M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1084 — Press / ~~Mis.~~

214-215

Dated 25-5-1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 214. Read the following letter from W. GREY, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India (Home Department Statistical), to the Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Fort William, 3rd May 1861, No. 923 :—

SIR,

1. I am directed to transmit the accompanying copy of a report, dated the 18th January last, by the Customs Committee, on the subject of the preparation of Trade and Navigation Returns at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay.

2. The Forms of Returns (founded on the English Returns) prescribed by the Committee accompany the Report, together with a copy of the Memorandum by the Hon'ble A. Eden referred to in paragraph 36, and of the summary referred to in paragraph 5.

3. The Governor General in Council is desirous that the new Forms of Returns should be adopted at the three Presidency Ports, so far as they can be at once introduced, from the 1st of the current month.

4. With regard to the Committee's recommendation* that the Returns should include the computed real value of imports and exports, as well as the Tariff and declared values, I am directed to inquire how the Government of Madras, would propose to organise an establishment for this purpose, and what expense will be necessary for the object. I am to add, that if the means of carrying out the suggestion without extra expense and with tolerable accuracy, are already available, it will be very desirable to commence at once from the 1st of May filling in the real values.

* See paragraphs 27 to 29.

5. It will be seen from the 23rd paragraph of the Committee's report that in addition to the monthly returns to be prepared at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay, the compilation at Calcutta of a General Return, to be issued quarterly, "showing at a glance the whole trade of the three Presidencies," is contemplated. The Governor General in Council is disposed to think that the preparation of this General Return may most conveniently be assigned to the same establishment which in the Calcutta Custom House will be charged with the preparation of the monthly returns for Calcutta, but on this point a further communication will be made hereafter.

From the Customs Committee, to W. GREY, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 18th January 1861.

In re Trade and Navigation Returns.

SIR,

1. WE have now the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 2,152, dated the 6th November 1860, forwarding for the consideration of the Customs Committee† certain papers regarding the present arrangements at the several Sea Ports in the British Indian Territories for the preparation of Trade returns.

† Richard Spooner, *President.*
J. N. Bullen, Esquire, } *Members.*
The Hon'ble A. Eden, }

2. The origin of the correspondence on the subject of Trade returns was an application‡ from the Bombay Government to discontinue the purchase from the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, of certain weekly Trade returns which cost Rupees 96 per month, and to devote the saving so to be effected in increasing the Establishment of the Reporter General of Bombay.

‡ Letter from the Government of Bombay, No. 5,085, dated the 22nd December 1859.

3. On the receipt of the said application, the late Mr. Wilson wrote a Memorandum to the effect that he was prepared at once to deal with the subject of "Trade returns," and that he intended that the Trade returns for the whole of India should be placed on a uniform footing.

4. A Circular§ was then sent to the several local Governments requesting them to report upon the existing practice and system in respect to the Trade returns in their several Presidencies and Provinces.

§ No. 477, to 480, dated the 3rd March 1860.

5. The replies were duly received, and a Summary‖ thereof was duly prepared in the Secretariate in, say August, September, or October 1860, from which it appeared that an annual Trade report for each of the Presidencies was published under the authority, and at the expense of Government, and that

‖ *Vide* the Summary.

various minor returns and weekly or monthly Trade returns were published by private individuals.

6. In the mean time Mr. Wilson died in August 1860, without, it would appear, leaving on record any scheme or plan for placing the Trade returns of India on a uniform footing.

7. The Committee having devoted much time and careful consideration to the subject are of opinion that, in order to enable Government and the Mercantile Community to have full information in respect to the existing Trade as compared with corresponding months, quarters and years of preceding periods, it would be advisable for Government to publish monthly returns of Trade in addition to the annual returns now prepared by the Government Authorities.

8. The Committee therefore beg to submit for the consideration of the Government of India, Forms of a set of Trade and Navigation Returns as follows:—

1*st.*—A monthly return of Imports.

2*nd.*—A monthly return of Exports.

