

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.**Government of Madras.***Revenue* **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 413

Press
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Dated

26-2-1862

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th February 1862.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 503. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th December 1861, No. 6,855 :—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Madras, dated 5th December 1861, Nos. 433 and 435 :—

Letter dated 5th December 1861, No. 433.

1. Referring to the Orders of Government, Military Department, No. 4,266 of the 23rd ultimo, and the Board's endorsement thereon of the 2nd instant, requesting me to report as to whether Arrack is wanted in this Collectorate, I have the honor to state that, in consultation with my Deputy Collector, I find that the supply of this spirit contracted for for the current year, is likely to be much in excess of the actual consumption. It is estimated that there will be nearly one-third of the quantity contracted for remaining unused at the end of the Fasli year, and that this quantity will last until December 1862.

2. The rate at which "S. Sarawana Muttou" offers his surplus Arrack, is 8 Rupees per Laguer below that of the contract with Messrs. Arbuthnot for this District, but in view of our own large anticipated surplus, it would in all probability prove no economy to increase our store for anticipated consumption a year hence, because now available at a cheap rate; for the saving in price, would be lost in the evaporation or dryage of the spirit before it would be required for use. This is the Deputy Collector's opinion, and I agree, consequently. I cannot recommend that any of the surplus Arrack of the Government Contractor be purchased on account of the Madras District.

Letter dated 5th December 1861, No. 435.

1. After my letter of this date was written anent the surplus Arrack offered by the Contractor to Government, I received the accompanying tender or proposal on the part of "S. Sarawana Muttou," offering to retain the Arrack in his own hands until July next; in which, and in the three following months, he states he will deliver it to the authorities, and will further allow 2½ per cent. as wastage on the entire quantity so delivered.

2. I think the proposition deserving of consideration. There will be about 6,000 gallons needed at the present average consumption for the next Fasli, over and above what we shall probably have in store at the close of the current Revenue year; and since the Contractor will not require payment for the Arrack before its delivery, and is willing to keep it until the period when it is usually stored, Government may be willing to entertain the proposal, and to authorize a conditional engagement being entered into with "S. Sarawana Muttou" on the terms he himself has offered, and it is possible the arrangement will effect a considerable eventual saving in the cost price of the Arrack required for the ensuing year. Of course, it will be carefully stipulated that the Arrack shall be approved on behalf of the Government, and the 2½ per cent. for wastage on the quantity supplied will be scrupulously exacted.

1. Ordered that the above papers be submitted to Government, with reference to their Proceedings, dated 28th November 1861, No. 2,232, Revenue Department.

2. The Board agree with Mr. Reade in opinion that the offer contained in Sarawana Muttou's letter to him may be advantageously accepted, some standard being fixed for the strength of the liquor on delivery, and the allowance to be made for wastage being strictly exacted.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, Secretary.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th February 1862.*

No. 504. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th December 1861, No. 7,079:—

Read the following letter from C. W. READE, Esq., Acting Collector of Madras, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Chepauk, dated Sydapet, 14th December 1861, No. 449.

SIR,

1. I beg to send to be laid before the Board, the accompanying letter,* in original, received from my Deputy Collector V. Rangasawmy Aiyengar.

2. In this letter, the Deputy Collector takes objection to my recommendation in favor of the proposal of Saravana Muttu for the supply, in the ensuing year, of a certain quantity of Arrack now on his hands, and which I suggested to the Board, in my letter of the 5th instant, No. 435, might be accepted on the conditions and terms therein noted.

3. When writing my letter I had in view the desire of Government, as I read it, to relieve "Saravana Muttu" of the very large quantity of spirit thrown on his hands, and from a consideration as it appeared to me of the very favorable terms offered, it seemed advantageous to do so. I was not then aware of any order of Government, directing that the future supply of Arrack should be made subject to public competition, if the order quoted by the Deputy Collector is so to be read, and the Deputy Collector further suggests the possibility that the tenders for next year may be below the rate at which "Saravana Muttu's" arrack is now offered by him in anticipation. This of course may prove the case, and in the face of the possibility, and also in view of the orders of Government referred to, I have perhaps erred in recommending "Saravana Muttu's" proposal for favorable consideration. But it is important that I should mention, in support of my having done so, that the average rate per leaguer, paid by Government for Arrack for the five year's antecedent to the present, was Rupees 168-15-4, while in the current year it is Rupees 138, and the offer of "Saravana Muttu" for the required quantity for the ensuing Fasli is Rupees 130 a leaguer, or Rupees 8 below the existing contract rate, with the allowance for wastage. Hence I felt no doubt that "Saravana Muttu's" proposal was an advantageous one, but of course I may have been mistaken in this, and must leave the matter for the Board's consideration and final disposal.

1. Ordered to be submitted to Government in continuation of the Board's Proceedings, dated 9th December 1861, No. 6,855.

2. The Board do not see any force in the objection now raised as Saravana Muttu's contract with the Commissariat was, as they understand, obtained by public tender, and the rate seems very moderate as compared with past year. Mr. Reade has not noticed the Deputy Collector's remark regarding difficulty of storage.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 505. ORDER THEREON, 26th February 1862, No. 413.

The Government leave it to the Board of Revenue in communication with the Collector of Madras to make such arrangements as may be most advantageous to the public interests.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,

Deputy Secretary to Government.

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