

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th March 1872.*

No. 93. Read the following letter from the Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 14th December 1871 :—

THE proposition of the Board of Revenue, contained in their Proceedings of the 29th June and 18th October last, that the use of the garce as a unit of measurement in the Periodical Price Lists should be discontinued (except perhaps for salt), and the pukka seer adopted instead, is one which entirely commends itself to the Chamber of Commerce.

2. The existing want of uniformity in the Weights and Measures found in various parts of this Presidency stultifies those comparisons of prices ruling in different localities that are so essential to both wholesale and retail traders; and it defeats the most patient endeavours of the statistician to arrive at some approximate idea of values. The pukka seer of eighty tolas of dried rice seems to have the strong recommendation of being already well-known in many districts; and its more general adoption would be promoted by its use in the Price Lists that are compiled for the information of the Board, the Government, and the general public. The extension of railways, by encouraging people to travel into other districts than their own, is doubtless tending to bring forcibly to the notice of the petty-traders the grave inconvenience resulting from the present complex system of Weights and Measures; and the spread of education must also greatly aid in overcoming ignorant local prejudices in connection with local denominations. The absolute liberty that the inhabitants of a free country possess of employing such a unit of measurement as buyers and sellers agree to use will not be violated by the adoption of the Board's proposal, of which the earliest result should be the imparting to the Provincial Price Lists a reputation for practical utility and reliability that does not at present attach to them.

3. The objection suggested by the Government in their Order of the 30th ultimo, No. 2,033, that the adoption of the proposal may practically result in showing retail instead of wholesale prices, by district returns being required in so small a denomination of measure as a seer, is a valid one. But if the Chamber are not misinformed, the Price Lists are chiefly designed to show current and comparative retail, rather than wholesale prices.

4. A larger measure might be more convenient on some accounts, but the Chamber do not foresee any difficulty from the employment in all districts of a unit that should show better than a larger measure the current retail values of those food-grains, on the abundance of which the general well-being of the people greatly depends.

No. 94. ORDER THEREON, 8th March 1872, No. 408.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue. The late order of the Government of India dated 18th January 1872, No. 1-14, communicated with the Order of Government dated 26th idem, No. 168A, has decided the question.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.

.. the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, with G. O. No. 168A.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 8th March 1872.

Read the following letter from the
Chairman, Madras Chamber
of Commerce.

Concurring in Board's pro-
posal that the use of the garce
as a unit of measurement
in the periodical Thice lists
should be discontinued and
the pukka seer adopted instead.

H.E. 14 December 1871.

Communicated to the Board
of Revenue. The late order
of the Govt of India dated
18 January 1872 No 14 Com-
municated with the order
of Govt dated 26 idem
No 161 has decided the
question -

14 To the Board of Revenue. On 11 November 1872
1 " Chamber of Commerce. On 10 Dec 1872