3*rd.*—A monthly return showing the "number" and "Tonnage" of vessels "entered inwards" and "cleared outwards;"— showing also the several countries from and to which the said vessels have "entered" and "cleared".

4*th.*—A monthly return showing the "nationality" of the several vessels entered and cleared.

9. The monthly return of "Imports" consists of 13 Columns, and taking for example the monthly return for, say, September 1860, would afford the following information:—

10. In Column 1 would be entered a list of the articles of "Import."

11. Columns 2, 3, and 4 would show the quantity of each article imported "in September 1860," as compared with the imports in the corresponding month in 1858 and 1859.

12. Columns 5, 6, and 7 would show the quantity of each article imported during the five months* of the official year 1860-61, as compared with the imports in the corresponding five months in the official years 1858-59, and 1859-60.

* May, 1860.
June, 1860.
July, 1860.
August, 1860.
September, 1860.

13. Columns 8, 9, and 10 would show the declared or fixed Tariff value of the articles imported during the said five months of 1860-61, as compared with the corresponding period of 1858-59 and 1859-60.

14. While Columns 11, 12, and 13 would show the "computed real value," as explained in paragraphs 27 to 29 of this report.

15. No. 2.—A monthly return of Exports.

The above return would give in respect to Exports exactly the same information as above explained in respect to "Imports."

16. No. 3.—A monthly return of the "number" and "Tonnage" of vessels "entered" and "cleared."

17. In Column 1 would be entered the names of the "countries" from and to which the several vessels "entered" and "cleared."

18. Columns 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 would show the results of September 1860, as compared with September 1858, and September 1859.

19. Columns 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 would show the results of the five months† of the official year 1860-61, noted in the margin, as compared with the corresponding five months of the official years 1858-59 and 1859-60.

† May, 1860.
June, 1860.
July, 1860.
August, 1860.
September, 1860.

20. No. 4—A monthly return showing the "nationality" of the several vessels entered and cleared.

21. In Column 1 would be entered the names of the countries to which the several vessels belonged, *viz.*, whether "British" or "Foreign," and at foot would be entered the names of the said foreign territories and the number of vessels belonging thereto which "entered" or "cleared."

22. Such monthly returns might, in the first instance, be made for "Calcutta," "Madras," and "Bombay," and hereafter might be extended to other chief Ports, should such be deemed advisable.

Calcutta.
Madras.
Bombay.

23. The said monthly returns should, immediately they are prepared, be forwarded to Calcutta, where a condensed Quarterly return might be prepared, showing at a glance the whole trade of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay.

1st for the quarter ending the 31st July.
Ditto 31st October.
Ditto 31st January.
Ditto 30th April.

24. The forms of Returns suggested by the Committee are, they would state, framed on the model of the English Board of Trade Tables, with such necessary alterations only as are required to adapt them to the requirements of Indian Ports.

25. The object of Trade returns is to enable those interested in the external commerce of a country to determine whether that commerce is in a prosperous condition, or whether it is stationary or retrograding. Their importance is well understood in England, where great pains is taken to ensure their accuracy, a special Statistical Department being attached to the Board of Trade, from which monthly statements are regularly issued.

26. In this country the value of such tables has not been so fully recognized. Returns daily, monthly, and annually, all more or less useful, prepared by Custom House employés or private individuals at the different Presidencies, have been made available to the public, and annual returns have been issued under the responsibility of the respective Boards or Commissioners of Customs. But the former have not been compiled on any uniform system, and abound frequently in typical and other errors, whilst (at Calcutta at any rate) the latter, besides not being free from errors, is usually issued AT CALCUTTA at such deferred periods as practically to leave it of little real service. At *Bombay*, the merchants express themselves satisfied with the annual Report and Returns compiled by the Commissioner of Customs, Salt and Opium at that Presidency.

