M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-32.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2171 Press Mis.—

167-168

Dated 16 — 4 — 1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 167. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st October 1861, No. 5,775:—

Read the following letters from the Acting Collector of Sea Customs, dated 18th and 24th September and 9th October 1861.

Letter dated 18th September 1861, No. 470.

1. In reply to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th instant, No. 5,036, I have the honor to state that the bale was not deposited in the regular Bonding Warehouse when injured, but in a godown of the Custom House, temporarily used for goods in bond. I do not know whether the Board contemplates these godowns being repaired and floored with asphalte. The outlay might be very considerable. Further I think goods should be bonded only in the regular building.

2. The state of the Bonded Warehouse had some time ago attracted my attention, and I communicated with Colonel Hitchins by letter and in person. I have no final reply, but I have now asked for a full report upon the building; but I know he considers the building old and dangerous to meddle with; the upper floor is of timber and too weak to bear much; a good deal of space is thus lost as also in the lower room whch is needlessly lofty.

3. I would propose that the Board should at once authorize me to decline to receive goods except into the regular Warehouse; when there is no room there, licensed Warehouses should be resorted to. The goods usually bonded are liquors in casks on the ground floor in 1 to 3 dozen cases on the upper floor. There is scarcely more than space enough for the quantity of these goods usually in bond. The Board might at once authorize me to decline to receive into the public Warehouse any other description of goods; other goods should be bonded in private Warehouses.

4. If the Board should concur in these proposals, I consider that the existing Establishment is quite numerous enough, nor do I think the rates of rent will then need to be raised. Indeed during the last ten years the rent received has been nearly double the outlay for Establishment.

5. I will submit the Engineer's report as soon as furnished, and I think his inquiries might extend to the condition of the godowns of the Custom House. But what I have proposed might be carried out at once, and I incline to believe that on every ground it will be found that the right measure will be the eventual abolition of a public Bonded Warehouse.

Letter dated 24th September 1861, No. 481.

1. I have the honor to forward copy of a letter from the District Engineer, Presidency, dated the 23rd instant, No. 1,058.

2. The Bonding Warehouse is efficient enough in the sense in which the District Engineer has understood the term. Otherwise it is inefficient, but not so much from "the want of space" as from the impossibility of appropriating the space the building contains. The upper floor as mentioned before* is too weak to bear all the goods that there is room to stow there, while the lower room is needlessly lofty. I request to be informed whether I shall apply to the Engineer for an estimate for improving the Warehouse in this respect.

* Letter to Board of Revenue, dated 18th September 1861, No. 470.

3. I further request the orders of the Board in regard to the repair of "the lean to sheds" or godowns in the Custom House yard, as also in respect to their use in future for bonding goods when the Warehouse is full. If totally unfit for that purpose, their use for storing goods at all is more or less hazardous. I concur in thinking that they need a thorough overhauling.

4. The defects in the new sheds in the yard mentioned in paragraph 3 of the District Engineer's letter, were by my orders pointed out to Lieutenant Woods. On this matter I have applied to the Barrack Master.

Letter dated 9th October 1861, No. 502.

In reply to the Board's Proceedings of yesterday's date, No. 5,465, I have the honor to state that from letters received from Bombay and Calcutta in February and March last, it appears that at Bombay there is no public Bonded Warehouse, but only licensed private ones, and at Calcutta there is also no Government Warehouse, but only the licensed Warehouse of an Association and some private Warehouses. The Government, therefore, is not exposed in either place to any liability in respect to goods in bond.

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1. Ordered that the above letters be submitted to Government, with reference to their Proceedings, dated 12th September and 5th October 1861, Nos. 1,815 and 1,930, Revenue Department, repectively.

In Cons. 13th September and 7th October 1861, Nos. 5,864 and 6,341.

2. The Board have in company with the Acting Collector of Sea Customs visited the Government Bonding Warehouse which is situated at a short distance from the Customs House yard, in the rear of the Supreme Court House, and have also inspected the lean to sheds in the Customs House yard which are used, as occasion requires, to supplement the insufficient space in the Bonding Warehouse, and in one of which sheds it was that Messrs. Binny & Co.'s goods were injured by white ants.

3. These sheds are decidedly unfit for the purpose of bonding goods, so long as Government is to be held responsible for their safe keeping and delivery uninjured, which responsiblity it would seem is a necessary consequence of receiving rent for the use of a Government building.

4. At the same time the regular Bonding Warehouse does not afford sufficient accommodation for the goods in bond, partly from the great amount of space lost in the unnecessary height of the ceiling to the lower range of rooms, and partly from the insufficient strength of that ceiling which forms the floor of the upper range, and will not bear the quantity of goods, for which it would afford an ample superficial area.

5. The District Engineer, however, thinks that the building is too old and weak to allow of its being meddled with to any extent, and it is by no means free from the incursion of white ants.

6. The building is usually occupied with casks and cases of liquor in bond, and the Acting Collector proposes that he should be authorized to notify that no other kind of goods will be received into the Government Bonding Warehouse, and that no other building than the regular Warehouse will be allowed to be used for this purpose; all other goods must be bonded in private licensed Warehouses.

7. The Collector considers that if this rule be adopted, the existing Establishment is amply sufficient, and that the rates of rent will not need to be revised.

8. The Board strongly recommend the adoption of the Acting Collector's proposals.

9. They have no doubt that it is desirable for Government to withdraw from maintaining Bonding Warehouses as speedily as may be consistent with due consideration for the requirements of the trading community. Neither at Calcutta nor Bombay are any such Establishments maintained by Government, and their relinquishment, here would afford the best inducement for private enterprize to take up the work. Most of the larger Firms already have licensed bonding godowns, but these are employed solely for their own consignments. It would, however, doubtless be found worth while for individuals or a Company to establish licensed Warehouses for the public when Government ceases to maintain such themselves.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th November 1861.

10. The Board would also recommend that the sheds in the Customs House yard be put into thorough repair throughout so as to make the whole of the covered space there thoroughly available for the ordinary requirements of the Import and Export trade.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 168. ORDER THEREON, 16th November 1861, No. 2,171.

1. Under the circumstances stated by the Board the Governor in Council consents to the Government Bonded Warehouse being closed, but to prevent inconvenience to the mercantile community three months' notice should be given of this intention. The Board will insert a notice in the Gazette accordingly.

2. Meanwhile they will instruct the Collector to receive no more goods than he can find room for in the proper Warehouse.

3. The Board will consider whether goods now in bond can, under Act XXV of 1836, be removed without the consent of the owners.

4. The Board will act on Section XV of the law above noted, at their discretion.

5. The Customs' sheds should be placed in proper repair at once.

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

No 19 Ref December 1861 f. 136-137
5 October 1861 f. 76-77

(3)

Rec 1861 Department.
Rec'd Gov'r for November.

No: 2598

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 21st October 1861.
Despatched.
Received. 6 November 3

1 Enc 1 Returned 14-1-62
on Mem

No. 5,775.

Submitting certain letters from the Collector of Sea Customs, and recommending that he be authorized to notify that only casks and cases of liquor in bond will be received into the Government Bonding Warehouse, and that other goods must be bonded in private licensed warehouses.

From the Ag. Dy. Chief Engineer
d/20. March 62 C. No 809 in
Bro. 26 - R. 658.

With an Order
No 2171 - 16 November

shoeld be placed
in proper repair
at once.

Fort St George
16th Nov 1861
14 Copies to
Board of Revenue Chief &
Chief Engineer
Editors Table.

No 167 & 168

Cy Mov. R15

No 2171

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The Customs Sheds

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