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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	517	Press.
R.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	6-5-1980	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

517

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

6th May 1880 No. 517.

No. 36. READ THE FOLLOWING PAPER:—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd February 1880, No. 271.

ABSTRACT.—Reviewing reports of Collectors as to what they consider to be "scarcity rates" in respect of the market-rises of second-sort rice and staple dry grain of their respective districts.

No. 37. ORDER THEREON, 6th May 1880, No. 517.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government see no sufficient reason for the variations which appear in the rates proposed for districts similarly circumstanced and adjoining. They consider that the districts should be grouped (Madras and the Nilgiris being treated exceptionally) and that an average should be struck for each group as representing the scarcity price for each staple, the occurrence of which is to be noticed in the weekly telegrams to the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Ed. J. W. Fischer.

125 Copies.

5-3-90
10-7-12
8.6.93

"Scarcity Prices".—Overseeing that there is no sufficient reason for the variations in the prices proposed us — and suggesting that the districts be grouped and an average price for each group be representing the scarcity price for each group, and that the occurrence of such price be notified in the weekly telegram to the Government of India.

G.O. of 1-10-1880 No. 317.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.
Dated 11th Feb.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

REVENUE.

50th. of 1880 adjourns.

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No. 271.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 23rd February 1880.

Read the following letters:—

From the Collector of Ganjam,		dated 13th September 1879, No. 212.	
"	of Vizagapatam,	" 4th	" 999.
"	of Godavari,	" 17th	" 241.
"	of Kistna,	" 12th	" 2,050.
"	of Nellore,	" 5th	" 3,023.
"	of Cuddapah,	" 13th	" 332.
"	of Bellary,	" 19th	" 432.
"	of Kurnool,	" 20th	" 399.
"	of Madras,	" 3rd	" 286.
"	of Chingleput,	" 29th	" 662.
"	of North Arcot,	" 8th	" 312.
"	of South Arcot,	" 8th	" 337.
"	of Tanjore,	" 4th	" 3,639.
"	of Trichinopoly,	" 13th	" 282.
"	of Madura,	" 3rd	" 405.
"	of Tinnevely,	" 6th	" 585.
"	of Coimbatore,	" 20th	" 176.
"	Commissioner of Malgiris,	" 16th	" 154.
"	Collector of Salem,	" 8th	" 275.
"	of South Canara,	" 3rd	" 1,603.
"	of Malabar,	" 13th	" 1,890.

THE foregoing letters, which are the replies of Collectors to G.O., dated 23rd August 1879, No. 1,749, directing them to report through the Board of Revenue what they consider to be "scarcity rates" in respect of the market prices of second-sort rice and the staple dry grain of their respective districts, will be submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Collectors' estimates differ widely even in the case of adjacent districts. For instance, the Collector of Godavari considers the "scarcity rate" for second-sort rice to commence at 8 seers of 80 tolas per rupee, the ordinary normal rate being 20-12 seers, while for the contiguous district of Kistna the scarcity rate is given as 10 seers against a normal rate of 17-64 seers per rupee. Again in Cuddapah the scarcity rate is fixed at 11½ seers, while for Bellary it is given as 7-56, although the average rates of both districts are nearly the same. Similarly, though the normal prices in ordinary seasons of second-sort rice in Madura and Trichinopoly are very nearly the same, the scarcity rates are given as 6-50 and 8-69 respectively. In some cases, e.g., Godavari, South Arcot, Tanjore and Trichinopoly, the rates are higher than the prices which prevailed during 1877, when famine was at its height, and cannot be accepted. Similar differences appear also in the estimated rates for dry grains.

3. High prices are not necessarily the result of failure of crops locally, but are often due to improved communications, rise in wages, and exportation of food-supplies to other parts of the country. It is therefore impossible to define the exact point at which high prices indicate scarcity of food, but the enhancement arising from increased wages or other natural causes is usually slow and gradual, while the rise due to insufficient stocks or exportation to countries affected by famine is generally rapid or sudden. The Board therefore propose to fix the scarcity rate sufficiently high to exclude all disturbances arising from natural causes, and such as are not likely to cause much suffering; they do not think that any distinction need be made

between high prices arising from insufficient stocks caused by the failure of crops in the district, and that caused by exportation to countries affected by famine. Collectors should be directed to report the prices as soon as the quantity of rice or dry grain obtainable for a rupee at the normal rates before the late famine falls by 40 or 50 per cent. respectively, such prices being regarded as scarcity rates, to whatever cause the rise in the prices may be due; it will then be for the Board and Government to inquire whether any action is called for, and if so, in what direction. If the Board's proposal is approved of, the scarcity rates for each district will stand as follows. A uniform percentage for both dry and wet grains cannot be adopted because it leads to anomalies; if 40 per cent. be taken, the rates worked out for dry grains will be but very little in excess of present prices in some districts, and will not be sufficiently high for scarcity rates, whilst if 50 per cent. be taken the rates resulting for rice in southern districts will be above famine prices:—

