M.R.O. 14-5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 833 Press ~~Mis.~~

666-167

Dated 16-4-1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 166. Read the following letter from the Collector of Ganjam, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camp, Russelcondah, 26th March 1867, No. 890 :—

1. I have the honour to report, for the information of Government, that the insufficiency of the existing stores of grain in this district for the supply of the population until another harvest is reaped has now become a question of much importance; it may be safely concluded that the famine exhausted or nearly exhausted previously existing stores; an abundant harvest succeeded, and furnished a supply which would no doubt be equal to the wants of the people, if allowed to remain in the district, but there are indications that exportation will diminish considerably the grain now in store. Already 10,422 bags of rice and 9,772 bags of paddy have been carried over the Bengal border, by way of the Chilka lake, and 1,20,613 bags of rice have been shipped since 1st January for European ports and for Madras, and as bills to the amount of one lac sixteen thousand* four hundred and fifty-six Rupees have lately been drawn on my treasury by resident merchants, there is reason to anticipate continued exportation by sea, although at the commencement of this year it was generally supposed that such would not be the case. In ordinary times the exportation of Ganjam rice is to a considerable extent balanced by the large quantities brought into the district from Cuttack and Pooree over the Chilka lake. I give the exports by sea of the last five years, but unfortunately cannot shew the quantities thus imported, as no returns are kept. But though absolute certainty is not within our reach, it will be evident that the district cannot, under present conditions, support the double drain which seems to threaten it; prices will rise rapidly with successive heavy shipments, and if the season is unpromising for cultivation, the upward tendency will be increased by the withdrawal and concealment of grain according to Indian custom. Should matters so fall out, it will perhaps become necessary for the Government to come forward again to supply the wants of the people, as is being done in Bengal, it will be admitted, I believe, that trade is more seriously disturbed when such a course becomes necessary than by any other interference, and in order to anticipate and prevent as far as possible a recurrence of scarcity, perhaps famine, and a resort to further Government assistance, I now submit, for the consideration of Government, that it is expedient to prohibit the exportation of food-grains from Ganjam by sea until the 1st January 1868. I do not include the traffic to Cuttack and Pooree in this suggestion, because there is a fair prospect of such an equalization, or at least approximation of prices being effected, by the introduction of supplies by Government into those districts, as will sufficiently hold in check the export from hence. Should the month of October see an abundant harvest on the ground, the prohibition on export by sea might probably be then withdrawn.

	Rs.
* In January	98,090
In February	90,861
In March	1,16,456

Official year.	No. of rice bags.
1861-62	3,11,056
1862-63	2,82,929
1863-64	4,18,509
1864-65	2,44,069
1865-66	28,688

2. The Government will, I think, recognize a cogent argument in favour of the unusual course I have taken upon myself to suggest, in the circumstance that the district cannot be trusted to contain at this moment more than the grain required by the population, and that if this is removed, it must be brought back again; but the experience of last year shews that we cannot rely on the trade of the country in its present condition to replace the quantity withdrawn, however urgent the demand, or to furnish promptly and seasonably a sufficient supply to prevent distress. Should it be decided, temporarily, to prohibit exportation, I need scarcely add that such difficulties as arise from the avoidance of contracts for freight or for produce will be diminished by the earliest possible publicity being given to the intentions of Government.

No. 167. ORDER THEREON, 10th April 1867, No. 833.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government are unable to concur with the Collector as to the expediency of prohibiting the export of grain from the District of Ganjam as a means of averting a possible scarcity, even were they legally competent to adopt such a measure.

2. They desire that the Collector will keep the Government fully informed as to the state of the district, in view to the earliest adoption of such means of ensuring a supply of grain in the country as may commend themselves to Government.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Ganjam.
„ the Board of Revenue.

Rxd. S. T. Augustin.

Rev. 1867 Vol
Proc. 10th April No. 901
From The Collector
of Ganjam
To The Secretary
to Government
Revenue Dept
Madras.
Dated 26th March
Rec'd 6th

No. 890.
Requests Government
will prohibit the Ex
portation of grain
sea until the 1st Jan
1868 & shews cause
why so unusual a
course is now urge
called for —
Recd 833 10th Apl
Extract & return to Rev
Instructing Ganjam proceed

No. 166.

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dist
by
the
in
den
Sho

Rev. Dept.

W. 833.

Pro. of the Madras Govt.

Under date the 10th Apl. /67

Read the following
letter from the Coll.
Ganjam

Requests Govt. will
prohibit the exportation of grain
by sea until 1st Jany. 1868 and
shows cause why so immoral
a measure is now urgently called
for.

G.O. 26th March 1867
No. 890

The Govt. are
unable to concur with the
Coll. as to the expedi-
ency of prohibiting the
export of grain from
the District of Ganjam
as a means of averting
a possible scarcity,
being firmly convinced
that however plausi-
ble may be the ar-
guments adduced in
favor of such an inter-
ference

Jpl. N.

NOL

Govt. can only legally
control & adopt
such a measure.

They desire that the
Coll. will keep the

interferened with per-
fect freedom of trade
and with the natural
operation of the law
of demand and sup-
ply, the result cannot
not fail to be, disap-
pointing if not dis-
astrous - and that
any temporary ap-
parent success will
ultimately prove to be
altogether delusive. -

Such a prohibition
would be a restriction
on natural liberty and
an infringement of the
rights of property -
while it could have
at best but very tem-
porary effect in afford
ing relief; for as its
first and indeed inevi-
table result must be
to lower prices artificially
below

Encl: In Lefroy's [illegible]
on the state of
the Dist. in
view to the enforce-
ment of such
measures as may
a supply of grain
to the country as
may be required
Kindness &c
Sir!

1 Copy To the Collector of Ganjam Duplicate
14 Copies — 30 of Letter

4

below the point to
which they would na-
turally rise were trade
free and the law of
demand and supply
operating - it must
tend both to discou-
rage economy & con-
sumption - and to
lessen the induce-
ments which the state
of the local market
would otherwise afford
for importation from
those places where a
surplus supply may
exist. -

When scarcity
is apprehended, it be-
comes more than ever
necessary to abide by
sound principles - and
the Govt. see nothing
in the present circum-
stances of the district
which would warrant
them

them in adopting the
Coll[o]rs suggestions —
"
They trust that
his anticipations of
scarcity may not be
realized but they are
convinced that to ac-
cede to his proposals
could only tend to
aggravate the evil
he desires to ward off

J. B.

Revenue 1867 Depts
Nos of Govt for April

No 833.

Nos of Government
of 10th April 1867

Declining to comply
with the recommendation
of the Coll of Gaya in re-
gard to prohibition of
Grain from that District &
requesting to be informed
as to the present state of
the Dt in view to adoption
of remedial measures.—

Nos 166-167