M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 29 Press ~~Mis.~~

60-61

Dated 5 — 1 — 1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 60. Read the following letter from R. B. CHAPMAN, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Fort William, the 12th December 1859, No. 2462.

I am directed by the Honorable the President in Council to forward to you, for submission to His Excellency the Governor of Madras in Council, the accompanying extract, paragraphs 1 to 8, from a paper lately submitted to His Excellency the Governor General by Mr. H. Stainforth, a Member of the Calcutta Board of Revenue.

2. His Honor in Council is of opinion that a correct adjustment of values in the existing Tariff on Imports ought to be made throughout India, as soon as possible, and he desires me to request that the Government of Madras will give their special attention to the subject, with the least possible delay.

EXTRACT from a Memorandum by H. STAINFORTH, *Esquire, Member of the Board of Revenue, dated the 7th November* 1859.

Para. 1.—At Madras, in September last, Mr. Underwood, the Collector of Customs there, complained to me that the values in our Bengal Tariff were much below those of the market, and I promised to enquire into the subject on my return to Calcutta.

2. I found, on my return, that revision of the Tariff was a matter pending before the Board of Revenue, and that the Board had no satisfactory data for performance of the work.

3. Hitherto the values in the Tariff have been mainly fixed by compromise, at a conference of the Board with the Chamber of Commerce, some medium being generally adopted between the values declared by the Head Appraiser at the Custom House, and those assessed by the Chamber.

4. The values of the Head Appraiser, though in many instances too low, are more frequently the reverse, and he must always be an erring guide to the Board, because he has neither the fundamental knowledge of the trade prices in England, nor that requisite acquaintance with prices here, which personal participation in trade can alone confer. The values which he declares are founded on information, sometimes intended to mislead him, which he gathers from brokers and friends whom he may have among the merchants.

5. To the Chamber I wish to allude with due respect. Their values are often fairer than those of the Appraiser; but it may be remarked that in only one of the numerous instances in which the Appraiser's values are too low, have the Chamber assigned a higher value, and that generally the values assigned by them are below, and some of them much below, those of the market.

6. Under these circumstances I consulted a merchant whom I knew to have very exact knowledge of two important branches of our trade, *viz.* "Piece Goods" and "Metals," and who, I was confident, would give me true information if he consented to impart any at all.

7. He told me that the Tariff values were, and indeed had always been, below those of the market, and promised to give me his best assistance in their revision, observing that the merchants could not fairly object to correct values, but that what they did complain of was the duty of 20 per cent. on certain articles of their trade, to which that high duty was injurious.

8. I have accordingly examined such parts of the Tariff as he is acquainted with, with his aid, and the information which he has given me, information which I could have obtained nowhere else, and which I have since tested, enables me to state that revision of the values in the Tariff will produce at the Port of Calcutta alone, an annual gain in duty of at least 20 lakhs of Rupees. Looking, moreover, to the large and increasing trade in the Indus, I presume I am quite safe in supposing that, at the remaining Ports of British India, there will be a further gain of 12 lakhs, making a total annual increase, by proper revision of the Tariff, of 32 lakhs per annum.

(True Extract.)
(Signed) R. B. CHAPMAN,
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 61. ORDER THEREON, 5th January 1860, No. 29.

Referred to the Board of Revenue for report.

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

No. 2462

FROM R. B. CHAPMAN, ESQUIRE,
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India,

To J. Bruce Norton Esqr
The Secretary to Govt of
Fort St George

SIR, *Dated Fort William, the 12th December 1859.* No 2462

HOME DEPT. Sep. Rev. I AM directed by the Hon'ble the President in Council to forward to you, for submission to His Excellency the Governor of Madras in Council, the accompanying extract, paragraphs 1 to 8, from a paper lately submitted to His Excelle ncy the Governor General by Mr. H. Stainforth, a Member of the Calcutta Board of Revenue.

2. His Honor in Council is of opinion that a correct adjustment of values in the existing Tariff on Imports ought to be made throughout India, as soon as possible, and he desires me to request that the Government of Madras will give their special attention to the subject, with the least possible delay.

I have the honor to be,
SIR,
Your most obedient servant,

R. B. Chapman
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Exd.—M. A. Mendes.

Revenue 1860 Departt
Pro: of Govt 10 January 60.
No 245

From
The Under Secretary to
the Govt of India

Dated 12th Decr 59 No 2462
Recd 26 "

With 1 Encl

From Govt of Ludhiana
28 August 60 No 22-23

No 29. 5th January 60.

Forwards an Extract of a paper from the N. Staniforth a member of the Calcutta B. of Rev. and as the Govt of India is of opinion that a correct adjustment of values on the existing Tariff on imports might be made throughout India, requests that this Govt will give special attention to the subject &c.

Copy to the Chamber of Comrce 26 May 60.
D. 860.

No 60 & 61.

R 31 Oct 59 No 41-42

No 29.
Revenue Dept
Govt of India

Forwards &c. &c.
Copies of the Minutes of Govr
5 January 1860.