14/3/88.

M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2087	Press ~~Mis.~~
146-147	
Dated 9-11-	1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 146. Read the following letter from P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Calicut, 2nd November 1860, No. 74 :—

SIR,

Dated 30th ultimo. 1. At the request of the Chairman of the Cochin Chamber of Commerce, I beg to transmit the accompanying communication from that gentleman.

2. The subject mooted by the Chamber is the substitution of an adhesive Stamp on Bills of Lading, &c., for the impressed Stamp required by Act 36 of 1860.

3. I would draw particular attention to the latter part of the letter referring to Clause 10 of the Act, which the Chamber expect will act most prejudicially on the direct trade to Europe, and if so, prove injurious to the interests of this Province.

From the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Cochin, 30th October 1860.

SIR,

1. At a General Meeting of this Chamber it was resolved that I should address you on the subject of the new Stamp Act.

2. The members of this Mercantile community are put to great inconvenience by being so far removed from the Presidency where alone, I understand, Stamps can be impressed. You will be aware that most of the firms are in the habit of using their own blank forms of Bills of Lading and Bills of Exchange, and they will be obliged to keep a large stock of these on hand to cover all emergencies, and will have to pay, moreover, heavily for postage on these forms to and from het Presidency.

3. I would beg to submit, that this could easily be avoided by a more general adoption of adhesive Stamps, there can be no difficulty in the use of these Stamps for Bills of Lading. I believe for Bills of Exchange also, the adhesive Stamps have been used at Home, with great success on bills drawn from abroad and payable in England, and as adhesive Stamps must be resorted to for bills drawn abroad and payable in India, I do not see any obstacle to these Stamps being made applicable to all Bills of Exchange.

4. The views of this Chamber coincide most fully, with those expressed by the Chairman of the Madras Chamber of Commerce, in his letter of 10th October, with regard to Clause 10 concerning negotiation of Bills of Exchange in sets of 3, as well as letters of Hypothecation. As we have no Banking establishment in this place, and have to send all our Bills on England, &c., to Madras or Bombay for negotiation, this clause will be most heavily felt here, as it would virtually put a stop to all our *direct* trade with Europe.

Ordered that the following letter be despatched.

No. 147. From J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, to the Secretary to the Government of India, dated 9th November 1860, No. 2,087.

SIR,

1. I am directed to forward for the consideration and orders of the Government of India copy of a letter from the Collector of Malabar, enclosing one from the Chamber of Commerce at the Port of British Cochin, on two points in the new Stamp Law specially affecting the interests of their Port.

2. The Chamber notice in the first place the inconvenience and expense to which the Merchants of Cochin will be exposed, by the rule that Bills of Lading and Bills of Exchange drawn in this country must be on stamped paper; and they pray that the use of an adhesive stamp may be allowed on such documents. They express, secondly, their entire concurrence in the opinion stated by the Madras Chamber of Commerce in a letter which I lately transmitted to you,* as to the necessity of a change in the present law as respects Foreign Bills of Exchanges. They declare that in their case the effect of the existing provisions of the Act would be entirely to destroy their direct trade with Europe.

* *25th October* 1860, *No.* 1,956.

3. Cochin is a thriving Port, and it would be a matter for much regret if any Acts of the Legislature operated to check its prosperity. There are also numerous other Ports along the extensive sea-board of this Presidency which would suffer in common with Cochin from any such laws or regulations; and I am directed therefore to commend the case to the careful attention of the Supreme Government.

Revenue Dept.

No. 2087.

To the Secretary to the Government of India

Sir

I am directed to forward for the consideration and orders of the Government of India copy of a letter from the Chamber of Commerce at the Port of British Cochin ~~& the Collector of the District~~ on two points in the new stamp law specially affecting the interests of their Port

from the Collr of Malabar enclosing one.

2 The Chamber notice in the first place the inconvenience and expense to which the merchants of Cochin will be exposed, by the rule that Bills of lading and Bills of Exchange drawn in this country must be on stamped paper; and they pray that the use of an adhesive stamp may be allowed on such documents. They express, secondly, their entire concurrence in the opinion stated by the Madras Chamber of Commerce in a letter which

25 October 1860 ℔ 1950.

I lately transmitted to you, as to the necessity of a change in the present law as respects foreign Bills of exchange. They declare that in their case the effect of the existing provisions of the act would be entirely to destroy their direct trade with Europe.

3 Cochin is a thriving ~~P~~ port, and it would be a matter for much regret if any Acts of the Legislature operated to check its prosperity. There are also numerous other ports along the extensive sea board of this Presidency which would suffer in common with Cochin from any such laws or regulations; and I am directed therefore to commend the case to the careful attention of the Supreme Government.

Fort St. Geo: 9 Nov. 1860.

Revenue 1860 Dept.
Pro: of Govt for Nov.

No 2087.

To the Secretary to the
Govt of India.
Dg. November 1860.

To Govt of Madras
Reg. Stamp Act

Forwarding a letter from the Collector of Malabar on certain points in the new Stamp law.—

407-409
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No 146 & 147.