

Revenue Department
Minutes of Consultation

1st June 1858

Back No. 46947

Order No 709229^d May 1858

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Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 1st June 1858.

No. 46. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st May 1858, No. 1582.

Read the following letters :—

- From Ganjam, 19th in Con. 30th January 1856.
 „ Vizagapatam, 25th February in Con. 7th March 1856.
 „ Rajahmundry, 31st March in Con. 21st April 1856.
 „ Masulipatam, 12th May in Con. 2nd June 1856.
 „ Guntur, 22d April in Con. 9th July 1856.
 „ Nellore, 12th February in Con. 5th March 1856.
 „ Cuddapah, 15th in Con. 22d November 1856.
 „ Bellary, 11th June in Con. 16th July 1856.
 „ Kurnool, 27th May in Con. 4th June 1856.
 „ Chingleput, 18th December 1855, in Con. 4th January 1856.
 „ North Arcot, 27th August in Con. 2d September 1856.
 „ South Arcot, 16th in Con. 22d February 1856.
 „ Tanjore, 9th in Con. 12th April 1856.
 „ Trichinopoly, 3d in Con. 10th January 1856.
 „ Madura, 22d December 1855, in Con. 3d January 1856.
 „ Tinnevely, 14th in Con. 22d April 1856.
 „ Coimbatore, 24th December 1855, in Con. 8th January 1856.
 „ Salem, 7th in Con. 14th January 1857.
 „ Canara, 3d in Con. 12th January 1856.
 „ Malabar, 31st October in Con. 12th November 1856.
 „ Madras, 16th April in Con. 18th June 1856.

In Consultation 21st November 1855.

The Government in para. 7 of Extract Minute Consultation, dated 11th June 1855 (No. 704, R. D.) on the subject of the general fall in the

Price of Grain, commended to the notice of the Board of Revenue the subject of uniformity and the accuracy in the preparation of the Returns of Prices. They observed 1st, that no certainty existed as to the real capacities of the Measures used; 2d, that prices were often entered according to the mere assertion of the Bazarmen; 3d, that these prices are often not those at which grain has been sold during the past week or month, but the prices arranged by the Bazarmen under the term *Nirruck*, as the prices they intended to sell at, during the next week or month; 4th, that in some districts the Returns are formed from an average of prices in all the Cusbah towns, and in others from the average prices of a few chief market towns; 5thly that the average was not strictly correct, because it assumed that the same quantity was sold at each place, whereas if at one place 10 Garces were sold at 80 Rupees a Garce, and at another 1,000 Garces were sold at 60 Rupees a Garce, the average would not be 70, but Rupees 60-3-2 per Garce; or $\frac{800 + 60,000}{10 + 1,000} = \frac{60,800}{1,010} = 60-19$ Rs. The Government believed that a useful beginning might be made by "the adoption of a uniform system based on sound principles," one important requisition being to fix some certain standard of measure, in like manner as the Rupee is the standard of value.

2. The Board accordingly, on the 21st November 1855, issued a Circular to all the Collectors, requesting to be informed whether irregularities noticed by Government existed in their Districts, and wished them to determine at what specified places in each District, prices should be returned; also if "Public markets" would be acceptable and likely to succeed. They considered that instead of obtaining the Returns in the first instance in the Standard Measures prescribed in their Circular of 19th August 1841,* it would be more convenient to take them in Local Measure, and convert them into Standard under the Superintendence of a responsible person at the Hoozoor. The list should only contain those grains, the fluctuations in the price of which would exercise some sensible

* These were the standards adopted by Government in the Gazette of October 20th 1846; namely a "Measure" of 100 cubic inches, and a "Mescal" of 800 cubic inches. (See C. O. Book vol. 1 page 305.)

