M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1489-90	**Press** / ~~**Mis.**~~
6-8	
Dated 1—9—	18 60.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 6. Read the following letter from H. FORBES, Esq., Member of the Legislative Council for the Madras Presidency, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, Revenue Department, dated Fort William, 1st August 1860 :—

SIR,

1. I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 24th ultimo, No. 1,227, transmitting copies of certain correspondence with the Government of India on the subject of the convention of a Committee to revise the new Customs Tariff, and enquiring, by Order of Government, whether I have any objection to undertake the duty of watching the proceedings of the Committee on the part of Madras, without taking an active part in them unless special occasion should arise.

2. I beg that you will assure the Government that my services are at their entire disposal for this, or for any other duty on which they believe that I can be usefully employed.

3. In order that I might more fully acquaint myself with what had already passed on the subject of the Tariff, I obtained access, through the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Home Department, to the whole of the correspondence on the matter.

4. From this correspondence it appears that the Board of Revenue are of opinion that with a few alterations suggested by them, the proposed new Tariff may be advantageously adopted, and that they have formed this opinion after comparing each item with the Price Current, and after personal discussion with the Collector and with his Deputy, who was for many years Appraiser. The Chamber of Commerce on the other hand consider that the proposed Tariff value of many articles is excessive, and particularly notice that on Cotton goods, Piece goods and Metals.

From Secretary to the Board of Revenue, 11th May 1860, *No.* 2,294.

From Chamber of Commerce, 30th June 1860.

5. I do not find that the Board of Revenue has expressed an opinion on the representations made by the Chamber of Commerce, nor do I discover that the Government have given expression to their own views, either in forwarding to the Government of India the general approval of the Board, or the dissent of the Chamber of Commerce. I am not able, therefore, to gather from this correspondence the particular objects which the Government wish me to keep in view in watching the proceedings of the Committee about to be convened, and if it should be determined to make use of my services, I have to request that information on this point may be afforded me.

No. 7. ORDER THEREON, 1st September 1860, No. 1,489.

1. Ordered that the following letter be despatched in reply.

No. 8. From J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, to H. FORBES, Esq., Member of the Legislative Council, dated Madras, 1st September 1860, No. 1,490.

SIR,

1. In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 1st August replying to mine of the 24th July on the subject of the Tariff conference at Calcutta, I am directed to convey to you the thanks of His Excellency the Governor in Council for the readiness you express to assist this Government in the matter.

2. You enquire what particular objects it is desired that you should keep in view. In reply I am to state that the Board of Revenue and the Madras Chamber of Commerce have, in their letters of the 11th May 1860, No. 2,294, and 30th June 1860 respectively, pointed out particulars in which, in their opinion, the commercial interests of this Presidency require that the Tariff lately sanctioned by the Government of India should be modified. Copies of these letters are now

sent to you for convenient reference; and when the Board of Revenue report their opinion upon the letter of the Chamber of Commerce of the 30th June, as they have been asked to do, a copy of that communication also will be furnished to you.

3. I am to request that you will take these letters as your guide in the duty you have consented to undertake; it being the wish of this Government that you should endeavour to secure due consideration to the opinions of the Board of Revenue and Chamber of Commerce as therein expressed.

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2. Ordered also that the Board of Revenue be requested to expedite their Report, called for in the Order of August 13th, No. 1,348, on the letter from the Chamber of Commerce of the 30th June, in view to its being forwarded to Mr. Forbes.

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

V

Read the following letter

From

H. Forbes, Esquire,
Member of the Legislative Council

To

J. D. Bourdillon, Esquire,
Secretary to the Government of
Fort St. George
Revenue Department.

Dated, Fort William, the 1st August 1860

Sir,

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 24th ultimo, No. 1227, transmitting copies of certain correspondence with the Government of India on the subject of the convention of a Committee to revise the new Customs tariff, and enquiring, by order of Government, whether I have any objection to undertake the duty of watching the proceedings of the Committee on the part of Madras, without taking an active part in them unless special occasion should arise.

