

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	168	Press
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Dated	2 3	1938

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Political Consultation, 2nd March 1858.

No. 29. From C. J. MacCARTHY, Esq., Colonial Secretary; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 28th January 1858, No. 9.

SIR,

I am directed by the Governor to transmit to you copy of a letter from the Government Agent for the Northern Province, together with a Petition from certain Merchants and Traders at Jaffna, and to request that you will move the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, to endeavour to secure, if possible, the object desired by the Petitioners.

From P. A. DYKE, Esq., Government Agent for the Northern Province; to the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Colombo, dated Jaffna Kutchery, 20th November 1857, No. 353.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit herewith a petition addressed to me by certain Merchants and Traders of Jaffna.

The main purpose of this representation is to endeavour to engage the attention of Government to some peculiar circumstances as to certain ports named Sangaucherry, and Anjengo, which, though geographically within the state of Travancore, belong as it is stated to the East India Company, a statement which is also made in the annexed extract from a printed "Memoir of Travancore," which I happen to have, which is stated in the title page to have been drawn up by Lieut. Horsley of the Engineers at the request of Major General Fraser, the British Resident, and printed in 1839.

The statement of Petitioners are that there is some sort of agreement between the Madras Government and that of Travancore, one item at least of which is the prohibition of the import of Tobacco into these ports.

The form in which this statement is made is that the ports are rented by the Madras Government to that of Travancore, and that the terms of the existing lease is about to expire, and the prayer of the petition is that the Government will exert its influence to procure that any such lease or agreement be not renewed, in order that they may be enabled to import Tobacco into those ports.

Another statement of the petitioners is that the existing contract for the supply of Tobacco for the monopoly sales of the Travancore Government, though nominally held by another person, is really in the hands of an influential servant of the State, and that this person employs a sort of coast guard establishment, said to be maintained for the prevention of smuggling on the Coast of Travancore, in molesting traders desiring to pass along that coast to the separate State of Cochin, with which the people of this District carry on a considerable trade in Tobacco, and a particular instance of this has been adduced as to a Nattacotta Chetty having partners resident here. That person is not here, but I have seen one of the partners, who has not joined in this petition and who has repeated to me the statements made in the petition as to this matter.

It has been further explained to me verbally, that peculiar facility is afforded for such proceeding as is attributed to the virtual contractor, by the circumstance that the winds and currents necessitate the keeping close in shore in order to make the voyage up that coast in small vessels, and that the object of this person in thus opposing obstacles to the trade with Cochin, is by limiting the market for it, to obtain Tobacco here for his contract on more advantageous terms than he otherwise could.

On these representations I venture to suggest, that information should be obtained from the Madras Government as to the facts in respect to the ports in question, and that the attention of that Government should be asked to the statements that are made of the proceedings of the contractor.

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Agent's.....	31st August 1852,	No. 183.	In connection with the first of these re-
Colonial Secy's...	16th Sept.	" 160.	presentations, I have also to suggest a reference
Agent's.....	22nd June 1853.	" 118.	to the correspondence noted in the margin.
Do.	7th July	" 130.	The inference to be drawn from the communi-
Colonial Secy's...	19th do.	" 97.	cation from the Government of India seems to
Do.	27th do.	" 101.	me to be that the Governor General was dis-
Agent's.....	2nd August	" 142.	posed to have interposed as desired if he could

have seen that he could have done so with effect

Throughout the correspondence it seems to be avowed as desired, that the monopoly of the State of Travancore should be abolished, and I would therefore respectfully submit whether this general tenor of the correspondence might not be referred to in support of an application that the Madras Government should abstain from affording the support to its continued maintenance derived from the arrangement referred to as to the ports named herein.

I solicit attention also in particular to the concluding paragraph of your letter of the 27th July 1853, in reply to the invitation for the expression of my opinion therein implied. I stated that I thought it was not desirable that any further application should be then made to the Government of India, but should application as suggested herein be now made to the Government of Madras, it would perhaps be desirable that some reference should now be made to this matter of the order in Council in favor of the Trade of Travancore.

From Native Merchants at Jaffna; to P. A. DYKE, Esq., Government Agent for the Northern Province, dated Jaffna, 27th October 1857.

The humble Petition of the undersigned
Merchants and Traders in Jaffna.

