

17. 8262 ✓
28-6-31 1885

Edl (1915) Department.

His SERIES.

G.O. No. 1253-*Edl*

DATED 20-11-15

[Despatch Abstract.]

Addressing the House of India
on the subject of the embargo
placed on the export of
tanned hides.

PAPERS PUT UP WITH CURRENT No.

Papers of the department to which the current belongs.

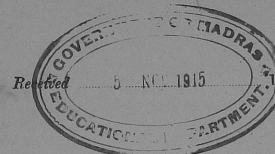
Number.	Date.	Original (=O) or spare copy (= S.C.).	Remarks. (In this column such of the papers as have been removed for copying, printing, etc., should be marked with a cross.)	Initials of Referencer with date in token of return to Reference department

Papers of other departments.

Department.	Number	Date.	Original (= O.) or spare copy (= S. O.).	Initials with date of (1) Referencer acknowledging returns of the paper concerned or (2) Despatcher to denote the return of the papers to the department concerned

CN-3846
8.11.15 C.F.-29

DEPARTMENT.



Received 5 Nov 1915 Registered 1915

Subject.

FINISHE LEATHER FOR ARMY PURPOSES: Submitting further
report regarding the supply of---

ENCLOSURES
No.
Spare copies

No. K 114

Station, Dated the 5th November 1915
4

From (Name) K.L.B. Tressler Esq.,
(Designation) Acting Director of Industries

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
EDUCATIONAL Department.

Sir,

In continuation of my D.O. No. K 114/25-9-15 re-
garding supply of finished leather for army purposes, I
have the honour to state that I have received information
from the South Indian Export Co. that they have been
instructed to suspend shipment to England as curriers
are unable to deal with the half tanned hides already on
the English market. Messrs. Chambers & Co., inform me
that they have had similar instructions.

As I have pointed out in my previous letter, the
English curriers have their hands full. In South India
only the Madras (Chambers) and Mysore Tanneries could
supply finished leather and that only to the extent of

attended once
please
5.11.15

2/ some 240,000 Sq. Ft. a month. Cawnpore tanneries probably have their hands full of India Government work, and there are only one or two other places in India that could supply finished leather even in small quantities. I accordingly suggested that if the Home Government wanted to increase the supply of finished leather the best thing to do would be to remove the embargo on half tanned hides to America so as to enable them to be finished there.

3/ The information that I have just received corroborates what I have said regarding the state of the English market. As a matter of fact the prohibition as a measure of protection against the enemy appears to be of no practical value whatever. American tanners can tan raw hides just as well as half tanned ones, though it has hitherto not been customary for them to tan Indian raw hides, and the only result of the prohibition on tanned goods is that the demand for raw hides has increased enormously. On the other hand the prohibition on tanned hides has lowered the price of tanned leather, and there is every probability of the tanning industry in South India being very seriously affected in the near future.

4/ With regard to the report received from the India Office communicated in D.O. No. 3584-1 Leg. dated 29-10-1915 regarding the possibility of interesting English Merchants in the Indian hide trade, I have to point out that the suggestions made by Mr. Parker are not of much practical value. It is perfectly true that if hides were classified in two ways viz. those which the contractors want,

3 and those which they do not, the former class would command a readier sale than the mixed lots which is customary to offer in the trade. But, as I have already explained, the English curriers have their hands full and even if they did take up the army quality, the Indian merchants would have the other quality on their hands so that they would not benefit in any way by the division proposed. On the contrary, they would be much prejudiced. Under the ordinary system of sale the buyer has to take mixed lots whereas under the proposed system he gets what he wants and leaves the seller to do the best he can with the rest.

5/ Whether we consider the measure as one intended to supply the war office with finished leather or to benefit the Indian Hide Trade, the abolition of the prohibition on hides is an imperative measure, and I venture to suggest that very early orders on this point are needed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. D. D. S. J. R.
Director of Industries

WALKER & CO.

POST BOX NO. 70,
MADRAS.

London House:
WALKER, MUNSLIE & Co.
1 & 2 Great Winchester Street, E. C.

Telegraphic Address:
"WOODSLEE," MADRAS.

BENTLEY & LIEBOWITZ'S CODES.
A B C CODE, 5TH EDITION.

4/ CN 3987.
Madras, 12th Nov. 1915.

My dear Todhunter,

Many thanks for your D.O. No.3902/1 of

9th inst.

I rang up Tressler re. the sample hide and he tells me that he is experiencing trouble in getting this from Messrs. Chambers & Co. Apparently, Chambers has advised him that he is going to see you personally in the matter, so possibly you may be able to get hold of the sample quicker than Tressler. The latter did suggest that I should see Chambers in the matter myself, but I would prefer not to do so, as he might possibly object to supplying me with the sample.