2 I beg that you will assure the Government that my services are at their entire disposal for this, or for any other duty on which they believe that I can be usefully employed.

3 In order that I might more fully acquaint myself with what had already passed

From - do. 7 april/60, No 735. report of the Calcutta Board of Revenue, &c

passed on the subject of the tariff. I obtained access, through the Secretary to the Government of India in the Home Department, to the whole of the correspondence on the matter.-

4 From this correspondence it appears that the Board of Revenue are of opinion that with a few alterations suggested by them, the proposed new tariff may be advantageously adopted, and that they have formed this opinion after comparing each item with the Price Current, and after personal discussion with the Collector, and with his Deputy who was for many years Appraiser. The Chamber of Commerce on the other hand consider that the proposed tariff value of many articles is excessive, and particularly notice that on Cotton goods, Piece goods, and metals.-

From Secretary, Board of Revenue 11th May 1860. No 2294.

From Chamber of Commerce, 30th June 1860.

5 I do not find that the Board of Revenue has expressed an opinion on the representations made by the Chamber of Commerce, nor do I discover that the Government have given expression to their own views, either in forwarding to the Government of India the general approval of the Board, or the dissent of the Chamber of Commerce. I am not able therefore to gather from this correspondence the particular objects which the Government wish me to keep in view in watching the proceedings of the Committee about to be convened, and if it should be determined to make use of my services, I have to request that information on this point may be afforded me.-

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant,

H. Forbes.

Member of the Legislative Council.

From - do. 7 April 60, No 735. report of the Calcutta Board of Revenue, &c

Memo:

Revision of the New Customs Tariff.

From the Member of the Legis: Council for Madras, 1st Aug/60.

Mr. Forbes enquires what particular objects he is to keep in view in watching the proceedings of the Committee to be convened at Calcutta for the revision of the new Customs Tariff, but it does not appear that any particular objects have been specified in the correspondence, of which the following is a brief summary.

The question of a revision appears to have started with a memorandum by Mr. Staimforth of the Calcutta Revenue Board, his attention having been drawn to the subject by Mr. Underwood of Madras, to the effect that the values in the Bengal Tariff were much below those of the Market. This memorandum was communicated to this Govt by the Govt of India, and their special and early attention was requested to the subject. This was followed by a report of the Calcutta Board of Revenue, with

7th Dec/59.

From Govt of India, 12 Dec/59, No 2462.

From - do. 7 April/60, No 735.

Finance 1860 Selection No 2 Govt for 1859-60

No 1090

From A Eden Esq Officiating Member of the Legislative Council for the Madras Presidency -

Dated 1st August 1860

Rec'd 16th August 1860

Answering to requisition of the 14th of July, soliciting the Proceedings of the Committee about to assemble at Calcutta to revise the new Customs Tariff, and requesting to be informed of the particular objects to which Govt desire him to keep in view in such Revision.

&c &c.

for Secy -

No 1489 1st Aug 1860

11 Aug 1860 No 124-125
21 Aug 1860 No 2 257-258
24 Aug 1860 No 264 "
26 Aug 1860 No 281-282
31 August 1860 No 141-142

Dup

Rec'd 17th August - A.B. & Co

a new tariff of valuation for Bengal, and as the Govt of India wished for an early expression at all the ports in India, this Govt were asked to consider the matter immediately, and submit whatever observations the Authorities here had to make on the new valuations.

3. The Board of Revenue having been called upon to report upon this paper, as well as on the former, intimated their concurrence as to the expediency of having a uniform tariff for all India, and enclosed a memorandum in which they noted the only variations, that appeared to them worthy of notice between the Madras and Calcutta values, their suggestions applying in some cases a higher, and in others a lower value. The Govt communicated the Bd's letter to the Govt of India, and similarly stated that the Bd agreed in the expediency of a uniform tariff, and thought that with the few alterations suggested by them, the proposed new tariff might be advantageously applied.

Pro: of Govt: 5 January/60, no 2.
-do- 14 April/60, no 550.
-do- 11 May/60, no 757.