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

That the chief article of produce and of commerce in this Province is Tobacco, and the Petitioners are most of the Traders and Merchants dealing in the said article at home and abroad. The cart road to Kandy newly opened and free trade with Cochin gave a new impulse to the Manufacture of this article at a more enlarged scale, that trade proportionately increased and the circumstances of your Petitioners as well as of the agriculturists were considerably bettered and augmented, and not to flatter, they stand indebted to these benevolent measures to your energetic interference towards the welfare of your beloved Province, but the recent proceedings of one Ramoepully, an Officer in the Service of the Rajah of Travancore, who procured one Wangittamodaly to be nominally the Contractor of Tobacco to the Rajah of Travancore, whereas himself in reality is the Contractor in having employed all along the Malabar Coast upwards of 300 Wallams or Boats and a body of men double the number to seize Vessels passing with Tobacco to Cochin, &c., by Sea, operated to discourage the Petitioners from holding intercourse with Cochin any longer, as the report prevalent throughout Cochin in reference to the object of this appointment of the large body of men and Boats is to harass the Jaffna Merchants against exporting Tobacco to Cochin and threaten them, and the Petitioners very much fear and have cause to fear therefore to continue trade with Cochin in opposition, as they may be liable to be overcome by hundreds of stratagems of the influential enemy and not find relief at all, as all rule is at his the said Ramoepully's influence there.

A late occurrence of the escape of a Chitty at Paracado called Allagappa Chitty, a Merchant of Jaffna, they beg here to cite in explanation of their above statement, i. e., the Chitty hired a boat at Chingancherry to go to Cochin with a Port clearance from the Honorable Company's Officers there, and his boat was seen advancing towards Paracado, when two of the above boats chased the Chitty and brought him and his boat to the coast where he stood at trial before Ramoepully. He was enquired into the object of his voyage and as to whether he was not a Jaffna Merchant and the Chitty fearing his safety should he admit denied that he was a Jaffna Merchant and effected his release with great difficulty which he informed his copartners at Jaffna by a letter and since the Petitioners fear to make any voyage to Cochin and consequently there is a

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great fall in the price of Tobacco here, and many possessed of a large quantity of it to export to Cochin sold here at a very reduced price and such as have bought them not know how to dispose of them and your Petitioners therefore have considerably suffered.

The matter complained of has a foreign appearance which they themselves have the wisdom to judge, placed as the Rajah of Travancore and the Petitioners are under Her Majesty, they humbly hope this Government will take notice of the matter and interfere towards checking the above mischief as the interest of a large body of Traders under Her Majesty's reign is affected by the Contract of Ramoepully who as an Officer in the service of the Rajah has no right to have any thing to do in the Tobacco Contract nor to assemble such a large force against the poor Petitioners.

The Petitioners moreover beg to state that the Northern Province was about 3 or 4 years in a greatly impoverished state and its present resource in wealth is chiefly through Tobacco trade, with Cochin. There is a great extent of land fit for a further cultivation of it and hands also and the Province looks to, for an encouragement in furtherance of their industry.

The Petitioners understood that the 12 years agreed on between the Rajah of Travancore and the East India Company to restrain exportation of Tobacco in the following Coasts, viz., Sangaucherry, Autchutungal, &c., have expired or nearly expiring, and they beg most submissively that it may please you to interfere towards opening those coasts and if possible Travancore itself for free trade in Tobacco, in which case your beloved Province will make a great advancement in industry, wealth and her pecuniary circumstances.

Whereupon the petitioners pray that it may please you to take into your kind consideration the contract of Ramoepully made to supply Tobacco to the Rajah of Travancore and the evil tendencies of it towards the progress of trade here and at Cochin, and also the advantages the Petitioners as well as the whole Province will have, if free trade with Travancore and other British Dominions in East India be encouraged, to interfere in the matter and apply to this Government to have communication with the Honorable Company Government towards checking Ramoepully's contract and his illegal proceedings consequently and opening the following places for free trade in Tobacco, i. e., Autchutungal and Sangaucherry, at present, and if possible Travancore itself, as well and for this act of kindness the Petitioner as in duty bound shall ever pray.

(Signed) By 86 Merchants.

Extract Referred to.

"There are within Travancore, two confined tracts belonging to the British, Angengo, one of its earliest settlements, and Tanguncherry, adjoining Quilon, once a Dutch possession, they are both included in the Malabar Collectorate, and in judicial matters are subject to the Court of the Assistant Judge at Cochin, an arrangement which has but very lately taken place."

(True Extract.)

(Signed) P. A. DYKE.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) P. W. BRAYBROOKE.

Copy of the letter from the Lords of the Treasury referred to in the concluding Paragraph of Mr. Dyke's letter.

TREASURY CHAMBERS, 12th April 1858.

