

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 160

Press

~~Mis~~

Dated

27 - 6 - 1918

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72

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
4th June 1863.

No. 10. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Revenue Department, dated 18th May 1863, No. 856.

Communicating copy of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue on the subject of grain imported into, consumed in, and exported from, the French Settlements, and concurring with the Board that no extension of the existing concession, by which grain is allowed to be exported from British Territory by land into Pondicherry free of duty, to grain imported by Sea from British ports, is requisite or expedient at present.

(Vide Proceedings Revenue Department, dated 18th May 1863, Nos. 206 & 207.)

No. 11. ORDER THEREON, 4th June 1863, No. 160.

To be recorded.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 31st March 1863.

Read again the following papers:—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th May 1862, No. 3,022.

Do. do. dated 9th December 1862, No. 8,022.

Read also the following letter from the Collector of South Arcot, dated 21st January 1863, No. 23:—

1. I am in receipt of the Board's Proceedings of date 9th December, No. 8,022, held on review of my letter of the 15th November, submitting certain Statements with translation received from the French Government of Pondicherry, on the subject of home consumption, and the importation and exportation of grain into and from Pondicherry, and other French Settlements during the past five years.

2. The Board remark that I appear to have entirely misunderstood their object in calling for the information in their Proceedings which my letter acknowledged; but I ought to have explained that a further report would follow.

3. I have neither misunderstood the Board, nor have I been unmindful of the importance of the subject; and the accompanying correspondence recently passed between myself and the Governor of Pondicherry will satisfy the Board on this point.

4. In the belief that a vast quantity of grain was being exported from Pondicherry on Board emigrant vessels, I wrote my letter A which produced from the Governor the answer B with the Statement attached to it. This called for my reply marked C, and to which I received Monsieur D'Ubraye's rejoinder marked D. I subsequently wrote to the several Collectors of the Northern Ports, as I knew that French vessels carried on a considerable trade with those Ports, but from only one Collector have I had any acknowledgment; and until the others were received I laid the matter aside as it was useless my writing on the subject without complete materials. Some months ago I had a personal interview with the Governor of Pondicherry in the course of which His Excellency appeared to recognize the difficulties which I explained to him as opposing the extension of the privilege now enjoyed by the French to exports of grain free by sea from our ports to their own; and though it was not definitely stated by him, I was under the full impression that the Governor was quite satisfied, and was prepared * Marked E. to waive the requisition made by him in 1860; but the letter² of Monsieur D'Ubraye on this point in answer to mine shows that I was mistaken.

5. I will now proceed to lay before the Board such information and facts as I have been able to obtain, and I am sanguine that with this data before them they will be in a position to judge how far it is politic or right to yield the further concession sought by the French Government.

6. The population of Pondicherry as gathered from their Almanack for 1862, consists of 1,22,536 souls, of whom 47,660 are classed as infants under 14 years of age.

7. Taking the population then in round numbers at 1,22,500, which includes Europeans, and allowing quarter measure of rice or other grain as the daily consumption of each individual, the total quantity annually required for the entire population of the Settlement would be Garce 3,493, 65 Mercals.—*Vide* particular in Statement I separately attached.

8. The extent of the cultivated area of Pondicherry is Nunjah Cawnies..... 2,394
Punjah Cawnies..... 6,514

9. The Nunjah lands are all double crop lands and the yield may safely be estimated as follows:—

1st crop...	...	...	...	80 Cullums.
2nd do. ...	...	...	...	50 Cullums.

this from all I can learn, is rather below than above the average. The lands around Pondicherry are very productive, the means of irrigation are excellent, and all land bears a very high price in the market.

10. Thus the local production including Nunjah and Punjah is Garce 4,777, taking the Cul- lum at 24 Madras measures, which exceeds by Garce 1,284, the actual requirements of the population at the liberal estimate I have taken; I say liberal because I have accepted the entire population as

		Cul. Garce.	
Local production of Nunjah Cawnies...	2,394 X 130	2,334	adult, and have made no deduction in the
Punjab...	6,514 X 50	2,443	scale of consumption for the large propor-
			tion classed as infants under 14 years of
	Total..	4,777	age or for Europeans. I annex in the
Less consumption ...		3,493	margin the foregoing Statement in a
	Excess Garce...	1,284	succinct form showing the above result.