27. No attempt moreover has hitherto been made to arrive at the computed real values of merchandize imported or exported. Tariff values (which frequently, especially under the late Calcutta Tariff, have been wide of their real value), or declared values have been adopted in the case of dutiable and free goods imported, whilst as regards exports, no particular care seems to have been exercised that the values of free exports (as Opium, Raw Silk, &c.), or of those paying a specific duty (as Indigo, grain of all sorts, &c.), were correctly assumed; consequently though the tables might otherwise be free from errors, the result as regards a real balance of trade would be very different from that indicated by the figures, and would lead any one relying on such result to very wrong conclusions.

28. In England the same inaccurate system long prevailed, but for many years tables of computed real values of exports have been prepared by the Board of Trade. The difficulty of preparing similar tables of the real values of goods imported does not seem to have been overcome, at least the Committee are not aware that any such have been published. The extent to which the bonding system is carried in England (the great ports of the United Kingdom being, for many articles, it may be said, the entrepôt of all Europe), render perhaps of little practical use tables which would show the values of all merchandise *imported* into the different ports of Great Britain. But tables showing the computed real values of goods *actually entered for consumption* would be of great use, and it is a matter of surprise that the compilation of such tables has not been attempted.

29. In this country, however, where the bonding system prevails to the most limited extent, this difficulty would not present itself. The Committee can see no valid reason why tables showing the computed real values of all merchandize and treasure imported and exported should not be prepared. Such tables would prove of the greatest service to those engaged in the commerce of the Empire. Their value would however of course depend upon their accuracy, and the promptitude with which they might be issued. To secure the former it would be necessary that the head of the Department from whence the returns emanated should be a gentleman of intelligence (and probably also of commercial experience), who would be able to check from his own knowledge of the markets (with the fluctuations of which it should be a

part of his duty to keep himself acquainted), the returns sent up from the Custom House for the compilation of these statements. In this the Chamber of Commerce would no doubt always be willing to lend assistance by returning monthly the average market values of the principal articles of both import and export if required.

30. The forms of tables which the Committee would propose are those attached hereto marked Nos. 1 and 2. They are formed on the model of the English Board of Trade tables, with such alterations only as are necessary to adapt them to the trade of this country. These forms are filled up *pro formâ*, with the view of illustration, but they will of course require more amplification than is there given them, though too much detail should be avoided. The Committee propose these tables, not in supersession of, but in addition to, those already issued by the Customs employés, private individuals, and by the Customs Authorities. The latter might be issued annually as hitherto, but it might, they think, be advantageously pruned of much minute detail which is of no practical value. The forms also are no doubt susceptible of improvement. The returns issued by the Customs employés, or by private individuals, contain much valuable raw material (if the expression is allowable), from which the merchants are enabled to compile their own tables. But greater accuracy in them is very desirable, and care should be taken that the principle of showing real values, as nearly as they can be ascertained, should be more clearly kept in view.

31. The advantage of the uniformity of "weights" and "measures" adopted in Custom House transactions at all the Presidencies on the recommendation of the Customs Committee, will be felt in the comparative facility which it will afford for the preparation of such a General Return.

32. The Committee do not suppose that such Returns as they have recommended can be prepared at once. They are aware that no material at present exists for their compilation, and, at first, it will probably only be possible to produce statements showing the result of the trade from month to month without any comparison with corresponding periods of former years. But the returns would soon begin to possess a real practical value. The Committee would add that they attach more importance to the column intended to show the computed real values than to that showing the Custom House Official values, though both should they think be given.

33. Endeavors should also be made to distinguish the Coasting Trade from the Foreign Trade proper. At present produce (Raw Cotton and seeds for instance), borne seawise from subordinate ports to Bombay appear in the Bombay returns as imports, and when shipped to English or other Ports beyond the seas figure as exports. This is the same as if the produce of Bengal or the North West, brought down from the interior to Calcutta, was treated as an import; an obviously erroneous method, and one conveying a false impression of the trade of a Port. The real object of Trade Returns is to arrive at the Foreign or external commerce of a country, that is, its imports for which it becomes indebted to Foreign countries, and its exports for which Foreign countries become indebted to it.

Navigation Returns.