Yours sincerely,

7.21.1915. *W. S. Lee*

To

The Hon'ble Mr. C.G. Todhunter I.C.S.,

Education Dept.,

Fort St. George.

Mr. Chambers came when I was
visiting the office and committee
and met me again. Ask
Mr. Tressler d.o. to get a sample
sent to me. 13.11.15

WALKER & CO.

POST BOX NO. 70,
MADRAS.

London House:

WALKER, MUNSIE & Co.
1 & 2 Great Winchester Street, E. C.

Telegraphic Address:

"WOODSLEE," MADRAS



CN 3548 EOL

19-10-15

Madras, 13th Oct. 1915.

My dear Todhunter,

I have spoken to my dubashes regarding the question raised by you the other day as to the possibility of turning out Hides in this country up to the Army standard and they both are of opinion that provided the price is sufficiently attractive this can be arranged.

Will you perhaps, therefore, let me have a sample to show them exactly what is required? Failing your being able to supply me with this, they propose tanning some sample pieces, which when ready I will submit to you for inspection.

I am afraid I can't go into the question of price until I know more clearly what it is exactly you require.

Yours sincerely,

J. S. I. [Signature]

Acknowledged. Please ask Mr. [Name] to send me a sample of a fully tanned hide up to army standard.
J.S.I.
16.10.15

Ed! Depart.

N-3548-1 of 23. 11. 15

My dear Dresser,

I am ^{direct} ~~writing~~ to ask you
to send ~~a~~ a sample
of a fully tanned kip
up to army standard
~~that~~ may be utilized
for boot manufacture.

Yours sincerely

Stk
22.10.15

CR
22.10.15

Chk
22.10.15

Despatched
28/10/15

To

H. T. B. Dresser Esq.
Dir. of Industries.

CURRENT No. 996. S. R.

From the Govt of India Ltd.

Received 25 — 10 — 1915. Registered 25 — 10 — 1915.

Subject.

C. 3.

INDIAN



TELEGRAPHS



9 PK SIMLA 25 STATE 96 MADRAS REVENUE MADRAS =

= 16207*W DEMIOFFICIAL STOP CHAMBERS AND COMPANY OF
MADRAS HAVE APPLIED FOR PERMISSION TO OPEN UP TRADE IN
TANNED HIDES WITH THOSE BRITISH COLONIES TAKING ACTIVE
PART IN WAR STOP THOUGH MILITARY AUTHORITIES ADMIT
THAT QUALITY OF FIRMS LEATHER IS NOT SUITABLE FOR
INDIAN ARMY REQUIREMENTS THEY ARE OPPOSED TO PROPOSAL

STOP WILL YOU KINDLY FAVOUR US WITH VIEWS OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AND SAY WHETHER PROPOSAL IS LIKELY TO
^{mitigate} MELENNIA AGAINST THE PROPOSAL OF THIS FIRM TANNING EAST
INDIA KIPS FOR HOME GOVERNMENT FORWARDED WITH MY
DEMIOFFICIAL 14651 DATED THIRTEENTH SEPTEMBER

= COMMERCE =

150 16207= W

14651

respecting this Telegram.

To Registrar

The Govt of India's semi-official No. 14651 of 13-9-15 referred to in the telegram on the previous page was transferred to the Educational dept. in Sep. Res. No. 734/15-1 of 18-9-15. The telegram from the Govt of India now received may also be transferred to that dept.

M. M. M.
26.10.15

Yrs. Sd. u.o.
ad.
26.10.15



S. R. No. 996/15-1
26-10-15

S.K

CN. 3672 Col
27. 10. 15

Col. Department

Submitted that the Director of Industries may be consulted w.o. on the question raised in the Govt of India's telegram on the previous page.

Sd. C. A.
27.10.15

Sent him copy with a d.o. in continuation of the d.o. of the 23rd

Sd. 28.10.15

Sd. M. M. M.
28.10.15

A draft do. is submitted for approval

CLK
29.10.15

CR
29.10.15

29.10.15



Est. Department

No. 3672-1 Est. dated 29.10.15

My dear Treasurer,

In continuation of my do. No. 3548-1 Est. ~~dated~~ of the 23rd instant, I am to forward to you copy of telegram from the Govt of India No. 162074, ~~dated~~ of the 25th instant regarding the application of ~~from~~ Messrs Chambers & Co., Madras, for permission to open up trade in tanned hides with certain British Colonies and to request ~~to~~ you to ^{and my} offer your remarks on the question raised therein ~~at~~ as early ~~as possible~~ as possible.

Yours sincerely

SK
29.10.15CA
29.10.15S
29.10.15

K. T. B. Treasurer,
Dir of Industries,
with copy of telegram.

CM 384888 f
57/11/15
DEPARTMENT.