11. It is to be regretted that we have no Return of Grain imported by land free into Pondicherry, and the French Government likewise have no accounts, so that the greatest difficulty is experienced in arriving at any reliable estimate of the trade really being carried on. The French Government are never very ready to assist inquiry of the kind from apparent suspicion of the object, but from the data furnished by the return of duty erroneously collected on such grain during the nine days in May last under Act XI of 1862, the following is the calculation:—

	RS.
Duty collected in nine days...	465 = 3,720 maunds.
Do. for 365 days at the same rate.	18,858 = 1,50,867 do. or Garce 407.

12. I cannot think that this can even approximately represent the actual quantity which finds its way into Pondicherry free; my impression is that the trade is far more extensive. The free port of Pondicherry acts as an obvious stimulus to our merchants, while the concession granted in favor of the French emigrants and the large extent of emigration to the French Colonies now going on have, I am satisfied, greatly tended to increase this inland traffic. Of course the French Government confessedly having no accounts of the land importations, can have no means of judging from whence all the grain supplied to their market comes, and they are readily contented with the negative assurance of the merchants that the greater part of this grain is of local production and not of that imported "free." Moreover it is worthy of remark that the nine days' collections, which form the basis of the above calculation, were perhaps the least busy period of the year.

13. The Export duty collected by the French Government and paid into our Treasury from 1st July 1861 to 30th June 1862, amounts to Rupees 39-8-0 under the guarantee given by them in 1840, and this is supposed to represent the total amount of grain imported free by land which was subsequently exported by sea. I presume, in the absence of any thing in corroboration of this account, a return of the kind will hardly be viewed as *bona fide* or correct. There is neither check nor guarantee that free imported grain by land pays duty on exportation by sea, and if there exists no accounts of the former, it is impossible there can exist any reliable data of the latter. It simply rests on the *ipse dixit* of the merchant exporting or of any other party, governmental or private, interested in the matter; and the fact attests the total absence of all precautionary measures for the protection of British interests connected with the existing concession, and since I have shown that the mere wants of the population cannot any longer be urged in justification of a continuance of this concession, that continuance must rest on other grounds.

14. When originally granted and for many years subsequently there can be no doubt that the Settlement of Pondicherry was in a very different condition from what it is at present. The subsequent reduction in the Land tax, the progressive increase of trade aided by a free Port together with the liberality of the British Government have of course contributed to bring about the highly prosperous and changed condition of the Colony, and while I refrain here from offering any opinion on the policy on political or other grounds of continuing to the French the privilege so long enjoyed by them of importing grain free by land into their territory, it is clear I think that the grounds of insufficiency of local production now urged by Monsieur D'Ubraye in support of the application for an extension of the privilege are altogether untenable, and in the face of the facts obtained by me, and which I have now placed before the Board, I am not prepared to recommend acquiescence with the French Governor's requisition.

15. The abuses to which the free export by sea of grain from our ports into their's is open, are too patent to need even a reference to them, while it is impossible to calculate on the injury which might result to our own trade especially if the conditions imposed were subject to no better guarantee than are those existing in respect to free importation of grain by land, and which appear to me to be simply "*nil*" on either side, but we have been accustomed tacitly to receive the few Rupees periodically remitted to our Treasury without one word of inquiry or remonstrance.

16. If then as I believe the rightful dues of the British Government have not been secured under the operation of the existing concession, it is obvious that those dues are likely to be still further sacrificed by the extension of the indulgence as now asked for, and who will say that French Ships would not embark a cargo ostensibly for Pondicherry, but which would be taken direct home to one of their European Ports. Of course this might be guarded against by express measures for the purpose, but there are so many ways and means of evading the most stringent precautions in view of the opposite interests, and the different laws of the two nations that His Excellency Monsieur D. Ubraye admitted to me in the interview to which I have alluded, that he saw there were insuperable difficulties to extending the privilege as sought for by him.

