1565/A1154

M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2153	Press Mis.
136-137.	
Dated 12—11— 1861.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 12th November 1861.

No. 136. Read the following letter from G. O. BEEBY, Esq., Attorney at Law, to W. GREY, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, in the Home Department, Esplanade Row, dated 20th September 1861:—

SIR,

I have the honor to forward to you the accompanying Petition from certain Dealers and Traders in Tobacco of the town of Calcutta, for the purpose of having it laid before His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India in Council.

No. 3,108.

Transferred to the Financial Department for disposal.

(By order &c.,)

(Signed) J. H. RIVETT CARNAC,
Offg. under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

HOME DEPARTMENT,
The 21st September 1861.

Fort William, Financial Department, the 5th October 1861, *No.* 12,522.

Copy of the above letter and Petition forwarded to the Governments of Madras and Bombay, a continuation of letter from this Department, Nos. 11,535 and 11,533, dated the 18th ultimo, for the purpose of being taken into consideration with the previous correspondence in submitting their reports.

Ordered also that a copy of the above letter and Petition be forwarded to the Government of Bengal for report, with reference to its Junior Secretary's letter No. 417A, dated the 30th August last, and its enclosures.

By order of His Excellency the Governor General in Council,

(Signed) C. HUGH LUSHINGTON,
Secretary to the Govt. of India.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable CHARLES JOHN EARL CANNING, Viceroy and Governor General of India in Council, dated 20th September 1861.

The Humble Petition of the undersigned Dealers and Traders in Tobacco in the town of Calcutta,

SHEWETH,

1. On the twelfth of March one thousand eight hundred and sixty, your Excellency's assent was granted to the passing of a certain Act of the Legislative Council of India known as Act X of one thousand eight hundred and sixty.

2. Under and by virtue of the provisions of the said Act from and after the eighteenth day of February one thousand eight hundred and sixty, in lieu of the duties theretofore authorized to be charged, a duty was charged upon unmanufactured Tobacco of eight Annas per seer of eighty tolas weight, and upon manufactured Tobacco of one Rupee per seer of eighty tolas weight.

3. Such duty with reference to the cost price of the different descriptions of Tobacco imported into this country is equivalent to an *ad valorem* duty and fluctuating inversely with respect to the price and quantity of the descriptions of Tobacco on which it is chargeable, and varying from fifty to two hundred and even three hundred per cent. The highest proportionate rate of duty being chargeable on the cheapest, a most inferior description of Tobacco.

4. Your Petitioners are and at the time of the passing of the abovementioned Act were all Traders and Dealers in Tobacco in the town of Calcutta.

5. Your Petitioners, relying upon the permanency of the provisions contained in the abovementioned Act, have, since it received your Excellency's assent, invested large sums of money in the importation of Tobacco and in the purchase of imported Tobacco.

6. Your Petitioners have now in their possession both at Calcutta and in the hands of their agents and constituents in the Mufassal very large stores of Tobacco unsold, all of which has paid duty at the high rates imposed by the abovementioned Act.

7. Your Petitioners are informed and believe that a Petition or Memorial has been presented to your Excellency by an association of individuals engaged in mercantile pursuits in Calcutta and styling themselves and commonly known as the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, and that such Petition or Memorial has been presented for the purpose of obtaining some alteration or modification of the duties chargeable under the abovementioned Act.

8. Your Petitioners have endeavoured, but without success to obtain sight of a copy of the above referred to Petition or Memorial, your Petitioners are, however, informed and believe that the said Petition or Memorial recommends that an *ad valorem* duty of twenty-five per cent. may for the future be substituted and charged upon imported Tobacco in place of the duties now chargeable thereon under the provision of the abovementioned Act X of one thousand eight hundred and sixty.

