M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1578 — Press / Mis.

Dated November 19, 1859.

75-79

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 78. Read the following letter from H. NELSON, Esq., Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George; dated Madras, 16th November 1859.

I am desired by the Chamber of Commerce to address Government with reference to the vacancy in the Collectorship of Sea Customs which will in a few months be caused by the retirement of Mr. Underwood.

2. The Chamber considers this a fitting occasion to recommend to Government not to fill up this office, or the Deputy Collectorship when vacant, from the ranks of the Civil Service. The qualifications of a Collector of Customs are of a special kind, and not to be sought for amongst those who can have had none of the requisite training or experience. It does not detract in any way from the reputation of the Civil Service that they are not good Custom House officers, that they are not versed in all the ramifications of the Import and Export trade, in the fiscal regulations of foreign countries, or in those numerous and difficult questions which arise between the Merchant and the Collector. For gentlemen possessing this knowledge we should rather look to the London Custom House establishment, and the Chamber ventures to suggest to Government that an application be made in that quarter.

3. If this course be adopted there will be a considerable saving effected, which, at this time of financial embarrassment, and proposed heavy taxes, is not less important to the Commercial community than to Government. Under the orders of the late Court of Directors, I am informed that the next appointed Collector is to draw the usual pay of that rank, or Rupees 2,333-5-4 per month, and this order will be brought into operation unless the scale proposed in the Governor General's financial dispatch of the 3rd June 1859 be adopted, viz. Rupees 1,500 per mensem, and Rupees 600 for the Deputy.

4. Supposing the first named arrangement to stand the salaries of the Collector, 2,333-5-4
and Deputy Collector, [illegible]

will be Rupees 3,833-5-4.

and under the second Collector, 1,500-0-0
Deputy Collector, 600-0-0

Rupees 2,100-0-0.

5. The Chamber is of opinion that a well qualified person could be obtained from the Commissioners of Customs in England on a salary of £1,000 to £1,200 per annum and a Deputy on £500 per annum, rates of allowance which it considers amply sufficient for the class of duties to be performed. The monthly expense would then be either Rupees 1,250 or Rupees 1,416-10-8 for the two officers.

6. I am also desired to state that the office of Post Master General is one to which the above remarks, mutatis mutandis, apply with equal force.

7. In these appointments the Mercantile Community have a near interest, and the Chamber trusts that the Honorable the Governor in Council will not consider it unbecoming that it has addressed Government on the subject.

Ordered in consequence that the following letter be despatched.

No. 79. From J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Fort St. George; to H. NELSON, Esq., Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce; dated 19th November 1859, No. 1578.

I am directed by the Honorable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th Instant, respecting the appointments of Collector and Deputy Collector of Sea Customs, and Post Master General.

Chamber of Commerce

Madras 16th November 1859

From H. Morris Esqr

To

The Chief Secretary

to Government

Fort St George

Sir

I am desired by the Chamber of Commerce to address Government with reference to the vacancy in the Collectorship of Sea Customs which will in a few months be caused by the retirement of Mr Underwood.

2. The Chamber considers this a fitting occasion to recommend to Government not to fill up this office, or the Deputy Collectorship when vacant, from the ranks of the Civil Service. The qualifications of a Collector of Customs are of a special kind, and not to be sought for amongst those who can have had none of the requisite training or experience. It does not detract in any way from the reputation of the Civil Service that they are not good

Custom House officers – that they are not versed in all the ramifications of the Import and Export trade, in the fiscal regulations of foreign countries, or in those numerous and difficult questions which arise between the Merchant and the Collector. For gentlemen possessing this knowledge we should rather look to the London Custom House establishment, and the Chamber ventures to suggest to Government that an application be made in that quarter.

3 If this course be adopted there will be a considerable saving effected, which at this time of financial embarrassment, and proposed heavy taxes, is not less important to the Commercial community than to Government. Under the orders of the late Court of Directors, I am informed that the next appointed Collector is to draw the usual pay of that rank, or Rupees 2333.5.4 per month, and this order will be brought into operation unless the scale proposed in the Governor General's financial dispatch of the 3rd June 1859 be adopted viz. Rupees 1,500 per annum and Rupees 600 for the Deputy.

4 Supposing the first named arrangement to stand the salaries of the Collector 2333.5.4
and Deputy Collector 1500.0.0.
will be Rupees 3833.5.4

and under the second Collector 1500.0.0
Deputy Collector 600.0.0
Rupees 2100.0.0.

5. The Chamber is of opinion that a well qualified person could be obtained from the Commissioners of Customs in England on a salary of £1,000 to £1,200 per annum and a Deputy on £500 per annum – rates of allowance which it considers amply sufficient for the class of duties to be performed. The monthly expence would then be either Rupees 1,250 or Rupees 1,416.10.8 for the two officers.

6 I am also desired to state that the Post Master General is one to which the above remarks, mutatis mutandis, apply with equal force

Rec'd Dep't

N.1578.

Disp'd 19th

To

H. Nelson Esq^r

Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce

Sir

I am directed by the Honorable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th Instant, respecting the appointments of Collector and Deputy Collector of Sea Customs, and Post-Master General.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most Obed^t Serv^t

H. Nelson

Chairman

Rec'd 19th Dec^r 1759.

Dep't of Rev^e

Dec^r 20th

No 2115

From

The Chamber of Commerce

Dated 19th Dec^r 1759.

Read 19th Dec^r

Reply'd &c

No 1578 Dep't Rev^e

Signed Nov^r 19th 1759

Front Yt. George

19th Nov^r 1759.

7. In these appointments the Mercantile Community have a great interest, and the Chamber trusts that the Honorable the Governor in Council will not consider it unbecoming that it have addressed Government on the subject.

Revenue 1559 Departt
Recd from Govt 20th Novr

No 1578

To H. Nelson Esqre
Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce -

Dated 19th November 1859 -

Acknowledging Mr Nelson's letter respecting the appointments of Collr and Dy Collector of Sea Customs and Post Master General -

No 78 & 79