

No. 319. Read the following letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture and Commerce, (Statistics,) to the Secretary to the Government, dated Fort William, 20th March 1872, No. 6-146:—

IN reference to the Resolution of the Government No. 14, dated the 18th January last, in which a revised form was adopted for exhibiting the current prices of food-grains in different provinces, directed to express the desire of the Governor-General in Council that all officers concerned in the preparation and submission of these statements may be fully aware of the importance of securing truly accurate returns.

2. For commercial and statistical purposes the value of rigid accuracy in these statements can hardly be over-estimated, the degree in which they affect the financial economy of the Empire may be appreciated from the fact that a very considerable portion of the military expenditure in India—no less a sum than thirty lakhs a year, taking the average of the three years—is expended on the faith of these prices-current in compensation of the turnness of provisions and forage. If, as is believed to have been hitherto the case, prices shown in the official statements have a tendency to range above the actual rates at which the articles can be purchased in the market, a needless expenditure is involved in the award of such compensation.

3. The Government of India consider the work of preparing the prices-current should be entrusted to some competent officers in the tahsils or districts, who would be held personally answerable for accuracy. In each district an officer, not below the rank of Deputy-Collector, should be specially charged with, and made personally responsible for, checking these returns by personal inquiries, and each price-current officer that he had satisfied himself of the accuracy of the statement. To enable him to do this, it will be essential for him to commence inquiries on the day the statement is to be presented, to keep himself informed from day to day of all variations of the market.

4. It is believed that the plan suggested, if carefully carried out, will be sufficient not only to keep within bounds the moderate expenditure noticed in paragraph 2 of this letter, but also to lay the foundation of a system for the accurate record of statistics of the utmost importance; and I am accordingly desirous to request that, with the permission of the Governor-General in Council, such orders may be issued as may be calculated for ensuring the highest attainable accuracy in these statements.

Proceedings of the

nt. Revenue Department,

2.

No. 320.

ORDER

Miscellaneous.

March 1872, No. 525.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of
Revenue who will issue the necessary
instructions.

Extract.)

Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Military Department.

No. 6.

14.

FROM

A. O. HUME, Esq., C. B.,

Secretary to the Government of India,

TO

The Secy to the Govt of Madras.

Dept. of Agriculture,
Revenue and Commerce.

Statistics.

Fort William, the 20 March 1872.

SIR,

IN reference to the Resolution of this Department, No. 14 dated the 18th January last, in which a revised form was prescribed for exhibiting the current prices of food-grains in different Provinces, I am directed to express the desire of the Governor General in Council that all officers concerned in the preparation and submission of these statements may be made fully aware of the importance of securing truly accurate returns.

2. For commercial and statistical purposes the value of rigid accuracy in these statements can hardly be over-estimated, and the degree in which they affect the financial economy of the Empire may be appreciated from the fact that a very considerable portion of the military expenditure in India—no less a sum than thirty lakhs a year, taking the average of the last three years—is expended on the faith of these prices current in compensation for dearness of provisions and forage. If, as is believed to have been hitherto the case, the prices shewn in the official statements have a tendency to range above the lowest actual rates at which the articles can be purchased in the market, a needless expenditure is involved in the award of such compensation.

3. The Government of India considers that the work of preparing the prices current should be entrusted to some competent officers in the tahsils or districts, who would be held personally answerable for their accuracy. In each district, an officer, not below the rank of Deputy Collector or Assistant Collector should be specially charged with, and made personally responsible for, checking these returns by personal enquiries, and each price-current should bear the attestation of such officer that he had satisfied himself of the accuracy of the statement. To enable him to do this, it will be essential for him not merely to commence enquiries on the day the statement is to be presented, but to keep himself informed from day to day of all variations of the market.

4. It is believed that the plan suggested above, if carefully carried out, will be sufficient not only to keep within bounds the immoderate expenditure noticed in paragraph 2 of this letter, but also to lay the foundation of a system for the accurate record of statistics of the utmost public importance; and I am accordingly desired to request that *with the sanction of His Highness the Govt. in Council* such orders may be issued as may seem best calculated for ensuring the highest attainable accuracy in these statements.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

A. O. Hume

Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Revenue — 1872. *Depart*

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
REVENUE AND COMMERCE.

STATISTICS.

To

LOCAL GOVTS. AND ADMINISTRAT
MILY. AND FOREIGN DEPARTM

Dated 20th March

Received 25th March

No. *6*.

SUBJECT.

Correct preparation of Prices Current.

H 525-25

O. S. G. P. — No. 10140 A., R. & C. — 19-3-72. — 105.

Committed to the 18th of Nov. 1872

*U. Board of Revenue, Secy. to Govt. of India
7 Military Dept.*