

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	541	Press
	81. 82	~~Mis.~~
Dated	5/4	1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 81. Read the following Proceedings of the Government of India, dated 14th March 1860,
No. 556:—

Read the following letter from the Right Honorable Sir CHARLES WOOD, Bart., G. C. B.,
Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honorable Earl CANNING,
Governor General of India in Council, dated London, the 2nd February 1860. No. 7:—

With reference to my Despatch dated the 19th December last, (No. 16), I now forward
copy of a further representation which has been addressed to me by the Salt Chamber of Com-
merce at Northwich, and I have to request that you will obtain and transmit to me the informa-
tion required by the Chamber, especially as regards the facilities which exist at Madras and
Bombay for importing and disposing of English Salt.

From H. HADFIELD, Esq., Secretary to the Salt Chamber of Commerce, to the Right
Honorable Sir CHARLES WOOD, Bart., G. C. B., Secretary of State for India, dated
Northwich, the 16th January 1860.

I had the honor to receive your letter of the 28th October, accompanying a series of des-
patches from the Government of India, in reply to the representations made by this Chamber,
which have been again most attentively considered by the latter.

Whilst acknowledging the pains taken to afford information upon fiscal regulations in India
affecting the Salt Trade there, it is satisfactory to the Chamber to find that the recommendations
they ventured to make, in order to facilitate a direct trade in Salt with this country, have met
the concurrence of the authorities to whom they were referred in several important particulars,
especially that of the Board of Revenue of Bengal; the value of the English Salt import trade
as a source of Revenue which is collected at a small cost, having also been fully admitted by
the authorities of that Presidency. Further, the Chamber are glad to know that they were in
error in supposing the Calcutta Authorities entertained prejudices against the direct import of
Salt.

At Calcutta it is evident, from the statements made, that private Bonding Stores cannot
be looked for under the difficulty of finding suitable sites, as well as from the restricted nature
of the trade consequent on a high rate of duty. The Chamber were lately informed by the
Chamber of Commerce at Calcutta, that the Board of Inland Revenue had provided additional
storage room to the extent of 10,000 tons, which under the limited import lately prevailing, may
be found sufficient, but not where the trade resumes its wonted activity, and the Chamber trust
the Council for India will keep their prayer before them, and afford, or prepare, ample storage,
when extended supplies leave this country.

As regards Bombay and Madras, the Chamber consider there is still much ambiguity in the
despatches from these Presidencies, one great object of the Chamber being to obtain an official
declaration on which a trial of these markets might be founded. At Bombay, it would appear
that English Salt can be imported and placed in Bond there, subject to the same duty as on
country made Salt, say 12 annas per factory maund, but there is no Bonding accommodation, and
the authorities do not say, whether cheap structures, such as sheds used for the storage of coal
would be licensed by them for Bonding the Salt, were importers to provide such sheds at their
own cost: hence the difficulty to introduce our produce is insurmountable.

At Madras, it appears Salt also can be placed in Bond, but whether it may be freely sold
by the importers to dealers and consumers at Calcutta, as well as be freely imported, remains to
the Chamber still a matter of doubt, since the aforesaid despatches premise a rigid Government
monopoly; they also doubt whether the cost of two annas per maund alluded to in these des-
patches, includes the carriage from the place of production to the place of consumption, in other
words, whether the Government price is the same at the seat of manufacture, or at any other part
of the Presidency, for it would be manifestly unfair to the importers of, or dealers in English Salt,
were they to have the opposition of Government in sales based on a presumption, that Government
pay nothing for carriage of the produce, although it must in many instances exceed the freight
from England.

The case of Messrs. Bates and Company cited by the Bombay Authorities to prove that
our Salt would not be taken, is quite irrelevant, the fine Salt of England is unsuited to the curing
of hides, and hence the refusal of Messrs. Bates and Company to hamper themselves with an
article useless for their purposes. Any comparison with the English imported Salt must be
confined to the *manufactured refined Salt chiefly used for table purposes*, as it is obvious the
ordinary Salt made from evaporation of Sea water does not come under the same designation;
and in commenting on the quality of Salt made in India, the Chamber had before them samples
transmitted by one of the most respectable firms at Bombay. They have still reason to believe
that much of the table Salt consumed by private families goes through another process of refining
in the houses.

