P.R. O. 1—32,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 172 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 16-6- ~~19~~ 1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department, 16th June 1863.

No. 27. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Revenue Department, dated 8th June 1863, No. 992.

Sanctioning an arrangement for the shipment of goods at Narrakal during the monsoon months, provided they are duly cleared from the Custom House at British Cochin and covered by its manifests. (Vide Proceedings Revenue Department, dated 8th June 1863, Nos. 126—129.)

No. 28. ORDER THEREON, 16th June 1863, No. 172.

Communicated to the Resident of Travancore and Cochin, with reference to his letter, dated 9th April last, No. 28.

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

Exd. T. O'Connor.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers :—

From W. FISHER, Esq., Resident of Travancore and Cochin, to Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated on circuit, Peermade, 9th April 1863, No. 28.

SIR,

1. The Port of Narakal in the territory of His Highness the Rajah of Cochin, and only three or four miles north of British Cochin, has, I believe, already attracted the notice of Government.

2. It is protected by a mud bank very similar to that at Alleppey. No surf breaks on the beach in the heaviest weather, and ships can at all seasons load and unload with perfect ease in the Roadstead.

3. Hence, when the bar Harbour of British Cochin is closed during the south-west monsoon, Narakal not only affords safety to shipping, but might be made available for the trade of the British Port if goods entered and cleared at the Custom House there, could be admitted duty free at British Indian ports, though in reality sent by back-water to and shipped from Narakal.

4. It is the intention of the Burmah Steam Navigation Company to run their vessels throughout the south-west monsoon, and the Cochin Agents of this Company are anxious to know how far Narakal is open to their enterprize.

5. His Highness the Rajah of Cochin is willing and anxious to afford every facility to the British Cochin trade consistent with the due protection of the revenue of the State.

6. A light would be placed on the flag staff already erected at Narakal, and a space on the beach would be allotted (as a temporary measure) for a coal shed.

7. The Circar is willing to forego port dues, and whilst demanding duty on goods landed, in order to protect the Customs Revenue, will grant drawback on all such goods entering British-Cochin by back-water.

8. There is a question, however, as to whether goods entered and cleared at the British Custom House would be admitted duty free into British Indian ports under existing laws, when in reality shipped at a foreign port.

9. It may be urged that in this instance the British Government lose nothing by admitting goods so shipped duty free.

10. Having once entered British Cochin through the Circar back-water, goods shipped thence would of course be admitted into British Indian ports duty free.

11. The Cochin Government having already collected their export duty on goods passing their Chowkies when entering British Cochin, lose nothing by allowing then free passage by back-water to Narakal, and their export thence.

12. It is no doubt a matter of considerable importance to render this seaboard practically open throughout the year, and whilst I am sure that Government will approve the liberality with which the Cochin Circar are prepared to act towards the Burmah Steam Navigation Company, I venture to hope that His Excellency the Governor in Council may deem it advisable to adopt measures for removing any obstacle the law may impose, when that law is already a dead letter in respect to the traffic in question, and the proposed arrangements would, if carried out, increase the prosperity of British Cochin.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st May 1863, No. 3,009.

Read the following letter from G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 4th May 1863, No. 86.

SIR,

1. Some miles north of British Cochin, on the shore of the Cochin Rajah's territory, lies the mud bank of Narakal. The action of the Sea at this place seems deadened by the quantity of mud held in solution, and the consequence is, that whilst the monsoon storms on a lee-shore render the resort of vessels to the coast generally dangerous from June to September, at Narakal they can lie throughout.

2. With this explanation I forward an extract from the report of the Master Attendant at Cochin. It seems that, during the monsoon months, ships unable to lie at British Cochin, to receive cargo from that port, are likely to proceed to Narakal, a place which at present has no trade of its own, and lying there load from British Cochin. But the question arises whether goods actually shipped at Narakal (a place in the Cochin Circar), though really from British Cochin, can claim the privilege of the port-to-port trade ; or whether they must be looked on as shipped at a foreign port, and be consequently liable to duty on re-import at another port in British India.

3. I think it desirable to give all legitimate encouragement to those inclined to break the utter extinction of coast trade during the monsoon, and I see no objection to goods cleared from the British Cochin Customs House, and covered by its manifests, being shipped at Narakal ; the sanction of the Collector being granted in the case of each vessel for this proceeding.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Extract from a letter from the Master Attendant of Cochin, dated 1st May 1863, No. 119.

The mud flat at Narakal presents unchangingly the same features of serenity, safety and convenience that were apparent when they first attracted notice. A flag staff lately erected, now marks the place, and sailing directions, to discover the anchorage, have been framed and published for the guidance of ships. A question which perhaps belongs more to the Customs than the Marine Department, and which from its complicated nature, is deserving of consideration, is involved in ships loading at Narakal for any of the British Indian ports. Narakal possesses no trade of its own ; and only at such times when vessels are unable to remain in these roads, from stress of weather, they will proceed to that anchorage to load, and every package shipped there is likely to be cleared from the British Customs House at Cochin. The question, therefore, is, will goods, shipped under such circumstances, be liable to duty on importation to a British Indian Port, as they were shipped from the Rajah's country, and as such from a foreign port ; or will such goods be dealt with as if exported from British Cochin, and vessels which may load at Narakal be permitted to clear from this Customs House. I am induced to bring this matter to notice, as inquiries have been made at this Office on the subject. As the question is likely to arise any day, it would be satisfactory to obtain a decision.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. C. BURNELL,
Assistant, for Collector.

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1. The Board resolve to submit the above question for the decision of Government.

2. Every facility for turning to account the natural advantages of the Narakal Bank should be afforded, and there appears to be no objection whatever to the Collector's proposal as limited by him.

3. The Board trust that the Customs convention with the Cochin and Travancore Circars may be completed at an early date, but meanwhile the precautions provided by the Collector will prevent evasion of the British duty, as only the goods manifested as cleared from Cochin can claim the privileges of the interport free trade.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

ORDER THEREON, 8th June 1863, No. 992.

1. The Governor in Council sanctions the arrangement proposed by the Collector and Board of Revenue during the monsoon months, provided that the goods are duly cleared from the Customs House at British Cochin and manifested for actual shipment off Narakal. The sanction of the Collector in each case seems unnecessary and would prove very inconvenient in many cases. It may be left to the Chief Customs Officer at British Cochin to allow goods to be shipped as above proposed and to adopt all necessary precautions against any abuse of the privilege.

2. The Board will circulate this Order to the Collectors of Sea Customs, and the Government will communicate the arrangement to the Government of Bombay.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, Political Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

List of Articles

Political 1863 Dept.
June

Proc: of Govt: in the
Rev: Dept. 992

D/ 8th
1910 No 3 June 1863

4 Appx. Copies

No. 183

Sanctioning an arrangement for the Shipment of Goods at Anjarakal during the Monsoon Months provided they are duly cleared from the Custom House at British Cochin and covered by its Manifests

June 16

Written an Order

No. 172 – 16 June 1863.

Communicated to the Resident of Travancore & Cochin, with reference to his letter dated 9th April last – No 28 –

The Resdt of Travancore & Cochin – dispd. 16