Revenue Department

G.C. Inv 1256 B/15.9.1858

Back No 3-4

Diary - 21.9.1858

No. 3. Read the following letter from J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government; dated Fort Saint George, 20th August 1858, No. 3174.

SIR,

In Consultation 29th June 1858.

In a letter dated 5th June 1858, the Collector of Canara submitted to the Board of Revenue a correspondence between himself and Messrs. Brice and Co., relative to the high rate of duty levied on tobacco shipped by their Firm for England.

2. This article it was stated, had not hitherto been shipped from the Western Coast to England, but Messrs. Brice and Co. made an experiment, by forwarding two consignments consisting of 215 Bales, for which they paid duty at 10 per cent. ad-valorem, or Rs. 441-7-9 in all.

3. Messrs. Brice and Co. also stated that the duty in England on tobacco is three Shillings per pound, and that they had learnt by their experiment that the Indian tobacco is much liked at home, but that it would require a considerable reduction of duty in India, to compete with the American kind. On these grounds, they requested a refund of the amount paid by them, and suggested the abolition or reduction of the duty charged on the article.

4. In submitting the correspondence with Messrs. Brice and Co., the Collector stated that he brought the existing duty on tobacco exported to the United Kingdom before the Board, with a view to the ultimate reduction or removal of this tax, on a staple product of this country, which ought to find a ready sale in the English market.

5. Previous to addressing Government, the Board thought it advisable to make a reference to the Collector of Sea Customs, with a view of ascertaining, whether tobacco is exported to England from this coast, and if so, in what form and quantities.

Dated 29th June 1858.

6. From his reply which is herewith forwarded, it will be seen that the exports from the Eastern Coast are insignificant.

1st July in Cons. 20th August 1858.

7. By the Schedule attached to Act VI. of 1844, the import and export duty on tobacco was fixed at 10 per cent. ad-valorem. By the Notification published in the Gazette of 1848, page 1067, the duty on Import was reduced to 5 per cent., but no change has been made in the rate chargeable on Exports.

From Govt. 8th in Cons. 17th April 1858, *No.* 444, *R. D.*

Madras 10 *per cent. on a Tariff value of Rupees* 30 *per Candy of* 500 *lbs. equivalent to about* 6 *Bengal Maunds, hence Bengal duty on* 500 *lbs.* = $1\frac{1}{2}$ *Rupee, Madras duty on do. at* 10 *per cent.* = 3 *Rupees.*

8. In Calcutta as shewn by Mr. Underwood, Export duty is levied at 4 annas per Maund, (which is about half the Madras rate) and he suggests that the duty on tobacco should be equalized, as was recently done in the case of rice and paddy.

From Government 10*th in Cons.* 16*th September* 1856, *No.* 963 *R. D. p.* 3.

9. The abolition of all export duties has already been recommended, but, pending the decision upon this general measure, the Board are of opinion that it would be desirable to encourage the export traffic of tobacco, by placing it on the same favorable footing as cotton. If however, in the present state of the finances, this is impracticable, it is but fair that the rate chargeable at this Presidency, should not exceed that obtaining in Bengal, and the Board recommend that the duty may either be reduced to 5 per cent. on the present Madras Tariff value, or be fixed at 4 Annas per Maund of 82-$\frac{2}{7}$ths lbs.

* *A.*

10. The Board append a Statement* shewing the value of the exports and imports of tobacco at this Presidency, for the three Official years 1854-55 to 1856-57.

11. Messrs. Brice and Co., are not entitled to any refund of the duty paid under the existing law, but, if it be determined to free tobacco from all Customs-duties, their application might, in that case, receive further consideration.

No. 4. ORDER THEREON, No. 1256; dated 15th September 1858.

Before addressing the Government of India on the subject of the foregoing representation, this Government desire the Board of Revenue to enquire of Messrs. Brice and Co. immediately what reduction of duty will enable them to compete with American tobacco in the English market.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 21*st September* 1858.