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

The Chamber can only repeat that, prior to the importation of English Salt into Calcutta, a similar objection was urged to that made by the Bombay and Madras Authorities, namely, that it was impossible Salt so imported could compete with the cheap Salt of India. The result has been the very opposite to these predictions, and has proved that Salt will bear a very much higher freight than was then believed possible.

Experience further proves that the very superior quality of English Salt will at all times give it a preference in India when fairly brought into competition with Native kinds, and more especially may this result be looked for, when by the introduction of Railways and internal Steam Navigation, the Salt so imported can find its way more readily into the interior of the country.

The Chamber would, therefore, again most respectfully urge upon the Council for India, the policy of affording every encouragement to a trade, valuable as a source of Revenue, and useful to the manufacturing and shipping interest of this country.

Private enterprise can accomplish a good deal, but when, as in the case of Salt so imported, it has to contend with a system of monopoly, the tendency of which is to protect, regardless of cost, the Native manufacture by the peculiar mode of administering duties it requires many trials and much elucidation before such trade can become fairly developed.

They therefore trust the Council for India will obtain the information now further sought for, and direct the authorities at Madras and Bombay especially to afford every facility to shipments of English Salt, should parties on this side decide upon making them.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. B. CHAPMAN,

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Copy of this Despatch, and of its enclosure, forwarded to the Government of Fort Saint George in continuation of Endorsement No. 199, dated the 30th January last, with a request that the information required by the Salt Chamber of Commerce at Northwich, may be furnished at as early a date as possible.

(By Order.)

(Signed) R. B. CHAPMAN,

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 82.

ORDER THEREON, 5th April 1860, No. 541.

Forwarded to the Board of Revenue with reference to the Order dated 29th February 1860, No. 320.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER.

Deputy Secretary to Government.

No. 7

FROM

THE RIGHT HON'BLE SIR CHARLES WOOD, *Bart., G.C.B.,*

Secretary of State for India,

TO

HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HON'BLE EARL CANNING,

Governor General of India in Council.

MY LORD,

Dated London, the 2nd February 1860.

WITH reference to my Despatch dated the 19th December last, (No. 16), I now forward copy of a further representation which has been addressed to me by the Salt Chamber of Commerce at Northwich, and I have to request that you will obtain and transmit to me the information required by the Chamber, especially as regards the facilities which exist at Madras and Bombay for importing and disposing of English Salt.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES WOOD,

Secretary of State for India.

Encl.—H. C. Mittra.

Copy of this Despatch, and of its enclosure, forwarded to the Government of Fort St. George in continuation of Endorsement No. 199 dated the 30th January last, with a request that the information required by the Salt Chamber of Commerce at Northwich, may be furnished at as early a date as possible.

HOME DEPT.,
The 14th March 1860. }

By Order,

[Signature]

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Recd. from 29 July/60 No 102-103
This. Pro. 23 April/60 - A. 35

Chit. 29 Dec. 59
5 April 1860

W. J. P. to the Secy. of the Govt. of India

W. J. P. to the Secy. of the Govt. of India

Forwarded to the Secy. of the Govt. of India
dated 29 February 1860, No 370.

No 571

Revenue 1860 Report
Pro. of Govt. 10 April -

No 633

Proceedings of the Govt. of
India -

Dated 14 March 1860
Recd. 27

1 Encl.
From 30 Apr. April/60 No 780

Forwarding copy of a
Home Despatch and
requesting to be furnished
with the information re-
garding the ^{Chander} ~~Chander~~
~~Chander~~ ^{Chander} ~~Chander~~
as regards the facilities
existing in Madras for
importing & disposing of
English salt.

From Secy. of the Govt. of India
No 986 on 14 April/60

No 511. 5 April

With an Order