From the Bd: of Rev: 11 May/60, 229

To the Govt of India, 18 May/60, no 804

From Chamber of Commerce, 22d May/60.

Pro: of Govt: 26 May/60, no 850.

From Chamber of Commerce, 30 June/60.

At this stage the Madras Chamber of Commerce requested information on the subject, having first applied to the Board and been informed by them that they had already submitted to Govt the remarks they had occasion to make on the Calcutta Tariff. Thereupon the whole correspondence was communicated to the Chamber, and they were told that whatever remarks they might offer on the subject would be sent for the consideration of the Govt of India. In reply, the Chamber complained of their having been overlooked, and thought that their remarks would not be of little avail; but at the same time they submitted their observations on the most important items of the Import Tariff, viz Yarns, Piece goods, & Metals, and annexed a list, with remarks, of all the articles, the values of which it was proposed to increase. They seemed to depreciate the increased values put upon certain articles falling under the three descriptions specified above, while they suggested an increase in other items in their annexed list. They explained that in all their remarks

ey had in view the value of the several
rticles in bond, and not the market
alue, which of course included the im-
ort duty, as it could not be intended
adopt the latter, since that would be
quivalamount to the levy of duty upon
uty; and that it was to be borne in mind
hat the wholesale quotation of every ar-
icle was subject to a discount of 2½ per
ent. They next drew attention to the
nconsistency of placing a tariff valua-
ion upon "Patent fuel," while Coal and
oke were actually imported free; and lastly,
hey pointed out that the same difficulty
nd confusion in the Weights and Mea-
ures, that existed in the old tariff valu-
tions, were perpetuated in the new one.
The Govt stated their regret to the Cham- Pro: of Govt 3d July/60, No 1097A
er that their opinion was not taken by
verdight; and they simply forwarded the
letter of the Chamber to the Govt of India, To G. of I. 3d July/60, No 1098.
without any expression, however, of
their own opinion.

From a letter from the Govt of In- From G. of I. 23d June/60,
dia, this Govt learnt that, in consequence No 1316.
of a representation from Bombay.

n the articles bear-
cutive numbers
reference, and in
ntities being specifi-
ly, most Indian, de-
tions as to number,
c.

as to the superiority in some points of the
tariff, it occurred to the Govt General
to convene a Committee at Calcutta,
in which Bombay (and possibly Madras
also) should be represented, as the
means by which a uniform
tariff was most likely to be satisfactorily obtained
The Govt of India enquired
whether this Govt, or the
Madras Chamber of Commerce, desired to
depute any one to sit on this Committee,
altho' his Lordship believed that any spec-
representation was necessary, as Madras
had heretofore, as a rule, adopted the Cal-
cutta tariff. On this, the Chamber were
of 11 July/60, No 1146. asked to say whether they thought it expe-
dient that this Govt should appoint any
one to represent the Commerce of Madras,
or whether they themselves would nominate
a delegate at the Calcutta Conference.

of I. 7 July/60, No 1393. 6. Subsequently, the Govt of India wrote
to say that it was proposed to take ad-
vantage of the Committee, to consider the
provisions of a Consolidated Customs Bill.
The Chamber were asked to offer their observations
21 July/60, No 1212. on this also.

The Chamber replied that they did not consider it special that a Govt Officer should be deputed to represent the commercial interests of this Presidency, and that, as they could not get one of their own body to represent them in Calcutta, they could rely on the advocacy of the Calcutta and Bom. Madras. The Govt simply reported the substance of this reply to the Govt of India, without any expression of their own opinion.

From Chamber of Commerce 24 July/60.

To G. of I. 25 July/60, No 1228.

8. The Madras Govt were wrote to the Member of the Legislative Council for this Presidency, informing him of the convention of the Committee in question, & of its object; and stating that it was desirable that there should be some one at hand to watch the proceedings of the Committee on the part of Madras, though not taking an active part in them unless special occasion should arise, they enquired whether he had any objection to do so, as it occurred to them that he might be willing to undertake the duty.

