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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1278	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	6. 3. 1877	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

26th February 1877, No. 721.

Famine Relief.

Read the following papers :—

No. 440. *From J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to the Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Cuddapah, 29th January 1877, No. 7.*

I have the honor to suggest that all contracts for the carriage of grain in this district for the supply of grain to Famine Relief Works should be made by the Government Grain Agent, Major Hicks, and that the management of transport should be in that officer's hands entirely.

2. I find that the Acting Sub-Collector is hiring carts and having others made to bring grain up to his Division, and I learn from the Assistant Grain Agent here that this is creating a difficulty here as regards the contractors obtaining carriage.

3. It is far better, in my opinion, that one officer should manage everything, and I would therefore recommend that whether grain is being carried actually for Government, or by Government on account of private merchants who agree to supply on the spot, Major Hicks should arrange matters connected with the carriage required.

4. I feel assured that if this measure is sanctioned things can be done more cheaply, and a great deal of confusion and waste of time in correspondence saved.

5. All that would be required under the measure which I propose is that the Government Grain Agent should be informed that so many thousand bags of grain have to be carted from such and such a place to such and such a dépôt, and that he be left to find the carriage through his contractor.

Transferred to the Financial Department for disposal.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
2nd February 1877.

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

No. 259.

Referred to Major Hicks for his remarks after consultation with the Acting Collector. All Government action of the kind should be restricted to what is absolutely indispensable.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
3rd February 1877.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

No. 441. *From Major F. J. HICKS, Government Grain Agent, Bellary, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 17th February 1877, No. 271.*

I have the honor to return letter from the Collector of Cuddapah, referred to me for my remarks, and to report that, after consulting with the Collector of Cuddapah, I am of opinion that it is advisable to keep up as strong a transport agency as possible.

2. Mr. Price seems to feel the same doubt that I do as to the action of local merchants, and thinks, as I certainly do also, that Government will have sooner or later to call for tenders for the supply of grain from merchants from outside the district, and as such grain will only be delivered at Railway Stations provision will have to be made for carting it into the interior of districts, and when that time comes we shall be in extreme difficulties if sufficient carriage is not forthcoming. Mr. Price further observes that the contract carts he has seen have evidently been collected from far and wide, and that should they once get scattered it will be impossible to place any reliance on the miserable draught animals to be found in the district, and in this also I fully agree as I know if I once lost my hold on the carts at present employed, I should find the greatest difficulty in collecting them together again.

3. Up to this by only working at half speed, and also by employing my carts on any odd jobs such as the carriage of tools and other stores for relief works, I have been able to retain a fair hold on most of the serviceable carts and bullocks in these districts; but, owing to the short supply of Government rice now sent up to me by rail, I foresee a time coming when I may actually have to send away carts owing to having no employment for them.

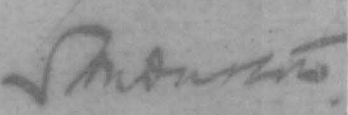
4. Mr. Price does not believe that local traders will avail themselves of my carts to carry grain for them, and certainly up to this they have not done so although I have published notices far and wide to inform traders that I will carry grain for them at very reduced rates. I dare say some of the European Firms at Madras will employ my carts eventually, but not to any great extent, and up to this I have only carried about 225 bags a short distance for one firm. Mr. Price informs me that the transport system in his district seems to be now in good working order, and adds that we may want it again in a hurry.

No. 442.

ORDER THEREON, 23TH FEBRUARY 1877, No. 721.

The Governor in Council entirely approves of all the Government grain transport arrangements in the Ceded Districts being left in Major Hicks' hands.

(True Extract.)


 Chief Secretary.

To the Hon. the Revenue Department.
 " Board of Revenue.
 " Collector of Cuddapah.
 " Government Grain Agent.

Ed. J. Wright.

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