M.R.O. 14—10,000—31-1-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	572	Press ~~Mis.~~
21-22		
Dated	3-4-	1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 21. Read the following letter from H. NELSON, Esq., Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 8th March 1860 :—

I have the honor by desire of the Chamber of Commerce, with reference to the Proceedings of Government, dated 25th January last, No. 122, to forward for the consideration of His Excellency in Council, copy of a letter from Messrs. Kinnear, Barter and Hardy, of Tuticorin, soliciting an enquiry on the spot into the Cart impressment question, by some competent person unconnected with the Collectorate.

From Messrs. KINNEAR, BARTER and HARDY, to H. NELSON, Esq., Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Madras, dated Tuticorin, 3rd February 1860.

The letters of Messrs. Silver and Garstin of the 3rd and 6th of January are before us.

Mr. Silver may perhaps believe, as he affirms, that our statements to you of the 15th December last are false, and he quotes Mr. Garstin's letter and documents as corroborative proof that they are so, but it is possible that if he had known the style and mode under which those documents were procured, he would have hesitated before sending them forward.

If three out of five of the Houses of Agency here are amenable to the term "small clique," then we will not dispute Mr. Silver's appellation, but proceed to remark on what appears to us more serious matter and to which we beg you will draw His Excellency's earnest attention.

In Mr. Garstin's letter we read, "entirely without foundation and altogether false," we are ready to prove our allegations do not merit such language.

Again we read, "But this has now become absolute." *Query*, since when ? Certainly since the 15th of December 1859.

The unsatisfactory nature of Mr. Garstin's statements, such as, "giving *a verbal order* to the "Police Amín," *persuading* Mr. Hardy's bandymen, to undertake the transit of Salt, "followed "by the advice, that *they had better be present* at the Salt pan the next morning," with the self admitted result. This they accordingly did and engaged to work *for the one day only*, "after "which they complained to him, that they had *only had two Annas* a trip given to them," and which Mr. Garstin seeks to explain by stating, that the Police Amín *was waiting* for a written order from the Collector, "and, that these bandies had gone away during the night, saying that on their return with more cotton they *would* ASK for the remainder."

We shall indeed be much disappointed if such declarations and statements are accepted by the present Governor of Madras, as corroborative proof that our allegations were entirely without foundation and altogether false.

The Mahjurnamah of the bandymen and the depositions of Chetties (by no means *all the chief* ones) will, we guarantee, be found on investigation very objectionable evidence and such as a man with correct feeling and judgment would have destroyed as soon as possessed of, it is, we fear, probable that some such similar threats as *action for libel* "perhaps in stronger phraseology "may have accelerated the signatures to those documents sent in as proof that our allegations "were entirely without foundation and altogether false."

It appears to us that Mr. Garstin has most unnecessarily and illogically strayed from the question at issue to hazard an assertion that his own Custom House returns stamp as grossly incorrect, he writes, "It is odd too that these three gentlemen did not choose to consult the other "merchants of the place, who do a larger business in cotton than themselves." The reply to this is best given by the following Memorandum from the Tuticorin Custom House exports from the 1st January 1859, to the 1st of January 1860.

	Bales.
Messrs. Kinnear, Hardy and Barter, exported	52,000
Messrs. King and Cocq including Chetties through Mr. Cocq...	10,200
Excess in favur of the former.....	41,800

Such an unnecessarily incorrect statement and one so easy of disproof must at once strike His Excellency and yourself as lamentably indiscreet and puerile.

In conclusion, we beg to state, being self-confident that a provoked inquiry could but terminate to the prejudice of some one or more of the Government officials, the nuisance complained of having subsided, we were quite content to allow the matter to drop; but the fact of Mr. Silver first calling for "*an apology*" and now following it up by a call for the "*marked reprobation*" of your Chamber, whilst his Assistant repeats his threats of "*action for libel*," forbids such peaceable solution of what is *a very plain and simple* TRUTH, and we find ourselves compelled to beg that you will take the opportunity of urging His Excellency to command an enquiry on the spot by some competent person unconnected with this Collectorate.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, for the month of April 1860.

Ordered in consequence that the following letter be despatched.

No. 22. From J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Fort Sain George, to the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, dated 3rd April 1860, No. 512.

I am directed to acknowledge your letter of 8th ultimo, enclosing one from some gentle men at Tuticorin, who feel themselves aggrieved by certain statements contained in the letters o Messrs. Silver and Garstin, in reply to the charge conveyed in the former letter of the sam gentlemen to you, and who wish for an enquiry on the spot, by some one unconnected wit the Tinnevelly District, into the truth of the allegations complained of.

2. Your letter and its enclosure have been laid before the Governor in Council; and am directed to inform you that in his opinion, it would answer no good purpose to institut further investigation into the matter in dispute. The gentlemen of the Revenue Departmen concerned have used stronger language than was necessary, but it has been placed beyon doubt that they are entirely opposed to the prohibited practice of pressing labor and carts and there is now no substantive issue to be tried.

Chamber of Commerce
Madras 8th March 1860.

To
The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St George

Sir,

I have the honor by oleave of the Chamber of Commerce, with reference to Proceedings of the meeting dated 2nd January last No 122, to forward for the consideration of His Excellency in Council, copy of a letter from Messrs Kinnear, Barker, & Hardy, of Tuticorin, soliciting an enquiry on the spot into the Coast improvement question by some competent person unconnected with the Collectorate.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant,
H Pelloy
Chairman

Revenue Dept

Dispatched.

No 512

To

The Chairman of the

Chamber of Commerce.

Sir,

I am directed to

acknowledge your letter of

8th Instant, enclosing one

from some gentlemen at

Tuticorin, who feel themselves

aggrieved by certain Statements

contained in the letters of

Mssrs Silver and Paravian,

in reply to the charge con-

-veyed in their former letter

to you, and who wish for

an enquiry on the spot, by

some one unconnected with

the Tinnevelly District,

into the truth of these

allegations

of the same gentlemen

Revenue 1816 Augt
Rec.d 31st Do. & Encl.

No 4198

From the Chairman of
the Chamber of Commerce.

Dated 8th
Rec.d 31st Do.
2 Encls.

Forwarding Copy of a
Letter from Messrs Silver &
Co. & Messrs Barbor & Harris
of Tuticorin relative to
the Inquiry into the
Proprietary Rights of
Land in Tinnevelly.

Ansd 21.

Rec.d 31 January 1817 Nos 46-47.

Revenue 1816 Augt
Rec.d 31st Do. & Encl.

No 4198

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the Chamber of Commerce.

Dated 8th
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allegations complained of.

2 Your letter and its enclosure have been laid before the Governor in Council; and I am directed to inform you that in his opinion, it would answer no good purpose to institute further investigation into the matter in dispute. The gentlemen of the Revenue Department have concerned used, perhaps, stronger language than was necessary; but it has been placed beyond doubt that they are entirely opposed to the prohibited practice of pressing labour and carts, and there is not no substantive issue to be tried.

I am &c. &c. &c.

Revenue 1860 dept.
Pro: of Govt 10th April.

No 512.

To the Chairman of
the Chamber of Commerce.
D/ 3d April 1860

Observing that it would
answer no good purpose
to institute further enquiry
into the matter of Impress-
ments of Carts complained
of by certain Gentlemen
of Entrerios -

No 21 & 22.