M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1683	Press ~~Mis.~~
400-401	
Dated 21-9-1860	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 400. Read the following letter from H. NELSON, Esq., Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras, 15th September 1860 :—

SIR,

1. I am desired by the Chamber of Commerce to direct the attention of Government to a notice published in the "Fort Saint George Gazette" of yesterday's date signed "W. E. Cochrane, "Collector of Sea Customs," whereby it is notified to the public that no Cash will be received in payment of duties after 3 P. M. on every day but Saturday, and on Saturday after 1 P. M. The reason given for this change of practice is "the Order of Government."

2. The latest Order of Government on the subject of the Custom House was that dated 29th August 1860; and it was there distinctly laid down that, with the exception of payments by the public into the Bank of Madras being allowed, "in other respects the practice will con- "tinue unaltered for the present."

3. The present notice of the Collector appears then to be in contravention of this Order of Government; but should it prove that the Collector has since received any such Order, without intimation thereof having been given by Government to this Chamber, I am desired to show that the non-receipt of Cash for duties after 3 P. M. is a most unnecessary restriction of the Commerce of the Port, of no service whatever either to the Collector or the Government, and a very harassing curtailment of the hours of public business.

4. Assuming that the Government think it desirable that the Collector should pay his collections daily into the Bank, it is submitted that this can be done by his sending in at half past 3 P. M., a round sum of money, nearly all he has on hand. It can hardly be intended that he is to divest himself of his last Rupee, and that he is to show a closed account without the smallest balance every evening. The money tendered between 3 and 4 o'clock cannot be of very great amount, and it could conveniently be retained by him until the next day. A practice such as this meets the convenience of every house of business, and the experience of the Members of the Chamber leads them to believe that it would be found suitable to a Government Office. By adopting it, the Collector may continue the receipt of duties until the close of his Office, or at least up to the hour of 4 P. M.

5. Respectfully requesting the Honorable the Governor in Council to rescind the Collector's order I am further desired to refer to the last paragraph of my letter, dated 31st ultimo, the present instance being one in point, of an alteration in the Custom House Rules being made without a previous reference to the Mercantile Community.

No. 401. ORDER THEREON, 21st September 1860, No. 1,683.

The Collector of Sea Customs appears to have mistaken the Order of August 29, No. 1,473. It was not directed in that Order, nor was it intended, that no money should be received at the Custom House, after the closing of the Bank. It was simply ordered that the amount collected up to the closing hour of the Bank should be remitted. Mr. Cochrane will be requested to cancel his Notification referred to in this letter.

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

Chamber of Commerce

Madras 15th September 1860

To

The Secretary to Government

Revenue Department

Fort St George

Sir,

I am desired by the Chamber of Commerce to direct the attention of Government to a notice published in the Fort St. George Gazette of yesterday's date signed "W. E. Cochrane, Collector of Sea Customs" whereby it is notified to the Public that no Cash will be received in payment of duties after 3 P.M. on every day but Saturday, and on Saturday after 1 P.M. The reason given for this change of practice is "the order of Government."

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continue unaltered for the present."

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I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedt Servant

H Nelson
Chairman

P. for 29th Augt. to No. 381-382-
4th Sept. to No. 376-377.

Cheque-Tea Money collected up to 5 o'clock p.m.

No 400 & 401.

Revenue 1860 Depart.
Proc: of Govt for Septr
No. 2007

From the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce

Dated 15th } September 1860
Recd 19th }

Requesting for the reasons stated, that the Notice published on the 18th Instant by the Coll.r of Sea Customs limiting the time for the receipt of Cash in payment of Duties, may be rescinded.

No. 1683. 21st Septr
With an order

Dft to all

No. 1683

The Collector of Sea Customs appears to have misinterpreted the order of August 29th ult. It was not directed in that order, nor was it intended, that no money should be received at the Custom House after the closing of the Banks. It was simply ordered that the amount collected up to the closing hour of the Banks should be remitted. The Cochrane will be despatched to-day to Penang with instructions to the Collector there to remit to this Presidency the amount collected at that Port on account of Tea Duties.

Fort St. George
the 21st Septr 1860

To
The Chairman of Commerce &c &c
The Collr of Sea Customs &c
The Board of Revenue &c
The Accountant Genl &c

Sir,
I am directed to forward herewith for your information a copy of a letter from the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce dated the 15th Instant requesting that the Notice published on the 18th Instant by the Collector of Sea Customs limiting the time for the receipt of Cash in payment of Duties may be rescinded.

I am directed to inform you that the Collector of Sea Customs appears to have misinterpreted the order of August 29th ult. It was not directed in that order, nor was it intended, that no money should be received at the Custom House after the closing of the Banks. It was simply ordered that the amount collected up to the closing hour of the Banks should be remitted. The Cochrane will be despatched to-day to Penang with instructions to the Collector there to remit to this Presidency the amount collected at that Port on account of Tea Duties.

Fort St. George, 19th September, 1820.