M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 48 Press ~~Mis.~~

96-97

Dated 7 — 1 — 1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 96. Read the following letter from J. SILVER, Esq., Collector, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated Tinnevelly, 29th December 1859, No. 543.

I have this day received an order of Government, dated 24th December 1859, No. 1771, transmitting copies of a letter from H. Nelson Esq., Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated the 22d December 1859, and of a letter to his address from three merchants of Tuticorin, dated Tuticorin, the 15th December 1859.

2. The Government call upon me to reply, whether I am able to deny the allegations contained in this last mentioned letter, and if I am not, why I have set at nought the orders of Government. I am also directed in the next paragraph, immediately on the receipt of this order, to put a stop to the proceedings complained of; viz. the forcible seizure of carts, which the Government appear to think I have sanctioned.

3. In reply to the question put to me, I deny the allegation—emphatically. I have neither ordered nor sanctioned the forcible seizure of carts; but on the contrary, have impressed on every officer high and low, that none but voluntary carriage was to be employed.

4. To the order to put a stop to the proceedings complained of, I reply, that no such proceedings have been begun.

5. The letter from the three merchants of Tuticorin contains 6 paragraphs. The 1st and 2d require no remark. The 3d is, that their bandies bringing cotton are forcibly seized for the transport of salt. My Assistant, Mr. Garstin, was sent to Tuticorin before a pound of salt was shipped on board the "Panama," and I enclose a copy of his last report to me, dated the 20th December, which I trust will satisfy the Government, that no carts have been impressed.

6. I was myself at Tuticorin, exactly this time three years ago, when the 13th Regiment were encamped on the sand waiting for carriage te convey them to Attankaray. Then, impressment had to be employed, or the troops could not have moved and the cotton carts would not come into the town. Very probably a recollection of this induced the cartmen to throw down the cotton outside the town as detailed by Mr. Garstin, but the Government will see from Mr. Garstin's letter, that no force or impressment was used, and that he expected that under the voluntary system, the number of carts would daily increase. With Mr. Garstin's care and attention, I am fully and entirely satisfied.

7. In the 4th paragraph these three merchants assert that the authorities pay two annas a trip, while they pay 4. I refer the Government to Mr. Garstin's letter, in which he states that the hire was raised by him, to 4 annas a trip.

8. The 5th and 6th paragraphs of the merchants' letter refer to forcible detention of their cotton carts. I deny that such forcible detention has been employed. My Assistant, Mr. Garstin, has been on the spot, deputed there expressly by me, to superintend shipping the salt, and I am fully satisfied both from his official reports and verbal communications, that he would never permit violent or forcible seizure and detention of carts.

9. For my own share in endeavouring to carry out the orders of Government, I find upon the public records no less than six different orders issued by me, since the first of this month, to Tahsildárs, Police Amíns, and Choukydars, besides a memorandum addressed to my Assistant, all prohibiting in the most peremptory terms, the impressment of carts, and in some instances, warning the parties to whom the orders were addressed, that forcible seizure of carts would be followed by dismissal from the public service; and I ask the Government, what could I do more.

10. And now in my turn, I claim justice at the hands of Government. I have done my utmost endeavour to carry out their orders, and I have been falsely and wrongfully accused, and I now respectfully ask the Government to cause a retraction of their letter by the three merchants at Tuticorin, and their apology to me, to be made, in as public a manner, as their allegations have been.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, for the month of January 1860.

From J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Assistant Collector; to J. SILVER, Esq., Collector Tinnevelly, dated 20th December 1859.

I have the honor to report for your information, that owing to the great difficulty exp rienced in getting bandies to convey the salt from the salt pan to the beach for shipment board the "Panama," I have been obliged to raise the pay of the bandymen to 4 annas trip as they absolutely refused to take less, and many even were not content with that. T bandymen have a general aversion to Government work but especially salt transit. So hundred bandies only two nights ago came to Tuticorin with cotton, but hearing that the s was being exported they waited till night and then throwing down their bundles of cotton a leaving a man in charge, at the same time paying a forfeit of one Rupee each for not carryi the cotton into the town, they ran off rather than stand the chance of being seized for Gove ment work. Of course no force of any kind has been used at all, and I have at last wit great deal of trouble induced some 50 bandies to work steadily at the transit, they see th they are no longer forced, that they are paid higher, and I have no doubt that the numb will increase daily, of course the increased rate of bandy hire will considerably increase t contingent charges.

No. 97. ORDER THEREON, 7th January 1860, No. 48.

This letter will be communicated to the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, in re to his letter of the 22d December 1859. Mr. Nelson will be glad to learn that the inform tion he had received was incorrect, and that no compulsion has been exerted to obtain ca at Tuticorin.

2. The Collector's proceedings have the full and cordial approval of Government.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary

their letter by the 3 Mer-
chants at Tuticorin, and
their apology to me, to
be made, in as public a
manner, as their allegations
have been.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obed^t Servant
J. Silver
Collector

No. 48.

This letter will be communicated to the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, in reply to his letter of the 22d Decr 1859.

Mr. Nelson will be glad to learn that the information he had received was incorrect, & that no compulsion has been exerted to obtain cards at Tuticorin.

2. The Coll.rs Proceedings have the full & cordial approval of Government.

Fort St. Geo.e 7 Jan.y 1860.

Coll.r of Tinnevelly & Dup.e

Chairman of Chamber of Commerce

31st Dec.r 1859. No. 75-76.

From Coll.r of Tinnevelly dd 6th Jan.y/60 No. 846 with Cons: 31 Nos. 46-47

From do. do. dd 7 Jan.y/60 No. 93. with Cons: 31 Nos. 48-49

No. 96 & 97.

Rev. 1860 Depart.t
Jan.y
Pros: of Govt. 10
From No. 2.

The Collector of Tinnevelly

To

The Secretary to Government Fort St. George

Dated 29th Dec.r

Rec.d 3rd January 1860

No. 5743

Enc: 1.

No.

Submitting the explanation called for by Government regarding the seizure & detention of Carts complained of by certain Merchants at Tuticorin No. 48 - 7th Jan.y/60.

Adds an order