M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1146 Press ~~Mis.~~

124-125

Dated 11—7—1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 11th July 1860.

No. 124. Read the following letters from W. GREY, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Fort William, 23rd June 1860, No. 1,316:—

Referring to your letter No. 804, dated 18th ultimo, I am directed to forward for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the accompanying copy of a communication to the Government of Bengal, and I am instructed to enquire whether the Government of Madras would think it necessary that any Officer should proceed from Madras to join the Committee which it is proposed to appoint in Calcutta for the settlement of a general Tariff of valuations. As the Madras Government has usually, heretofore as a rule, adopted the Tariff published in Calcutta and as, therefore, no discrepancy exists between the two Ports, it occurs to the Governor General in Council that it may not perhaps be thought necessary on the present occasion that Madras should be represented by the special deputation of an Officer from that Presidency.

2. If there should be any gentleman in Calcutta, either as a resident or a visitor, whom either the Government of Madras or the Chamber of Commerce at Madras should desire to see appointed on the Committee, it will of course be satisfactory to the Government here to appoint him. The Governor General in Council is, however, desirous that it shall not be understood that he has any wish to exclude a full representation of Madras on this Committee, although it has been thought that any arrangements accepted by the Government on the part of Calcutta will be satisfactory to Madras.

From W. GREY, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, dated Council Chamber, 23rd June 1860 No. 1,167:—

The Governor General in Council attaching much importance to having a uniform Tariff of valuations for all India, directed that the new Tariff recently adopted in Calcutta should be forwarded to Madras and Bombay, with a request that it might be adopted at those places, unless on examination any clear objections to it should be found.

2. The reply received from the Government of Bombay, while making little difficulty in regard to most of the valuations, adverts to some points in which it is considered that the Bombay Tariff is very superior to the Calcutta one. In particular it is stated that all the articles in the Bombay Tariff bear consecutive numbers and are consequently very easily referred to, and again, that quantities are, as a rule, expressed by English denominations of number, weight or measure, whereas the Calcutta Tariff in many instances gives Indian denominations such as per maund, per seer, per sicca weight, per morah. In some points again, the Bombay Report gives a preference to the plan of the Calcutta Tariff, as for example with regard to the division of Imports into separate heads such as Provisions, Metals, Piece Goods and the like. There is, however, independent of these distinctions so great a difference in the classification of goods as well as in their denominations in the two Tariffs, that comparison in most cases is difficult and in some impossible. Again, the duties in Bombay are frequently charged upon Piece Goods by weight, while here they are charged by the yard or piece, which is another difficulty in comparing them.

3. As respects the valuations, the Bombay report, without specifying items, states that in many instances the values are higher in the old Bombay Tariff than in the new Calcutta Tariff, and in many instances that the reverse is the case, but that on the whole little difficulty is anticipated, as a general measure, in introducing the Calcutta Tariff. It is not perhaps quite clear what the exact meaning of this last statement may be, and looking to the general tenor of the Bombay letter, and having regard also to the objections which have been so strongly urged by the Calcutta commercial community against many of the items of valuation in the new Calcutta Tariff, and also the great complaints made by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce by Memorial to the Secretary of State and by Petition to Parliament, the Governor General in Council is of opinion that the object of a uniform Tariff will be most likely to be satisfactorily attained by the appointment of a Committee in Calcutta in which Bombay (and possibly Madras also) shall be represented.

4. Unless any Merchant of Bombay should happen to be on a visit to Calcutta, it may not indeed be practicable to obtain a direct representation in such a Committee of the Bombay

Commercial interests, but a Committee to consider the Calcutta Tariff has already been appointed at Bombay, consisting of influential Merchants (both European and Native) with the Commissioner of Customs as Chairman, and the latter Officer, whom it is contemplated to summon to Calcutta, will, therefore, be fully acquainted with the opinions and views of the Mercantile Community of Bombay, and will in the absence of any of their number, represent the interests of that body as well as the interests of the Government. If, however, it shall be the wish of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce to send specially on their own account one of their number, he will of course be placed on the Committee.

5. There are other considerations besides the settlement of a uniform Tariff of values which lead the Governor General in Council to think the appointment of a Committee in Calcutta desirable. He would wish to take advantage of the occasion in order to settle new and uniform forms of Trade and Navigation Returns, which being transmitted weekly to Calcutta from every important Port, will enable a Return for all India to be published here each month, immediately that the last weekly Returns for the preceding month are received.

6. It is known to the Honorable the Lieutenant-Governor that great dissatisfaction has been given to the Merchants in Calcutta, by the Tariff which was lately published with the approval of this Government, and His Honor is perhaps aware that a deputation of Merchants has had an interview with the Financial Member of the Council, for the purpose of representing the objections to which they contend that the Tariff is open.

7. Without expressing any opinion at present on the soundness of those objections, and without entering into a consideration of some communications which the Governor General in Council has received from the Secretary of State on this subject, he thinks it will be right, having regard to the probability that at all events some alterations may result from the joint deliberations of the Bombay and Calcutta Customs Authorities, to permit the Merchants here to pay duty on the articles to the values of which they most strongly object, subject to re-adjustment hereafter, should any different rate be ultimately agreed upon. The articles in respect of which I am desired to suggest that this permission should be given are those enumerated in the margin.

Cotton Piece Goods.
Grey, bleached, dyed and printed.
Cotton Yarn
Grey and colored.
Metals—of all kinds.
Woollen manufactures of all kinds.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. GREY,
Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 125. ORDER THEREON, 11th July 1860, No. 1,146.

1. Ordered to be communicated together with the enclosure, to the Chamber of Commerce, with the request that they will acquaint Government whether they think it expedient that this Government should appoint any one to represent the Commerce of Madras at the Tariff conference about to be held at Calcutta, and if so on what particular points. They will also be requested to state whether they wish themselves to nominate a delegate at the conference. The Chamber have already been informed that a copy of their letter of the 30th June stating strong objections to some parts of the new Tariff, has been forwarded to the Government of India.

2. The letter and enclosure will also be communicated to the Board of Revenue for their information.

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

Rev Dept

№ 1146

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 11th July 1860.

Read the following

letter from the Secretary

to the Govt of India -

Forwarding copy of
a communication to the
Govt of Bengal, and inquir-
ing whether this Govt would
think it necessary that
any officer should proceed
from Madras to join the
proposed Committee in
Calcutta for the settlement
of a General Tariff of va-
luations.

(Recorded under 28th June/60
№ 1316)

1860

Ordered to be
communicated together
with the enclosure, to
the Chamber of Com-
merce, with the request that
they will acquaint Govt whether
~~consider it necessary~~
they think it expedient that
~~on their part to ap~~-
this Govt should appoint any
~~person a representative~~
one to represent the Commerce
~~on the proposed tariff~~
of Madras at the Tariff
~~conference at Calcutta~~
Last
Conference

conference about to be held at
~~but they request to be~~
Calcutta, and if so on what
~~particulars whether~~
particular points - they will
~~the Chamber desires~~
also be requested to state whether
~~to nominate a delegate~~
they wish themselves to nominate
~~to represent them there~~
a delegate at the conference -
The Chamber have
already been informed
that a copy of their
letter of the 30th June
~~stating strong objection~~
to some parts of the
new Tariff, has been
forwarded to the Govt.
of India -
2 ~~The~~ letter and
enclosure could possibly also be
communicated to the
Board of Revenue for
their information -

A.A.

1 Copy.
Chairman Chamber of Commerce. 6
" Board of Revenue.