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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

1275

Press
Mis.

Dated

30-3-1877

197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1275
5

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th March 1877.*

Famine Relief.

No. 917. Read the following letter from R. DAVIDSON, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated 14th March 1877, No. 244 :—

With reference to paragraph 3, G.O., dated 23rd ultimo, No. 684, I have the honor to offer the following explanation.

2. During January and February last Mr. Farmer sent me a succession of sensational letters, depicting in most gloomy terms the state of his division, owing as he said, to the absence of grain and of carriage to procure it.

3. Mr. Farmer, however, appears suddenly to have discovered shortly afterwards that a thousand bandies were available in his division for carriage, and that the local grain merchants were ready to supply his wants on the spot.

4. The Hon. D. Arbuthnot, while in the Cumbum Division, had, as Mr. Farmer says, issued "distinct instructions" to the Deputy Collector at Cumbum "to buy all the grain he could without limitation as to quantity, because the quantity was large."

5. Acting on these instructions and in anticipation of my approval, Mr. Farmer and the Deputy Collector at Cumbum entered into contracts for the aggregate supply by local merchants of Rs. 3,52,600 of dry grain.

6. I received information of this transaction during the course of my late tour through the Cumbum Division, and although I was desirous that Mr. Farmer should supplement the Government imports by making such local purchases as were necessary to meet current demand, I had no idea even that such a large quantity of grain was procurable at Cumbum.

7. On ascertaining the magnitude of the transaction, I hesitated to confirm it, knowing, as I did, that the stock of Government grain was being forwarded from the coast and elsewhere, but on being personally informed by Mr. Farmer that he had already advanced upwards of Rs. 40,000 to the grain merchants, that the non-ratification of the contracts might not only be viewed as a breach of faith but might enhance the future difficulty of procuring grain through the local merchants, I confirmed the contracts, reported the transaction by wire to Government, and desired Mr. Farmer not to make any further purchases without my previous sanction.

No. 918. ORDER THEREON, 30th March 1877, No. 1,275.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED. The following telegram will be despatched :—

"Government greatly surprised at extent of grain purchased at Cumbum. Report how much remains undelivered, with whom contracts made, for what grain, and at what prices. Negotiate off as much as possible of undelivered grain."

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Financial Department.
" the Collector of Kurnool.
Etd. F. R. Bantleman.

to be taken without delay

It appears from the enclosed report from Mr. Davidson that he has, for reasons stated, confirmed contracts for grain to be supplied by local merchants in Cambodia, to the amount of \$352,600.

The authority for making these contracts appears to be some instructions given by Webster to Holt while on tour in that part of the country.

The telegram alluded
to by Mr Davidson
in the 7th para of his
letter in which he
says he reported the
news to Govt.

This is a most serious
complication -

Do we know in the
 spec. old quantity of
 Govt grain sent from
 Kottapattam 12 have
 as Curimbam. & old
 quantity we are to
 receive under these
 contracts. 2.

Contract -
We will call to
stop all deliveries under
these arrangements if it can
be done without direct
breach of Contract - & re-
port - result -
ask whether any

Don't ask whether any
of them (which is not necessary
but purchase for local pur-
poses) or any other issued
to Cooper's without interfering

is not to be found in
this Dept. or in the
Public Dept.

It does not appear
at what rate the
contracts were made
nor how much has
been delivered

From Ind. G. O. of the
23rd Feb^r No. 604 it

seems that the Genl
Ad^r: Col^r: of Kansas
noted to Major Hicks
Early in Feb^r last
& appears to have
sent something about
having made large
purchases - for in
Para 2 of the G. O.
the Collector is called
on to explain the
necessity for the
very large purchases
of grain for the
army making for
current expenses.

with Trade?

I think this matter
must be taken up in
next - & either Pack
Hicks or visit
Dut at once & report

27/3

H. W.

- Orders are requested
1. Whether the contracts are
to be confirmed by Govt.
 2. Whether the further delivery
of grain at Council Bluffs is
to be ordered to be stopped?
 3. If money wages are in
violation of the relief work in
Council Bluffs & that the
to be done with the rice
which at 10th a bag is?

probably be 22500 bags
in 2321 tons.