34. The object of Navigation Returns is, *first*, to ascertain what portion of our Foreign and Coasting trade is carried on by British, and what by Foreign bottoms; and *secondly*, to determine whether our whole trade is, as has been said with regard to Trade Returns, progressive, stationary, or retrograding. To exhibit these results nothing can be clearer than the Board of Trade Forms, which the Committee consequently recommend should be adopted.

35. Mr. Bullen is of opinion that to ensure greater accuracy in the weekly and monthly Returns now issued from the Custom House at Calcutta, as referred to in paragraph 30, these Returns should in future be issued under the direct responsibility of the Collector. Should this necessitate any change in the proprietary right to these publications, care should be taken that those Officers of the Customs who have what may be considered a vested right to their issue, should be equitably indemnified.

36. The Hon'ble A. Eden having left Calcutta before this report was prepared, a separate Memorandum prepared by him on the subject under reference is herewith annexed.

(Signed) RICHARD SPOONER, *President.*
(,,) J. N. BULLEN, *Member.*

No. 1.—IMPORTS.

An Account of the Imports of Merchandize into the Port of Calcutta (including the quantities bonded) for the month of September, 1860, *and for the five months ended 30th September* 1860, *with their declared (or fixed Tariff) and computed real values compared with the corresponding periods of* 1858 *and* 1859.

Articles.	Quantities.				Declared or fixed Tariff value.				Computed real value.			
	Month ended 30th Sept.		5 Months ended 30th Sept.		5 Months ended 30th Sept.				5 Months ended 30th Sept.			
	1858.	1859.	1860.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1858.	1859.	1860.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
Cotton Twist												
,, Piece Goods, Grey												
,, ,, Bleached....												
,, ,, Printed... ... ,,												
Silks												
Metals, Copper												
Iron												
Spelter...												
Lead												
Tin Plates...												
Steel												
Machinery												
Hardware												
Malt Liquor												
Spirits...												
Wines and Liqueurs												
&c., &c., ...												
Unenumerated articles												
Specie...												
Total...												

No. 2.—EXPORTS.

An Account of the Export of Merchandize from the Port of Calcutta (including bonded goods re-exported) for the month of September 1860, *and for the five months ended 30th September,* 1860, *with their declared (or fixed Tariff) and computed real values compared with the corresponding periods of* 1858 *and* 1859.

Articles.	Quantities.						Declared or fixed Tariff value.			Computed real value.		
	Month ended 30th Sept.			5 Months ended 30th Sept.			5 Months ended 30th Sept.			5 Months ended 30th Sept.		
	1858.	1859.	1860.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1858.	1859.	1860.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
Indigo, Great Britain, cwt... ...												
For Europe ,, ...												
Other Ports ,,... ...												
Saltpetre, Great Britain, cwt...												
America ,,... ...												
Other Ports ,, ...												
Sugar cwt... ...												
Rice ,, ...												
Raw Silk lbs.... ...												
Silk Piece Goods, Pieces...												
Opium Chests ...												
Linseed cwt. ...												
Rapeseed ,, ...												
Jute ,,... ...												
Hides, Pieces ...												
Gunny Bags ,,... ...												
Shell Lac cwt.... ...												
&c., &c., &c. ...												
Unenumerated articles												
Specie												
Total...												

The Ports to which these are exported should also be distinguished.

No. 3.—TONNAGE.

An account of the Number and Tonnage of Vessels entered inwards and cleared outwards from and to various Countries during the month ended 30th September 1860, *and for the five months ended 30th September* 1860, *compared with the corresponding periods of* 1858 *and* 1859.

Countries whence arrived.	Month ended 30th September 1860.						Five months ended 30th September 1860.					
	1858.		1859.		1860.		1858.		1859.		1860.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Entered.												
Cleared.												

No. 4.—NATIONALITY.

An account of the Number and Tonnage of Vessels (distinguishing their Nationalities) which entered inwards and cleared outwards in the month of September 1860, *and the five months ended 30th September* 1860, *compared with the corresponding periods of* 1858 *and* 1859.

