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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	5241.	Press. / Mis.
Dated	7. 9. 1877.	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

31st August 1877, No. 2233.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 267. *From Messrs. PARRY and CO., to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 25th August* 1877.

We have the honor to bring to your notice the unequal way in which the present allotment of Railway wagons presses on large rice importers, and we shall be obliged by your laying our letter before His Grace the Governor in Council.

2. Under recent rulings of the Government we are allowed, in all, 140 wagons per month, capable of carrying 15,400 bags. The principle on which this allotment has been made is wholly incomprehensible to the mercantile public.

3. The manifests of vessels entering the customs, from 22nd July to 23rd August, show 1,178,027 bags of grain to have been imported. Of these we imported on our own account 87,475 bags, as per annexed memorandum, so that our imports were 7·42 per cent. of the whole month's entries, while the percentage of trucks allotted to us was 1·3 per cent.

4. We need scarcely say that 1·3 per cent. is wholly inadequate for our wants, and we have been forced to buy Railway wagon allotments to work off the grain that we imported under the idea that Government would give us every facility to carry it up-country.

5. We are now receiving grain contracted for in Calcutta six weeks and two months ago, and our contracts will not run out for another three weeks or so; but since the change in the allotment of trucks we have cancelled all orders, and have placed no new ones, and we believe that most of the large importing firms have adopted the same course.

6. Had the Government wished to discourage imports to the utmost they could not have taken a surer course to that end than their present policy of taking away the Railway wagons from the men who are taking the risk of markets for six weeks or two months, and giving them to natives whose only risk is in the short time that elapses between buying in Madras and selling up-country, probably a week at the outside.

7. We have not included, in the above figures of our imports, the grain consigned to us by houses in Calcutta and elsewhere; had these been added our case would have been made the stronger by several thousands of bags.

No. 268. ORDER THEREON, 31st August 1877, No. 2233.

The applicants will be informed that the Government would very gladly see the Railway Company in a position to comply with their wishes, and supply wagons in accordance with the demands of all; but the rolling stock of the Railway, with the

temporary additions made, and the further additions expected from other parts of India, does not suffice for this. The Government see no mode by which the wishes of the applicants can be met, without exclusion of other traders: whose trade, although perhaps much smaller, is yet of importance to the villages or towns they supply. When additional wagons are received, the Railway officials may probably be able to increase allotment to some extent.

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Chief Secretary.

Acting Under Secy. to Govt.

N 5241

To Messrs. Parry and Co.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Revenue (Famine) Department.

7 September 77.

Exd. J. Wright.

Rev 1877 Sept
F No 7505

5241

Govt. of {1877} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

Messrs. PARRY AND CO.,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated August, 31st.

Issued 5 9

Read. 7th September 77 Encl.

G.O., 31st August 1877, No. 2233.

AUGUST.

Nos. 267-268.

Mr. GO Sept 77 N 5241.

Famine Relief.—Orders passed on letter from Messrs. Parry and Co., bringing to notice the unequal way in which the present allotment of Railway wagons presses on large rice importers.