

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 952

Press
Mis.

458, 459

Dated

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th April 1861.*

No. 458. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Political Department, dated 24th April 1861, No. 212 :—

*Communicating Order passed on the letter from
the Cochin Chamber of Commerce regarding
the disadvantages under which the trade
of Cochin labors, with respect to duty in
comparison to the Ports of Alleppy and
Mallipooram situated in the neighbouring
Native States.*

(Vide Political Proceedings, 24th April 1861,
Nos. 65, 66.)

No. 459. ORDER THEREON, 27th April 1861, No. 952.

Ordered to be communicated to the Board of Revenue for information.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,

Deputy Secretary to Government.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from C. E. MIRUS, Esq., Chairman to the Cochin Chamber of Commerce, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Cochin, 3rd April 1861.

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 Mallapobram, 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 1 per cent. to the Travancore Government, a like duty of 4 per cent. 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 4 per cent. 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 through these Chowkies, is very considerable indeed.

On the other hand, the produce of Travancore can be exported from Allepy on payment of one duty of 4 per cent. only and if exported to Colombo, can be re-exported in Bond from thence, without the payment of any duty whatever to the British Government.

Cochin produce can be dealt with in the same way; the only difference being, that the saving of duty would be 3 per cent. (British export duty), whereas on Travancore produce shipped at Alleppy, it is 7 per cent. (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.

1st. Because the tariff value at which duty was levied in British Cochin especially on Coconut oil was very low.

2ndly. Because in former years, the collection of duty in the two Rajah's frontier Chowkies, 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 Chowkies 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 on produce shipped from this port is so small, that the saving that can be effected by shipping from Circar 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 Travancore has found its way to this port, all being taken to Alleppy, to be exported from there, as the Cochin Sircar demands the extra duty of 4 per cent. 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 Travancore, or that some 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 tax on the produce, without giving an adequate benefit to the Revenues of the Native States. If no 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.

ORDER THEREON, 24th April 1861, No. 212.

Resolved that the above letter be referred to the Resident of Travancore and Cochin for his views on the subject to which it relates.

Mr. Maltby will also state what are the Sircar frontier Custom Houses alluded to by the Cochin Chamber of Commerce, and what amount of duty has been collected at each of them annually for the last five years, and forward a sketch map exhibiting their position.

(True Extract.)


Chief Secretary.

To the Resident of Travancore and Cochin.
,, Cochin Chamber of Commerce.
,, Revenue Department, for information.

Received 1861 (Albany)
of good for and
N.Y. 1861

Disbursed }
 Received }
 24th 1861.

Ms. A. 9. 2. 27. 2. April.
Dear Sir, with a kind remembrance
of my wife & Mrs. W. I am
Commending you to God.

passed on the 11th inst. for the
 Cochin Extension of Commerce
 regarding the dis-arrangement
 which the trade of Cochin
 Labour, with respect to the
 in comparison to the ports
 of Malabar and the Malabar
 situated in the neighbouring
 of the two States.

Wittan Order

Ms. A. 9.2. v. 8, p. 59.

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Understand to be concerned
in relation to the Government of
the information.

~~to Mr. J. C.~~

15 Copies to the Board of New
South Wales: Oct. 24. 1877.