Exports of Tobacco valued in Rupees.

	To	1851-55,	1855-56.	1856-57.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Exports to Foreign Ports from the Madras Territories.	United Kingdom.....	1,508	2,226	1,177
	Mauritius...	28,197	26,081	14,183
	Penang Singapore and Malacca, ...	61,132	41,806	47,299
	Ceylon...	3,942	4,014	11,005
	Pegue...	44,865	.....	.....
	New South Wales...	1,573	.....	.....
	Bourbon	.....	2,523	1,933
	Other Ports, ...	1,139	885	916
	Total value...	1,42,356	77,565	76,513
	Duty...	18,643	7,483	7,596
Exports to India or Home Ports from Madras Territories.	Calcutta.....	9,739	27,632	15,608
	Maulmein....	16,287	43,623	22,604
	Indian French Ports...	10,383	43,818	38,861
	Rangoon.....	8,430	15,866	20,404
	Bombay...	4,574	4,190	7,059
	Travancore...	30,375	140	23,981
	Scinde...	1,782	1,255	2,874
	Basein...	.....	784	.....
	Pegue...	.....	1,691	.....
	Other Ports,.	239	157	461
	Total value...	81,809	1,39,156	1,31,852
	Duty...	1,019	2,751	3,211
	Total value...	2,24,165	2,16,721	2,08,365
	Total Duty...	19,662	10,234	10,807

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary.

A.

Imports of Tobacco valued in Rupees.

	From	1854-55.	1855-56.	1856-57.	
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Imports from Foreign Ports into Madras Territories.	United Kingdom.....	1,917	2,045	1,229	Duty 5 per cent. ad-valorem.
	America...	11,191	1,397	2,538	
	Ceylon...	1,66,443	1,57,776	2,65,639	
	Penang, Singapore and Malacca.	8,200	2,413	2,775	
	New South Wales.	4,029	.....	.....	
	Other Ports...	305	21	203	
	Total value...	1,92,085	1,63,652	2,72,384	
	Duty...	9,432	8,194	14,057	
Imports from India or Home Ports into the Madras Territories.	Calcutta... ...	10,058	8,104	1,756	Exports to Foreign Ports from the Madras Territories.
	Bombay... ...	6,172	7,266	10,345	
	Other Ports.....	530	1,301	203	
	Total value...	16,760	16,671	12,304	
	Duty...	.....	.....	.....	
	Total value, Rupees...	2,08,845	1,80,323	2,84,688	
	Total Duty, Rupees...	9,432	8,194	14,057	
	Abstract.				
	Total value of Exports and Imports...	4,33,010	3,97,044	4,93,053	
	Total Duty on do...	29,094	18,428	24,864	

No. 3174.

From J. D. SIM, Esq., *Secretary to the Board of Revenue.*

To T. PYCROFT, Esq., *Chief Secretary to Government.*

SIR,

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2. This article it was stated, had not hitherto been shipped from the Western Coast to England, but Messrs. Brice and Co. made an experiment by forwarding two consignments consisting of 215 Bales, for which they paid duty at 10 per cent ad-valorem, or Rupees 441-7-9 in all.

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5. Previous to addressing Government the Board thought it advisable to make a reference to the Collector of Sea Customs, with a view of ascertaining whether Tobacco is exported to England from this Coast, and if so, in what form and quantities.

Dated 29th June 1858, 1st July in Con. 20th August 1858.

6. From his reply which is herewith forwarded, it will be seen that the exports from the Eastern Coast are insignificant.

7. By the Schedule attached to Act VI of 1844, the Import and Export duty on Tobacco was fixed at 10 per cent ad-valorem. By the Notification published in the Gazette of 1848, page 1067, the duty on Import was reduced to 5 per cent, but no change has been made in the rate chargeable on Exports.

From Govt. 8th in Con. 17th April 1858, No. 444 R. D.