பாதுகாப்பு பிரதி-1

செப்பனிருவவர் பெயர் (செப்பனிருவவர்)

செப்பனிருவதற்காக எடுத்திக் - 08/08
கொடுக்கப்பட்ட நாள். 01/09

செப்பனிருவதற்கு
முதல் முதிபாள
கையொப்பம்

செப்பனிருவதற்கு
2ம் முதிபாள
கையொப்பம்

செப்பனிருவதற்கு
உதவியாளர்
கையொப்பம்

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 1st June 1858.

influence on the prosperity of the people, but the Collectors' opinions were requested as to whether the "Wholesale merchants' prices" or "those ruling at the time in the bazar" should be adopted in the Returns. The Board desired that the accuracy of the Returns should be tested by the European officers when on their tours in the district, and not the Niruck but the actual prices of past sales, should be entered. The Collectors were desired to report if they could obtain reliable information as to quantity sold at each place, with a view of obtaining a true average, and the Board only wished for Returns once a month; but those from the talooks to the Hoozoor should be weekly, if possible.

3. Much delay has taken place in replying to this Circular, but the Board were in hopes that in the interim, the Government of India would have decided on some Standard Measure for the whole of India, to be enforced by law. The Government have already observed that without a Standard, much cannot be done; and it is notorious that the Madras Government Standard, published in the Gazette of 20th October 1846, never has been and never will be in use in the Provinces, especially since a totally different one is permitted by Government in the Town of Madras.

4. The next advance, the Board hoped to make, was to obtain a correct Table of the actual values of capacity of the Measures in use in each District, from which Local Returns might be converted to one uniform standard. They have partially succeeded in this task, and a Table will shortly be issued from their office; but it cannot do more than give the equivalents of the most usual Measures of the District, and sales can, and no doubt do take place, in terms of Measure which, however identical in name, are wholly different in content. Besides this, it has been found totally impossible in some Districts to construct a Table which will answer for the whole District, so great are the variations.

5. The Returns from the Provinces are generally in "Madras Garce," having been converted to what is supposed to be 3,200 Madras "Measures," from the Local Measure. Here, there are two sources of error. 1stly, the Local Measure is very uncertain, and there is no Law or Regulation by which any kind of Measure or Weight can be considered illegal; and, 2ndly, the Native officers to whom is entrusted the conversion from Local into Madras Measure, are guided entirely by the statement of the bazarmen, who are almost always wrong, for few know from trial what a Madras Measure is, and consequently what is called a "Madras Garce" in the Returns is often a mere guess.

6. The truth is, it is not easy to define a 'Madras Garce.' If it is 3200 struck Measures of the Government Proclamation in the Gazette of October 1846, taking 113 tolas of rice to 100, cubic inches, it is 361,600 tolas weight. If it is 3200 of the struck Measures in use in the bazars of Madras, and to which the Collector's seal is attached by authority of Government, it is 118×3200 or 377,600 tolas. If it is 3200 of these Measures fully heaped it is 130×3200 or 416,000 tolas. If the Measures are heaped in the usual bazar fashion, it is about 124×3200 or 396,800 tolas, or 4960 Pucka seers of 80 tolas each, and this the Board believe is very nearly the true equivalent of what is to all intents and purposes the true 'Madras Garce,' for they cannot consider the Garce derived from the 'Measure' proposed by Government, as having any actual existence. The said Measures not being in use in any Mofussil bazar, and being actually superseded in Madras by order of Government, confirming the old Measure of 104 cubic inches, which has been the Standard in use since 1801 A. D.

* It has a capacity of 104 cubic inches.
† With a diameter of 4½ inches, a full heap is about 11 or 12 tolas of rice.
‡ The usual heap may be considered a mean between a struck, and a full heaped quantity.

7. The usual rate of conversion up-country, has been 1½ Pucka seers of 120 tolas weight of rice = 1 Madras Measure, and 4800 such Seers or 3200 such Measures = 1 Madras Garce. It has been already shown that instead of 120 tolas, the Measure is nearer 124, and instead of 4800 Pucka seers to a Garce, it should be 4960.

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 1st June 1858.

8. The Board, therefore, would direct that wherever the 'Seer' is used for Grain Measure, it should first be reduced to the Seer of 80 tolas, and then to the Madras Garce at the rate of 4960 to a Garce, and wherever grain is sold by weight, the rate of conversion should be 124 tolas weight to a Madras Measure.

