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Revenue Department

Minutes of consultations

12th May 1857

Book No 17-18

Order no 430 dated 7th May 1857

A. H. C. M.

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1
Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 12th May 1857.

No. 17. Read the following letter from C. BEADON, Esq., Secretary, to the Government of India; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George; dated Fort William the 25 March 1857, No. 401.

SIR,

Home Department,
Revenue.

With reference to the 10th and 11th paragraphs of the Honorable Court's despatch in the Revenue Department, No. 17 of 1856, dated the 5th November last, a copy of which has been sent to the Government of Fort St. George for their information, I am directed to enquire whether the Right Honorable the Governor in Council is prepared to suggest "the means of obtaining revenue from other sources" whereby the financial loss that would immediately ensue upon the abolition of the Moturfa and Veesabaddy taxes may be made good.

2. His Lordship in Council is anxious that no time should unnecessarily be lost in acting upon the authority which has been conveyed to the Government of India for the total abolition of these taxes, but he feels it impossible, in present circumstances, to relinquish a source of revenue which yields eleven lakhs of rupees a year, without at the same time providing for the deficiency by means of an increase of revenue to at least an equal extent from some other source.

3. The Honorable Court, it will be perceived, desire that the question of increasing the customs import duties should be considered, if at all, on its own merits, and not in connexion with the proposed abolition of the Moturfa and Veesabaddy.

Ordered that the following reply be despatched.

No. 18. From H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George; to CECIL BEADON, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, dated Fort St. George, 7th May 1857, No. 430.

SIR,

1. I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 25th March, No. 401, and have laid it before the Right Honorable the Governor in Council.

2. With reference to this despatch, I am directed to request that the attention of the Government of India may be drawn to those parts of the Honorable Court's despatch, referred to in your communication under reply, in which the fact of the abolition of the

Para. 8.

Para. 9.

Para. 11.

Moturpha tax in Bengal and Bombay in 1793, and 1844, is referred to, in which the arguments in favor of the abolition of the tax are said to be irresistible, on account, partly, of its being confined to one Presidency, and in which a fatal objection is said to exist to the suggestion that had been made to convert the Moturpha into a house or income tax, in that it would continue to subject this Presidency to a system of taxation from which the rest of India would be free.

3. In the view thus expressed by the Honorable Court, this Government most entirely concur, and having long urged the claims of this Presidency to be put on a footing, in the matter of taxation, with the rest of the Indian Empire, they are unable, consistently with the opinion they entertain, to propose any tax in substitution for the Moturpha, which shall be collected from the inhabitants of the Madras Presidency only. In Madras, the Moturpha amounts to about eleven lacs of Rupees a year, the inhabitants of this Presidency have therefore under this head alone contributed Rupees 704,00,000 in excess of Bengal in the last 64 years to the general revenue of the country, and Rupees 143,00,000 more than has been contributed in Bombay in the last 13 years, while it is acknowledged that they pay a heavier land assessment than is paid in the other parts of India.

4. This Government does not doubt that the Government of India will, at the earliest practicable period, sanction the abandonment of a tax which has been declared by the late Governor General to be indefensible in principle, to bear with unequal pressure, upon the poorest of the people, to be felt as an obnoxious burthen, and to give scope to the worst of all the vexations practised by petty native officials, and his Lordship in Council will be prepared to give the fullest consideration to any plan, applicable to the whole of India, which may be proposed by the Supreme Government, to make good the loss of revenue which the abolition of the Moturpha would cause.

reply

பாதுகாப்புப் பிரதி-1

செப்பனுவலர் பெயர்

மா.விஜயகுமார்

செப்பனுவலர்களாக
எடுத்தக் கொள்ளப்ப
பட்ட நாள்

8/06

செப்பனிடகு முடித்த நாள்

10/06

செப்பனிடகு

10/07

சுரபார்க்கும்
முதல் மு.நி.பா.எ.
கையொப்பம்

சுரபார்க்கும்
2-ம்-மு.நி.பா.எ.
கையொப்பம்

சுரபார்க்கும்
உதவியாளர்
கையொப்பம்

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N. W. Beadon Esq. Secy. to Govt. of India
No. 401.

FROM C. BEADON, ESQUIRE,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.
TO T. PYCROFT, ESQUIRE,
Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George

Dated 25th March 1857.