Seet. II-8-13,002-1-13.

CURRENT No. S.R. 1047

To
From C. G. Todhunter Esq.

Received 3. 11. 1915. Registered 3. 11. 1915.

Subject.

Recommending messrs. Chambers & Co to export
tanned kips to Australia.

D.O. K 114

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"CHROMIUM," MADRAS.
POST BOX NO. 454.

MADRAS.

2nd October 1915.

November

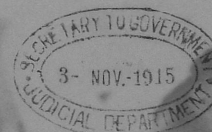
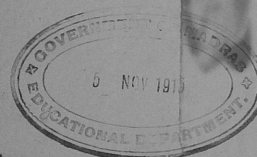
My dear Todhunter,

Reference Chamber's application. I strongly
recommend that permission be granted to this Company
to export tanned kips to Australia. The amount of
finished leather that Messrs Chambers can produce with
their machinery is very small compared to the total
number of hides available, and the granting of the permis-
sion now asked for would in no wise reduce the possible
output of finished leather.

Yours sincerely,

C. G. Todhunter

C. G. Todhunter, Esq.,
Secretary to Government,
Educational Department.



To est. a.o.
Cal.
3.11.15

Rev. No. 1047/15-1
4. 11. 15

SK

Please see the Govt of India's telegram on page 1 + Mr. Treacher's letter on page 5 ³ supra. Messrs. Chambers & Co. desire to open up trade in tanned hides with colonies. The amount of finished leather that the firm can produce with its machinery is reported to be small. ~~The possible output of finished leather which it can produce~~ ^{regardless of the machinery} The possible output of finished leather which it can produce a month has been estimated at ~~1000~~ 6000 square feet & the Govt of India have been led to ^{presume} ~~infer~~ that this output will be available for army boot manufacture in England. It is not clear whether this output will ~~not~~ be ^{affected} ~~reduced~~ if the firm sets up trade with colonies in tanned leather. ^(Statement to the contrary is not understood and this) Mr. Treacher's comparison of the quantity of finished leather turned out by the firm to the total number of hides available does not see

page 5 Impok

д.в. № 3339-1 (2)
4.10.15

page 5 - supra

3 NOTES.

Page 7

be to the point. It is for once what reply should be given to the Govt of India.

2. The current file below contains a letter from the Director of Industries in which he urges the abolition of the prohibition on the export of hides from this country. It is submitted that this is a matter for consideration by the Separate Revenue Department. The file may be sent to that Dept.

CA CA
6.11.15 6.11.15

The connection of Educational with this matter is of the most remote. War and Separate Revenue should certainly see, if they don't take it ~~now~~ over.

There are two questions (a) whether the output of leather fit for army purposes cannot be increased, (b) whether the order prohibiting export of tanned ^{hides} leather should not be modified.

3 As to the first point ^(we) ~~we~~ have told India that Chambers and Co and the Mysore Tannery can turn out a limited quantity

60. 11-3339-1
4-10-15

14

and that we are ready to lend the machinery of the leather school to a competent firm. Mr. Tressler says no more can be done. Mr. Worke, whose firm are the Chief Exporters, is not so certain. He is ready to try what can be done if given a sample. Mr. Tressler has been asked for this, but has not supplied it.

4 As for the prohibition of exports, Mr. Tressler first urged that we should press for a permission to export half-tanned hides to America under limitations. This has been placed before the Government of India. Now he supports the application of Messrs Chambers and Co to be

allowed to export fully tanned kips to Colonies that are taking part in the war. His reason, that the ~~firm~~ firm's output of finished leather is ~~small~~ small, doesn't seem to be a good one. All the fully tanned hides of the right quality that can be got are wanted in England and the firm should be under no temptation to ~~turn~~ turn out stuff that is not useful for army purposes.

Meanwhile ~~Mr. Worke~~ he brushes aside an important suggestion made by the Hon: Secretary of the United Tanners Federation of Great

page 2 supra.
He has no tannery
I have to ask someone
else for it? At

Mr. Tressler's letter
on page 12 to 15 of 43.3339-1
4.12.15

As. ibid (2)

page 7 supra

No - not fully
tanned kips -
At

Quite a good one At

But the applicant
does not refer to
fully tanned
hides
At

But it is turned out by
every native tannery
in the Presidency
At 13 Nov

page 2 & 3 of cf.

that the tanners, to realise greater profits,

cf. h h 2 and 3

x The feds have recently
prohibited export of
tanning material from
Br. India to countries other than
U.K. We (8.7.10) 11.10.15 (2)
Page 8 of 8. M. 3339-1
4-10-15

put too many hides in a tub. In times like this

they should be controlled. Such control would be a
flea bite compared to the commandeering of works at
home. Similarly it should be possible to compel
them to separate the hides that ~~are~~ useful for
military purposes ~~that are useful for~~ from
those that are not, and the free grant of licenses
for export of the latter should go far to reconcile
them to the arrangement. If the pinch were great
enough, I would even set an army of clockers to
make boots. They might not be perfect, but they
would be a great deal better than no boots at all.

