M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 123 Press ~~Mis.~~

48-49

Dated 25 — 1 — 1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 18. Read the following letter from J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnavelli; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated 7th January 1860, No. 6.

In continuation of my letter of yesterday's date, transmitting a report from my assistant Mr. Garstin, dated Tuticorin, 3rd January, I have the honor to explain to Government the circumstances under which the "Panama" came to Tuticorin for salt, which will make the whole matter clear, and show how there was not an opportunity to advertise for tenders to ship the salt, which under other circumstances I should have done.

2. The Collector of Canara requiring salt for the use of his district, had been negotiating with parties both at Madras and in Tinnavelli, for the transport of salt to the west coast. The negotiation in Tinnevelli had been carried on through me, and I had transmitted to Mr. Fisher certain propositions from Koonjee Merkáir a wealthy merchant of this district, regarding terms of freight, mode of delivery, &c. and was waiting his reply, when on the 5th December, I received a letter from Tutikorin, dated the 3rd December, from the Commander of the Barque "Panama," announcing the arrival of his vessel to take up salt for Canara, as per contract entered into by the Collector of Canara with Messrs. Miller and Sons, Madras, and begging me to give him speedy despatch.

3. Now of this contract I had up to that date, heard nothing; it had never been mentioned to me either by the Board of Revenue, or by the Collector of Canara, and accordingly on the 5th December I telegraphed to the Board for instructions, and worte at the same time to the Commander of the "Panama" for all the information he could give me, and which I begged he would send by return of post. An awkward circumstance happened at the same time. Messrs. Miller and Sons had written to Mr. Levinge who had been acting during my absence, and who they still supposed held the Collectorate, to tell him they had concluded a bargain with Mr. Fisher, but instead of addressing their letter to the Collector of Tinnavelli, they addressed it personally to V. H. Levinge, Esq., the consequence was, that the Post office people here sent it after Mr. Levinge who had left the district, it followed him to Trichinápali and was returned by him from that place to me, only reaching my hands on the 5th December.

4. The Government will thus see that from a train of accidental circumstances, I had got no previous intimation that the "Panama" was expected. On receipt of a second letter from the Commander of the "Panama," giving the terms of the contract entered into by his principals, I ordered salt to be supplied, and as the vessel had already been some days in the roads, and there was no time to advertise for tenders, I directed such carts as could be got to be hired, giving the strictest injunctions that they were not to be impressed, and sending my assistant to Tutikorin personally to superintend the shipment of the salt, and be a check upon any thing like compulsion.

5. That the carts were fairly hired and fairly paid, under Mr. Garstin's personal superintendence, I am perfectly satisfied.

No. 19. ORDER THEREON, 25th January 1860, No. 123.

Ordered to be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

From Collr of Tinnevelly
to Secy to Govt No 84 to

Rev. 1860 Depart.th
Pol. & Gen. 31st January
From 93.
The Collector
Tinnevelly
To
The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St George
Dated 7th
Recd 12th } January 1860

No. 6.
Encs none
No.

Furnishing explanation why an advertisement for tenders for Carts to convey Salt for shipment on board the "Panama" was not made

No 123

25 Jan.y 60 Recorded.

No 48 to 49.

C 16 Jan.y 60 20th