17. To the Governor's letter marked D I sent my letter marked F, but to this I have as yet received no acknowledgment, and until I have the replies from the Northern Maritime Districts I cannot test the accuracy of His Excellency's statement that much of the grain, I presume the greater part is meant, exported on Emigrant vessels during the past year consisted of that which had originally been brought by French Vessels into Pondicherry from British Ports, and on which duty had been paid at those Ports. The Emigration traffic has been very extensive as the Board well know, and the exports of grain from Pondicherry on emigrant vessels must have been proportionately large, and these exports I have no doubt have given a great impetus to the free inland importations, but of course it is all right if it could be shown that the greater part of this grain was merely re-exported from the Settlement after payment of duty on its original exportation from British Ports into Pondicherry; but where is the proof of this assertion, and how is it to be known; and even supposing the accounts from the Northern Collectories should negative the French Governor's allegation to the effect, it might naturally be observed that there were other Ports besides our Northern ones, and that Pondicherry had been supplied from Calcutta or elsewhere, so that no ordinary inquiry after all could tend to any satisfactory result beyond that of confirming the belief that British interests have suffered in the generous desire of our Government to help and relieve their French neighbours, and it simply remains for me to express my opinion that even should the present indulgence be continued on political or other grounds, its extension to exports by sea is altogether out of the question, and ought at once to be refused, the ground of such refusal being that the present prosperous and flourishing condition of the French Colonies happily no longer call for those measures of relief which originally moved the British Government to concede to the French the free importation into their Settlements of grain by land, that our own revenues have already been injured by the concession, and therefore that any extension of it as now applied for appears not only uncalled for by the prosperous state of their Colonies, but would prove still further detrimental to our Customs Revenue, as well as prejudicial to the general interests of British Indian Traders.

18. For the future as far as it is practicable accounts will be kept of all free imports of grain into Pondicherry, and I will keep the Board periodically informed of the result of the returns which I have now ordered.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From C. W. READE, Esq., Collector and Special Agent, South Arcot, to His Excellency the Commissary General D'UBRAYE, Governor of the French Establishments in India Pondicherry, dated Tindevanum, 23rd September 1862, No. 187, A.

May I request your Excellency to furnish me with a Statement for the past year of shipments of grain from Pondicherry on Board Emigrant ships. I am informed that large quantities of

grain have been so shipped within the current twelve months, and it is possible that the proper Department of your Excellency's Government may be able to supply the information I desire as to the exact quantity.

From His Excellency Monsieur D'UBRAYE, Governor of the French Establishments in India Pondicherry, to C. W. READE, Esq., Collector and Special Agent South Arcot, dated 30th September 1862, No. 83, B.

Agreeably to your letter of the 23rd September, No. 187, I have the honor to forward herewith enclosed a Statement of grain shipped from Pondicherry on board the emigrant ships, from 12th March 1861, to 3rd September of the present year.

Quantity of Rice exported on board Emigrant Ships.

Date.	Name of Vessels.	Destination.	Quantity of bags embarked at Pondicherry.	Remarks.
1861.				
March 12th.....	Parmenier.....	Antillas.....	680	All this rice are from the English Ports in India, having paid the duties at the place of exportations.
April 25th.....	Jenne Albert.....	Reunion.....	226	
June 7th.....	Suger.....	Do.....	188	
August 7th.....	Maurice and Reunion	Antillas.....	2,188	
September 21st	Suger.....	Do.....	1,620	
Do. 22nd.....	Confiance.....	Do.....	3,121	
November 14th	Daguerre.....	Do.....	2,311	
December 25th.....	Richelieu.....	Reunion.....	560	
1862.				
January 5th.....	Dourgay Trouin.....	Antillas.....	2,387	
April 24th.....	Indien.....	Reunion.....	1,233	
May 16th.....	Richelieu.....	Do.....	250	
June 14th.....	Nicolas Poussin.....	Do.....	200	
July 8th.....	Fury.....	Do.....	160	
September 3rd.....	Canova.....	Do.....	300	

The Captain of the Port.