As ~~an~~ ^{our} expert is so little helpful, I would

suggest that the question be referred to ~~Mr.~~
Mr. Cotton with a request to go thoroughly into every
branch of it with the representatives of the trade,
with manufacturers and exporters, and to consider
what can be done to improve matters, not only by
persuasion, but by compulsion if necessary. Russia
~~has~~ ^{has} ~~been~~ enormous boot factories at Warsaw, Riga,
and Dvinsk and the demand for more leather of some
sort may soon become ~~imperative~~ ^{imperative}.

War Section.

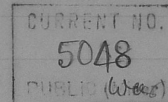
Separate Revenue U.O.

By whom? The
Director of Industries,
whose advice is
~~not~~ "doubled".
AYL

The expert seems to
have given sound
advice but has not
been understood.
AYL
13 Nov 15

vide Mr. Tressin do
at pp 14-15 of 3339-1
54.10.15 (12) 7

Colno 3848-1
9 11 15



Regd 9.11.15

(war)
Public Dep't

Submitted. The file is sent to War Section with reference to the E.S.C. Secy's note at pp 9-12 ante.

The questions (1) whether the order prohibiting export of ~~hides~~ hides should be modified and (2) whether Mr. Cotton should be asked to consider how the output of ~~leather~~ leather fit for army purposes can be increased are for consideration in Sep. Rev. With regard to the latter Mr. Evans was of opinion that the Customs Collector was not directly concerned.

10/11/15

We don't deal with questions of equipment for the Army. The questions connected with the manufacture of munitions dealt with here were really for the "Factories" Section of Fuel (C).

20.
CORR.

Public no 504810-11-11-15

To Chief Secretary.

The Government of India on 6-10-15 forwarded for information and such action as might be considered necessary, Copies of certain correspondence regarding the possibility of interesting English merchants in the Indian hides trade. The papers were forwarded to the Collector of Customs, Madras, on 13-10-15 and he was requested to communicate the substance to the principal exporting merchants dealing with the hides trade in this presidency (Mr. Evans' D.O. at p. 10 (a) of G.O.No.756 dated 5-11-1915) and ^{also} despatch of the D.O., were sent under Mr. Evans' instructions to the Department of Industries (Educational) who, after communicating the papers to the Director of Industries, returned the file to - - Separate Revenue where it was recorded (G.O.No.756 dated 5-11-1915)

2. Another communication was received from the Government of India in September 1915 asking for information as to the output of fully tanned kips at the principal tanneries in this presidency and as to whether any steps could be taken to increase the outturn and whether any further sources of - - supply were available. It was proposed to communicate the papers in Separate Revenue to the Collector of Customs, but Mr. Evans thought that it was more appropriate for Educational to address Mr. Tressler (p.10 (a) of flag Z). Educational accordingly, in communication with Mr. Tressler, furnished the - - necessary information to the Government of India (Educational D.O. at pages 20-21 of papers in d.o. No.3339-1, dated 4th October 1915)

3. With reference to the suggestion in paras 2 & 4 at pages 9-10 of Educational notes supra that the present prohibition on the export of tanned hides from British India should be relaxed and that export of tanned kips should be permitted under limitations to America for being finished there by approved carriers and thence supplied direct to the United Kingdom, it is submitted that the suggestion which emanated from Mr. Tressler was laid by the Director General of Commercial Intelligence before the Government of India in August last, and the Government of India, in their report to the Secretary of State on 8-9-15, stated that they would make definite recommendation on the suggestion after obtaining information from Local Governments about the quantity of dressed kips which the Indian tanneries could supply (latter part of p.6 of Z). This information was forwarded to the Government of India in Educational d.o. flag Z, and in that demi official the attention of the Government of India was once again drawn to the question of relaxing the prohibition on the export of tanned hides to America. For orders whether the government of India need be reminded again or whether the

Colly of questions should be asked as for example with ref. to para 7
A separate note setting forth the orders of the

Sgt. issued from time to time about Sports
of hides & skins from Br. India is kept below.

