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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2472	Press.
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Not to be folded or roughly handled.

82

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

23rd April 1877, No. 1328.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 218. *From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 31st January 1877, No. 17.*

In reply to telegram, No.—, of the 10th instant, requesting a prospective report, (1) of the markets in this district during the next four months; (2) whether grain can be contracted to be delivered in sufficient quantities to meet the demand, (3) whether continuous Government aid is needed to supply grain (for relief wages), and (4) if money wages be resumed, will grain be purchasable by laborers in sufficient quantities throughout the district, I have the honor to state that I called for information from Division Officers on these points, and enclose copies of letters from the Sub and Head Assistant Collectors.

2. My own opinion is that so long as the Railway continues to run, and rolling stock is sufficient to carry grain in large quantities, so long will the supply of markets be possible. The knowledge that there are immense stores of rice at Madras, and that rice is also easily procurable from Malabar, prevents local grain rates from rising. The rise commenced in the end of October by the drain from Mysore, &c., and since the second week of December the prices have been nearly stationary. I have no doubt that Contractors, if a profit can be made, will come forward to supply grain; indeed before asking anyone, I had an offer from S. Saravana Moothoo Pillay to supply 1,00,000 bags of rice at the Coimbatore station at Rupees 9-12-0 per bag of pounds 164, and doubtless at less at the stations along the line nearer Madras. The Contractors will not undertake cartage to the taluqs, and if rice is wanted at Railway stations, I can order it as easily as Contractors. When procurable at Railway stations, the native merchants in the interior can easily supply themselves. The roads are good, and numerous, and lead everywhere.

3. As regards the third query, I have not had any Government aid as yet, and consequently no continuous aid; nor have I had need to pay grain wages.

My own opinion is that it is preferable to let the grain trade alone, and to pay wages in money, until there is such rise in prices as to cause insufficiency of the money rate to procure food.

4. With weekly reports the need can soon be ascertained. If I purchased large quantities of grain at the Coimbatore Railway station, I should have to pay exorbitant rates for cartage to the taluqs, and the local merchants can do this much more economically than I can. We have numerous markets all over the district, and I have not heard as yet of their not being supplied.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From G. MACKENZIE, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to the Collector of Coimbatore, dated Avenashy, 15th January 1877, No. 9.

With reference to the telegram from Government communicated to me by your No. 50 of the 13th instant, I have the honor to state that I have seen no reason to alter the opinion I expressed in my reports on Oodumulpettah and Palladam taluqs, namely, that the merchants of Tirupoor and Oodumulpettah are competent to supply these two taluqs with grain. There will be no difficulty in contracting with these merchants to supply grain for relief works, and I do not anticipate any deficiency in any of the local markets in my division. Transport is very easy, as we saw when the cholera and ragy was taken away, and the local merchants are watching the demand carefully. As the importation from Madras of rice has fallen off, I may mention that 50 tons of rice are now arriving at Avenashy road station each day from Beypore.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From G. McWATERS, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of Coimbatore, to the Collector of Coimbatore, dated Kanghiem, 26th January 1877, No. 19.

In reply to your memorandum of 13th instant, No. 76, I have the honor to state that I have made inquiries and find that the markets in the Subdivision will be amply supplied with grain for the next four months. No Government interference is required. It would do more harm than good.

No. 219.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd April 1877, No. 1328.

Communicated to the Revenue Department and to the Revenue Board.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]
Offg. Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department. ✓
 „ Board of Revenue.
 „ Collector of Coimbatore.
 „ Public Works Department.

Exd. J. Wright.

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FINANCIAL.

THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Date April, 2001

1001 - 16

Book - 28

G.O. 2001 April 1877, No. 1838

APRIL

No. 216-219

These 2001 - 2002 are the 1877-78
calendar of Contributions and Receipts
top of which are in the 1877-78

No. 2472

Rec'd

4/11/1877