

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. *280*

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated *21. 7.* 18*58.*

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 27th July 1858.

No. 1. From P. LESLIE, Honorary Secretary, Cochin Chamber of Commerce; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 16th June 1858.

SIR,

With reference to the Memorial of the Cochin Chamber of Commerce to the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated 16th January 1858, it was resolved at a General Meeting of his Chamber, that I should urge again on your attention the serious detriment to the interests and well being of this Port, which the present mode of levying the Port Dues entails upon it.

I therefore again take the liberty of drawing your attention to the hardship inflicted upon us by the Clause in Act XXII of 1855, which directs the levying of half Port Dues upon all Vessels anchoring in these Roads for forty eight hours, even without breaking bulk, and the serious loss and inconvenience the Merchants and others of this Town experience by the resolution of the P. and O. Company to discontinue the calling of their Steamers at this Port, owing to the levying of full Dues upon them.

Under the impression that the Government, in refusing our previous request for the relaxation of its stringent Rules as regards these Steamers, has not seen the bad effects of them in the same light as this Chamber, it is induced to call your attention to the fact that the Port Dues form no portion of the ordinary Revenue of the Country, but are avowedly levied for the sole purpose of being expended in such works of utility as may best tend to the improvement of the Port, and this Chamber, deeming the periodical calling of the P. and O. Company's Steamers here to be one of the very greatest benefits which could possibly be granted, fail to see how the money, levied on them, if realized, could be spent to any thing like so great advantage.

But so far from any advantage being obtained, this Chamber deeply regrets to say that, as owing to this oppressive tax, the P. and O. Company have refused to allow their Steamers to call in future, this Port is deprived not only of the money sought to be levied, but of the inestimable advantage of the Steamers also.

This Chamber has never for a moment objected to the levy of higher Dues upon Ships really loaded at this Port, and would gladly see them raised, were those Vessels which come here merely seeking Cargo, or for Water and provisions, without breaking bulk, or not remaining longer than sixty hours in our Roads, exempted from all charges.

This Chamber begs therefore that you will be so good as to lay the above facts before the Right Honorable the Governor in Council at your earliest convenience, and that you will give the subject your kind assistance.

No. 2. ORDER THEREON, No. 280; dated 21st July 1858.

The Governor in Council observes that the Port Dues of which the Chamber of Commerce at Cochin complain are levied under the provisions of the recent Act VII of 1858, and that the Legislative Council when they passed the Act had the representation of the Chamber fully before them. It is not in the power of this Government to authorize any departure from the provisions of the Act.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Ed. J. A. Wilson.

Received by the Chamber of Commerce at Cochin on 27th July 1858

To,
J. Pycroft Esq^r.

Chief Secretary to Government.

Fort St. George.

Sir,

With reference to the Memorial of the Brechin Chamber of Commerce, to the Governor in Council, Fort St. George dated 16th January 1858, it was resolved at a General Meeting of this Chamber, that I should urge again on your attention the serious detriment to the interest and well being of this Port, which the present mode of levying the Port dues entails upon it.

I therefore again take the liberty of drawing your attention to the hardship inflicted upon us by the clause in Act XXII of 1855 which directs the levying of half Port dues upon all vessels anchoring in these Roads for forty eight hours, even without breaking bulk, and the serious loss and inconvenience the Merchants and others of this town experience by the resolution of the P. & O. Co. to discontinue the calling of their Steamers at this Port, owing to the levying of full Dues upon them.

Under the impression that the Govern-

ment

ment, in refusing our previous request for the relaxation of its stringent rules as regards these steamers, has not seen the bad effects of them in the same light as this Chamber, it is induced to call your attention to the fact that the Port Dues form no portion of the ordinary Revenue of the Country, but are avowedly levied for the sole purpose of being expended in such works of utility as may best tend to the improvement of the Port, and this Chamber, deeming the periodical calling of the P & O's steamers here, to be one of the very greatest benefits which could possibly be granted, fail to see how the money levied on them, even if realized, could be spent to any thing like so great advantage.

But so far from any advantage being obtained, this Chamber deeply regrets to say that, as owing to this oppressive tax, the P & O have refused to allow their Steamers to call in future, this Port is deprived not only of the money sought to be levied, but of ^{the} inestimable advantage of the Steamers also.

This Chamber has never for a moment objected to the levy of higher dues upon ships really loaded at this Port, and would gladly

see them raised, were those vessels which come here merely seeking Cargo, or for water and provisions, without breaking bulk, or ^{not} remaining longer than sixty hours in our Roads, exempted from all charges.

This Chamber begs therefore that you will be so good as to lay the above facts before the Right Honorable the Governor in Council at your earliest convenience, and that you will give the Subject your kind assistance.

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your Most Obedient & humble Servant

Cochin
16th June
1858.

P. P. P.

W. Secretary

Cochin Chamber of Commerce

in the Western Port

from 14 June 1858

Remarks by the Members of
Government on a Draft Ex. Min. Cons.
disposing of a letter from the Honorary
Secretary to the Cochin Chamber of
Commerce dated 16th June 1858.