Cal
12.11.15

last para at p.10 of Z

p. 6 of Z

govt. note at p.12
before

affile

H.M. (Sep. Rev.)—

H.M. (Rev.)—

H.E. the Governor—

*Thanks for Mr. Rev. as perfectly affecting
internal trade & for H.E. as the
right is concerned.*

*In H.M. is answer
to the paper in
urgent him address
can be omitted
Mr*

68.220 9th 53

Attention is invited to Mr. Todhunner's note on pages 9-12 of n.f. There is really only one point now before Govt. and that is the question whether export of tanned hides to British Colonies should be permitted. Roughly, the present rule is that export of tanned hides is permitted to the United Kingdom, and export of raw hides is permitted to the United Kingdom, British Colonies, France, Russia and Italy only. Our so-called tanned hides are only half-tanned but Messrs Chambers & Co. have agreed to take steps to supply fully-tanned hides to England. The Govt. of India ask in their telegram on page 3 above whether, if Chambers & Co. are allowed to export tanned hides to British Colonies, they would not cease to make the promised endeavour to supply fully-tanned hides to the United Kingdom. Mr. Tressler on page 7 supports Messrs Chambers' application but his reason for supporting it is a very weak one. I think there is every reason to suppose that what the Govt. of India suggest is probable, viz., that, if Chambers & Co. are allowed to export half-tanned hides to British Colonies, they

21 NOTES.

Page 17

would have no sufficient inducement to send fully-tanned hides to England, and fully-tanned hides is what is particularly required because the English carriers have, it appears, no time or means for completing the tanning of half-tanned hides. I would, therefore reply to the Govt. of India that we ^{regard} ~~think~~ the proposal of Messrs Chambers & Co. as open to the objection which they foresee and that we do not advocate the opening up of trade in tanned hides with ~~in~~ the British Colonies. But an ~~exception~~ ^{seems} can be made in the case of light kips, i.e., kips under 8 lbs. in weight. It ~~appears~~ ^{seems} that only the heavy kips have any military use and there appears no reason why export of light kips should not be permitted to the British Colonies and perhaps also to France, Italy, & Russia just as in the case of raw hides. If this concession were made, it would afford the necessary inducement for shippers to separate light kips from heavy ones and it would get rid of stocks for which apparently there is now little sale.

The question of permitting export to America separately has already been dealt with.

Box No. B
Chronological 12-11-15
Assumed

p-2183

MS
12/11

Mr. Todhunter's note and his attacks upon Mr. Tressler are based upon misunderstanding of the facts. What Messrs Chambers & Co. asked to be allowed to export is not, as Mr. Todhunter says, fully tanned kips but the ordinary ^{are} ~~fully~~ tanned hides which are cured by native tanners and as the Chief Secretary, ^{thus} ~~says~~ ^{glit} ~~half-tanned~~, there is no ^{turnout} ~~con~~ between Messrs Chamber & Co's undertaking to ^{turnout} in their own tannery fully tanned hides or finished leather and the proposal to export half-tanned hides which are bought from native tanners. That is no doubt why Mr. Tressler in his d.o. dated the 2nd of November No.K.114 ^{that} recommends Mr. Chambers' application should be granted and remarks that the quantity of finished leather which Messrs Chambers & Co. could turn out is small compared with the total supply of hides available. If the amount of raw-hides in this country available for the production of finished leather were ^{small,} ~~small~~ or if there were any chance of a very large outturn of finished leather, then Messrs Chamber & Co's proposal to export to British Colonies engaged in the war half-tanned hides would be - - objectionable because it would reduce the amount of leather available to be turned into finished leather. But as Mr. Tressler has pointed out, the amount of hides which Messrs Chambers & Co. or anybody else in this Presidency could turn into finished leather, is small compared with the total supply of hides and therefore there is no objection to the export of half-tanned hides to British Colonies. ^{othe}

other hand the half-tanned hides, if sent to British, ^{perhaps} which are taking part in the war may be there turned fully tanned leather suitable for the military purposes of those colonies. To refuse to permit such export would therefore be prejudicial to the military interests of the Empire. As Mr. Tressler has pointed out in one of the London market is already over-~~stocked~~^{stocked} with leather and cannot work up any more than it has already got. Export to the colonies would not affect the demand in the Home Country. Finally we have the recommendation of Mr. Gordon, Secretary of the United Tanners Federation of Great Britain and Ireland in his letter dated the 6th of April 1914 should be allowed to go freely "to the United Kingdom and of course to our colonies". I would inform the Govt. of India that we are in favour of ~~the~~ tanned East India kips to be exported to the Colonies as requested by Messrs Chambers & Co. This would not affect the proposal relating to their supply of tanned or finished leather for the Home Government.

2. Mr. Tressler's recommendation that the leather to America & to British Colonies generally should be removed from the tanned hides and be removed from the stock in the

2. With regard to paragraph 5 of Mr. Todhunter's note dated the 9th inst. the unexplained point about the proposal that hides ~~over 8lbs~~ over 8lbs should be separated from hides ~~under 8 lbs~~ under 8 lbs is why the British curriers have not made that proposition to the local trade. Mr. Chambers, to whom I have spoken on the telephone in order to elucidate the meaning of his application to the Govt. of India, says that his firm and he believes any shipper in Madras would be quite ready to supply ^{separately} hides averaging over 8lbs if the curriers in England were to ask them to do so.