* 5 Northern Circars.
Bellary (Seer of 84 Rs.)
Tinnevely (Seer of 80 Rs.)
Canara (Seer about 83 Rs.)
South Malabar (Edengali of 82 tolas.)
† Cuddapah.
Chingleput.
Madura.
Coimbatore.
Salem.
Trichinopoly (some talooks.)
North Malabar (the Macleod Seer.)
Tanjore Puddee = ½ Madras Measure.

9. In the Districts named in the margin, the 'Madras Garce' had better be reduced from the Seer.*

10. In some of the Southern Districts, a Puddee or 'Measure' is in use, which assimilates closely to the 'Customary Measure' of the Town of Madras, viz. 120 Rs. weight of grain when filled to running over, and 130 when fully heaped. In the Districts named in the margin, † 3200 of these Measures may be

considered a 'Madras Garce.'

11. In North Arcot the Madras Measure, when heaped in the usual way, contains 150 Rs. weight of rice, and 2640 Measures may be considered equivalent to a 'Madras Garce.'

12. In South Arcot the so-called 'Measure' is about three per-cent larger, when moderately heaped than the Madras 'Measure' so heaped, and therefore 3100 Measures may be considered a Madras Garce.

13. In parts of Trichinopoly a Measure is used which contains when struck 96 tolas of rice, and when fully heaped 107. Taking a moderately heaped Measure at 100, a 'Madras Garce' will be = 3970 of them.

14. From Kurnool, the information before the Board is so defective and contradictory, that it is impossible to do more at present than to urge the Agent to publish in each Town where Price lists are taken, the value to be assigned to the Local Measure, in terms of a Madras Garce of 4960 Pucka Seers of 80 Rupees weight of grain each, and to arrange his Returns accordingly.

15. In the above instructions the Board have preferred taking the ascertained values of the Measures as they now stand, and converting them to a uniform Measure, to attempting any alteration of the Measures themselves, a scheme which they consider hopeless without a Legislative Enactment; and in taking the value of Measures actually in use, it is necessary to take heaped Measure, or at least running over Measure, for that is always used. The values in struck Measure cannot be ascertained so as to get an average, because no pains are anywhere taken to have the struck content the same, the only object being to have the heaped Measure the same, in the same place.

16. The Board wish it to be understood that they do not advocate the legalization of heaped Measures. Their intention in the present instance is simply to ascertain what Measures are used and how, and to record their values, so as to afford data for conversion into any standard that may be fixed upon.

17. As regards SALT, the Board have in their Circular of 7th September 1855 intimated that 424 of DeHaviland's struck Mercals† should constitute a "Garce" in order to make it equivalent in weight to 120 Indian Maunds. As the Monopoly price of Salt is regulated by law at so much a Maund weight, the question of measure is but secondary.

18. In order that the 2nd and 3rd objections noted by Government may be met, the Board direct that at the localities where the prices for the Returns are to be taken, a native subordinate shall enter the actual prices in the bazar at which grain has been sold and offered for sale, and not according to the mere Niruck, and that he shall be responsible for the accuracy of his Statements. These Statements should also be verified whenever the Collector or one of his Assistants happen to be in the locality where such Statements are prepared.

† This Mercal, which has been in use in the Salt Depôts for 38 years, has a capacity of 828½ cubic inches, and is used struck, all measurements being made by Government servants.

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 1st June 1858.

19. It will be sufficient to send up a Price list from the places named, to the Collector, twice a month, and the average of these will be entered in his Monthly Returns to the Board of Revenue.

* Paddy 1st sort.
" 2nd sort.

Tamil.
Cholum.
Cumboo.
Varagoo.
Kavir.
Tooveray.
Kolloo.
Tannay.
Yellow.
Mootooketty.
(Gingely oil.
Cocoanut oil.

Rice 1st sort.
" 2nd sort.

Teloogoo.
Jonnaloo.
Sujaloo.
Arecaloo.
Choduloo.
Cundaloo.
Mullavaloo.
Korsaloo.
Novvaloo.
Poddamidaloo.