Nationalities of Vessels.	Month ended 30th September 1860.				Five months ended 30th September 1860.			
	1858.		1859.		1860.			
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Entered.								
British								
Foreign								
Total ...								
Foreign of each nation... ...								
Cleared.								
British								
Foreign								
Total...								
Foreign of each nation... ...								

Memorandum by the Honorable A. EDEN, on Trade Returns, dated 7th January 1861.

1. I regret that my immediate departure from Calcutta renders it impossible for the Committee to send in a final report on this subject after such general discussion as the importance of the question demands. I, however, leave my opinion on record, and I think that my views are generally in accordance with those of my colleagues who will doubtless submit a report on the subject on an early date.

2. The present Trade Returns published at Calcutta are inaccurate and clumsy. The only return published by Government is the Annual Commercial Report, and for the preparation of this there is a Reporter's Department in the Board's Office, and a small Establishment in the Collector's Office. The men employed for this purpose under the Collector copy out the Import and Export Registers for transmission to the Revenue Board. These are generally three or four months in arrears, and even when received, the nature of these Registers is such that it takes a very long time to enable the different Departments to abstract from them the information they require. Items and ports are all jumbled up together, and the Clerk who is preparing Imports and Exports to France has to wait until the Register has been abstracted by the Clerk who is preparing the Returns for the United Kingdom, and the Clerk in charge of America has to wait until the abstract for France has been completed, and so on. It is the work of weeks to complete these abstracts, and when done they are often incorrect, as from the form of the register it frequently happens that the abstracter in running his eye down the page omits to notice some very large shipment.

3. As an amendment I would propose that the Board's copy of the Register should be discontinued, and those who now are engaged in making it should in future be employed in preparing an abstract copy of the Custom House Challans, omitting marks and numbers. These should be audited, and all corrections made in the original Challan, while passing through the Custom House, should be noted. On the departure of a Ship the whole of the abstract Challans of that Ship should be folded together, and sent to the Reporter's Department of the Board's Office, where they would at once be taken charge of by the Clerk in charge of the port of destination of the Ship, to be by him entered in books which have lately been prescribed by me for this purpose. In this way the work would always be up to date, and such mistakes as have lately occurred would be impossible. The Annual Report could then be published one month after the close of the year, instead of six months as at present. The form prescribed by the Home Government is very confused; it makes reference a matter of great difficulty, and errors frequently arise from derangement of the long tables which extend over some 8 or 10 pages. A form like that adopted by Mr. Bonnaud would be preferable.

4. Every quarter the Board of Revenue should publish a brief table of imports and exports, merely showing quantities and values of the quarter as compared with the quarter of the previous year, or perhaps it would be better, if in the second quarter of one year the comparison was with the two first quarters of the previous year, in the third quarter with the first three quarters of year, &c.

5. The only other returns now published are the Daily Imports, Daily Exports, Bonnaud's Monthly, and Board's Annual Return. These are published by Officers in the Customs Department as a speculation, and I understand they are profitable. The importance which is attached to these Returns by the merchants may be inferred from the very high price they pay for them, the subscription being 100 Rupees per annum for each of these, except the Annual Return.

6. These Returns are not correct, and no one is responsible for their correctness; they should be published by the Collector of Customs himself, and bear his signature, if necessary; the Import and Export Supervisor and the Assistant Collector might receive an increase of pay on condition of their preparing these Returns, but they should not be allowed to print and sell information officially received. The profit from the sale of these returns would enable the Collector to keep up a very efficient Establishment for their preparation, and the price at which they are sold to the public should be regulated solely with reference to these. The charge should be sufficient to cover the cost and no more, the present price seems exorbitant, and I understand that the Officer who used formerly to prepare them realized very large sums from the sale. I think that the public have a right to expect that Government will give them information of this sort at the least possible cost.

7. If merchants were compelled to give in their Challans in duplicate, or accompanied by an abstract such as I have proposed, a still greater saving of time and expense would result. I cannot conceive that they would raise any objection to this, seeing the importance that it is to them to obtain speedy and correct returns.

