

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1395

Press

~~Mis.~~

26-27

Dated

7-20-1918

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 12th October 1858.

No. 26. Read the following letter from JOHN VANS AGNEW, Esq., Chairmam of the Chamber of Commerce ; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated 25th September 1858.

SIR,

I have the honor, by desire of the Chamber of Commerce, with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation, No. 1145, Judicial Department, dated 19th August 1858, to submit copy of a letter I have this day addressed to the Clerk of the Legislative Council of India, on the subject of false Weights and Measures, and to solicit that Government will support the Chamber's request for the assimilation of the law to that of England.

From JOHN VANS AGNEW, Esq., Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce ; to the Clerk of the Legislative Council of India, Calcutta, dated 25th September 1858.

SIR,

1. I have the honor, by desire of the Madras Chamber of Commerce, to request you will submit the following representation for the consideration of the Legislative Council of India.

2. In the early part of the present year, the Chamber brought to the notice of the Commissioner of Police, that the Mercantile Community had reason to believe the Weights and Measures in use among the Native dealers in produce to be fraudulent, and requested that he would depute an European Inspector to verify them from time to time, as is the practice throughout Great Britain ; in reply to which, the Commissioner referred the Chamber to Section 76 of the Police Code, Act No. XIII of 1856, which provides that an Inspector of Police can enter any shop or premises to inspect the Weights and Measures used therein, *upon complaint made to him*, and that if the Chamber would specify any particular shop or premises in which they had reason to believe false Weights and Measures are used, he would cause a search to be made.

3. The Chamber considered the construction put upon this Section of the Act by the Commissioner much too limited, but on reference to the Government Law Officers, it was pronounced to be correct, and they therefore determined to address the Legislative Council on the subject, with a view to the assimilation of the law to that of England.

4. The Council will readily understand that the provisions of the present Act are not a sufficient check against fraud, inasmuch as the delay that must necessarily take place between the lodging of a complaint and the execution of a Search Warrant would enable the offender to secrete his false Weights and Measures, and substitute genuine ones ; whereas an unexpected visit from a Police Inspector for the purpose of verifying his Weights and Measures, would undoubtedly have a most wholesome effect, and probably result in the entire abandonment of such malpractices as have been alleged on the part of Bazar-dealers.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) JOHN VANS AGNEW,
Chairman.

No. 27.

ORDER THEREON, No. 1395 ; dated 7th October 1858.
To be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

C 24th August 1858. C 35836

16 Nov 1858

In Dy. to Cons. 12 Oct 58
Judicial. 1858. Receipt

From the Chairman of the
Chambers of Commerce.
Madras.

2/26
2/27 Sep 58.

No. 1741.

Encls.

Submits copy of a letter
addressed to the Clerk of the
Legation of India on the
subject of false weights and
measures, and solicits
the support of Govt. to the
Chamber's request for
the assimilation of the
law with that of England.

26 + 27

c 29 Sep
125 Oct

No. 1395
To be recorded
7/10/58.

Warrant of Commencer

Proctor 23rd September 1858.

S^r

The Chief Secretary to Government

St. James's Place

S^r

I have the honor by desire
of the Secretary of Commerce, with refer-
ence to Charles Minster's Application

No 1145 Judicial Dept, dated 19th

August 1858 to submit evidence in the