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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

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Dated

9 - 12 - 1876

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th December 1876.*

No. 217. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th December 1876, No. 3,077 :—

Read the following letters :—

From H. T. ROSS, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to J. H. MASTER, Esq.,
Collector of Bellary, dated 20th November 1876, No. 307.

With reference to your letter, No. 1,684, of the 11th instant, I have the honor to inform you that my circular has been modified in accordance with Mr. Thornhill's Memorandum so as to exclude contracts, and instructions have been issued to my Tahsildars to purchase whatever quantity of raggy and cholam the local merchants bring for sale at their own market rates.

2. For the last few days I have been in Madaksara, where the Tahsildar had reported great difficulty in getting grain, and this undoubtedly was the case. After a deal of explanation, the principal merchants were got thoroughly to understand the relations in which Government proposed to stand to them as a good customer, and so far they have sold me about 3,000 Rupees worth of raggy at 8 seers per Rupee, and followed this up by promises that they would at once arrange to import very large quantities. Promises which, I have no doubt, will be fulfilled, for some of them have already gone scouring the country for grain.

3. No doubt now sufficient grain will be privately imported for the requirements of my taluqs as long as we pay the merchants the same price for grain as Madaksara has been hitherto the worst supplied of my three Canabah markets and similar success is certain in Pennakondah and Hiddupur, it is of no consequence that Mr. Price cannot send me the weekly supplies of grain asked for in my letter, No. 293, dated the 3rd instant. The local trade from being very sluggish is already becoming brisk, and the one consummation now devoutly to be wished, is that the fall of prices which Mr. Thornhill anticipates will soon come to pass.

4. In your letter, No. 1,363, dated 25th October, you have directed me to introduce the system of direct grain payments *if necessary*. It is obvious, however, that the present system of Government purchase in local markets, which was designed to enable the introduction of grain payments on relief works, has in itself removed all necessity for introducing grain payments. It would, I presume, be only considered "necessary" to give coolies grain instead of money where, owing to the insufficiency of grain in their ordinary places of purchase, they found a difficulty in turning their money into grain. This difficulty will be guarded against by the formation of Government stores at convenient centres. All that the coolies will then have to do is to take their money to the Government stores and turn it into grain. Besides that a system of direct grain payments is no longer necessary, it will be found, in trying to put it into practical effect, that it is attended with so many positive disadvantages and so many difficulties which cannot be got over except with an amount of labor and expense wholly out of proportion to any advantage which may be supposed to attach to it, that I beg you will be good enough to reconsider your orders for the introduction of direct grain payments and sanction in lieu thereof the continuation of money payments accompanied by the issue of grain from the Government stores at cost price to those who come to purchase it.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th December 1876.*

J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to H. T. ROSS, Esq., Assistant Collector in charge of the Head Assistant Collector's Office, dated 29th November 1876, No. 1,791.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your letter, No. 807, dated 20th November 1876, and with reference to your question as to grain payments, to state that it is evidently the wish of Government that grain payments should be introduced. They, however, do not mean more than the sum of 2 Annas, the wages of a laborer, represents a day's grain. You will observe by the Memorandum drawn up by the 1st Member of the Board, copy of which has been forwarded to you, what is wished in the way of preparing stores of grain.

2. Government do not contemplate ever becoming sellers of grain from their stores. What is issued will be in payment of labor rendered.

True copies forwarded to the Board of Revenue with reference to their Proceedings, No. ---, dated the 16th instant.

BELLARY,
30th November 1876.

(Signed) J. H. MASTER,
Collector.

Summary for the information of Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 16th November 1876, No. 2,850.

2. The Board reported fully justify the policy recommended by Mr. Thornhill in the Memorandum. The Board also reported that the Government should be used for payment of wages and gratuitous relief when this is required.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

General Circular, 9th December 1876, No. 1,982.

Miscellaneous.

The Government agree with the Board that the grain bought by Government is not for sale to the public. They

are glad to learn that the local trade is reviving.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue,
the Financial Department,
the Public Works Department.