8. If my colleagues find my opinion to be generally in accordance with their own on this subject, I shall feel obliged by their noting my concurrence in the Report they submit, otherwise they will perhaps be so good as to send this up as Appendix to their Report.

(Signed) A. EDEN.

SUMMARY OF THE REPLIES TO CIRCULAR, DATED 3RD MARCH 1860,

SHOWING the present arrangements at the several Sea-Ports in the British Indian Territories for the preparation of Trade Returns.

SUBJECT.	Bengal.	Madras.	Bombay.	Pegu.	Straits' Settlements.
1. What are the means now at the disposal of each local Government for collecting and publishing the Customs' Statistics.	An Establishment is maintained in the Board's Office for the preparation of the Annual Report on the External Commerce of Bengal, from Statements furnished by the Calcutta Custom House and the several Out-Ports.	An Establishment is maintained at the Madras Sea Custom House under the Reporter of External Commerce at a cost of Rs. 519 per mensem for the preparation of Annual Trade Returns from Statements furnished monthly by the Collectors of the several Maritime Ports.	In Bombay an Establishment of 14 Clerks is maintained under the Reporter General at a monthly cost of Rs. 474 for the preparation of the Annual Trade Report which is compiled from the General and Private Manifests of the Bombay Custom House, and the Statements furnished by the subordinate Ports. The Reporter General states that his establishment is too weak for the work, and that its cost will probably have to be increased to Rs. 560 per month. In Scinde the Statistics of Trade at the Sea Ports of this Province are obtained from the Books of the Custom Houses at Kurrachee and Khetty, the daily entries in which are collated into formal Tables by the regular establishment of the Deputy Collector of Customs, by whom they are submitted as an official document to Government. These Tables have hitherto been published at the public cost, and copies have been supplied either gratis by the Commissioner or sold to Merchants at a price fixed by Government.	The Collectors of Customs at Rangoon and Bassein furnish the Commissioner with monthly reports of the principal articles of Import and Export, which are made out into quarterly Statements in his Office.	The Ports in the Straits' Settlements are free, and the means for collecting the Statistics are based upon Regulation III of 1833, which does not appear to have been strictly adhered to. The Masters of Vessels having been found unable to furnish the Registry Offices as required by the Regulation with the description, quantity, and value of goods, the practice has prevailed of receiving the information from Consignees and Owners of Goods, and when these happen to be Natives, verbal reports are made in the Offices which are reduced into writing by the Clerks. Frequently these reports are not made until the Vessels are on the eve of leaving the Ports, and furnished only to enable the Masters to obtain Port Clearances. When the Vessels' destinations are to a Native Port, in which case the production of a Port Clearance is not necessary, they occasionally leave the Harbour without making such reports. The following Establishment is maintained at the several Registry Offices :— SINGAPORE. 1 Deputy Register. 3 Clerks. 2 Peons. 2 Writers paid by the Proprietor of the Newspaper Press. PENANG. 2 Clerks. 1 Ditto in charge of the Opium Godown. 1 Peon. MALACCA. 1 Clerk. 1 Malay Writer.
2. To what extent such Returns are now prepared.	1. Board's Annual Report on External Commerce of Bengal. 2. The Commercial Annual or a Tabular Statement of the External Commerce of Bengal. 3. Quarterly Statement of Export Cargoes. 4. The Monthly Calcutta Commercial Guide to Imports and Exports. 5. Weekly Report of Imports. 6. Weekly Report of Exports. 7. Daily Imports. 8. Daily Exports.	1. The Annual Trade Returns. 2. Monthly Statement of Imports and Exports for the Port of Madras, including the principal Exports from a few of the subordinate Ports. 3. The Madras Bi-monthly Price Current. 4. The Madras Bi-monthly Price Current and Market Report.	1. The Annual Trade Returns. 2. The Weekly Return of Imports and Exports for the Port of Bombay. 3. Printed Copies of Ships' Manifests of the Port of Bombay.	1. Quarterly Return of principal articles of Import and Export for the Ports of Rangoon and Bassein. 2. Annual Ditto. Ditto. 3. Quarterly Return of the Rice Trade for Ditto. Ditto. 4. Daily Imports and Exports of each Vessel for the Port of Rangoon. 5. The Annual Tabular Statement of the Commerce and Shipping of the Ports of Rangoon and Bassein.	1. Annual Trade Returns. 2. Daily List of Trade for the Port of Singapore. 3. Monthly Statement of Ditto.
3. Whether they are compiled and published on the authority and at the expense of the Government, or of private individuals.	The first is compiled and published under the authority and at the expense of Government The rest are published under the authority of the Collector and the Board by the Uncovenanted Officers of the Calcutta Custom House at their own expense. The sanction of the Supreme Government has also been given to the publication of the last two Reports.	The first is compiled by the Reporter of External Commerce, and despatched in manuscript to the Home Government. 200 copies are afterwards printed for distribution to the Government of India, and the Madras Revenue Officers. The printing cost of the Report for 1858-59, amounted to Rs. 1,400. The second is published by the Chamber of Commerce under the authority of Government from materials obtained by two Clerks receiving 25 Rupees each monthly, maintained by the Chamber at the Sea Custom House. The Government contribute 30 Rupees a month towards the publication and receive 25 copies. The third is published under the patronage of Government by a private individual not in the service of Government at his own expense. 100 copies are taken by Government at a monthly cost of Rupees 100. The fourth has commenced to be published, from January 1860, by the Chamber of Commerce, from materials collected by themselves and at their own expense.	The first is compiled and published by the Reporter General. 200 copies are annually printed, and the printing cost of the Report for 1858-59 amounted to Rupees 2,287-9-6. The second is published by the Chamber of Commerce from information obtained from the Reporter General's Department. The third and other Statistical Returns are published by private individuals at Bombay not in the service of Government from information obtained gratuitously from the Custom House. One of the Assistant Commissioners at the Bombay Custom House used to publish on his private account a weekly Trade Return similar to the one published by the Chamber of Commerce, but owing to objections made by the Chamber it has recently been discontinued.	The first three Returns are compiled in the Commissioner's Office, and published in the local Newspaper at the cost of the Press. The second one is also published in the Appendix to the annual Administration Report, which is printed at Rangoon at the expense of Government for general information. The fourth is prepared by a Clerk of the local Press at Rangoon, who attends at the Custom House, and is published at the expense of the Proprietor. The fifth is prepared in the form of the Report on External Commerce of Bengal by the Collectors of Customs at Rangoon and Bassein, and printed in Calcutta at the cost of Government.—No mention is made of it in the reply from the Commissioner of Pegu.	The first which is compiled in the Straits' Settlements, is printed and published in Calcutta on the authority and at the expense of Government. The Second and third are published by the Proprietor of the Newspaper Press at Singapore.
4. And whether in the latter case the authors are in the service of Government.	The private individuals who publish the Customs Statistics are in the service of Government.	The private individuals who publish the Customs Statistics are not in the service of Government.	The authors of private publications are not in the service of Government.		