(Signed) A. HOSTEIN.

From C. W. READE, Esq., Collector and Special Agent, South Arcot, to His Excellency the Commissary General D'UBRAYE, Governor of the French Establishments in India, dated Tindevanum, 4th October 1862 No. 200, C.

1. I am favored with your Excellency's letter of the 30th ultimo, forwarding the Statement called for in mine of the 23rd idem.

2. In this Statement under the heading of remarks a note is entered to the effect that the grain particularized is from English Ports "having paid the duties at the place of exportation." The information I sought from your Excellency was the quantity of grain shipped from Pondicherry on board the Emigrant ships, and if the Statement which your Excellency has so obligingly forwarded merely represents the grain taken on board at English Ports in India, it does not afford the information I desired to have, and perhaps your Excellency will not think me troublesome in again seeking for the return of grain exported during the current year exclusively from the ports of Pondicherry on board Emigrant ships.

From His Excellency Monsieur D'UBRAYE, Governor of the French Establishments in India, to C. W. READE, Esq., Collector and Special Agent, South Arcot, dated Pondicherry, 21st October 1862, No. 92, D.

1. In reply to your letter of the 4th instant, I have the honor to state that the figures entered in the Statement referred to in my last letter, represent the quantity of grain exported exclusive from the Port of Pondicherry on board the Emigrant ships.

2. The note in the column of remarks had no other object than to show that a part of the grain which had been received at Pondicherry was by sea, the quantity coming by land not being sufficient to complete the cargo of Emigrant ships.

3. It seemed necessary to make this distinction, because grain exported by sea either by emigrant or any other vessels, pay at this place a duty to the benefit of your Government when it enters our Territory by land, whereas when we receive the grain by sea, from ports in British India, we do not claim duty a second time on their re-exportation from Pondicherry, as the export duty on such grain is paid when they embark from those parts.

From His Excellency Monsieur D'UBRAYE, Governor of the French Establishments in India, to C. W. READE, Esq., Collector and Special Agent, South Arcot, dated Pondicherry, 31st December 1862, E.

1. In reply to your letter of the 16th instant, I hasten to inform you that the motives which forced me to request you in 1860, on the subject of grain imported by sea in the French Establishments of India, be free of duty while coming out from the English ports, in the same manner and on same conditions, as those coming in by land, are to pass through the boundary, subsisting always with the same force and urgency.

2. I now take the liberty to recommend you my demand anew, in order to secure against all eventualities the maintenance of our population, and I dare hope, that by the support of your recommendation, my demand will meet with a favorable reception in the Council of your Government, in whom I had always met with the most generous and benevolent mind, whenever there is a reason to support the interest recommended both by humanity and by relation of a good neighbourhood.

(True Translation.)

(Signed) C. W. READE, Collector and Special Agent.

From C. W. READE, Esq., Collector and Special Agent, South Arcot, to His Excellency Commissary General D'UBRAYE, Governor of the French Establishments in India, Pondicherry, dated Teagadroog, 18th December 1862, F.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge your Excellency's letter dated 21st October last, No. 92.

2. Your Excellency state, that a part of the grain taken on Board of emigrant ships is imported into Pondicherry by land and a part by sea, the former being insufficient, and that the latter having already paid the Export duty at British ports, where shipped, duty is not again levied, but I would bring to your Excellency's notice that, as the quantity of grain so exported by sea which had originally been imported into Pondicherry by land is liable to duty, it would seem desirable, if it be in your Excellency's power, that I should be furnished with an accurate Statement showing the proportion referred to, namely, what amount of grain imported by land into Pondicherry has subsequently found its way on board emigrant ships, and what amount of grain has been shipped on board such vessels, which had originally been exported from British Ports after paying the duty at those ports.