9. Your Petitioners would humbly submit to your Excellency that no sudden reduction of the duties now chargeable upon imported Tobacco can be effected without inflicting great and undeserved loss on your Petitioners. The natural and inevitable result of a reduction of the duties chargeable upon imported Tobacco would be to introduce into the markets of Calcutta and the Mufassal large quantities of imported Tobacco which could be profitably sold at prices very much below the prices at which your Petitioners could sell the Tobacco now unsold on their hands without actual loss. All the Tobacco, therefore, belonging to your Petitioners would be thus greatly reduced in value, and your Petitioners would lose not only all their anticipated profits, but the greater portions of the sums they have actually paid to Government in the shape of customs duties, and this result so disastrous to your Petitioners would be occasioned, not by any accidental or unforeseen fluctuation of the price or value of the imported article, but solely and directly by an arbitrary alteration of rates of duty fixed so lately as the eighteenth of March in the last year, and in full reliance upon the permanence of which your Petitioners have laid out large sums of money.

10. Your Petitioners would, therefore, humbly recommend their interests to your Excellency's favorable consideration, and trust that your Excellency's assent will not be accorded to any measure effecting sudden alteration in the rates of the duties now chargeable on imported Tobacco, unless at the same time some provision is made to avert the hardship and injustice which would otherwise be inflicted upon your Petitioners, and your Petitioners would humbly suggest that such provision might be made by granting in all cases a refund of the excess of duties above the constituted rate which has been actually paid upon imported Tobacco remaining unsold in the hands of the importers.

And your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

Signed by thirty-one persons in Bengali.

(A true Copy.)
(Signed) C. HUGH LUSHINGTON,
Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 137. ORDER THEREON, 12th November 1861, No. 2,155.

Referred to the Board of Revenue, in continuation of the Order of Government, dated 17th October 1861, No. 1,999. They will be requested in submitting the report called for in that Order to take into consideration the Petition now transmitted.

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

W. Grey Esquire
Secretary to the Govt of India in the
Home Department.

Sir

I have the honor to forward to you the accompanying Petition from certain dealers and traders in Tobacco of the Town of Calcutta for the purpose of having it laid before His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India in Council

I have the honor to be &c
(Signed) G. C. Beeby
Attorney at Law.

Esplanade Row
20th September 1861.

№ 3108

Transferred to the Financial department for disposal.
By order &c
(Sgd) J. H. Rivett Carnac
Offg Under Secy to the Govt of India

Home Departt
The 21st September 1861.

№ 12522
Fort William,
Financial Department
The 5th October 1861.

Copy of the above letter and petition forwarded to the Governments of Madras and Bombay, in continuation of letter from this department № {11535 / 11536} dated the 18th Ultimo for the purpose of being taken into consideration with the previous correspondence in submitting their reports.—

Ordered also that a copy of the above letter and Petition be forwarded to the Government of Bengal for report, with reference to its Junior Secretary's letter № 417A dated the 30th August last and its enclosures.—

By order of His Excellency the Governor General in Council

C. Hugh Lushington
Secretary to the Govt of India

F. W. 6/10/61 78

21-11-61

R 17th October 1861

No 214-215

Revenue 1861 No 11

Pro. of Govt for November

No 2611

From the Secy to the

Govt of India

Dated 4th October 1861

Received 6th November

No 19522

Encl No 2155. 12th Nov.

Forwarding copy of

a letter from an Attorney

at Law and of a petition

from certain dealers

in Tobacco of the Town

of Calcutta for the pur-

pose of being taken

into consideration

in submitting the report

called for in letter

dated 18th Sept/61 No 1153

No 2155

Referred to the Board

of Revenue in continuation

of the order of Govt dated 17th

October 1861 - No 1999 - They will

be requested in submitting the

report called for in that order

to take into consideration the

Petition now transmitted.

Fort St George

12th Nov/61

J. D.S

Copies

To Mbr Board of Rev: Dispd 21

From Sec/Govt Revenue/61

Ex: 2692.

From Do/20 Nov/61 Ex 2714

No 136 to 137.