SUBJECT.	Bengal.	Madras.	Bombay.	Pegu.	Straits' Settlements.
General Remarks.	With the exception of the Trade of the Port of Moulmein with the Bengal Ports which has lately been ordered by the Supreme Government to be included in the Board's Annual Report, the Port to Port Trade within the limits of the Presidency is now shown in it, and the Government of Bengal recommends that this should be done. In Out-Ports the Returns of Trade furnished to the Board are prepared by Establishments paid by Government, but are not published on the spot. They are however accessible to the Merchants of the place and to others who may desire to consult them. In Arracan, the information thus obtained by the Merchants, especially with regard to the Rice Trade of Akyab, is published by them by means of Circulars. On the recommendation of the Commissioner, the Lieutenant Governor has sanctioned the publication weekly at the Akyab Press for a small sum of the Statistical Returns of the Trade of the Port of Akyab.		The Annual Trade Returns as prepared by Mr. Spooner give entire satisfaction to the Mercantile Community.		In September 1856, Mr. Blundell brought to notice the insufficiency of his Establishment, and the consequent delay which attends the preparation of the Trade Statistics in the complicated form laid down by the late Hon'ble the Court of Directors, and observed that the Returns are not very trustworthy owing to the unsatisfactory way in which the information is collected. He recommended the adoption of simpler Returns, and their publication on the spot within a short time after the close of the year. Again in December 1857, Mr. Blundell recommended the adoption of the old Forms, and the matter was referred to the Hon'ble Court, but no notice was taken of it. The present Governor entirely concurs with his predecessor, and thinks that the introduction of a Law for the compulsory Registry of Imports and Exports would not be generally distasteful, more especially if it led to the publication within a reasonable time of accurate and simple Returns.