End. P. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 5th December 1876

Read the following

Letter from the Head Assistant Collector
of Bellary to the Collector of Bellary,
No 827, dated the 20th November 1876.

With reference to your letter
No 1684 of the 11th Instant, I have the
hon^r to inform you that my circular

has been modified in accordance

with Mr. Thornhill's Memorandum

so as to exclude contracts, and in-

structions have been issued to my

Subordinates to purchase whatever quantity

of rappy and Chikana the local merchandise

being for sale at minimum market

rates.

For the last few days, I have

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been in Madakura where the Saheldar
had reported great difficulty in getting
grain and this undoubtedly was the case.
After a deal of explanation the principal
merchants were got throughly to understand
the relations in which Government
proposed to stand to him as a food
customer and so far my work told
me about 300 Rs worth of Rapi at
8 seers per l and formed me up by
promises that they would at once arrange
to import very large quantities. Promises
which I no doubt will be fulfilled
for some of them have already been
leaving the country for grain.

3. No doubt now sufficient
grain will be privately imported
for

for the requirements of my village as
long as we pay the merchants their
own price for it, and as Madakura
has been hitherto the worst supplier
of my three Cusaba markets and
similar success is certain in Punnia.
Kandah and Hindupur, it is of
no consequence that Mr. Price cannot
send me the weekly supplies of grain
asked for in my letter No 298 dated
the 3rd Instant. The local trade from
being very sluggish is already becoming
brisk and the one announcement
now doubtless noticed is that
the fall of prices which Mr. Thornhill
anticipated will soon come to pass.

4. In your letter No 1563 dated
25th October you have directed me
to

to introduce the system of direct grain-
payments if necessary. It is obvious,
however, that the present system of
Government purchase in local markets,
which was devised to enable the
introduction of grain-payments on
relief works, has in itself removed
all necessity for introducing grain-
payments. It would, I presume,
be only considered "necessary" to give
coolies grain instead of money where
owing to the insufficiency of grain
in their ordinary places of purchase,
they found a difficulty in turning
their money into grain. This difficulty
will be remedied by the
formation of Government stores
at

at convenient centres. All that the
Coolies will then have to do is to take
their money to the Government stores and
turn it into grain. Besides that adoption
of direct grain-payments is not only
necessary, it will be found, in trying
to put it into practical effect,
that it is attended with so many
positive disadvantages and so many
difficulties which cannot be got over
except with an amount of labor
and expense wholly out of pro-
portion to any advantage which may
be supposed to attend to it; that I
beg you will be good enough to
reconsider your order for the introduction
of direct grain-payments and sanction
in lieu thereof the continuation of
money

money, payments accompanied by the
issue of grain from the Government
stores at cost price to those who come
to purchase it.

I have seen
J. H. T. H. H.
Asst. Asst. Collector

Letter from the Collector of Bellary to
the Assistant Collector in charge of
the Head Assistant Collector's Office,
No 1791, dated 29th November 1876.

I have the honor to acknowledge
your letter No. 307, dated the 20th November 76
and with reference to your question
as to grain payments to state
that it is evidently the wish of
Government that grain payments
should be introduced. They have
do not insist upon it, as long as
the sum of the amount, the wages of

a laborer, represents a sum of grain.

You will observe by the memorandum
drawn up by me 1st December of the
Board, Copy of which has been for-
warded to you, what is wished in
the way of preparing stores of grain.

Government do not contemplate
ever becoming sellers of grain from their
stores. That is issued will be in
payment of labor rendered.

I have seen
J. H. T. H. H.
Collector

True Copy forwarded to the Board
of Revenue with reference to their
Proceedings No. 167 dated the 16th August

30. 11. 76. J. H. T. H. H.
Collector

Submitted for the infor-
mation of Government in continuation

of Board's Proceedings dated 16th

November 7th M. 2850.

The results reported fully
justify the policy recommended
by Mr. Thornhill in his views embodied
in the Proceedings quoted. The Collector is
right in explaining that Government
should not sell grain - Grain
purchased on Government account
should be used for payment for
wages & gratuitous relief where this
is required.

(True copy retained)

W. L. L. L.

Secretary

To the Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department