3. I would also request your Excellency kindly to inform me at what British Ports emigrant or other vessels within the last year have shipped grain for Pondicherry after paying the duty, and whether the sums received at my Treasury for the same period on account of duty levied on the exports by sea of grain imported "free" into the Pondicherry Territory, include the duty leviable on all such grain which has subsequently found its way on board emigrant vessels. Your Excellency's letter, as I read it, implies that a considerable proportion of the grain, which has been shipped for the use of emigrants, is that imported free into Pondicherry by land, the deficiency in the cargo being completed by the re-exportation of grain previously brought by sea from British Ports to the Port of Pondicherry, hence your Excellency will understand the cause of my seeking the above information.

4. I am called upon to submit certain data connected with the free importation of grain by land into the French Territory, particularly in reference to your Excellency's recent application for the extension of a like indulgence by sea, and as your Excellency has already informed me that you have no means of ascertaining the imports by land, I am the more desirous of having accurate returns of the exports by sea, especially since there has been of late a very considerable trade in grain from the Port of Pondicherry to meet the obvious wants and requirements of the large number of emigrants who have been embarked during the past year. I am therefore confident that your Excellency will not deem my requisition unreasonable, and I have made it simply in order that I may be in a position to furnish the report required of me.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. W. READE,
Collector and Special Agent.

From C. W. READE, Esq., Collector and Special Agent, South Arcot, to the Collectors of Ganjam Vizagapatam, Kistna, and Godavery, dated Puttumbaukum, 13th November 1862, No. 250.

To enable me to complete a report under preparation on the subject of duty by sea on grain exported from British Ports on Foreign European Vessels, I shall be obliged by your favouring me with the returns for the past two years only, of such exports from Ports in your District showing the quantity and value of the grain and the amount of duty actually levied on exportation.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) C. W. READE,
Collector and Special Agent.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

I

MEMORANDUM.

Given population of Pondicherry...	...	1,22,500		
Required for consumption at $\frac{1}{4}$ measure per day, per annum...	Garce	3,493	65	5
Per contra. Local production of Nunjah Cawnies				
2,394 = Garce	2,334			
Of Punjab do.	6,514 = "	2,443		
Total Garce...	...	4,777		
Excess after consumption...	...	1,288	334	3

NOTE.—The yield of a Cawny Nunjah in the above is taken at first crop 80, and second crop 50 Cullums, of Punjab at 50 Cullums.

Suppose the yield of Punjab to be at 40 Cullums, the result would be as follows:—

Nunjah...	...	Garce...	2,334		
Punjab...	...	"	1,954		
			80	0	
			4,288	80	0
Less consumption...			3,493	65	5
Surplus...		Garce...	795	15	3

But it may be observed that 50 Cullums is not excessive for lands in Pondicherry.

(Signed) C. W. READE, Collector.

1. Resolved that the above correspondence be submitted for the consideration and orders of the Governor in Council, with reference to the Proceedings of Government under date 4th November 1861, No. 2,103, and 13th March 1862, No. 564, but with especial reference to paragraph 24 of the Order of Government dated 13th August 1862, No. 1,708.

2. As far back as 1860 the Governor of the French Establishments in India requested that the export of grain might be made by sea into the settlements under his authority on the same favorable terms as it has been hitherto permitted to be made by land.

3. This communication was referred to the Board for report,* but was overlooked in their office until 1861, when the matter was referred to Mr.

Wood, the then Collector of South Arcot, who reported in favor of the proposal. It was found however on an examination of records, that when the concession in regard to the export of grain by land was originally made, special orders had been issued to the local Officers to obtain such information in regard to the consumption of grain in Pondicherry and the export of grain therefrom, as would enable them to satisfy themselves that no re-export of grain was made from that port to the detriment of Her Majesty's Customs revenue, the French Government having agreed to levy British duty on all British grain re-exported, and to remit it to the Collector's Treasury.

4. This information had however neither been sought for nor obtained, and in submitting the matter to Government,* and recommending that it should be disposed of in connection with the general question of the interport trade with Foreign States in India, whether Native or European, the Board called upon the Collector to supply the information now afforded in Mr. Reade's letter recorded at the head of these Proceedings.