By the Right Honorable
The President

This appears to me
to be a very just appeal
by the Chamber, and will
lead to great inconvenience.

The Act does not
give Government discretion-
ary power to permit port
dues - otherwise exceptional
cases might be so met, this
could still be done by re-
turning them. Mr. Robinson
tells me that the Act is likely
to impede steamers plying on
the Western Coast.

Signed Harris

By the Honorable W. St.
Moubrad Esq.

I doubt if we can
act as suggested. It does
not appear that when
the Memorial was sent
to

Con. 26th June 1858. No 57
H. St. Moubrad Esq. Hon. Secy
1858

Para 7.

Min. Cons. 1858. No 57

Con. 27 July

Honorary Secy
Cochin Chamber of
Commerce

No. 57. 280

2/6
after 7th June 1858.

No. 220.

larger again on the other
side of the river
and well being of the
Cochin Port, which the
present mode of levy-
ing the Port dues
has upon it.

1858. June
26th July
1858

Yes - they supported the
trayer that vessels touching
and not breaking bulk, should
be excused port dues which
was the Chief thing that
the Chamber then asked for.

(P. J. J.)

to Calcutta, this Govern-
ment in any way moved
in the matter.

The inducement to visit
the port, consequently the
demand, must be small
if it cannot make it
worth the while of the
P. & O. C. to send their
Steamers there because of
the Port dues, 50 Rs. & which
some would pay the dues
going to and returning from
China. I do not think it
occupies 60 days.

signed W. St. Moreland.

Memo. by the Chief Secretary.

I suspect the
merchants at Cochin, like
the merchants elsewhere, are
prone to make the most of
things. The China Steamers
touching at Cochin are, I
believe, some 1200 Tons burden.

But

Thos. J. Blair

But Mr. Franklin tells me
that in levying port dues the
space occupied by the engine
room is excluded from the
calculation of tonnage - so
that the Steamers would
not be rated at more than
800 Tons - 800 Tons at 1 Anna
a ton - the full rate - is
50 Rupees - at half dues -
that is, if no Cargo or passengers
be shipped or landed - it
would be only Rs. 25 and the
same vessel only pays once
in 60 days. Moreover by
anchoring and lying too just
outside the port they would
escape port dues altogether.

D. Leachman

power of this port to

...XX-1858 VI-X-1858
...the ...
...the ...

My dear ...
...tell you ...
...show ...
...of the ...
...ask ...

...with ...
...I ...
...this ...
...could ...
...it ...
...a ...
...1858 ...

opposed to Act X41V Act X411. 1855
on the general Harbour Act which
expresses that the receipts on account
of Port dues, shall be used for the

to be used for the Port Fund

of which is to be paid
annually. and this Port Fund
is meant to meet all the expenses
of the Port.

The Port dues now charged
at Colima 1 anna a ton is only
half what might be charged
under Act VII. 1850. It does
not cover the charges and for
is therefore not a condition to

make refund in favor of any part.
- but a class of vessels -
You will see that the Government
think with us that the Colima Mer.
- charges are making a great ado

without much cause -

At all events the charge is
one imposed on us by an Act
passed only the other day and
passed by the Legislative Council
with the remonstrances of the
Cochin Chamber fully before them.
It does not appear how the Govt.
can avoid enforcing the Law
now that it is on - Yours &c
7/7/58.

Marine Sept

No 200

8

Extract from the Minutes of Comd.
D/21 July 1858.

Honorary Secy R.H.
From Collins Chamber of Commerce 16
June 1858.

At 11/6
O Well

The R.H. Secy observes
that the port dues of
which the Chamber
of Commerce at Collins
complains are levied
under the provisions
of the recent Act VII
1858 and that the
Legislative Council
when they passed
the Act had the
representations of the
Chamber fully before
them. It is not in the
power of this port to

This appears to be
the way put up
with by the Chamber
- with the object
of increasing the
revenue of the port.

The act does not
give Govt discretionary
power to limit port
dues, although sometimes
taxes might be so put.
This could still be
done by reducing them.
Mr Robinson thinks
that the act is likely
to increase the revenue
of the port.

made the
formation now
made. I had paper
the original
order.

At

C15 July
1858

authorize any de-
-parture from the
provisions of the
Act —

20 July

W. B. L. Esq. Secy. of the
1857. Navy

Referred by the Secy of
State for Indian Affairs
7th April 1858 11 of 1859
19.7.06 ✓

Monroe 1858 Sept 10

Cons 27 July
No 200

Exact Minut. of Board

29/01 July 1858

observe that the
Port Secy of which the
Cochin Chamber of
Commerce comprises
are leased under the
provisions of the recent
Act III of 1858 and
that it is not in the
power of this Govt
to authorize any
departure from the
provisions of the
Act.

1858

C30 June
26 July
C 154
220.