4. Mr. Chambers suggested that it would be useful if Mr. Todhunter or whoever deals with this subject usually would pay a visit to his tannery at Pallavaram and offer to meet him out any morning for that purpose. He said that a clear understanding of the points involved could be obtained in this way than in any other. Perhaps this suggestion may be worth taking up.

Alf
13 NOV 15

Since this note was dictated yesterday, I had an opportunity of asking Sir Hugh Fraser, Gordon Woodroffe & Co and W. Pavitt & Co their opinion on the suggestion of hides to

I submit that the proposal was to remove the embargo from the high weight so as to allow sale, not to British curriers, but to exporters to which end is prohibited. There could be no Mexican demand so long as the embargo was in force.

30
16.11.15

hides over 8lbs and it seems beyond doubt that the suggestion is not a practicable one. In the first place, as I pointed out yesterday if Mr. Gordon Parker's suggestion were a business proposition, it would not be put forward to the India Office but would be put forward to the local export houses. In the second place, there is no doubt Mr. Chambers & any other local shipper would undertake to separate the hides of 8lbs & over from the hides under 8lbs, they would only do so at a price sufficient to be remunerative & that price would be so high as to be outside the bounds of practical business. I am quite convinced, after hearing the views of these three men all engaged in the leather trade, that there is nothing in Mr. Gordon Parker's suggestion & that Mr. Tressler's para. 4 is perfectly right. I suggest that when Mr. Toddhunter doubts the advice given him by the Director of Industries on a technical matter like this, he might ring up some local trader on the telephone & get a little direct light on the subject.

SLH
14 Nov 15.

P.
1A. 11.

C.F. pp 2-3

Diff. place
15/11

22
26
COPY

Madras 22nd September 1915

S.H. Slater Esqr.,

Under Secretary to the Government of India,

Department of Commerce and Industries,

S I M L A.

Sir,

We have the honor to hand you herewith copy of a communication received from the Officiating Collector of Customs, Madras, dated 17th inst. from which you will see that Tanned Hides may be exported only to the United Kingdom.

Our reasons for making the enquiry are based on requests from our representatives in Sydney for us to ship sample bales of Madras Hides with a view to opening up trade with that Colony in this commodity but as a result of the embargo, the proposition is unworkable.

It is, we are sure, quite needless for us to draw your attention to the fact that owing to their participation in this War, the British colonies must be in need of leather for military purposes in proportion to the quantity required by the Home Government and, for this reason the placing of an embargo upon inter-colonial trading in Tanned Hides would appear to be an unnecessary, if not an unjust, restriction by Government.

The embargo was announced in August last year at a time when British Vessels were liable to be captured and/or sunk by the enemy.

22
26

27
2

Madras, 22nd September 1915.

27

Fortunately such maritime risks have long since ceased and as the embargo was the result of a decision based on the broad principle of preventing the enemy securing ~~the~~ merchandise of military value to them, we feel sure that present conditions do not justify a continuance of the embargo in regard to British Colonies.

In these circumstances we have the honor to request that permission be granted to ship tanned hides from Madras to those British Colonies which are taking an active part in the war.

We have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servants,
PER PRO CHAMBERS & CO
Sd. H.S. Hutchence

Under Secretary to the Government of India,
Department of Commerce and Industries,
C. I. M. I.
We have the honor to have yourewith copy of a communication received from the Official Collector of Customs, Madras, dated 15th inst. from which you will see that tanned hides may be exported only to the United Kingdom.
Our reasons for making the embargo are based on requests from our representatives in India for us to ship samples of Madras hides with a view to opening up trade with that colony in this commodity but as a result of the embargo, the proposition is unworkable.
It is, we are sure, quite needless for us to draw your attention to the fact that owing to their participation in the war, the British Colonies may be in need of leather for military purposes in proportion to the quantity required by the Home Government and for this reason the placing of an embargo upon tanned hides for trading in tanned hides would appear to be an unnecessary, if not an unjust, restriction by Government.
The embargo was announced in August last year at a time when British vessels were liable to be captured and/or sunk by the enemy.

I venture respectfully to submit that Mr. Tressler uses the term "tanned kips" and the Government of India "tanned hides". The latter had already expressed their intention of making definite recommendations to the Secretary of State regarding the partial removal of the embargo on the export of half-tanned hides and they referred in their telegram specifically to the produce of Messrs Chambers' tanneries. In the circumstances it seemed hardly likely that what Messrs Chambers were asking for was a removal of the general embargo or that the Government of India would consider removing it in respect of the exports of a single firm. Messrs Chambers & Co., have since given me a copy of their letter to India ~~(overleaf)~~. Their reference therein to "leather for military purposes" seems to explain the Commerce Department's reference to the Military authorities.

