

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

No. 8 of 1860.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

RIGHT HONORABLE SIR,

In continuation of our letters in this Department noted in the margin, we have the honor to transmit some further papers, relating to the illegal collection of transit duty in the Territories of His Highness the Nizam on the road from Bezwadah to Hyderabad—being copy of a letter from the Collector of Krishna District, and of its enclosures.

December 23rd 1859, No. 80.

February 24th 1860, No. 10.

Proceedings 13th April 1860, Nos.

739 @ 741.

2. In our Despatch of the 23rd December, we mentioned (paragraph 2) that we had on two previous occasions made representations to the Resident at Hyderabad on this subject, and had received the assurance of the Minister that stringent injunctions had been issued; and a letter to the Resident, of which a copy accompanied that Despatch, states this in more detail. Colonel Davidson was reminded in that letter (paragraph 3) that in reply to the first representation, this Government had been assured "that strict orders had been issued not to levy any transit duties in future;" and that in reply to the second, the Minister had promised that for the future persons offending in that way would be severely punished.

3. Our Despatch of the 24th February enclosed copy of a letter from the Resident, in reply to a third representation, and of one addressed to him by the Minister, to the effect that more specific information was necessary to enable him to deal with the complaint. The Collector of Krishna District was accordingly requested to furnish further particulars, and we now forward his reply. You will see that Mr. Knox not only refers to particular cases of exaction, some of which, he says, were brought to the notice of the Resident of Hyderabad a year ago without any satisfactory result, but that he also gives the result of his own personal enquiries on the spot, which fully satisfied him that the illegal levy of duty is constant and systematic.

10th March 1860, No. 5.

4. The enclosures of Mr. Knox's letter relate to specific acts of exaction to the aggregate amount of Rupees 416-11, deposed to by several merchants of Juggiapetta, and proved by their servants and agents. These Merchants also give detailed information of the rates of Toll levied at the various places, and of the agency employed.

5. We beg to call your particular attention to paragraph 11 of the Arzi from the Tahsildar of Nandigami, which forms an enclosure of the Collector's letter. The Tahsildar there states that the Naib of Khanat had written to him saying that no Toll was levied on the property of gentlemen, and that his Government "never contemplated" the discontinuance of "the Sayer duty on merchants' goods." What the precise meaning of this communication was, it is difficult to say—whether it proceeded from ignorance in the writer, or whether it was designed to explain away the treaty. But it fully confirms the other evidence as to the systematic levy of the duty; and indeed the Naib distinctly informed the Tahsildar (same paragraph) that his Government had rented out the privilege of levying these duties.

6. These papers leave no room to doubt as to the fact of the constant levy of these illegal duties, or that this is done under the orders of the Nizam's Government. We do not attempt to reconcile the facts thus ascertained with the former assurances of the Minister; but it is evident that vigorous and determined action is necessary on the part of the Resident if these proceedings are to be stopped.

7. We have accordingly addressed the Resident; and in sending him the Collector's letter, we have drawn his attention to the points noticed above. We have requested that he will, independently of a general requisition for the cessation of these exactions, make the following

Hyderabad

38

two specific demands : first, that the amount proved to have been levied from the merchants above referred to shall be refunded, to be repaid to them ; secondly, that the lease of these duties also above referred to, shall be publicly cancelled.

8. We have transmitted the papers to the Government of India ; and noticing the signal failure of our reiterated endeavours to obtain any diminution of the grievance, we have particularly requested their aid towards putting a stop to it. The matter being one of great importance, we forward the papers to you also without any delay ; and we beg to commend them to your special regard. We are satisfied that you will not allow a solemn treaty to be thus systematically set at nought, to the great injury and oppression of subjects of the British Crown.

We have the honor to be,

Right Honorable Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servants,

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
13th April 1860,

Exd. Wm. Thomas.

FORT SAINT GEORGE.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Letter to the Right Honorable
the Secretary of State for India,
Dated 13th April, 1860
No. 18 of 1860.

Transmit further papers relating to the illegal collection
of transit duty in the territories of His Highness
the Nizam.

PWD
No 18 of 1860

To
The Right Honorable the
Secretary of State for India
Right Honorable Sir,

December 23/59 No. 80
February 24/60 No. 10

Proceedings 13th April 1860
No. 739 @ 741

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

In continuation
of our letters in this Depart-
ment noted in ^{the} margin, we
have the honor to trans-
mit some further papers
relating to the illegal col-
lection of transit duty in
the territories of His Highness
the Nizam, on the road
from Bezwada to Hydrabad,
being copy of a letter
from the Collector of Krishna
District, and of its enclosures.

2 In our Despatch
of the 23rd December, we
mentioned (Para 2) that
we had on two
previous occasions
made representations
to the Resident at

Hydrabad

Hydrabad on this subject; and had received the assurance of the Minister that stringent injunctions on ~~the subject~~ had been issued; and a letter to the Resident of which a copy accompanied that Despatch states this in more detail. Colonel Davidson ^{in that letter,} was ~~then~~ reminded (para 3) that in reply to the first representation, ^{the} Government had been assured "that strict orders had been issued not to levy any transit duties in future," and that in reply to the second, the Minister had promised that for the future persons offending in that way would be severely punished.