Hindoo.

Juway.
B. Jra.
Kodroo.
Ragel.
Dholi.
Coolty.
Kungony.

20. It will be sufficient to enter the prices of the grains and seeds named in the margin* in the List, and the prices of oil and ghee, but in those Districts where any one of these articles is sold only in small quantities, it need not be entered. As each Collector has specified to the Board the names of the grains most affecting the Market in his District, those grains only will be specified.

21. At present the Returns are made in some Districts from the sales in a few Towns only, and in others, from the sales in very many localities. The Board consider that it will be sufficient to limit the localities to the Cusbah town of each Talook, and some other three or four large market towns besides, which are not Cusbahs. This will remove the 4th objection that Government have taken to the present want of uniformity.

22. As regards the last objection noticed by Government, namely, that a true average depends upon the quantity of grain sold in each place, every Collector has stated his inability to obtain any trustworthy statement of the quantity of grain any Ryot or Merchant has sold. The Board cannot but consider such an expectation hopeless. It would be so in Great Britain, and much more so here, where all wholesale dealings are private transactions. The Board believe that the Returns of the prices of Corn published in the London Gazette are not framed with reference to the quantities sold, and however theoretically correct it may be to include this element, they fear it is impracticable to carry it into practice.

23. The Collectors were requested by the Board's Circular to give their opinions as to whether the Returns should exhibit Wholesale or Retail prices. Their opinions are so varied that no conclusion can be arrived at as to their general view on the subject, but the question has been complicated by the ambiguity of the term 'wholesale'. Some Collectors suppose it to refer to the sales made by the Ryots to the grain Dealers, and others to the large sales made by the Merchants. There are difficulties connected with both. As to the first, which are in fact almost the only wholesale dealings that are made (except Commissariat contracts, of which the Collectors have no cognizance) it is not possible to obtain trustworthy Returns. The sale of grain by the Ryot is generally a private transaction which does not come into the market at all, and in most cases he sells or mortgages his crop before it is cut, to the Soucar or money lender. Next as to large sales made by Merchants in grain: as before said, except to or by the Commissariat, very few large sales or purchases are made. The Export of grain is not large, and only from a few places on the coast. In these cases the Board believe the Dealer who purchases from the Ryot does not sell to the Exporter, but exports it on his own account, to be sold retail in the Town whither it is conveyed.

24. The only wholesale dealings which would come under notice would be the sales of the Merchant (after buying of the Ryot) to the Bazarman, but the Board doubt if much dependence could be placed on the information afforded.

25. The chief objects of Price lists of Grain in the country are; I, To afford information as to the condition of the people, inasmuch as their food is almost entirely grain, and high prices induce immediate distress; II, To enable persons engaged in commerce and trade to acquaint themselves with the circumstances which are most important to their transactions; III, As a guide to the Commissariat, and also to Government in respect to the advantage of opening up new channels of communication in the form of roads and canals; IV, As a guide in the revisions of assessment on the land.

26. The Board do not consider that to attain these objects, it is absolutely necessary to know the prices paid by the Merchant to the Ryot. It would be chiefly useful in respect to the assessment, but still the assessment can be made with reference to Market prices, nearly as well as to Ryots' prices, which in fact are often so low, in order to satisfy the demands of the money lender, as not to be bona fide sales at all.

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 1st June 1858.

27. It would certainly be desirable to obtain the prices paid by the Bazarman to the Merchant, but instead of acting on the results obtained from an occasional authentic Return here and there, the Board are of opinion that it would better answer the purposes above specified, to record the prices of actual bazar sales, (excluding the prices of the very petty sales by the Olluck or chittie), and consider the wholesale prices at 3, 5 or 6 per cent less; according as the Collector of each district may be able to obtain a reliable average of difference.