I would further submit that I did not note till I had discussed the matter with a partner in the firm which does the largest consignment/ export business in Madras as

page 784

page 304

page 784
and 304 (2)

page above

29/ 27
as well as with Mr. Tressler. The former expressed the opinions I have quoted in the note, the latter agreed, and still agrees, that if the embargo on export of tanned hides were entirely removed so far as exports to the colonies were concerned, it would be quite possible that manufacture of finished leather for the colonies might replace manufacture for military purposes if prices and other conditions were favourable.

Mr. Chambers has further discussed the matter with me at length (I was sitting on a committee when he called before, and his card was not brought to me) and has left with me the sample which Mr. Tressler was unable to obtain. A is from the half tanned kip, B from the fully tanned. While the country leather A is admittedly vastly inferior, Mr. Chambers admits that he has known native regiments supplied with boots made from it. Samples similar to B have been rejected by the

30 25 30
Army Clothing Department and he is not
anxious to go on submitting further samples
for rejection..

On the question whether a removal of
the embargo on exports elsewhere than to
the United Kingdom so far as weights under
8 lbs. only were concerned would be of any
use, Mr. Chambers said that the hides are
sorted by weights before sale in England,
that in ordinary times (i.e. otherwise
than for military purposes) the light
weights command the better prices, that
export of light weights alone would mean
working up a new trade, but that half a
loaf would ^{be} better than no bread.

It is presumed that the enquiry
which Mr. Worke has undertaken to make of
Indian tanners as to how nearly they could,
by improving their processes, approximate
their output to sample B in case of
necessity may be abandoned.

~~Staff~~
are submitted.

Cr. in Chm 42.

(C. has seen
in the work for)

H. N. Rose

H. E. the Governor (through C. S.)

16. 11. 15

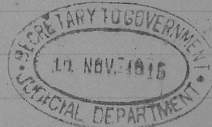
Mr. Leshent has discussed the drafts with me. They seem to represent clearly the views of Mr. & Mr. L.

16/11

I think the drafts are all right but I don't let Mr. Worke go on with his enquiry. It can't do any harm.

17 Nov 15

18/11



The drafts are closing. A draft so. to Mr. Worke is submitted for approval.

19/11/15

1 Apr. P. 18/11

thin. in mag. in most. the sample 19 11/15

32

2200-4029

CHAMBERS & CO

Telegraphic Address } ACTIVE MADRAS

Telephone No 1

Levee Buildings

CODES USED { PREMIER
A. B. C. 3rd ED.
LIEBERS

Madras 16th November 19 15.

P.O. Box No. 100.

Dear Mr Todhunter,

I send herewith for your perusal and return
5 letters which reached us per yesterday's inward mail.
These clearly show the present position of the market in
England for Tanned East India Hides.

yours sincerely,

fa Chambers

Encls 5.

C.G. Todhunter Esq.,

Fort St George

Handwritten notes in left margin, partially illegible.

Handwritten notes in left margin, partially illegible.

Handwritten notes in left margin, partially illegible.

Handwritten notes in left margin, partially illegible.

No. 4029-18.11.15-

Dear Mr. Chambers,

Many thanks for
your letter of today in-
closing for my personal
five home letters to you
regarding ^{the} leather trade.
~~which~~ I am returning herewith
the letters.

Yours sincerely

I note that your corres-
pondence mentions that
many of the carriers'
skilled laborers have
solicited and that large
contracts for army boots
have been made in
America

8

16.11.15

To
G. A. Chambers Esq.
Messrs Chambers & Co.,
Georgetown
Hades

Sent with
5 Enclosures
as
16.11.15

CHAMBERS & CO

RECEIVED
A B C 11.15
11.15

18th November 1915
P.O. Box No. 100

Telephone No. 1
Address
ACTIVE MADRAS
Telegraphic

Dear Mr. Robinson,

I am sorry that I
am unable to return
the letters which reached me yesterday. I have
these already and the present position of the market in
England for leather is not very bright.

Yours sincerely,

W. A. B.

18th November 1915
P.O. Box No. 100

Educational Department.

D.O. No. 3048-238
20/11/15

My dear Low.

With reference to your demi-official telegram No. 16207 W, dated the 25th ultimo, I am directed to state that it has been ascertained from Messrs Chambers and Co that ~~export~~ what they wish to export to the Colonies engaged in the war is not finished leather, the produce of their own tanneries, but the ordinary East India tanned hides.

