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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2027B.	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	15-6-1877	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

18th June 1877, No. 2,027-B.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 364-C. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th June 1877.

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue (Famine) Department, (through the Board of Revenue,) dated 26th May 1877, No. 82.

IN reply to your official memorandum, No. 156, of 1st May 1877, desiring me to state my opinion as to the extent to which the taluq officers' estimates of grain in stock may be relied on, I called for information from division officers. Mr. McWatters replies, as had been my opinion, that the estimate by his Tahsildars was very much of a guess. He has, however, mixed up the question of imports with that of grain in stock. Mr Mackenzie's view is also that the estimates are not reliable. The same view is held by Mr. M. Stindale.

2. Inquiries as to grain in stock, if answered by those likely to know, are most likely to mislead.

3. If we could be certain of the actual imports, it would be a pretty fair guide, but there are many roads as well as the rail by which grain can be moved.

4. I would suppose that the retail purchase of grain is confined to the non-agricultural and the poorest of the agricultural class, who are obliged to go on the relief-works to obtain money.

5. The last imports, so far as we can learn, amount to 2,114 tons during 14 days = 151 tons daily = 3,38,240 lbs., which eked out by other food, such as prickly-pear, aloe, and the like, might afford food for about a third of a million, or 20 per cent. of the population, but most likely some of the 151 tons is stored against a continuance of the famine, and some is exported to Nilgiris, Wynaad, and Madura.

6. The price list affords, in my opinion, the only data to judge of stocks by; when the season looks bad, they are not freely brought out; when better prospects appear, the market is easier.

7. There is a perfect freedom to trade in two lines of rail, and excellent roads leading to every market.

8. From inspection of persons on the relief-works, who have not greatly increased from the steadiness of the grain market, with its slight and slow rise, I think that a very large section of the population must have grain in store, and do not come to market for it; the pauperism of the country is now thrown upon Government and individuals as people themselves get pinched in their resources; but any opinion of the amount of tons of grain stored in the district would be of no value more than a conjecture.

9. I would respectfully point out that the excessive and futile expenditure on Government relief in the famine of Bengal in 1874 arose chiefly from the estimates made of grain in store.

Revenue Department, 18th June 1877, No. 2,027-B.

SUBMITTED to Government.

2. The Board fully agree with Mr. Wedderburn's remarks and opinions.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 364-D.

ORDER THEREON, 18th June 1877, No. 2,027-B.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government agree with the Board of Revenue and the Collector in their opinion of the difficulty in estimating stocks.

2. They desire, at the same time, to point out that the information which is sought is the opinion of the district officers, with any facts tending to show the existence or exhaustion of stock which may have come to their knowledge during the fortnight.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue,
the Financial Department.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No.

From.

Dated

187

FOR ORDERS.

I think the point is that while it is probably impossible to estimate with any accuracy what stocks are what were desired was a general statement of the opinion of the district officers with any facts tending to show the existence or exhaustion of stock which may have come to their knowledge within the fortnight.

12-6-77. J.H.G.

MISCELLANEOUS No.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 6th June 1877.

Read the following

Board of R.
No. 5853.

No. 82

FROM

A. Wedderburn Esquire,
Collector of Coimbatore

TO

J. H. Garstin, Esquire,
Additional Secretary to Government,
Revenue (Famine) Department.
Thro' the Board of Revenue, Madras.

Sir,

In reply to your Official
Memo. No. 156 of 1st May 1877, desiring
me to state my opinion as to the
extent to which the Taluk Officers'
estimates of grain in stock may be
relied on, I called for information
from Division Officers. Mr. McWatt
had been my opinion, that
the

the estimate by his Tahsildars was very much of a guess. He has however mixed up the question of imports with that of grain in stock. Mr

Drackewitz's view is also that the estimates are not reliable. The same view is held by Mr Martindale.

2. Enquiries as to grain in stock if answered by those likely to know, are most likely to mislead.

3. If we could be certain of the actual imports it would be a pretty fair guide but there are many roads as well as the Rail, by which grain can be moved.

4. I would suppose that the retail

retail purchase of grain is confined to the non-agricultural and the poorest of the agricultural class who are obliged to go on the relief works to obtain money.

5. The last imports so far as we can learn amount to $211\frac{1}{4}$ tons during 14 days = $\frac{\text{tons}}{151}$ daily = lbs 3,38,240 which eked out by other food such as prickly pear, aloe and the like might afford food for about a third of a million or 20 per cent of the population, but most likely some of the 151 tons is stored against a continuance of the famine, and some is exported to Neilgherries.

Mynad

Wynad and Madura.

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7. There is a perfect freedom to trade in 2 lines of rail, and excellent roads leading to every market.

8. From inspection of persons on the relief works, who have not greatly increased, from the steadiness of the grain market, with its slight and slow rise, I think that

3
a very large section of the population must have grain in store and do not come to market for it. The pauperism of the country is now thrown upon Government and increases, as people themselves get pinched in their resources. But any opinion of mine on the amount of tons of grain stored in the district, would be of no value, or more than a conjecture.

9. I would respectfully point out that the excessive and futile expenditure on Government relief, in the Famine of Bengal in 1874, is chiefly from the estimates made

made of grain in store.

Coinbatore }
Collr's Office }
26th May 1877 }

I have Recd
Signed J. C. Muscom
For Collector.

Submitted to Government.

2. The Board fully agree with
Mr Wedderburn's remarks and
opinions.

(True Copy & Extract)

W. W. W.

Secretary

To
The Adml. Secretary to Government

Revenue Department.

03 2027 03

W. L. R. J. 1874

The Eng. adm. with the
18. of Nov: said the Coll:

*The Great
in the House*

Aspirin in Sympathy

1000

My dear Mr. Jones

the in the office

to be kept in the hands

with any fresh supply

Wieder der Schiffssee

Heart of Jack and
all hands to the

... was a fine
man of property in the ...

Nov. 1877 left

72. 4326
PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD
OF REVENUE.

72. 4326

647 11-67

Dated 6th 11-30 }
Despatched June 1877.

81
SUBJECT

SUBJECT.

Submitting to Prof.

Letter from Colls of

Conradstone, stating that

the Salary Office estimate

of grain in stock are very

much of a pace & that

price list affords me
a fair idea of the stock.

Ind Cop, in de Ogen 2 - Venen 20 June.
\$ He Fr enant 17

2027
8

GOVT. OF 11877 **SHARDA**

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Rs., Rs., Rs.

Dated June 18th.

Issued in M.S. 23rd.

Printed 28th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 18th June 1877, No. 2,097-B.

JUNE.

No. 364-C-364-D.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 131-B.

Grain in Stock in Coimbatore District—
Agreeing with the Board of Revenue and the
Collector in their opinion of the difficulty in est-
imating—, but observing that the information which
is sought is regarding the existence or exhaustion
of stock which may have come to their knowledge
during the fortnight.