

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 324	Press
(56/50)	~~11/11~~
Dated 27-10-1913	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
27th October 1863.*

No. 56. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Revenue Department, dated
21st October 1863, No. 1,903.

Communicate copy of a Despatch from Secretary
of State, regarding the policy determined
upon by the Government of India of placing
the Native States of Madras and Bombay on
the same footing as British Indian Ports, in
respect to the levy of Customs duty. (Vide Proceedings Revenue Department, dated
21st October 1863, Nos. 236 and 237.)

No. 57. ORDER THEREON, 27th October 1863, No. 324.

To be recorded.

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

Exd. T. O'Connor.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st October 1863.*

No. 236. Read the following Endorsement of the Under Secretary to the Government of India, dated Home Department, Separate Revenue, the 5th October 1863, No. 6,291 :—
Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable Sir C. WOOD, Bart., Secretary of State for India (Revenue, Separate), to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 24th August 1863, No. 14.
Mr. Lord,

1. I have had under my consideration in Council the letter from the President of the Council of India in Council, dated the 20th June last (No. 10), which communicates to me a copy of the Resolution of your Excellency's Government, by which the policy determined on in 1857, of placing the ports of the Native States in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay on the same footing as British Indian Ports in respect to the levy of Customs duties, has been authorized to be carried into effect.

2. This policy was, in fact, urged by the Court of Directors so far back as the 12th November 1845, and the recommendation was repeated in their Despatch of the 24th November (No. 3), 1857. Financial considerations, however, in view of the immediate loss of revenue which might have been sustained, interfered with the execution of a measure which was universally admitted to be beneficial, and which, it was generally believed, would ultimately result in increasing our receipts from Customs, by furnishing a readier outlet for the raw produce of the Native States, and consequently enabling them to become, to a greater extent, consumers of our imported commodities.

3. The mischiefs occasioned by the existing state of things to the ports of the Native States of Travancore and Cochin, from both of which we receive a considerable tribute, in the diminution of their receipts from Customs duties, without any counterbalancing advantage to our own, are forcibly pointed out in the correspondence of the Madras Government, and doubtless similar evils, though perhaps not to the same extent, are experienced by the Native States under the superintendence of the Presidency of Bombay.

4. It is with much satisfaction that I learn that, in your opinion, the time has now arrived for bringing a more liberal policy into effective action. The local Governments are, I perceive, to conduct the negotiations with the several Native States, reporting their Proceedings, when complete, for your confirmation. These will, of course, be ultimately submitted for my information.

5. I approve of your having, at least for the present, excepted the Ports of foreign European Settlements from the operation of this measure. Difficulties might possibly be experienced in dealing with them, which are not likely to be encountered in regard to Native States; and it may not be unwise to await overtures on their part for a reciprocity of freedom of trade, after they shall have become aware of the benefits which it has conferred on the Native States.

Copy forwarded to the Government of Madras, with reference to communication from this Department, No. 3,858, dated the 12th June last.

By Order,

(Signed) J. W. S. WYLLIE,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 237. ORDER THEREON, 21st October 1863, No. 1,903.

Ordered to be communicated to the Board of Revenue, the Resident at Travancore and Cochin, and the Collector of Malabar for their information, with reference to the Proceedings of Government dated 30th July 1863, No. 1,417.

(True Extract.)

Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

„ Resident at Travancore and Cochin.

„ Political Department.

„ Collector of Malabar.

To T. Clarke, Esq.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