HONR DEPT.,
Revenue. SIR,

WITH reference to the 10th and 11th paragraphs of the Hon'ble Court's despatch in the Revenue Department No. 17 of 1856 dated the 5th November last, a copy of which has been sent to the Government of Fort St. George for their information, I am directed to enquire whether the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council is prepared to suggest "the means of obtaining revenue from other sources" whereby the financial loss that would immediately ensue upon the abolition of the Moturfa and Veesabady taxes may be made good.

2. His Lordship in Council is anxious that no time should unnecessarily be lost in acting upon the authority which has been conveyed to the Government of India for the total abolition of these taxes, but he feels it impossible, in present circumstances, to relinquish a source of revenue which yields eleven lakhs of rupees a year, without at the same time providing for the deficiency by means of an increase of revenue to at least an equal extent from some other source.

3. The Hon'ble Court, it will be perceived, desire that the question of increasing the customs import duties should be considered, if at all, on its own merits, and not in connexion with the proposed abolition of the Moturfa and Veesabady.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

C. Beadon

Secy. to the Govt. of India.

FORT WILLIAM,
The 25th March 1857. }

Copy in a Letter
of 12th May 1857 N. 18

4H

Revenue 1857 Sept.
D. to Cons. 12th May

N^o 387

From the Secretary to the
Govt. of India.

Dated 25th March 1857

Recd. 15th April
S. & A. 430 - 7 May

Enquiring whether His
Govt. are prepared to suggest
the means of obtaining revenue
from other sources, whereby
the financial loss ^{that} would im-
mediately ensue upon the
abolition of the Moties of a &
Veetabady taxes, may be
made good.

N^o 17-

c 28th April or 4th May

to Captn Phipps
Steamer

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R. D.

Mr. R. D. Phipps
To the Secretary
to the Govt. of India.

Sir,

I have had the
honor to receive your
letter of the 25th Ultimo
N^o 401, and have laid
it before the Right
Honorable the Governor
in Council.

With reference
to this despatch, I am
directed to request—
that the attention of
the Govt. of India may
be drawn to those parts
of the Honorable Court's
despatch, referred to in
~~which~~ was forwarded
with your commu-
-nication under
reply,

At

Yours

W. J.

Enclosed
are the
despatches

reply, in which the
 fact of the abolition para 8
 of the Mooturpha tax
 in Bengal & Bombay
 in 1793, and 1844, is
 referred to, in which para 9
 the arguments in
 favor of the abolition
 of the tax are said to
 be irresistible, on ac-
 count partly, of its
 being confined to one
 Presidency, and in para 11
 which a fatal objection
 is said to exist to the
 suggestion that had
 been made to convert
 the Mooturpha into
 a house or income-
 tax, in that it would
 continue to subject
 this Presidency to a
 system of taxation
 from which the rest
 of

of India would be free
 In the view thus
 expressed by the Honorable
 Court, this Govt must
 entirely concur, and
 having long urged the
 In Madras the motives the claims of this Presidency
 cannot be about the same
 can I suppose a case - to be put on a footing,
 in which the Govt of India
 being here the Govt of India
 in the matter of taxation
 in the rest of the Indian
 Empire, they are unable,
 consistently with the
 opinion they entertain,
 to propose any tax in
 substitution for the
 Mooturpha, which
 shall be collected from
 the inhabitants of the
 Madras Presidency
 only.
 This Govt does
 not doubt that the
 Govt of India will, at
 the earliest practicable
 period,

period, sanction the
abandonment of a tax
which has been declared
by the late Governor-
General to be in-
-fensible in principle,
to ^{bear} ~~press~~, with ~~an~~ unequal
pressure, upon the
poorest of the people,
to be felt as an obnoxi-
-ous burthen, and to
give scope to the worst
of all the vexatious prac-
-tices by petty native
Officials, and His Lord-
-ship in Council will
be prepared to give
the fullest consideration
to any plan, applicable
to the whole of India,
which may be pro-
-posed by the Supreme
Government, to make
good the ^{loss of} ~~revenue~~
which

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which the abolition-
of the Moshurphal would
cause.

Fort St. George May 1857

B. D.

Copy in a letter
of 18 May 1857 at 12.20.

Revenue 1857 Sept 12
No 6 Com: 12th May

No 430

To the Secretary to the
Govt of India.

Dated 12th May 57

By: Brinsford: 12th May 57
of 10th June 57/58 Com: 12th May 57

Respecting to the
the abolition of the
tax, and observing that the
Govt will give the
consideration to any plan
which is to the whole of
India including the
proposed by the
Govt to make good the
loss of revenue which the
abolition of the
would cause.

No 17418.

c 28th April 24th May