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Financial (1895) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 168.

DATED 18th Feb 1895.

INDEXED.

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[Despatch Abstract.]

MADRAS SEA CUSTOMS OFFICE.-

Recording Revenue Department Proceedings passing orders on t
question of increased establishment for the ---and of the supply of un
forms and badges to the out-door staff of the Custom- house.

BACK PAPERS.

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Govt. of {1895} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. 14/2/95 Encl. 4 Sc

Regd 15/2

G.O., 31st January 1895, No. 59.

UNDER SECRETARY 14 FEB 95 PUBLIC ETS DEPTS.

JANUARY.

Madras Sea Customs Office.

Passing orders on the question of increased establishment for the — and of the supply of uniforms and badges to out-door staff of the Custom House.

WITH ORDER

1026: 26.11.94 Final
686: 5.9.94 Final Orgt 8 S
616: 30.6.93 Final Dis
312: 5.5.94 Rev SC

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ORDER 18 Feb 1895. No. 168

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—again G.O., dated 31st August 1894, No. 632, Revenue.

Abstract.—Approving, with certain modifications, Board's proposals for the additiona establishment for the Madras Custom House rendered necessary by the passing of the Tariff Act VIII of 1894, and ordering that the proposition statement be forwarded in the Financial Department to the Government of India for confirmation.

Read—again G.O., dated 6th September 1894, Mis. No. 3485, Revenue.

Abstract.—Sanctioning, with remarks, the expenditure of Rs. 38 incurred by the Collector of Sea Customs, Madras, on account of uniform supplied to the Preventive officer.

Read—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue), dated 19th December 1894, No. 546 :—

Read—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue), recording letters from certain Collectors reporting on the arrangements made in the several mofussil ports for ascertaining the market value of goods :—

Board's Proceedings, dated	21st	November	1894,	No.	5049.
,, ,,	16th	,,	,,	,,	4957.
,, ,,	5th	,,	,,	,,	4668.
,, ,,	5th	December	,,	,,	5352.
,, ,,	2nd	,,	,,	,,	5383.
,, ,,	10th	,,	,,	,,	5381.
,, ,,	13th	November	,,	,,	4874.
,, ,,	30th	,,	,,	,,	3296.
,, ,,	22nd	,,	,,	,,	5091.
,, ,,	26th	October	,,	,,	4550.

Read—also letter from the Collector of South Arcot, No. 866-Acc., dated 10th October 1894, reporting on the subject mentioned above.

Read—also letter from the Collector of Sea Customs, Madras, No. 4118-G, dated 24th October 1894, reporting upon the subject of the future supply of uniform to the Preventive officers of the Madras Sea Customs House, called for in Board's Proceedings, dated 15th September 1894, Mis. No. 3987.

Read—also letter from the same officer, No. 4119-G, dated 24th October 1894, submitting his further report on certain matters connected with the offices of market reporter, gauger, &c., noticed in paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of G.O. (Revenue Department), No. 632, dated 31st August 1894.

Resolution—dated 19th December 1894, No. 546.

In paragraph 7 of G.O., Revenue Department, dated 31st August 1894, No. 632, Government called for information as to the necessity for a market reporter at Madras and as to the sufficiency of his salary, Rs. 50. The Collector of Sea Customs, Madras,

reports that there are numerous articles included in the several sub-heads "All other sorts," the values of which have to be frequently ascertained on account of fluctuations, and that moreover the market values of tariffed goods have to be ascertained and entered in the monthly statement called for in the Government of India's letter communicated in G.O., Revenue Department, dated 5th May 1894, No. 312. He does not, however, recommend an increase of the market reporter's pay to Rs. 100 as suggested by Government, but recommends that he be granted a carriage allowance of Rs. 15 a month. The market reporter's reports of market values are registered in the Appraiser's Department and are checked by the appraisers. The Collector states that in Calcutta and Bombay the appraisers ascertain the market values, and that in addition to the number formerly entertained the Collector of Bombay appears to have entertained eleven new appraisers to work the tariff in his port. The Board recommends the Collector's proposal to give a carriage allowance of Rs. 15 to the market reporter for the sanction of Government.

