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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1817	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	31-3-1877	197.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1817
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

23rd March 1877, No. 1039.

Famine Relief.

Read the following papers:—

No. 297. *From Major F. J. HICKS, Government Grain Agent, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Bellary, 12th March 1877, No. 394.*

I have the honor to forward you copy of a letter and statement received this day from Messrs. Harvey and Sabapathy, bringing to notice the difficulties they experience owing to the short supply of Government reserve rice now sent up by rail and which is not at all sufficient to keep their carts going, and does not amount to the average daily quantity they contracted to carry.

2. I have pointed out to them that all the rice sent up is entrusted to them for transport and that the short supply is owing to the limited Railway freight available, and not, as far as I know, from any wish on the part of Government to reduce the quantity of rice for the carriage of which contracts were made:

3. I have already sent you several statements showing the quantity of rice I required at each depôt to keep contract carts going, and I have done all in my power to keep up the necessary supply.

4. A fresh statement is now sent showing the quantity of rice still required to meet the demands of the cart contractors at each depôt, and if so much cannot be sent, I request some instructions as to how I am to deal with the contractors if they press for compensation owing to their not being supplied with the minimum quantity of rice they contracted to carry.

5. I am rather surprised that they should have asked for compensation at all, as so far the undertaking has been most profitable to them, and it is only now when fodder and water are getting scarce every day that their difficulties and consequently their working expenses are likely to increase. I have also on all occasions shown them the utmost consideration and never pressed them unduly when they were not working up to contract agreement, and from all the conversations I had with the working partner, Mr. Sabapathy Moodelliar, I was under the impression that he was quite willing to continue the contract at the rate rice was arriving, supplemented as the quantity is now by grain merchants are asking me to carry for them.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Messrs. HARVEY AND SABAPATHY, to the Government Grain Agent, Bellary, dated Bellary, 12th March 1877.

We have the honor to refer to our conversation on Saturday, and now beg reference to the accompanying statement from which you will see that deducting all the Bellary contract as well as Peapally in the Ghooty contract, and Jammalmadugu, Proddatore, Nasseem, and Door in the

Yerragoontla contract, there is still wanted an average of about 3,183 bags of rice per diem to complete our remaining contract.

2. We will be much obliged if you will kindly take the matter into your consideration as the late arrivals have been much below the necessary average.

3. Bear in mind that carts once dispersed are frequently impossible to bring together again.

4. If Government wants to reduce the quantity, we may say we will accept any reasonable compensation; but as there are now only forty-nine days in which to act, we would like your early decision of the question in some way.

No. 298. From Major F. J. HICKS, Government Grain Agent, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Bellary, 13th March 1877, No. 399.

In continuation of my letter, No. 394, dated yesterday, I have the honor further to report that Mr. Sabapathy Moodelliar (the working partner in the contract made with Messrs. Harvey and Sabapathy) called on me to-day to explain with reference to enclosed copy of letter I addressed to his Firm yesterday, that they had no intention to make any regular demand for compensation, and were quite willing to continue working the contract as at present, but only wished to bring to notice the difficulties and occasional loss they experienced owing to their carts being kept waiting at depôts until rice arrived by rail from Madras. There is some reason in this, but I explained to Mr. Sabapathy the difficulty I experienced in obtaining the required quantity from Madras, and he admitted that on all occasions I had given him due notice of a short supply.

2. As regards the future working of the contract, Mr. Sabapathy said they were quite prepared to go on with it even if the time had to be extended, and it took six months to send up the minimum quantity of rice his Firm contracted to carry, but in case this minimum quantity, as stated in contract, is not sent up, he said his Firm would then look to Government for some compensation.

3. The statement sent with my letter yesterday gives this minimum quantity which amounts to 130,930 bags, but it will be reduced by small quantities of rice merchants are asking me to carry for them.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Major F. J. HICKS, Government Grain Agent, to Messrs. HARVEY and SABAPATHY, dated Bellary, 12th March 1877, No. 391.

I am in receipt of your letter of this date, a copy of which I will forward to the Chief Secretary for submission to Government. After our conversation on Saturday I am surprised that you should advance any claim to compensation. I have shown you the utmost consideration and never pressed you unduly when you were not working up to contract agreement, and at the present moment all the rice sent up by rail is entrusted to you for transport, and there has been no permanent stoppage of work, and as I told you I am not aware that Government have any wish to reduce the quantity of rice.

2. As however you have mooted the subject of compensation, you might perhaps be able to inform me what you expect, and it might be perhaps better for you to do so now, as I have received several offers from parties who agree to cart grain on very much lower terms than yours, and I have no doubt I could at once arrange to get such parties to take over the carts now employed, and under engagement to you.

No. 299.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd March 1877, No. 1039.

Ordered to be recorded.

2. The Government observe that the balance of the reserve now in Madras remaining to be placed about corresponds with the quantity required to supply the contracts for carriage with Messrs. Harvey and Sabapathy.

3. There is just now a slack on North-West Line, and it is understood that there are unemployed wagons available for North-West Line. It is therefore desirable that extra quantities, say 200 tons a day, should be sent; it being made a careful instruction to the Railway Agent that the extra quantity is only to go when there are empties not wanted by private trade.

4. The Chamber of Commerce will be informed of this order, and that the wagons will be available whenever needed for private trade on that Line.

(True Extract.)

Offg. Chief Secretary.

To the Government Grain Agent, Bellary.
 " Revenue (Famine) Department.
 " Board of Revenue.
 " Public Works Department.
 " Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Died March, 28rd.

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