No. 215. ORDER THEREON, 25th May 1861, No. 1,084.

1. Ordered to be communicated to the Board of Revenue for information and guidance. They will at once make arrangements to introduce the new forms of Trade Returns at Madras from the 1st instant.

2. The Board will report on the subject of paragraph 4 at an early date.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

No. 923

FROM

W. GREY, ESQUIRE,
Secy. to the Govt. of India,

To

The Secretary to the Government of
Fort St George

SIR,

Dated Fort William, the 3rd May, 1861.

HOME DEPT. Statistical.

I AM directed to transmit the accompanying copy of a report, dated the 18th January last, by the Customs Committee, on the subject of the preparation of Trade and Navigation Returns at Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay.

2. The Forms of Returns (founded on the English Returns) prescribed by the Committee accompany the Report, together with a copy of the Memorandum by the Hon'ble A. Eden referred to in paragraph 36, and of the summary referred to in paragraph 3.

3. The Governor General in Council is desirous that the new Forms of Returns should be adopted at the three Presidency Ports, so far as they can be at once introduced, from the 1st of the current month.

4. With regard to the Committee's recommendation* that the Returns should include the computed real value of imports and exports, as well as the Tariff and declared values,

* See paragraphs 27 to 29.

I am directed to enquire how the Government of *Madras* would propose to organise an establishment for this purpose, and what expense will be necessary for the object. I am to add, that if the means of carrying out the suggestion without extra expense and with tolerable accuracy, are already available, it will be very desirable to commence at once from the 1st of May filling in the real values.

5. It will be seen from the 23rd paragraph of the Committee's report that in addition to the monthly returns to be prepared at Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, the compilation at Calcutta of a General Return, to be issued quarterly, "showing at a glance the whole trade of the three Presidencies," is contemplated. The Governor General in Council is disposed to think that the preparation of this General Return may most conveniently be assigned to the same establishment which in the Calcutta Custom House will be charged with the preparation of the monthly returns for Calcutta, but on this point a further communication will be made hereafter.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Rec.d 26th June/61 Nos 254-263
" 3rd July " " 36-38.

From the Govt. of India
22 April 62 No 1314 in
Rec.d 27th May/62 No 1161
From the Secy to the Govt
of India dd 13 Oct 62
Encl. No 2979 in No-

No 214 & 215.

Rec.d 16 May 1862

(3)

Rec.d 1861 Sept 16-
Pro. of Govt to Fort St Geo.
No 1165.

From,

The Secy to the
Govt of India,
Dated 3d May
Rec.d 15th " 1861-
No 923.

Encl. from No 1084 dd 25 May
With an order
Tranmitting
of a Report of the
Customs Committee
Desiring the adoption
of the new forms of
Returns at the three
Presidency Ports, & the
giving of credit for the
suggestions of the Com.
with respect to pre-
-vious Returns can be
carried on without the
-ir employment.

No 1084

No 1084.

Ordered to be communicated
to the Board of Revn for information
and guidance. They will at once make
arrangements to introduce the new
forms of Trade Returns at Madras from
the 1st Inst.

2 The Bd will report on the subject
at an early date.

Fort St Geo:
25th May 1861

To Copies to the Dom. of Travancore. Pass. 25
& Mr. Letter & form for ref. in Pass.