2. Information is also called for by Government regarding the arrangements made in other ports for ascertaining market values. The Collector of Ganjám reports that as there are very few imports from foreign countries into that district, no special arrangements for ascertaining the market values are necessary. When the market value cannot be ascertained, the invoice rates are taken. The Collector of Vizagapatam reports that the Sea Customs Superintendent of Bimlipatam relies on the invoice values, while the Vizagapatam Superintendent takes the prices reported by his Head Clerk and the Deputy Tahsildar after enquiry in the bazaar. The Collector of Gódávari reports that at Cocanada the appraiser on Rs. 30 ascertains the market values, and that whenever it is found impracticable to ascertain the market value of any article owing to its not being sold in the bazaars, the price given in the invoice is accepted. The appraiser maintains a register of the prices in the local markets for every article of export and import. In the ports of the Kistna, Nellore, South Arcot, Tanjore, Madura, Tinnevelly, South Canara and Malabar Districts, the Customs Superintendents or their subordinates make enquiries among merchants or in the local markets regarding the prices. At two of the ports in South Canara a register is maintained in which all the articles of import and export are entered together with their prices as occasionally ascertained by enquiries in the local markets. This register is referred to when any doubt arises as to the correctness of the value declared by the tradesmen.

Collectors will be requested to issue instructions to the Customs officers for the maintenance of a register similar to that mentioned above. At Cocanada this register is maintained by the appraiser. When the wholesale cash price of goods is not ascertainable at the place of importation, the basis of assessment should be the cost at which goods of the like kind and quality can be delivered there (*vide* paragraph 2 of G.O., Revenue Department, dated 13th May 1879, No. 1046).

3. In paragraph 8 of the Government Order under reply, information is desired as to the sufficiency of the gauger's pay, Rs. 20, and the arrangements for ensuring that his work is properly conducted in the Custom House. The Collector reports that the pay of the gauger is sufficient, and explains that his work is chiefly that of coopering, drawing off and sending samples to be tested, &c., while the work of calculating and gauging is done by the supervisor of the bonded warehouses. The duties that used to be done by the three coopers prior to 1882 are now done by the weighers in addition to their work of weighing. The Collector recommends that the arrangement may be allowed to continue. The Board supports the recommendation.

4. In paragraph 9 of the Government Order a report is called for as to the desirability of requiring all the out-door officers of the Custom House besides the Preventive officers to wear uniform. The Collector suggests that the tide-waiters be required to wear a narrow German silver badge on the right arm of their jackets with the words "Her Majesty's Customs" on it, and that the peons on the out-door staff should wear leather waist-belts with brass badges with the same words inscribed. This has the Board's support.

5. In G.O., Revenue Department, dated 6th September 1894, Mis. No. 3485, Government requested the Board to resubmit with the foregoing information its proposals for the future supply of uniform to the Baggage Superintendent and Preventive

officer and to consider whether the better-paid Preventive officers should not be required to provide their own uniforms. It was also ordered that the rules in Calcutta and Bombay as to the supply of uniform to Preventive officers should be ascertained. The Collector submits the reports received from Bombay and Calcutta upon the subject, and states that the cost of uniform in those ports is borne by the officers themselves but that the pay drawn by an officer in the lowest grade of this service in both of those ports is far above the maximum in Madras, considering the small number of Preventive officers in Madras and the expensive uniform they will have to provide themselves with, he recommends that the cost be borne by Government. The Board recommends the Collector's proposal for the sanction of Government, with the request that the articles of clothing as recommended in paragraph 5 of Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd August 1894, Mis. No. 3381, be supplied not only to the Baggage Superintendent but also to his Assistant. These two officials should have the words "Her Majesty's Customs" in silver braid letters sewn on to the collars of their jackets.