28. With this view, the Board would direct, that in making the Returns, the officer employed be instructed to take the prices only of sales where the quantity of the article purchased exceeded a certain amount. Thus in the Northern Circars, Nellore, Bellary, Cuddapah and Kurnool, the price per 'Madras Grace' should not be taken from what a Seer sells for; but from what a Pooty or Candy sells for; and in other Districts the number of Cullums, Cottahs, Bullahs, Parahs, &c. for sums not below 20 Rupees, should be the guide for the Price list, and not the rate taken from the sales of single Ollucks or Puddees.

29. With regard to Salt, the price of which in the bazars of the large Towns it is very desirable to know with accuracy, it should be stated in each Price List whether it is sold by weight or measure, and what is the difference of price if bought in small or large quantities.

30. There was another point on which the Board desired information from the Collectors; namely, the practicability and advantage of establishing Public Markets. This suggestion was made with reference to the observations of the Marquis of Tweeddale, quoted in para. 22 of Extract Minutes Consultation 14th August 1855, No. 951, Revenue Department, on the occasion of Government reviewing the general plans for revising the Land Assessment.

31. It appears from the replies of the Collectors that small Public Markets* already exist in most Districts, but it is doubtful if grain is sold in quantities at these Markets sufficient to obtain an average of wholesale prices. They seem to be intended chiefly for the sale of cloths, and household and domestic goods. They are of the nature of the Bengal 'hat,' as distinct from a 'gunje' which is generally a wholesale mart for grain.

32. Even these Markets the Board are desirous of encouraging and extending, and would wish all Collectors to give their attention to the subject; but the kind of Public Market referred to by Government in the Extract Minutes of Consultation above quoted, is apparently one subject to certain Rules and Regulations, under the special controul of some authorized officer, and in which Tolls are levied on the articles brought for sale.

33. The Board are not sufficiently acquainted with the arrangements under which such Markets are formed in Great Britain, to state how far they may be adapted to India, or to propose any plan for their formation. They doubt however if the machinery introduced by Act V. of Victoria, Cap. XIV, for obtaining the average prices of Corn could be introduced into this Presidency where, as before said, all large transactions, are generally of a private nature between the Dealer and the Ryot, and they could place no confidence in any "Declarations" given in by the Dealers under Section XXII. of that Act. It is in fact well known that even in England, the Returns† to the Corn Inspectors, required by Section XXV. are constantly evaded.

† Of the quantities sold by the dealers and the prices.

34. Resolved that the above Proceedings be circulated to all Collectors, as explanatory of the objects which the Board have in view; and they will take into consideration any suggestions that may be offered by the officers whose local experience may qualify them, for obtaining more correctly a true Return of the average price in each District, of the various articles produced in any quantity therein.

35. Resolved also that copy of these Proceedings be submitted to Government, with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation of 11th June 1855, No. 704, R. D.

In Con. 21st Nov. 1855.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES, Secretary.

merchants' prices" or "those ruling at the time in the bazar" should be adopted in the Returns. The Board desired that the accuracy of the Returns should be tested by the European officers when on their tours in the district, and not the Nirruks but the actual prices of past sales, should be entered. The Collectors were desired to report if they could obtain reliable information as to quantity sold at each place, with a view of obtaining a true average; and the Board only wished for Returns once a month; but those from the talooks to the Hoozoor should be weekly, if possible.

3. Much delay has taken place in replying to this Circular, but the Board were in hopes that in the interim, the Government of India would have decided on some Standard Measure for the whole of India, to be enforced by law. The Government have already observed that without a Standard, much cannot be done; and it is notorious that the Madras Government Standard, published in the Gazette of 29th October 1846, never has been and never will be in use in the Provinces, especially since a totally different one is permitted by Government in the Town of Madras.

4. The next advance, the Board hoped to make, was to obtain a correct Table of the actual values of capacity of the Measures in use in each District, from which Local Returns might be converted to one uniform standard. They have partially succeeded in this task, and a Table will shortly be issued from their office; but it cannot do more than give the equivalents of the most usual Measures of the District, and sales can, and no doubt do take place, in terms of Measure which, however identical in name, are wholly different in content. Besides this, it has been found totally impossible in some Districts to construct a Table which will answer for the whole District, so great are the variations.

