

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

39

Press

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Dated

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 26th January 1858.

No. 5. From C. E. MIRUS, Esq., Acting Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce at Cochin ;
to the Chief Secretary to the Government, Fort Saint George, dated 16th January 1858.

SIR,

I have the honor to request, that you will submit the accompanying Memorial to the
Right Honorable the Governor in Council.

(Signed) C. E. MIRUS,
Acting Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce at Cochin.

To the Right Honorable GEORGE FRANCIS ROBERT LORD HARRIS, Governor in
Council, Fort Saint George, dated 15th January 1858.

The Memorial of the Chamber of Commerce of Cochin.

SHEWETH,

That this Chamber has read the draft of a Bill for the levy of Port Dues and Fees at Ports
within the Presidency of Fort Saint George.

That this Chamber fears that para : IV ruling, that Vessels entering any of the said Ports,
and leaving such Ports without breaking bulk, shall be charged with one-half of the Port dues,
which would otherwise be chargeable, would materially interfere with the progress of this Port, as
the chief place of export for the Produce of the Malabar Coast, a great portion of the Tonnage
required being obtained by means of seeking Ships, which have the option of Bombay, Ceylon,
&c., before them, and could not incur the risk of paying one anna per Ton Port dues (the project-
ed half Tonnage) if not sure of being taken up.

That this Chamber begs to enclose a List, shewing the number of Vessels dropping anchor
for the past year for the purpose of making Freight engagements, or supplying themselves with
Stock and Water. Ships similarly circumstanced, it is greatly to be feared, will be driven away
from the Port by the intended Act. The P. and O. Company have already intimated that the
payment of Port dues renders the taking of Freight to or from Cochin, unprofitable, and there is
little doubt, that, if the Port dues are levied as intended, the Steamers will cease calling altogether,
which would be a very great inconvenience, indeed hardship, to the Community at large.

That this Chamber, although not objecting to an increased Rate of Port dues, if properly laid
out as per Act XXII of 1855, submits that a high rate will fall heavily on Ships of large burden,
merely taking their Ballasting Cargo here, and therefore humbly suggests, that, Port dues may be
levied according to the amount of Cargo, received by each Ship at this Port, which can be easily
determined on clearing.

That this Chamber therefore humbly requests, that the peculiar circumstances of this Port,
may be taken into consideration before the Act be put in force, and as in duty bound shall

Ever Pray,

(Signed) C. E. MIRUS,
Acting Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce of Cochin.

No. 6. ORDER THEREON, No. 39 ; dated 21st January 1858.

1. Ordered that the Memorial and its enclosure be transmitted to the Clerk of the Legisla-
tive Council of India in continuation of the letter addressed under date 16th Instant.

2. It is observed that this Government has already recommended to the Legislative Council
that Vessels remaining less than 48 hours in a Port and leaving without breaking bulk, should not
be charged with Port Dues.

Ed. J. A. Wilson.

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1. Ordered that the Memorial and its enclosure be transmitted to the Clerk of the Legislative Council of India in continuation of the letter addressed under date 16th Instant.

For G. L. George, }
21st January, 1858. }

2. It is observed that this Govt. has already recommended to the Leg. Council that

Ships remaining less than 48 hours in a Port and leaving without breaking bulk, should not be charged with Port dues.

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To the Secy. Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce at Cochin. } Dispd 26th