9-7-18

[L. & M. 5,000—3-4-99.]

Local & Munl. (189) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 713 M

DATED 17-5-99

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Tax. Informing the Chamber of Commerce that their Requests that certain shipments of timber may be exempted from the enhanced rate of timber — Cannot be complied with.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 1256 M

~~G.O.S. dd~~

C. 1256 M.

June Order No. 713 Mins dd 17/5/99

The Govt. regrets that the requests of the Chamber of Commerce cannot be complied with

For Orders 15.V.99 (Forwarded)

Two memorials - one from Messrs Binny & Co & one from the Chamber of Commerce are submitted for orders - They object to the recent enhancement of the duties on Timber & forest produce imported into Madras -

It is submitted that nothing can be done to change the orders already issued - The refund of 9/10ths of the import duty on all timber exported will in some degree meet the case & Practically almost all timber imported is exported.

Under § 341. of the Act - i. of 78 amended by Act ii of 92 - No notice was necessary - The law has been so illegally

11.V.99 12/5/99

From C. C. Vans Agnew Esq. Chairman Chamber of Commerce Madras

To The Chamber of Commerce 19/5/99 No.

16/5/99

Dated 2-5-99

Received 8-5-99

Registered —

Enclosures nil

Spare copies 1

SUBJECT.

Requesting that - for reasons stated shipments of timber against orders already booked before 24th March may be exempted from the enhanced rate of timber tax under G.O. 200 191 M Mins dd 11-2 in case it is deemed impossible to cancel the G.O. or reduce the tax.

8/5

7-A-1

ack Mr Lee over pending
a memorial which came in
today from chamber of
Commerce -- which Mr he
treats as very emergent:

Find out if the new order
about Timber has come
out in Fort St George
Gazette. — If it has not
publish — why has it not?

Put up copy of the bye
laws of the Municipality.
referred to.

5.V.99

(1) The order about increasing the licence fees on timber and firewood was not published in the Fort Saint George Gazette, as such publication was not required by the Act.

(2) Please see the bye laws printed in Go. No. 1640 Fl. dy 26th July 1884 + Confirmed in Go. No 2380 Fl. dy 7th October 1884, and also the Supplemental bye laws printed in Go. No.

BACK PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
C	No 1088	Mu	199
28	191	Mu Mis	14.2.99
98	373	Mu Mis	4.3.97
90	10	Mu Mis	6.1.91
90	1393	Mu Mis	20.9.90
90	866	Mu Mis	4.6.90

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.,	Department.	Date.

The Chamber of Commerce,

MADRAS, 2nd *May*, 1899.

FROM

C. E. P. VANSAGNEW, ESQ.,

CHAIRMAN, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

MADRAS.

1256 M

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT,

OOTACAMUND.

SIR,

On the 1st November, 1897, the Madras Municipal Commissioners passed a Resolution in which they agreed to undertake the construction of a main for the Madras Drainage Scheme at a cost of Rs. 12 lakhs, and in order to provide the necessary funds they proposed, among other things, to increase the tax on timber imported into Madras to the maximum under Section 341 of the Madras Municipal Act, viz., from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 per ton, or by upwards of 66 per cent. As the effect of this increase, in the opinion of the Chamber, was calculated to have the direct contrary effect to that anticipated, and as the trade was unable to bear it, it addressed the President of the Municipality deprecating the proposed increase. The Chamber remarked that it entertained "no wish to thwart the Municipality in its laudable desire to obtain the funds required for the very necessary sanitary and other improvements to the city," and pointed out that "timber imports cannot bear such crushing dues, and, as a consequence, the trade" probably amounting to Rs. 20 lakhs yearly, "will be diverted from Madras to Negapatam or other ports, where no such obstacle exists." In conclusion, the Chamber expressed the hope that, with due regard for its own interests, the Madras Municipality would moderate very considerably the demands which it was proposed to make upon the timber trade, the burden on which was already considerable.

Since then, the tax on timber has remained at the old figure, viz. Rs. 3 per ton; but the Chamber has now learned that under G. O., No. 191, M. Mis., dated the 14th February, 1899—which does not appear to have been published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*—the tax is to be raised to Rs. 5 per ton as from the 1st instant. The Municipal Notice containing this Order, though dated the 14th March, was not furnished to those chiefly interested in the timber trade until the 24th idem, which, the Chamber submits, is a notice altogether insufficient to permit of arrangements being made to meet the altered circumstances of the case, especially as the greater part of the trade is conducted on the "arrival" principle. In consequence of this, the retail dealers are likely to sustain heavy losses. The

Chamber, therefore, submits that it would only be equitable to exempt from the enhanced tax all contracts "to arrive" outstanding at the date of the receipt, by the firms interested, of the Municipal Notice above referred to.

But the Chamber is opposed to any increase of taxation on timber, as prices are at present on a very high level, and the trade in teak is almost at a standstill; consequently, anything which tends to still further raise the price is to be deprecated. The Chamber is convinced that the enhanced tax will defeat the object which the Commissioners have in view, for Negapatam already takes a large quantity of timber, and with so large an aim before it as the acquisition of the timber trade of Madras, it would not be slow to take the steps necessary to obviate any shortcomings and disadvantages under which it may at present labour.

Under all the circumstances of the case, the Chamber trusts that the Madras Government will rescind the G. O. in question, or at all events reduce the tax very considerably. If, however, this is deemed impossible, then the Chamber begs to request that preferential treatment be afforded to shipments against orders already booked before the 24th March.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) C. E. P. VANSAGNEW,

Chairman.

The Chamber of Commerce,

MADRAS, *2nd May*, 1899.

FROM

C. E. P. VANSAGNEW, ESQ.,

CHAIRMAN, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

MADRAS.

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT,

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Your most obedient servant,

Chairman.

When given for copying
When copied 15-5-99 144
When examined 145
When signed 1815

READ AGAIN G.O., No. , DATED
189 .

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.								
STATEMENT WITH DITTO.								
PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.								

N.B.—
A = Copy in full.
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