6. With regard to the remarks of Government on the establishment proposed for looking after and measuring timber at Casimode and for superintending the landing of petroleum, the Collector explains that, though the annual imports of timber are small in quantity and fluctuating, the imports of petroleum have increased considerably during the last six years, and that it is in view of the heavy increase in this direction that he has applied for the new establishment, without which he considers that it will be impossible to exercise proper control or supervision over the imports, which are outside the harbour limits and beyond the range of the regular staff.

7. With reference to the remarks of Government regarding the increase in the number of tide-waiters and office peons, the Collector states that it is essential that the supervision on the beach should be as complete as possible, that it is with this object that he recommended the appointment of four Preventive officers, that two of the six peons proposed will be employed in the Appraiser's and Inspector's Departments and the other four will patrol the beach and pier with the Preventive officers.

8. The Board recommends that the additional establishment referred to in paragraphs 6 and 7 above be sanctioned, as the preventive work is now greatly increased by the new Tariff Act.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) D. D. MURDOCH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with copies of General Register Nos. 11293 and 11294 and enclosures to General Register No. 11294 in original to be returned.

„ the Collectors of Maritime Districts.

Order—dated 31st January 1895, No. 59, Revenue.

Separate Revenue No. 13.

With the paper read above, the Board of Revenue submits the further reports called for in G.Os., No. 632, dated 31st August 1894, and Mis. No. 3485, dated 6th September 1894.

2. *Paragraph* 1 *of the Board's Proceedings.*—It appears to Government that a market reporter will not be needed when the full staff of four well-paid appraisers is entertained as contemplated in G.O., No. 283, dated 22nd January 1895. The reporter already entertained may, however, be kept on till then and may be allowed to draw a monthly carriage allowance of Rs. 15. The Government is of opinion that no man can be a good appraiser who is not in constant touch with the market and that the market values should be ascertained and checked by the appraisers themselves as is the case in Calcutta and Bombay.

3. *Paragraph* 2 *of Board's Proceedings.*—The instructions issued by the Board for ascertaining market values at out-ports are approved.

4. *Paragraph 3 of Board's Proceedings.*—The pay of Rs. 20 seems to be sufficient for the so-called gauger whose work is mainly mechanical. The other arrangements referred to in paragraph 3 are approved.

5. *Paragraphs 4 and 5 of Board's Proceedings.*—The Board's proposals regarding the supply of uniforms and badges to the out-door staff of the Custom House are approved subject to the following modifications :—

(i) In addition to the six * officers recommended by the Board, the Superintendent and the Deputy Superintendent of the Import and Export Department and the Inspector should also be required to wear uniforms if their work takes them out of doors to the beach.

* The four Preventive officers, the Baggage Superintendent and his Assistant.

(ii) The cost of the uniforms will be borne by Government in the case of the four Preventive officers, the Baggage Superintendent and his Assistant, but the remaining three officers mentioned above should pay for their own uniform.

(iii) The uniform should have silver buttons with a crown and the word "Customs" in silver should be embroidered on cap and helmet.

(iv) It is not known whether tide-waiters wear belts similar to those worn by peons; if not they should be provided with leather waist-belts and brass buckles like those worn by the peons of the Salt Department except that the buckle should have the word "Customs" on it. The Government also considers that tide-waiters should be required to wear clothes of a uniform pattern; they have to provide themselves with clothes, but these should be uniform in pattern.

6. *Paragraphs 6 and 7 of Board's Proceedings.*—The establishment proposed for looking after and measuring timber and for superintending the landing of petroleum, and the increase in the number of office peons seem to be justified by the circumstances now reported and are sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue), with original enclosures.
,, the Financial Department.
,, the Accountant-General.

Exd. A. Grubert.

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Current No.

Enclosures to C. No.

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Statement with ditto.							
Papers not filed up, being meant for despatch in original.							

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