The Government of India have already intimated to the Secretary of State that they are examining the question of relaxing the ~~xx~~ restrictions on export of these goods to the United States of America, on the condition that they are sent only to approved carriers in that country and that they are transmitted direct to ^{the} United Kingdom under suitable guarantee after they have been finished. This Government would recommend the introduction

of a similar relaxation in the case of export ^{British} to Colonies generally but without the condition. The concession would of course not be confined

the necessity and possibility of which even in the case of exports to America seems to be doubtful

36 2

Messrs Chambers and Co, and special
measures would have to be taken to
exclude fully tanned hides from its
scope. It is being placed before the
Government of India in an official letter
of to-day's date.

This Government hope that the matter
will be dealt with as early as possible
as the restriction on exports as at
present imposed seems to go further
than the necessities of the case require
and has had a very serious effect on the
trade.

85
16-11-15

To

The Honble Mr C.E. Low, C.S., I.C.S.
Secy to the Govt of India,
Deptt of Com. & Industry,
Delhi

85
20/11/15

and have been sent
under p. 10/11/15
p. 10/11/15
p. 10/11/15
p. 10/11/15

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DKP 3987-1
20/4/15

S. 3987-1

S. 3987-1

My dear Walter

With reference to yours of the 12th I send you herewith a sample from a fully tanned hide which I understand is approximately up to army standard, though it has not actually been accepted.

From further enquiries made it seems doubtful if there is any immediate prospect of such a scarcity of suitable leather as to make the army authorities lower their standard, but it might be very useful herewith to know how nearly the Indian tanners could approximate to this in case of necessity.

I am to say therefore that Col. would be very glad if you would kindly pursue your enquiries with this in view and let them know the result.

G

20.11.15

CO/20/15
S. 3987-1
S. 3987-1

J. G. L. Walker Esq.,
Messrs Walker & Co.,
Madras

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Educational Department.

LETTER:-- No 1253 Edl Mss. 20-11-15

To

The Secretary to the Govt. of India,

Department of Commerce & Industry

Sir,

I am directed to address the
 Government of India on the subject of
 the embargo placed on the export of
 tanned hides by Commerce and Industry
 Department.
 Notification No. No. 25 W., dated
 the 17th October 1914.

Under this notification no tanned
 hides of any kind are permitted to be
 exported from India except to the United
 Kingdom, the object of the embargo
 doubtless being to keep control over
 the stock of leather which may be
 required for military purposes.

It

(E)
 Page 5 of 5
 28.10.14

With reference to the
 letter of the 12th inst. from
 the Secretary to the Govt. of India,
 Department of Commerce & Industry,
 dated 10th inst. regarding the
 embargo placed on the export of
 tanned hides by Commerce and Industry
 Department, I am directed to
 inform you that the same has
 been forwarded to the Secretary
 to the Govt. of India for his
 consideration.

2. It appears to this Government that this embargo not only goes further than is necessary, but also to some extent defeats its own purposes. The ordinary East India tanned hide, as exported from Madras, though used to some extent for harness and shoe leather locally, is so badly tanned that it can never be ^{as such} utilized for military purposes. Before it can be used for them it has to undergo a further process of tanning which very few establishments in India can undertake. At the same time a large part of each bale as made up in Madras consists of hides that are too light to be useful. It is understood that the curriers in England who perform the finishing process are very short of labour owing to a number of their men having joined the army, and have far more hides already in stock than they can deal with. As a consequence there

[The Chamber moved me letter to this effect]
16.11.15

is little or no demand for the Madras hides, and prices have fallen very low indeed.

3. It seems to this Government that there can be no objection, so long at any rate as the English market is as overstocked as it is, to allowing export of East India tanned hides to colonies which are taking part in the war as well as to countries in alliance with the United Kingdom, where those that were suitable for military purposes could be put through a finishing process and used in that manner and the rest sold in the ordinary way.

4. This Government would further recommend the re-opening of exports to the United States of America where it is understood that large orders for army boots have been placed, thus relieving the workers in England. It may perhaps be thought desirable in allowing

*I understand that this
expresses the intention
of the Govt.*

*(This information also is taken
from letters from to me
by Mr. Chamberlain
of 16.11.15)*

such exports to ask for ^{some} ~~any~~ guarantee of re-export to England of hides suitable for military purposes, but it seems to this Government doubtful whether such a course would be either necessary or feasible.

5. It has been suggested that a ~~practical~~ ^{partial} remedy for the existing congestion of the market might be found in removing the embargo in respect of the lighter weights only. The proposal has been examined in consultation with representatives of the trade and this Government have ~~found~~ ^{found} the conclusion that the suggestion is not a practicable one.

I have etc.

16.11.15

When given for copying

When copied

When examined

When signed

191

READ AGAIN G.G. No.
191

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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