GENTLEMEN,

The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have had under their consideration a letter from the Board of Trade, covering a Memorial from British Merchants concerned in the Trade of the East India States of Cochin and Travancore, praying that those States may be placed on the same footing as Mysore and other Native States which are more exclusively under the influence of British authority, so far, as regards the terms on which their produce is treated in British Ports, and in British possessions abroad.

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My Lords advert to the great importance to British Trade and British Interests in India, that a communication, as free as possible, should be maintained between British India, and the Native States under British influence and control, as the best means not alone of extending our Markets in those important Territories, but also of cementing by mutual interest, our friendly relations with such native States, and they especially refer to the fact that the States of Travancore and Cochin have already shewn their sense of the advantages which a free Commercial communication between themselves and our Territories in India would entail by repealing the Frontier duties on the side of Malabar and Coimbatour

My Lords are of opinion, that the more extensive construction of the term "British Possession" as it relates to our Revenue Laws may now fairly be extended to include the States of Travancore and Cochin and such other Native States in India, over which the British authorities are entitled to exercise similar rights, influence, and control, by the presence of their Troops and their Resident Agent; and my Lords are therefore pleased to direct that the produce of the States in question shall hereafter be considered as the produce of British Possessions in India, and be treated accordingly.

(Signed) JAMES WILSON.

CUSTOM HOUSE, LONDON, May 4th, 1858.

The foregoing copy of a letter from Mr. Wilson, one of the Secretaries to the Lords of the Treasury, is transmitted to the Comptroller of Customs and Navigation Laws at Jaffna for his information and government.

By order of the Commissioners,

(Signed) C. CLARIDGE.

(") F. SAUNDERS,
Collector.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) P. F. FLANDERKA.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) J. L. FLANDERKA.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) P. W. BRAYBROOKE.

No. 30. TO THE COLONIAL SECRETARY AT COLOMBO, dated 2nd March 1858, No. 148.

Sir,

1. I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th January, No. 9, enclosing one from the Government Agent for the Northern Province with a Petition from certain Merchants at Jaffna, on the subject of the existing Leases of the British Dependencies of Tangacherry and Anjengo, held by the Travancore State, which they desire should not be renewed in order that they may be enabled to import Tobacco into those Ports.

2. In reply I am desired to state for the information of the Government of Ceylon, that the Leases of Tangacherry and Anjengo will expire respectively on the 12th July 1858 and 1st April 1859, and that the Madras Government are not at present prepared to say whether they will be renewed, and, if so, on what conditions.

3. I am instructed also to inform you that a very large proportion of the Travancore Revenue is derived from the Monopoly of Tobacco in that State, and that much smuggling takes place all along the Travancore Sea-board; but that if the Jaffna Merchants are really annoyed or obstructed by the Travancore Contractor when engaged in legitimate Trade and not in contraband traffic, they may bring the matter, with full particulars, to the knowledge of this Government who will take due notice of it.

4. I am further desired to point out that although the importation of Tobacco into the British Port of Cochin is free, yet that its introduction into the Territory of that State, either by land or sea, is contraband; the Monopoly existing in that country as well as in Travancore.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,

Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

Sept 5th

Political Department

No 148

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The Colonial Secretary
at Colombo.

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I am directed by the
Right Honble the Governor
in Council to acknowledge
the receipt of your letter of
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2. In reply I am desired to state for the information of the Government of Ceylon that the leases of Tangacherry and Anjengo will expire respectively on the 12th July 1858 and 1st April 1859, and that the Madras Government are not at present prepared to say, whether they will be renewed, and if so, on what conditions.

3. I am instructed also to inform you that a very large proportion of the Travancore revenue is derived from the monopoly of Tobaccos in that State, and that much smuggling takes place all along the Travancore seaboard - but that if the Caffra Merchants are really annoyed or obstructed by the Travancore Contractor when engaged in legitimate trade and not in contraband traffic,

they

they may bring the matter, with full particulars, to the knowledge of this Government who will take due notice of it.

4. I am further desired to point out that although the importation of Tobaccos into the British Port of Cochin is free, yet that its introduction into the territory of that State, either by land or sea, is contraband - the monopoly existing in that country as well as in Travancore.

For George, I
2^d March, 1858.

J. J.

Pol. L. to C. to the High
No. 17 of 1858
Perms 16417-

Inc. Mrs. J. D. D. D.
Political 1858 Depart

No. 118

To the Colonial Secy at
Colombo.

1/2 March 1858-

29-30

Referring to the receipt
of his letter of the 28 January 1858 &
stating in reply the information
of the Ceylon Govt that the leases
of Langardney and Mungwa will
expire respectively on the 1st July
1858 and 1st April 1859 and
that the Madras Govt are not
prepared to say whether they will
be renewed, and if so, on what
conditions.