M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1771 Press ~~Mis.~~

75-76

Dated 24 —12— 1859.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, for the month of December 1859.

No. 75. Read the following letter from H. NELSON, Esq., Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government; dated Madras, 22d December 1859.

I have the honor by desire of the Chamber of Commerce, to annex copy of a letter from three gentlemen resident at Tutacorin, to my address. This letter alleges that bandies, bringing cotton from the interior to Tutacorin, are seized, near that place, by the local authorities, and forced to carry salt from the salt pans to the place of exportation.

The Chamber, being assured that this practice is contrary to the orders of Government, respectfully requests, that if the statements made in this letter are found on enquiry to be correct, His Excellency in Council will take such measures as may seem to him fitting to put an end to the abuse complained of.

From Messrs. A. and R. CROWE and Co.; to H. NELSON, Esq., Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Madras, dated Tutacorin, 15th December 1859.

We have the honor to request that you will, on the first convenient opportunity, be good enough to bring the following to the notice of His Excellency the Governor, praying for speedy reformation.

1stly. That the Government of Fort Saint George are continuing to export salt from this port to the Western Coast.

2ndly. That to bring it from the salt pans to the place of exportation is a distance of one to one and a half mile, over deep sand and swampy ground, now partly covered with water.

3rdly. That to effect this carriage, bandies bringing our cotton from the interior are seized and forced for the service.

4thly. That the authorities pay two annas per trip to each bandy, whereas private parties and bazaar men, in fine weather, and when the roads are comparatively good, pay four annas for the same work.

5thly. That as the bandymen who bring in our cotton are for the most part cultivators of land, their object after delivering their loads is not to work in or about the place, but to return as quickly as possible to watch their cultivation, and when convenient return again, using their cattle on their fields in the meantime.

6thly. That this forcible detention, or detention by Government influence, is highly prejudicial to the best interests of the port and district.

Firstly. Because dispatch, to the purchaser and exporter frequently of great moment is prevented by means both irregular and beyond their power of foresight or prevention.

Secondly. Because it unjustly interferes with and prevents native contractors from fulfilling their engagements of delivery of produce within the specified time.

Thirdly. Because it retards the healthy and regular flow of capital back to the producers, purchasers keeping back payment on account of non delivery.

7thly. That the authorities could easily obviate this by inviting tenders from bandy maistries and others to remove the quantity of salt required by contracts in the dry season, to be stored in a shed or godown at the place of exportation.

By bringing these matters to the attention of His Excellency the Governor of Madras you will greatly oblige.

(A true Copy.)

(Signed) H. NELSON, *Chairman, Chamber of Commerce.*

No. 76. ORDER THEREON, 24th December 1859, No. 1771.

A copy of this letter and of its enclosure from certain merchants at Tutacorin will be transmitted to the Collector of Tinnevelly.

2. Mr. Silver will report without delay whether he is able to deny the allegations in the last mentioned letter; and if not he will explain why he has thus set at nought the order of Government in the Judicial Department, dated 8th November No. 616, prohibiting the impressment of carriage.

3. He will also, immediately on the receipt of this order, put an entire stop to the proceedings complained of; and will take measures for procuring the necessary carriage by means of voluntary contracts entered into by public competition.

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

20th Dec. 1859 No. 76-77.

From the Coll. of Tinnevelly
of 29th Dec. 1859.
C. No. 2 of 60.
Rec. 10 Jany. 96-97.

No. 75 & 76.

Revenue 1859 Dept.
Pro. of Govt. 31st Dec.

No. 2417

From the Chairman of the
Chamber of Commerce
Madras.

Dated 22nd December 1859
Rec.

Submits copy of a letter from certain Gentlemen of Tuticorin complaining of forcible seizure, by the local authorities, of the bandies bringing cotton from the interior, and requests that it may be inquired into.

No. 1771. 24th December
With an order

No. 1771

A copy of this letter & of its enclosures from certain merchants at Tuticorin will be transmitted to the Collector of Tinnevelly.

2 Mr. Silver will report without delay whether he is able to deny the allegations in the last mentioned letter. & if not he will explain why he has thus set at nought the order of Govt. in the Jud. Dept., dated 8 Nov. No. 616, prohibiting the impressment of carriage.

3 He will also, immediately on the receipt of this order, put an entire stop to the proceedings complained of, and will take measures for procuring the necessary carriage by means of voluntary contract entered into by public competition.

Dispd. 24

Copy to The Chamber of Commrce
Collr of Tinnevelly
Board of Rev.

Fort St. Geo. 24 Dec. 1859