Districts.	Staple Grain.	IN SEERS OF 80 TOLAS PER RUPEE.			
		Average price during the famine year 1877.	Normal rate, i.e., average of the three years ending 1875-76.	Scarcity rates proposed by Collectors.	Scarcity rates proposed by the Board, being 40 per cent. below normal rates in the case of rice and 50 per cent. in the case of dry grains.
Ganjam	Rice ...	9.2	22.10	10	13
	Ragi ...	14.3	38.36	15	19
Vizagapatam	Rice ...	8.0	18.54	8	11
	Ragi ...	14.8	32.49	12	16
	Cholum	12.5	31.68	10	16
	Cumboo	15.7	34.80	12	17.5
Godavari	Rice ...	8.4	20.12	8	12
	Ragi ...	14.1	35.71	8	18
Kistna	Rice ...	8.4	17.64	10	10.5
	Cholum	11.7	26.60	15	13
Nellore	Rice ...	7	15.98	9	9.5
	Ragi ...	9.0	27.81	12	14
	Cholum	8.3	24.94	12	12.5
	Cumboo	7.9	23.73	12	12
Cuddapah	Rice ...	7.1	17.48	11.50	10.5
	Ragi ...	8.7	30.12	Do.	15
	Cholum	8.4	27.50	Do.	13.5
Bellary	Rice ...	8.6	28.44	Do.	14
	Ragi ...	6.8	16.79	7.56	10
Kurnool	Cholum	8.0	28.80	10.30	14.5
	Rice ...	6.7	14.69	8	8.5
Madras	Rice ...	7.8	26.53	12	13
	Ragi ...	8	13.70	9	8
	Cholum	9.8	23.83	15	12
Chingleput	Rice ...	10.3	21.13	15	10.5
	Ragi ...	8.3	16.72	9	10
	Cholum	10.2	24.46	12	12
North Arcot	Rice ...	7.6	16.92	12	10
	Ragi ...	9.0	27.89	16	14
	Cholum	8.5	25.15	16	12.5
South Arcot	Rice ...	8.5	24.35	18	12
	Ragi ...	7.9	16.69	7	10
	Cumboo	10.2	27.00	9.54	13.5
Tanjore	Rice ...	10.3	26.04	12.32	13
	Ragi ...	8.2	15.08	7.50	9
	Cholum	11.6	27.91	12	14
		11.8	25.57	12	12.5

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Districts.	Staple Grain.	IN SEERS OF 80 TOLAS PER RUPEE.			
		Average price during the famine year 1877.	Normal rate, i.e., average of the three years ending 1875-76.	Scarcity rates proposed by Collectors.	Scarcity rates proposed by the Board, being 40 per cent. below normal rates in the case of rice and 50 per cent. in the case of dry grains.
Trichinopoly	Rice ...	7.0	14.54	6.50	8.5
	Ragi ...	10.4	26.91	12	13.5
	Cholum	15.2	28.75	10	14.0
	Cumboo	10.6	25.50	12	12.5
Madura	Rice ...	7.4	14.14	8.69	8.5
	Ragi ...	11.7	31.64	10.36	16
	Cholum	8.1	12.61	9	7.5
Tinnevelly	Rice ...	11.0	25.35	15	12.5
	Ragi ...	10.7	23.57	13.50	11.5
	Cholum	10.3	22.40	15	11
	Cumboo	7.6	13.62	8	8
Coimbatore	Rice ...	10.1	26.45	13.50	13
	Ragi ...	9.2	21.41	12.25	10.5
	Cholum	10.7	25.45	15.25	12.5
	Cumboo	6.6	10	6.52	6
Nilgiris	Rice ...	8.0	17.61	9.78	9
	Ragi ...	7.1	14.98	7.40	9
	Cholum	8.4	23.59	10	14
Salem	Rice ...	8.3	25.09	9.50	12.5
	Ragi ...	7.9	26.40	9.50	13
	Cholum	9.2	13.92	8	8.5
South Canara	Rice ...	10.5	21.04	10	10.5
Malabar	Ragi ...	9.1	13.10	7.50	8

* This being below the average rate during the famine, 8.5 seers may be taken.
+ This being below the average rate during the famine, 7 seers may be taken.

