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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	3701	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	29-6-1877	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled. *JK*

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

14th June 1877, No. 1711.

Food Grains.

Read the following paper:—

No. 115. From Major F. J. HICKS, Grain Transport Agent, to the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, dated Bellary, 18th May 1877, No. 684.

I have the honor to forward you copy of a letter I addressed to Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co., and of their reply thereto; from the last paragraph of which it will be seen that there is some misunderstanding as to the mode of calculating the weight of rice that has been sent up by rail. In G.O., No. 1266, dated 28th March 1877, it is distinctly stated that, "as Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co. despatch grain from Madras by rail by the ton, and not by the bag, the contents of a bag need not be constant." Your predecessor also told me the same on a previous occasion when I sent a list showing the weight of a number of bags issued at Gooty, and in which there was a considerable deficiency, supposing that each bag ought to have weighed 164 lbs. Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co. now state that this is not the case, and that they simply have to account for a certain number of bags, and are not responsible for the weight.

2. On inquiry I find that the practice amongst merchants here is for them to bear any loss that occurs in weight, and that, as a rule, even the Railway Company refuse to be responsible for any loss of weight of grain in transit. I also learn that, as a rule, the percentage of loss is very great, and in some cases bags of grain are delivered by the Railway Company only a quarter full.

3. I am preparing a return to show the total loss in weight in transit at all Railway Depôts; but in order that Government may now be informed of what the probable loss will amount to, I send a short statement showing what the loss has been at four stations up to 31st March. In calculating this I have taken it that a bag of rice ought to weigh 164 lbs. nett, and I have deducted nothing for the tare of the bags.

4. I should also mention that all the Government grain has been sent up not to me, but to the local agents of Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co. at each Railway Station and the Railway receipts have been sent to the principal agents, Mr. Gough at Bellary, and Mr Johnston at Cuddapah, who, I understand, have corresponded with the Railway authorities regarding short-deliveries and other matters connected with the Railway transit. These gentlemen have sent me weekly statements of grain received and kept solely under their control, and only issued under my instructions, and on regular receipts granted either by my clerks or cart contractors.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Statement.

Railway Depôts.	Number of Bags issued up to 31st March 1877.	Weight in lbs.	Number of lbs. the Bags ought to contain at 164lbs. per Bag.	Difference.	Percentage of Loss.
Bellary	21,379	3,275,843	3,506,156	230,313	6.5
Adoni	57,573	9,052,644½	9,441,972	389,327½	4.1
Gooty	50,868	7,785,043	8,342,352	557,309	6.7
Tadputri	37,968	5,969,645	6,226,752	257,107	4.1

BELLARY,
19th May 1877.

(Signed) F. J. HICKS,
Grain Transport Agent.

No. 116.

ORDER THEREON, 14th June 1877, No. 1711.

The Governor in Council does not see that there is any difficulty whatever in the matter brought to notice in the foregoing letter.

2. He observes that Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co. bought for Government a certain number of bags of grain, of a certain average weight; that they received payment for a specified number of bags at a specified rate per bag; and that they are bound to deliver this latter quantity to Government, less an allowance for unavoidable loss in shipping, landing, and despatching to the rail. Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co's despatches of grain by rail are, however, by the ton; and the weight of each bag as delivered by the rail up-country need not therefore be uniform if the aggregate weight of the whole consignment is fairly correct.

3. Major Hicks' statement showing that on an aggregate delivery at four stations of 167,788 bags there has only been an average deficiency of 5.4 per cent., counting 164 lbs. to the bag, is, in the opinion of Government, an unexpectedly favorable result, and very creditable to Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co.

(True Extract.)

W. G. L. L.
Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue (Famine) Department.
" Government Grain Agent.
" Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

57

For 1877 Oct 4906

Obt. of 11877 *30* orders.

FINANCIAL.

To THE REVENUE (FAMINE) DEPARTMENT

Secy Secy Secy

Dated June, 1877.

Issued *— 12*

Recd. *23/6/77*

G.O. 154 June 1877, No. 17

To B. M. 9/29 June

JUNE.

Nos. 115-118.

Food Grains.—Orders passed on letter from the Government Grain Transport Agent, forwarding correspondence regarding the weight of bags of grain sent up by Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co.

*Ch. A. 1877
29 June 77.*