J. H. S.

24/3/77

Madras Collectors Office
14th March 1877

No. 244

From

R. Davidson Esquire
Acting Collector of
Madras

To

J. H. Carsten Esquire
Addl. Secretary to Govt.
Revenue Department
Madras

Sir,

With reference to para 390
dated 23rd ultimo No 680 I have the
honor to offer the following explanation.

During January and February
last Mr. Farmer sent me a succession
of sensational letters, depicting in most
gloomy terms the state of his Division,
owing, as he said, to the absence of grain
and of Carriage to procure it.

Mr. Farmer, however, appears
suddenly to have discovered shortly
afterwards that a thousand handies
were available in his Division for
Carriage, and that the Local grain
merchants were ready to supply his
wants on the spot.

The Honorable D. Corbuthwaite
while in the Coimbatore Division, had
as Mr. Farmer says, issued "distinct
instructions" to the Deputy Collector at
Coimbatore "to buy all the grain he

Clear

Forward

Recd. by Mr. Davidson

Am. by Mr. Davidson

No. 1626

In honor of

Delivered to

Report by Mr. Davidson

note when contract

for the grain

at the price

as much as

of the grain

for the grain

at the price

as much as

Madras Collectors Office
14th March 1877

No. 244

From

P. Davidson Esquire
Acting Collector of
Madras

To

J. H. Garstin Esquire
Addl. Secretary to Govt.
Revenue Department
Madras

Sir,

With reference to para 390
dated 23rd ultimo No. 680 I have the
honor to offer the following explanation.

During January and February
last Mr. Farmer sent me a succession
of personal letters, depicting in most
gloomy terms the state of his Division,
owing, as he said, to the absence of grain
and of Carriage to procure it.

Mr. Farmer, however, appears
suddenly to have discovered shortly
afterwards that a thons and hundreds
were available in his Division for
Carriage, and that the Local grain
merchants were ready to supply his
wants on the spot.

The Honorable D. Arbuthnot
while in the Comptroller Division, had
as Mr. Farmer says, issued "distinct
instructions" to the Deputy Collector
Comptroller "to buy all the grain

Care

Forward

Recd. by Mr. Davidson

Comptroller

No. 1626

In Comptroller

Subscribed

Refers to para 390

into which contract

for the grain was

made by Mr. Farmer

as an agent, and

of which I have

not yet received

any information

Could without limitation as to quantity, because the quantity was large."

5 Acting on these instructions and in anticipation of my approval, Mr. Farmer and the Deputy Collector at Cumbum entered into contracts for the aggregate supply by Local merchants of Rs 3,52,600 of dry grain.

6 I received information of this transaction during the course of my late tour through the Cumbum Division and although I was desirous that Mr. Farmer should supplement the Government imports by making such local purchases as were necessary to meet current demand, I had no idea then that such a large quantity of grain was procurable at Cumbum.

7 On ascertaining the magnitude of the transaction I hesitated to confirm it. Knowing as I did that a large stock of Government grain was being forwarded from the Coast & elsewhere, but on being personally informed by Mr. Farmer that he had already advanced upwards of Rs 4,0000 to the grain merchants, that the non-ratification of the contracts might not only be viewed as a breach of faith but might enhance the future difficulty of procuring grain through the Local merchants I confirmed the contracts, reported the transaction by wire to Government

and deemed Mr. Farmer not to make any further purchases without my previous sanction.

I have the honour
to be

Yours most obedt Servt

F. Davidson

Asst Collector

$\frac{89}{65} = \frac{178}{130}$

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The O. Pottery
Flintwood

Dated 14 March 1879
Recd 15th 1879

No 244

The opening capital account
 with reference to a sale
 of \$ 600 84 3 23 1/2
 in regard to the success of
 same supply in purchase
 of various and improving
 that the farmer has been
 expected to put a stop to the
 purchase of grain and
 consist of state as local man-
 ners are abundantly supplied
 from different quarters