M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 321 Press ~~Mis.~~

356.357

Dated 25-2-~~19~~1864

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 25th February 1864.

No. 356. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th February 1864 :—

Read Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, dated 25th January 1864, No. 134.

The Board beg leave to refer Government to the Bellary District Gazette for 26th December 1863, page 525, where the Collector's Circular in question is printed *in extenso*.

No. 357. ORDER THEREON, 25th February 1864, No. 341.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed). C. G. MASTER,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. R. H. Lee.

Extract from the Bellary District Gazette
of 26 December 1863 — Page 525

N° 11

Circular

1 During the present high prices of grain and indeed of all other articles, the Acting Magistrate has been applied to, to fix a mercick, or price Current.

2 It is no part of the duty of Government, to settle the prices of articles. It is generally believed that Governmental interference between buyer and seller is not productive of good and that the stimulus of high prices tends to increase trade, and to lessen Consumption.

3 While, however, no authoritative regulation of prices can be made, the Acting Magistrate would recommend to the grain sellers not to be exorbitant in their rates, and

and to remember the protection they owe to the British Government, that while from their capital acquired during such protection, they have virtually the monopoly of the trade, and can fix what prices they like on the necessaries of life, they have also the duty of considering the poor, that rights exercised to the utmost limits become wrongs, and that there is some reason that while the want of competition and enterprise prevents free trade in grain, the poor should not be reduced to desperation for want of food

4 To prevent such outbreaks, the Acting Magistrate thinks it would be well on their part, to publish in the large towns the ruling prices, and in this respect, they may have the advice of the Sub Magistracy.

The Sub Magistracy, on the other hand, should inform the poorer classes, that acts of violence on their part, will only add to the scarcity and dearness of grain, for an additional price has to be charged for insecurity

insecurity, and merchants will not im-
port, or deal in grain, if their stocks are
not safe from attack.

5 The price of grain, like all
other articles, must rise in times of scar-
city, and when money becomes more
plenty than in former years, both when
causes are now in operation, the best
way to prevent a monopoly of grain
is for persons to combine, and procure
it from other places where it may be
selling cheaper, by which they will
decrease the local demand and lead to the
fall of prices.

Bellary Magistrate's
office,
17th December 1863

Signed / A Bedderburn
Acting Magistrate

Extract from the Bellary
District Gazette of
26 December 63

No 45 of 64

No 25 of 64
O.M. 3811
No 956-957
under

Pro 25 Feb/64 A 259-260

Rec'd 1864 - Dec'r
Pro. of Gov't for Feb'y
P. 457.

Proceedings of the

Board of Revenue

Dated 19th February 1864.
Desp'd 19th "
Rec'd 20th "

No.

Referring Gov't to the Bellary
Gazette for 26th Dec. 163
page 525 for the Circular in
question.

No. 344
25 Feby/64
Recorded

No. 356 & 357.

To Captain G. the A.G. Rec'd Comp'l Dec'r 64