

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 27

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated

12. 1. 1861

Not to be folded or roughly handled

27

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
12th January 1861.*

No. 52. Read the following letter from WILLIAM C. GIBSON, Esq., Colonial Secretary at Colombo, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 28th December 1860, No. 116.

With reference to former correspondence on the subject, I am directed to transmit to you the annexed copy of a letter from the Government Agent for the Northern Province, and to request that you will be good enough, with the permission of the Honorable the Governor in Council, to inform me of the views and intentions of the Madras Government with respect to the monopoly of the trade in Tobacco in the State of Travancore.

From P. A. DYKE, Esq., to the Honorable the Colonial Secretary at Colombo, dated Jaffna, 8th December 1860, No. 363.

Having reason to believe, from notices of the subject in the Madras Newspapers, and otherwise, that the matter of the Government monopoly of the trade in Tobacco in the State of Travancore has engaged the attention of the Madras Government, with the view to procuring its abolition, or some great modification of the arrangements under which it is exercised, I have the honor, in connection with my letter of the 30th December last, and the previous correspondence therein indicated, to solicit that in the interest of the people of this Province information may be obtained of the views and intention of the Madras Government.

In the numerous reports that have been made on this subject by my predecessors and by me, a point much dwelt upon has been the ruinous effects to the people of this District of the extreme fluctuation of prices caused by the system under which the trade under the monopoly, a system of contracts for the supply of the Travancore Government, is carried on.

And the extent of this evil, cannot, I think, fail to be duly appreciated from the facts that, last year at which Tobacco for export on this account was sold was £4-10 per cwt., and that it is now fourteen shillings.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) WILLIAM C. GIBSON.

No. 53. To the Colonial Secretary at Colombo, dated Fort Saint George, 12th January 1861, No. 27.

I am directed by the Honorable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter under date the 28th ultimo, transmitting a copy of a letter from the Government Agent for the Northern Provinces and requesting information as to the views and intentions of the Madras Government with respect to the Monopoly of the trade in Tobacco in the State of Travancore.

2. In reply I am instructed to inform you that the Resident at Travancore and the Dewan of that State are earnestly engaged in considering its fiscal system in view to the introduction of such reforms as may be feasible. As you are no doubt aware, the Pepper Monopoly has recently been abolished in the territories both of Travancore and Cochin and an export duty has been substituted for it. This Government are very anxious that the Tobacco Monopoly of both States should in like manner be abolished, and its place be supplied by the imposition of a moderate duty on Tobacco imported by sea or by the land Frontier. But from the very large amount of revenue at stake, and other causes, the question is one of much difficulty, and the Government, however much they may desire a change, cannot speak with any certainty as to when it is likely to take place. For the present at least the Tobacco Monopoly must be maintained.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

*in view to the introduction
of*

Sept 17

Political Department

N^o 27.

To
The Colonial Secretary
at Colombo.

Sir,

I am directed by the
Honorable the Governor in
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Fort St George,
12 January 1861

Thos. C. P. L.

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1871.

To the Hon. Secretary
of the
Colonial

12. January 1871

1871.

Replying to his
letter of the 28th March
desiring the views and
suggestions of this Govt
with respect to the
prospect of the trade
in tobacco in the West of
Tasmania.

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