5. The Returns from the Provinces are generally in "Madras Garce," having been converted to what is supposed to be 3200 Madras "Measures," from the Local Measure. Here there are two sources of error. 1stly, the Local Measure is very uncertain, and there is no Law or Regulation by which any kind of Measure or Weight can be considered illegal; and, 2dly, the Native officers to whom is entrusted the conversion from Local into Madras Measure, are guided entirely by the statement of the bazarmen, who are almost always wrong, for few know from trial what a Madras Measure is, and consequently what is called a "Madras Garce" in the Returns is often a mere guess.

6. The truth is, it is not easy to define a "Madras Garce." If it is 3200 struck Measures of the Government Proclamation in the Gazette of October 1846, taking 115 tolas of rice to 100 cubic inches, it is 361,600 tolas weight. If it is 3200 of the struck Measures in use in the bazars of Madras, and to which

* It has a capacity of 104½ cubic inches.
† With a diameter of 4½ inches, a full heap is about 11 or 12 tolas of rice.
‡ The usual heap may be considered a mean between a struck, and a full heaped quantity.
§ E. M. C. 20th April, in Con. 26th May 1853, No. 181, Financial Department.

the Collector's seal is attached by authority of Government, it is *118×3200 or 377,600 tolas. If it is 3200 of these Measures fully heaped it is †130×3200 or 416,000 tolas. If the Measures are heaped in the usual bazar fashion, it is about ‡124×3200, or 396,800 tolas, or 4960 Pucka seers of 80 tolas each, and this the Board believe is very nearly the true equivalent of what is to all intents and purposes the true 'Madras Garce'; for they cannot consider the Garce derived from the 'Measure' proposed by Government, as having any actual existence, the said Measures not being in use in any Mofussil bazar, and being actually superseded in Madras by order of Government§ confirming the old Measure of 104½ cubic inches, which has been the Standard in use since 1801 A. D.

7. The usual rate of conversion up country, has been 1½ Pucka seers of 120 tolas weight of rice = 1 Madras Measure, and 4800 such Seers or 3200 such Measures* = 1 Madras Garce. It has been already shewn that instead of 120 tolas, the Measure is nearer 124, and instead of 4800 Pucka seers to a Garce, it should be 4960.

8. The Board, therefore, would direct that wherever the 'Seer' is used for Grain Measure, it should first be reduced to the Seer of 80 tolas, and then to the Madras Garce at the rate of 4960 to a Garce, and wherever grain is sold by weight, the rate of conversion should be 12½ tolas weight to a Madras Measure.

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† Ouddepah
Chingleput
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Coimbatore
Salem
‡ Trichinopoly (some talooks.)
North Malabar (the Masled Seer.)
Tanjore Pudee = ½ Madras Measure.

9. In the Districts named in the margin, the 'Madras Garce' had better be reduced from the Seer.*

10. In some of the Southern Districts, a Pudee or 'Measure' is in use, which assimilates closely to the 'Customary Measure' of the Town of Madras, viz. 120 Rs. weight of grain when filled to running over, and 130 when fully heaped. In the Districts named in the margin, †3200 of these Measures may be considered a 'Madras Garce.'

11. In North Arcot the Madras Measure, when heaped in the usual way, contains 150 Rs. weight of rice, and 2640 Measures may be considered equivalent to a 'Madras Garce.'

12. In South Arcot the so-called 'Measure' is about three per cent larger, when moderately heaped, than the Madras 'Measure' so heaped, and therefore 3100 Measures may be considered a Madras Garce.

13. In parts of Trichinopoly a Measure is used which contains when struck 96 tolas of rice, and when fully heaped 107. Taking a moderately heaped Measure at 100, a 'Madras Garce' will be 3970 of them.

14. From Kurnool, the information before the Board is so defective and contradictory, that it is impossible to do more at present than to urge the Agent to publish in each Town where Pucka Seers of 80 tolas are used, the value to be assigned to the Local Measure, in terms of a Madras Garce of 4960 Pucka Seers of 80 tolas weight of grain each, and to arrange his Returns accordingly.