3. Our Despatch of the

March/60 No 5

24th February enclosed copy of a letter from the Resident in reply to a third representation, and of one addressed to him by the Minister to the effect that more specific information was necessary to enable him to deal with the complaint. The Collector of Nistna District was accordingly requested to furnish further particulars and we now forward his reply. You will see that ~~it~~ ^{my letter} not only refers to particular cases of exaction, some of which, he says, were brought to the notice of the Resident of Hydrabad a year ago, without any satisfactory ^{that} result; but he also gives

Hydrabad on this

gives the result of
his own personal en-
quiries on the spot,
which fully satis-
fied him that the
illegal levy of duty
is constant and sys-
tematic.

4. The enclosures of
Mr. Knox's letter relate
to specific acts of exaction
to the aggregate amount
of Rupees 416-11-0 deposited
to by several merchants
of Suggiapettah, and
brought by their ser-
vants and agents.

These merchants also
give detailed
information of the rates
of toll levied at the
various places; and of
the agency employed. We

5. We beg to call your
particular attention
to para 11 of the Arzi from
the Tahsildar of Mandigami,
which forms an enclosure
of the Collector's letter.
The Tahsildar there
states that the Naib
of Khanat had written
to him saying that no
toll was levied on the
property of Gentlemen,
and that his Govt "never
contemplated" the dis-
-continuance of the Sug-
-er duty on merchants
goods. What the precise
meaning of this commu-
-nication was, it is dif-
-ficult to say; whether
it proceeded from igno-
-rance in the writer, or
whether it was designed
to explain away the
treaty. But it fully
confirms the other
evidence.

aidance ^{as} to the systematic
levy of the duty, and indeed
the Mail distinctly in-
formed the Tahsildar
(same para) that his
Govt. had rented out the
privilege of levying these
duties.

6. These papers leave
no room to doubt as to
the fact of the constant
levy of these illegal du-
ties, or that this is done
under the orders of the
Nizam's Government. We
do not attempt to reconcile
the facts thus ascertained
with the former assuran-
ces of the Minister, but
it is evident that vigorous
and determined action
is necessary on the part
of the President if these
proceedings are to be stop-
ped.

7. We have accordingly
addressed

addressed the President;
and in sending him the
Collectors letter, we
have drawn his attention
to the points noticed
above. We have requested
that he will, independent-
ly of a general requisition
for the cessation of
these enactments, make the
following two specific
demands; first that the
amount proved to have
been levied from the
merchants above re-
ferred to shall be re-
funded, to be repaid
to them; second that
the lease of these duties
also above referred to,
shall be publicly
cancelled.

8. We have transmit-
ted the papers to the Govt
of India; and noticing
the signal failure of
~~all~~ our reiterated
endeavours

aidance ^{as} to the systematic
levy of the duty; and indeed
the Mail distinctly in-
formed the Sahildar
(same para) that his
Govt. had rented out the
privilege of levying these
duties.

6. These papers leave
no room to doubt as to
the fact of the constant
levy of these illegal du-
ties, or that this is done
under the orders of the
Nizam's Government. We
do not attempt to reconcile
the facts thus ascertained
with the former assuran-
ces of the Minister; but
it is evident that vigorous
and determined action
is necessary on the part
of the President. if these
proceedings are to be stop-
ped.

7. We have accordingly
addressed

addressed the President;
and in sending him the
Collectors letter, we
have drawn his attention
to the points noticed
above. We have requested
that he will independently
of a general requisition
for the cessation of
these exactions, make the
following two specific
demands; first that the
amount proved to have
been levied from the
merchants above re-
ferred to shall be re-
funded, to be repaid
to them; second that
the lease of these duties
also above referred to,
shall be publicly
cancelled.

8. We have transmit-
ted the papers to the Govt
of India; and noticing
the signal failure of
~~at~~ our reiterated
endeavours

endeavour to obtain any
~~diminution~~
~~of the~~

Grivance, we have
particularly requested
their aid towards putting
a stop to the ~~illegal~~
~~sanctions~~. The matter
being one of great im-
portance, we forward
the papers to you also
without any delay; &
we beg to commend them
to your special regard.
We are satisfied that
you will not allow
a solemn treaty to be
thus systematically set
at naught, to the great
injury and oppression
of subjects of the
British Crown.

J. A.

Fort George
13th April 1860

J. W. D.

No 18 of 1860

Letter to the Right Honble
the Secretary of State
for India

Dated 13th April 1860

Right Copy of Steamer Lunla
via Marseilles 14 April 1860

Copy to the Govt of India 18. April 1860
No 7

Transmit further pa-
pers relating to the illegal
collection of transit duty in
the territories of His High-
ness the Nizam -

Reply received 8/29 June 1860