5. In their Order noted in the margin, the Government approved of the Board's suggestion in regard to the disposal of the matter, but in paragraph 24 of their Proceedings under date 13th August 1862, No. 1,708, they recommended to the Government of India that the concession sought by the French Government should be granted, viz., that grain should be exported free of export duty to all Foreign States in India, on the understanding that the British rate of duty should be levied and paid over to the British Government on all re-exported grain.

6. On a consideration of the production of grain within the Pondicherry limits, and the consumption of the population, Mr. Reade has arrived at the conclusion that there no longer exists any necessity for permitting the export of grain, free of duty, to that Settlement. He explains that the circumstances of the place, and position of the inhabitants, have undergone a decided change for the better since the period when the concession was originally made, and he adds that he has reason to believe that a considerable export trade in grain has sprung up in the course of the last few years.

7. The calculations made, and the conclusions arrived at in Mr. Reade's letter are, it is true, based upon mere estimate, but whether correct or not, the Board quite concur with him in considering that enough has been elicited to prove that great want of consideration to British interests, has been shown by the French authorities. It seems that no steps are taken towards even attempting to carry out in a satisfactory manner the condition on which grain was exported free to their territory, viz., that the British duty on all grain re-exported should be collected and paid to the British Government. No account of the import of grain by land appears to have been kept, and the sums occasionally paid to the British Government as export duty, seem to be obtained from those merchants who are honest enough to report that the grain they are about to ship is the produce of British Territory, and are so trifling as to force the conviction that much grain is re-exported without duty being imposed upon it.

8. If, on the other hand, it is contended that the grain exported is not that imported by land, but is of local growth, a surplus whose consumption is demonstrated, and the reasons which led to the original concession of free imports by land no longer exist.

9. Under these circumstances, the Board consider that any extension of the present privilege, such as that contemplated in paragraph 24 of the Government Order under date 13th August 1862, No. 1,708, is strongly to be deprecated, and they would solicit a re-consideration of that proposal. The Collector would seem to consider, that even the present privilege in regard to the export of

grain by land, should be withheld in future, but the Board are not prepared to give an opinion in this point on the information at present before them, though it seems from His Excellency the French Governor's letter of the 21st October that the grain imported free by land is exported by sea, and therefore cannot be required for local consumption.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Sub-Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to C. W. Reade, Esq., Collector of South Arcot.

Exd. J. Wright.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue:—

Submitting for the consideration and orders of Government,
certain correspondence on the subject of grain imported
into, consumed in, and exported from the French
Settlements.

(Here enter 31st March 1863, No. 1,948.)

ORDER THEREON, 18th May 1863, No. 856.

1. By an arrangement sanctioned in 1844, grain is allowed to be exported from British territory by land into Pondicherry free of duty "on the condition of a guarantee being given for the payment of the authorized duty on whatever portion may be exported by sea." The proviso shows that the object of the concession was solely to meet the local consumption of Pondicherry—for which the local production was then insufficient.

2. At various times since 1845 the French authorities have urged the extension of this privilege to grain imported by sea from British ports, and in the Order of 13th August 1862 Government expressed their willingness to concede this.

3. The papers now submitted tend to show that even the original concession is no longer necessary.

4. Mr. Reade calculates that the French territories now produce more than is necessary for local consumption, and he believes that there is a large export trade while the returns of duty are very trifling indeed.

5. Under the circumstances stated the Government concur with the Board that no extension of the existing concession is requisite or expedient. Matters will therefore continue on their present footing until further orders.

(True Extract.)

J. D. Sim

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue,

" Political Department. with *Adm. No.*

Exd. S. T. Angustin.

1863. Department.

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 31st March 1863.

Despatched.
Received.

No. 1,948.

Submitting for the consideration and order
of Government, certain correspondence on the
subject of grain imported into, consumed in
and exported from the French Settlements.

1863/1863
1902/105

1863/1863
1902

No 20: Aug 1762 N. 4952

2nd of June

28th 1863 Aptt

Chas. Robert in the
East. Aptt 856

At 18th May 1863
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