15. In the above instructions the Board have preferred taking the ascertained value of the Measures as they now stand, and converting them to a uniform Measure, to attempting any alteration of the Measures themselves, a scheme which they consider hopeless without a Legislative enactment; and in taking the value of Measures actually in use, it is necessary to take a large Measure, or at least a very good one, because the values in struck Measure cannot be ascertained so as to get an average, because no pains are anywhere taken to have the struck content the same, the only object being to have the heaped Measure the same, in the same place.

16. The Board wish it to be understood that they do not advocate the legalization of heaped Measures. Their extension in the present instance is simply to ascertain what Measures are used and how, and to record their values, so as to afford data for conversion into any standard that may be fixed upon.

17. As regards Salt, the Board have in their Circular of 7th September 1855 intimated that 424 of their values, so as to afford data for conversion into any standard that may be fixed upon.

18. This Meersal, which has been in use in the Salt Depots for 35 years, has a capacity of 8224 cubic inches, and is used struck, all measurements being made by Government servants.

19. In order that the end and object of the Government may be met, the Board direct that at the localities where the prices for the Returns are to be taken, a native subordinate shall enter the actual prices in the bazar at which grain has been sold and offered for sale, and not according to the mere Nirruks, and that he shall be responsible for the accuracy of his Statements. These Statements should also be verified whenever the Collector or his Assistant happens to be in the locality where such Statements are prepared.

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23. As regards the last objection noticed by Government, namely, that a true average depends upon the quantity of grain sold in each place, every Collector has stated his inability to obtain any trustworthy statement of the quantity of grain any Ryot or Merchant has sold. The Board cannot but consider such an expectation hopeless. It would be so in Great Britain, and would even so here, where all wholesale dealings are private transactions. The Board believe that the Returns sold, and however theoretically correct it may be to include this element, they fear it is impracticable to carry it into practice.

24. The Collectors were requested by the Board's Circular to give their opinions, as to whether the Returns should exhibit Wholesale or Retail prices. Their opinions are so varied that no conclusion can be arrived at as to their general view on the subject, but the question has been complicated by the

* Paddy 1st sort.
" 2nd sort.
Rice 1st sort.
" 2nd sort.
Cholum, Jonnaloo, Jewary.
Cumbloo, Sujaloo, Bajra.
Yuragoo, Arecaloo, Kodroo.
Kanyoo, Chodaloo, Riggi.
Tooyaray, Candaloo, Dholi.
Koploo, Wullavaloo, Coofly.
Tenuay, Koralee, Kungony.
Yellow, Neorahoo.
Montakooty, Poddamuloo.
Cumbly oil.
Cumbent oil.

ambiguity of the term 'wholesale'. Some Collectors suppose it to refer to the sales made by the Ryots to the grain Dealers, and others to the large sales made by the Merchants. There are difficulties connected with both. As to the first, which are in fact almost the only wholesale dealings that are made (except Commissariat contracts, of which the Collectors have no cognizance) it is not possible to obtain trustworthy Returns. The sale of grain by the Ryot is generally a private transaction which does not come into the market at all, and in most cases he sells or mortgages his crop before it is cut, to the Soucar or money lender. Next as to large sales made by Merchants in grain: as before said, except to or by the Commissariat, very few large sales or purchases are made. The Export of grain is not large, and only from a few places on the coast. In these cases the Board believe the Dealer who purchases from the Ryot does not sell to the Exporter, but exports it on his own account, to be sold retail in the Town whither it is conveyed.

24. The only wholesale dealings which would come under notice would be the sales of the Merchant (after buying of the Ryot) to the Bazarman, but the Board doubt if much dependence could be placed on the information afforded.

25. The chief objects of Price Lists of Grain in the country are: I. To afford information as to the condition of the people, inasmuch as their food is almost entirely grain, and high prices induce immediate distress; II. To enable persons engaged in commerce and trade to acquaint themselves with the circumstances which are most important to their transactions; III. As a guide to the Commissariat, and also to Government in respect to the advantage of opening up new channels of communication in the form of roads and canals; IV. As a guide in the revisions of assessment on the land.