Madras 10 per cent on a Tariff value of Rupees 30 per Candy of 500 lbs. equivalent to about 6 Bengal Maunds, Hence Bengal duty on 500 lbs. = 1½ Rupee, Madras duty on do. at 10 per cent = 3 Rupees.

8. In Calcutta as shewn by Mr. Underwood, Export duty is levied at 4 Annas per Maund, (which is about half the Madras rate) and he suggests that the duty on Tobacco should be equalized as was recently done in the case of rice and paddy.

From Government 10th in Con. 16th September 1856, No. 963, R. D. p. 3.

9. The abolition of all Export duties has already been recommended, but pending the decision upon this general measure, the Board are of opinion that it would be desirable to encourage the Export traffic of Tobacco, by placing it on the same favorable footing as Cotton. If however, in the present state of the Finances, this is impracticable, it is but fair that the rate chargeable at this Presidency should not exceed that obtaining in Bengal, and the Board recommend that the duty may either be reduced to 5 per cent, on the present Madras Tariff value, or be fixed at 4 Annas per Maund of 82 2-7ths lbs.

A. 10. The Board append a Statement shewing the value of the Exports and Imports of Tobacco, at this Presidency for the three Official years 1854-55 to 1856-57.

11. Messrs. Brice and Co. are not entitled to any refund of the duty paid under the existing law, but if it be determined to free Tobacco from all Customs duties, their application might, in that case, receive further consideration.

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE,
Fort Saint George,
20th August 1858.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Secretary.

Copy to Collectors of Canara, and Sea Customs, Madras.

Rev Dept

No

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the September 1858.

Read the following
letter from the Secy to the
Board of Revenue.
(Here enter 20 Aug.t/58 ct. 3174)

The subject of the
foregoing representation will
be submitted for the orders of
the Govt. of India.

As the duty charged
on the tobacco shipped to Eng.
land by Messrs. Bruce and Co.
was levied agreeably to the rate
fixed by Law, it is clear that
their request for a refund can
not be complied with.

Act VII of 1844.

H.S.

See Min. on Draught

To
The Officiating Secretary to
Government

Dated Fort St. George
the 23d August 1858.

Sir,

I am directed by the Board of Revenue to forward herewith a Petition from Messrs. Bruce & Co. praying for the refund of Rupees 522 paid by them as duty on Tobacco exported by them from Cuddalore to Liverpool.

2. The Petitioners state that they paid the duty under protest, and that they have since ascertained that they were not liable to the duty.

3. I am directed to request that you will be pleased to submit the Petition for the orders of Government.

I have &c.
(Signed) H. Stephenson
Secy. to Board of Revenue

No 3174

To
The Secretary to Government
Fort St. George

Sir,

We beg to forward herewith a Petition addressed to Government praying for the refund of Rupees 522 paid by us as duty on Tobacco exported by us from Cuddalore to Liverpool per Ship Mary Ann.

We have &c.
(Signed) Bruce & Co.

Cuddalore
the 16th August 1858.

R. D.

No 1256

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 15th September 1858.

Read the following
letter from the Secretary to
the Board of Revenue.

(Here enter 20th Aug.t/58 No 3174.)

Before addressing
the Govt of India on the subj.
-ject of the foregoing representa-
-tion, this Govt desire the Board
of Revenue to enquire of Messrs
Price and Co. immediately what reduction
of duty will enable them to
compete with American tobac.
-co in the English market.

JS

Copies to the Bd of Revs Dated 16th
with 6 Encls

21-11-93

Revenue 1858 Dept.
Dr. to Cus: 21st Sept:

No 1256.

Extract Mins of Cus:

Dy 15th Sept: 58.

Extract from the Bd. of Revt. Dy 19th Nov. 58
Ct. 1808 in Cus: 7 Decr.

Desiring the Board of Revenue to enquire Messrs Brice & Co immediately what reduction of duty will enable them to compete with American tobacco in the English market.

Copy to the Govt of India 3d Dec 58.

No 384.