(True Extract.)

Calcutta
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with 21 original letters and their enclosures to be returned.
Copy to all Collectors.

Exd. A. Grubert.

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Statement showing scarcity rates proposed by the Board,
being 40 per cent below normal rates in the case of rice & 50 per cent
in the case of dry grains.

In acres of 80 Sotas per Raper
No. Districts Rice Ragi Wheat & Madder

1. Ganjam	13	17	.	.
2. Vizagapatnam	11	16	16	17.5
3. Gollavari	12	18	.	.
4. Kistna	10.5	.	13	.
5. Nellore	9.5	14	12.5	12
6. Buddapah	10.5	15	13.5	14
7. Bellary	10	.	14.5	.
8. Kurnool	8.5	.	13	.
9. Madras	8	12	10.5	.
10. Chingleput	10	12	.	.
11. North Arcot	10	14	12.5	12
12. South Arcot	10	13.5	.	13
13. Sanjore	9	14	12.5	.
14. Trichinopoly	8.5	13.5	14	12.5
15. Madurai	8.5	.	16	.
16. Sivevelly	9.5	12.5	11.5	11
17. Coimbatore	8	13	10.5	12.5
18. Nilgiris	7.5	9	.	.
19. Salem	9	14	12.5	13
20. South Canara	8.5	10.5	.	.
21. Malabar	8	.	.	.

* This being below the
average rate during
the famine, 8.5 Sotas
may be taken.

* Do. do. 7 Sotas
may be taken.

1880-81

1880.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

To
THE SECRETARY TO GOVT.,
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Dated February 23rd.

Printed March 11th.

Received 17

PROCEEDINGS, 23RD FEBRUARY 1880, No. 271.

Dec 16/3/80

FEBRUARY.
No. 271.

"Scarcity Rates".—Reviewing reports of Col-
lectors as to what they consider to be—in
respect of the market prices of second-sort rice
and staple dry grain of their respective districts.

1880-81

Statement showing
scarcity rates proposed by the B^d.

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REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 17th

From the B^d of Rev

Dated 23rd Feb

1880 No 271

FOR ORDERS.

It is submitted
that having
regard to the
average prices
of the boards
scarcity rates
are too high &
that decimals
need not be
taken into account.

Rate of wages of

George D. D. D.

John D. D. D.

John D. D. D.

John D. D. D.

John D. D. D.

John D. D. D.

John D. D. D.

John D. D. D.

John D. D. D.

John D. D. D.

John D. D. D.

John D. D. D.

John D. D. D.

John D. D. D.

John D. D. D.

John D. D. D.

an average struck for
each group. as it relates
to scarcity price for
staple. the occurrence
of it is to be noted in
the telegraph reports & etc.
I think the basis of variation
is unreasonable.
in the case of the similarity
and adjoining.

C No 1714

FOR ORDERS.

[Faint handwritten notes]

The Honorable Mr. Curzon
has given the following
to 5 May 1880
1880

Recirculated to the
Hon W.H. with tabular
statement & price
list called for
you

I think that the
W.H. grouped. Madras
& Nilgiris being treated
separately. & then.

RC 17/1/80
C 18/3/80

Nov.

No 577 of 6 May 1880

Draft-CCO. on C No 1714 $\frac{5}{8}$

Bills Prop 23rd Feb 1880
No 271.

The Govt see no

sufficient reason for the
which appear
variations in the case
in the rates proposed for
of Districts similarly
circumstances and
adjoining. They consider
that the Districts should
be grouped (Madras
& the Nilgiris being
treated exceptionally)
and that an average should
be struck for each group
as representing the
scarcity price for each
staple, the occurrence
of which is to be noticed
in the weekly telegrams
to the Govt of India.

List from orders

To the Board of Revenue
24/2/80
125

[Signature]

Dr. H. G. ...
...
Security ...

Printer
...

PRINT
8. 5. 80

Revenue Department
Post: Govt. Secy May 1880
No. 517

72.90