26. The Board do not consider that to attain these objects, it is absolutely necessary to know the prices paid by the Merchant to the Ryot. It would be chiefly useful in respect to the assessment, but still the assessment can be made with reference to Market prices, nearly as well as to ryots' prices, which in fact are often so low, in order to satisfy the demands of the money lender, as not to be bona fide sales at all.

27. It would certainly be desirable to obtain the prices paid by the Bazarman to the Merchant, but instead of acting on the results obtained from an occasional authentic Return here and there, the Board are of opinion that it would better answer the purposes above specified, to record the prices of actual bazar sales, (excluding the prices of the very petty sales by the oluck or chittie), and consider the wholesale prices at 3, 5 or 6 per cent less; according as the Collector of each district may be able to obtain a reliable average of difference.

28. With this view, the Board would direct, that in making the Returns, the officer employed be instructed to take the prices only of sales where the quantity of the article purchased exceeded a certain amount. Thus in the Northern Circars, Nellore, Bellary, Cuddapah and Kurnool, the price per 'Madras amount' should not be taken from what a Seer sells for; but from what a Pooty or Candy sells for; and in other Districts the number of Cullums, Cottahs, Bullahs, Parahs, &c. for sums not below 20 Rupees, should be the guide for the Price list, and not the rate taken from the sales of single Olucks or Puddees.

29. With regard to Salt, the price of which in the bazars of the large Towns it is very desirable to know with accuracy, it should be stated in each Price List whether it is sold by weight or measure, and what is the difference of price if bought in small or large quantities.

30. There was another point on which the Board desired information from the Collectors; namely, the practicability and advantage of establishing Public Markets. This suggestion was made with reference to the observations of the Marquis of Tweeddale, quoted in para. 22 of Extract Minutes Consultation 14th August 1855, No. 951, Revenue Department, on the occasion of Government reviewing the general plans for revising the Land Assessment.

31. It appears from the replies of the Collectors that small Public Markets* already exist in most Districts, but it is doubtful if grain is sold in quantities at these Markets sufficient to obtain an average of wholesale prices. They seem to be intended chiefly for the sale of cloths, and household and domestic goods. They are of the nature of the Bengal 'hat', as distinct from a 'gunje', which is generally a wholesale mart for grain.

32. Even these Markets the Board are desirous of encouraging and extending, and would wish all Collectors to give their attention to the subject; but the kind of Public Market referred to by Government in the Extract Minutes Consultation above quoted, is apparently one subject to certain Rules and Regulations, under the special control of some authorized officer, and in which Tolls are levied on the articles brought for sale.

33. The Board are not sufficiently acquainted with the arrangements under which such Markets are formed in Great Britain, to state how far they may be adapted to India, or to propose any plan for their forma-

tion. They doubt however if the machinery introduced by Act V of Victoria, Cap. XIV, for obtaining the average prices of Corn could be introduced into this Presidency where, as before said, all large transactions, are generally of a private nature between the Dealer and the Ryot, and they could place no confidence in any "Declarations" given in by the Dealers under Section XXII of that Act. It is in fact well known

* Of the quantities sold by that even in England, the Returns * to the Corn Inspectors, required by Section XXV, are constantly evaded.

34. Resolved that the above Proceedings be circulated to all Collectors, as explanatory of the objects which the Board have in view; and they will take into consideration any suggestions that may be offered by the officers whose local experience may qualify them, for obtaining more correctly a true Return of the average price in each District, of the various articles produced in any quantity therein.

35. Resolved also that copy of these Proceedings be submitted to Government, with reference to the Extract Minutes Consultation of 11th June 1855, No. 704, R. D.
(A true Extract.)

H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, R. D.
Copy to all Collectors except Sea Customs.

W M
 Consisting with reference
 to the above volume contained
 in G. H. B. of June 1855 re
 the subject of the introduction
 of the Report of Cases of Ignor-
 and recommending the removal
 of the Bill in reference thereto.

60-5-51