To Legislative Member of Council for Madras, 24 July/60, No 1227.

From G. of I, 27 July/60, No 1546.

9. The Govt of India now acknowledged the receipt of the letter of this Govt forwarding, without remarks, the views of the Chamber of Commerce on the Calcutta tariff; and stated that, if it was determined that the Madras Presidency was not to be specially represented at Calcutta, the Govt of India would, in that case, desire to have the observations of the Madras Revenue Officers on the views of the Madras Chamber of Commerce. The Board of Revenue have been accordingly called upon for their opinion on these views; and the Govt of India will, in their order, resolved to point out to the Govt of India that the Chamber's letter was unaccompanied by observations, &c. & that the remarks of the Board of Revenue on the new tariff had already been communicated in their letter of the 8 May.

Bd: of Revenue 13 Aug/60, No 1348.

(noticed at para 3 of this memo) W.S. 17/8/60.

10.

Memo:

Revision of Customs Tariff.

The only objections
taken have been by
the Chamber of Com
2 Mems and others
they have been com
2 Members only by the
R. B— Stewart— the
Forbes— accpt— to be
as head to take C— of
C— letter— the Reasons
B— previous letter &
within letter now
taken for as his
Guide— & endeavour
as far as possible to
Gain for Revenue
wise detailed—

R. C.

No. 1489

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.
Under date the 1st September 1860
Read the following
letter from the Members
of the Legl. Council for
the Madras Presd.y:

Here enter 1st Aug.t/60.

Assenting to undertake the duty of attending the Bd. of the Court.e about to be convened at Calcutta to revise the new Customs Tariff, and requesting to be informed of the particular objects which this Govt. wish him to keep in view in the matter.

Ordered that the following letter be dispatched in reply.—

No. 1490.

To H. Forbes Esq.e
Member of the Legislative Council

Sir,

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 1st. August replying to mine of the

J. C. Chief Sec.y to Govt.
3 Sept. 60

the 24th July on the sub-
-ject of the Tariff con-
-ference at Calcutta,
I am directed to convey
to you the thanks of H.E.
the Governor in Council
for the readiness you
express to assist this
Government in the
matter. —

2. — You enquire
what particulars ob-
-jects it is desired that
you should keep in
view. In reply I am
to state that the Board
of Revenue and the Ma-
-dras Chamber of Com-
-merce have, in their
letters

letters of the 11th May
1860, No. 2294, and 30th
June 1860 respectively,
pointed out particu-
-lars in which, in
their opinion, the com-
-mercial interests of
this Presidency re-
-quire that the Tariff
lately sanctioned by
the Govt of India
should be modified.
Copies of these letters
are now sent to you
for convenient re-
-ference; and when
the Board of Revr
report their opinion
upon the letter of
the

the Chamber of Commerce of the 30th June, as they have been asked to do, a copy of that communication also will be furnished to you.—

3.— I am to request that you will take these letters as your guide in the duty you have consented to undertake; it being the wish of this Govt. that you should endeavour to secure due consideration to the opinions of the Board of Rev. and Chamber of Commerce as therein

therein expressed.—

2.— Ordered also that the Board of Revenue be requested to expedite their Report, called for in the order of Augt. 13th, No. 1348, on the letter from the Chamber of Commerce of the 30th June, in view to its being forwarded to Mr. Forbes.—

Fort St. Geo. 1st September 1860.

1 Copies
Bd of Rev. with Letter to Mr. Forbes of 24 July & 1227 Dis 25.

5.
Then Print the letter to the Legislative Council separately 15/5/60

New Customs Tariff.

Revenue 1860 Departt.
Pro. of Govt. for September.

No. 1489.

Pro. of the Madras Govt.
of 1st September 1860.

Ordered that the Letter from the Member of the Legislative Council for Madras on the subject of the Tariff Conference at Calcutta, be replied [illegible]

Copy to the Govt. of India.
24 Oct/60 R. 1943.
" Chamber of Comce
24 do — R. 1940.

No 647-8