

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	198	☒ Press ☐ Mis.
Dated	April 18 61.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Cochin Chamber of Commerce
Cochin 3rd April 1861

To

J. Pycroft Esq

Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St George
Madras

Sir,

I addressed the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, on the 22nd of December, representing to him the great loss sustained by the Mercantile Community of this place, on account of the sudden introduction of the new Export Tariff, which raised the value of our Staple Coconut Oil nearly 5 fold, and also materially increased the duty on all other produce.

It is customary to make contracts for goods to be shipped on 2 or 3 months delivery, and oil especially must be stored for some time in casks to make the latter safe for shipment. As the Mercantile Community had not the slightest intimation that

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that such a great alteration in the Tariff
was contemplated, the first cost of their
purchases was based on calculations in-
cluding the old Tariff, and the loss sus-
tained by the different Establishments on
all goods thus contracted for before the
26th December (the date that the Government
Gazette with the new Tariff became law
here) and cleared afterwards, may amount
from 14 to 15,000 Rupees, a loss very heavy
indeed, considering the small number who
have to bear it.

This Chamber would there-
fore beg that Government will kindly
consider the justice of the Merchants' claim
to receive a return of duty on such goods
as can be clearly proved to have been pur-
chased before the promulgation of the new
Tariff, and should the Madras Government
be unable to act in this matter, desires that
the whole question may be laid before the
Supreme Government.

I have &c.

Signed / C. E. Miris

Chairman

(True copy)

R. Hunt

Collector

Cochin Chamber of Commerce

Cochin 3^d April 1861.

To J. Percroft Esq^r
Chief Secretary to Government.
Fort St. George.

Sir,

At a general meeting of this Chamber it was resolved, that I should address you on the disadvantages the trade of this port is laboring under, in comparison to the Ports of Alleppy and Mallapuzom, situated in the neighbouring Native States.

British Cochin is by its position the natural outlet of all the produce from Travancore and Cochin. But produce coming from the Travancore Territory by backwater is subject to a duty of 4% to the Travancore Government, a like duty of 4% to the Cochin Government, and has then to bear the British Export duty at this Port, while the produce from the Cochin Territory has to bear a duty of

1861

Deputy

In a letter from the
Collector of Malabar
27th April 1861

29/4/61

Copy of an address
from the Cochin Cham-
ber of Commerce
attached to the above
letter -

of 4% on passing the Cochin frontier, and also the British Export duty; besides which the waste of time, and loss in weight of goods, while being passed thro' these Chowkees, is very considerable indeed.

On the other hand, the Produce of Travancore can be reported from Alleppy on payment of one duty of 4% only, and if reported to Colombo, can be re-reported in Bond from thence, without the payment of any duty whatever to the British Govt.

Cochin produce can be dealt with in the same way, the only difference being that the saving of duty would be 3% [British Export duty] whereas on Travancore produce shipped at Alleppy, it is 7% [Cochin frontier duty and British Export duty].

Till lately, this great difference in the payment of Customs duty was not felt so keenly for two reasons.

I Because the Tariff value at which duty

was

was levied in British Cochin, especially on Coconut oil, was very low.

II Because in former years, the collection of duty in the two Rajah's frontier Chowkees was carried on in such a loose way, that Native Traders could easily evade payment of the greatest part of it, which they could not do at the Rajah's Seaport Customs; whereas now the British Export Tariff valuation has been raised to the highest actual Market price, and the management of the backwater Chowkees in the Native States has also become more strict and rigorous than heretofore.

It will of course take some time before the trade which has hitherto found its outlet in British Cochin, will be diverted to the ports alluded to - and I do not believe that the Export Tables will show any marked falling off for the next year or two to bear out the apprehensions of this Chamber, but the usual marginal profit

profit on produce shipped from this port
is so small, that the saving that can be
effected by shipping from Curcar Ports,
must ultimately draw the trade of Cochin
to them - and already, the course of the Pepper
trade which has sprung up since the abolition
of the monopoly, bears out the Chamber's
prediction. - Not a pound of Pepper from
Tarancore has found its way to this port,
all being taken to Alleppy to be re-exported
from there, as the Cochin Curcar demands
the extra duty of 4% in its passing their
frontier. This Chamber would ask you
to bring this subject most earnestly to
the consideration of Government, and to
suggest that some arrangement might
be come to with the Native States, so
that the inland Chowkies of the backwater
may be abolished, and in their stead
the duty levied in British Cochin may
be shared with the two Native States
of Cochin and Tarancore, or that some
other

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other means may be adopted for the abolition
of the backwater Chowkies, which, in every
respect, are a bar to the legitimate trade
and a great loss on the producer, without giving
an adequate benefit to the revenues of the
Native States. If an arrangement can
be made with the Native States for the
abolishment of their backwater Chowkies,
this Chamber would pray that some special
Tariff should be applied to British Cochin
as heretofore, so as to lessen at all
events the great disadvantages pointed
out to you above. -

I have &c

Signed J. C. Nicus
Chairman.

/ True Copy /

R. Hunt
Collector.

Calcutt, 17 April 1861.

N^o 38
1861.

From J. Grant Esq^r
Collector of Malabar
To J. D. Bourdillon Esq^r
Secretary to Government
Fort St George

Sir,

Referring to your Telegram of yesterday, I beg to state, that both the addresses adverted to appear, by the Tappal Book of my Office, to have been dispatched with my letter of the 5 Instant N^o 32. I deem it however proper to submit copies of both, which were kept on my record, as I am not certain which of the addresses is wanting.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,
Your most Obedt Servant

J. Grant
Collector.

Department

1861

* From Secretary
to Cochin
Chamber of
Commerce.
24th April 1861.

In a letter from the
Collector of Malabar of 17th
April 1861. N^o 38

Qⁿ 924/57

Office of the Addressee
from the Chamber of Commerce
referred to in the above
letter.

Page 1861. No part
of your collection
has been
sent to me.

To the Secretary
of the
British Museum
London

Recd 19 April 1811
No 222
P. 38.
Enc: 2

Submits copies
of the addresses from
the Chamber of Commerce
London, referred to in
a letter from
you dated 18 inst.

Yours
F

1811