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Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 23rd December 1862.

No. 351. Read the following letter from F. C. BROWN, Esq., to J. D. SIM, Esq., Revenue Secretary to Government, dated Anjarakandy, 8th December 1862:—

SIR,

1. My letter of the 1st June, on the Cardamum farm, has been circulated without my knowledge in print from England. From some public comments made upon it, I learn that its tone is considered stronger than the case stated warrants. I should be much pained if the Government should think that I made a case. Nothing was further from my intention, and in proof that the most questionable part was not produced, I send translations of two Bonds of the kind exacted from all Cardamum growers; the first in the year 1828 by the Cardamum Farmer of that day, the second in 1859 by the present Farmers in the first year of their farm. In demanding these Bonds (the first is one on a Stamp) it is clear that the successive Farmers did no more than they were authorized and empowered from the institution of the farm to the present time, nor enforced more than a main condition granted to them for the protection of their interests, spread over a wide face of the province, and very difficult of personal supervision. On the other hand it is made to appear that Bonds, under which the grower binds himself under the most stringent possible conditions, to deliver up to the Farmer every pod of his Cardamums, and to take for them the price fixed by the Collector without his knowledge or concurrence, are not only entered into by him voluntarily and of his own accord, but are spontaneously dictated by him and taken down by a third person: each Bond winding up with the declaration, duly witnessed and attested, that the giver consents to forfeit the price of his Cardamums, and make good any loss, and suffer any punishment and any mulct decreed by the Collector, if he, or any of his servants, shall, on the complaint of the Farmer, be found guilty of any fraud or wrongful act!

2. The case does not even end here. Until Marquis Dalhousie abolished the duties from port to port in India, there was a Provincial Custom's Tariff in force in Malabar, according to which all goods and produce, save six specially excepted, paid a duty of 8 per cent., whether on export or import. The six exceptions were the chief articles of local raw produce. The duty charged upon them varied from 10 per cent. the lowest rate, to 15 per cent. the highest. Wainád and Coorg Cardamums paid 12 per cent., first sort Wainád at a valuation of Rupees 700 per Candy, first sort Coorg at a valuation of Rupees 650. The *export* duty upon each respectively was, therefore, Rupees 84 and Rupees 78 per Candy. In the same list, "Coromandel, Travancore and Manarghaut Cardamums" were entered and valued at Rupees 400 per Candy. The *import* duty upon them was Rupees 48 per Candy, or Rupees 36 and 30 less than was charged on the two first. These measures were specifically sanctioned by the Revenue Board of that day, and carried out by successive Collectors, while the Customs Managers were strictly prohibited from giving, or permitting to be taken, a copy of the excepted list, or of the Provincial Tariff in which last the Cotton piece goods enumerated, subject to duty, amounted to 611 different kind.

3. "These things have mine eyes beheld." I hope for pardon if, old as I am, the blood courses through my veins and rushes to my pen, when, even now, I think or write of them.

P. S.—Since I wrote, the French have found Cardamums in Abyssinia.

No. 63.

This Bond is given to Parsee Darasha Cursetjee, the Cardamum Farmer, by Vyl Soopy, ~~inhabitant of Mootoonaad Hobly in Wainád Talook,~~ and the servant of Paraporn Cunhy Amud of Cotyam Talook. As you have rented from Government the Cardamum farm for the year 1828 (1004), I do hereby engage to collect, in company with the Peon you appoint, the Cardamums of every kind, good and bad, so that not one pod shall be lost or stolen, wheresoever produced in the following forests (Here six are named). I writing an account each day of what are collected and measured, and each day delivering that account to your Peon. I also engage to make a drying floor in the forests, there to dry and prepare the Cardamums according to your instructions: I engage to measure them in the presence, and to the satisfaction of your Peon; to pack them in his presence, to affix my seal and his to the packages, and in company with him to take them to the place fixed on by you for weighing and receiving them, according to former usage, and then to receive the price fixed by Proclamation for Ryots' Cardamums.

I will neither myself collect, nor allow any of my people to collect, Cardamums, or to dry them by stealth in any other drying floor but only in the floor abovementioned, and in the presence of your Peon. Neither will I with the connivance of the Peon, or of the jungle people, the Koorgees, the Koorchiers, or the Punneers, barter any of your Cardamums with the shopkeepers for supplies, nor sell any for money, nor hide any, nor give any away in presents. If any of these things are proved against me, and you suffer consequent loss, I will make good the loss in money.

I further engage to receive with your Peon any Cardamums which other persons may bring on your account, to measure and forward them to you day by day. If I do not act up to this engagement, and any wrongful acts be proved against me, I agree to forfeit the price of the Cardamums produced in the above forests in the year 1828 (1004). After I have weighed and delivered the Cardamums of the above forests, and have received from you their price, if you learn that either I, or any of my people, have been guilty of fraud, I will give back the money, and if any act of mine be proved contrary to this Bond, I agree to suffer any punishment and fine which, on your complaint, the Government may decree. In witness, I, of my own accord have signed this Bond in the presence of two witnesses, the 13th November 1828 (30th Toolam 1004).

(Signed.) V. SOOPY.

I, P. Moideen Cootty of Mahe, have written this Bond at Soopy's dictation.
Witness 1. A. SARVEY.
„ 2. P. AMOTTEE.

The Stamp of the Bond was sold to the Farmer, Darash, four years beore execution.

Fasli 1269 (1859).

This Bond is given by P Cootty Atta of Cottyam Talook, to K. Govinden Menon (and two others named), the Government Farmers of Cardamums.

I hereby engage to deliver all the Cardamums produced in 14 forests belonging to me, situated in the Monantana Amshum of the above Talook, agreeably to the order of your Agent, P. Pucky, or of any Peon Pucky may send. Having built a shed as in former years and in the same place, there prepared a drying floor, and spread the Cardamums upon it, I engage to deliver to the Peon an account, written day by day by my Manager himself, of all the Cardamums dug up each day. When the gathering is over, and all the stray Cardamums of every description have been carefully gleaned up and brought in, I will let the Agent know. I will have the Cardamums washed and garbled in the presence of any person the Agent may send, separating the light and damp from the rest. I will have the whole taken to the place fixed upon for weighing them, and having delivered them according to the Maund of 28lbs. I will receive payment for them agreeably to the Proclamation published to the Ryots. I further engage not to dry any Cardamums in any concealed drying floor, not to bury, nor hide any, not to give away any in presents, not to sell any to any person whatever: not myself to do any one of these things nor suffer them to be done by any body else. If I am proved guilty of any one of them, I consent to forfeit the price of all the Cardamums which may be produced in the above 14 forests in the year 1035 (1859), and I agree to suffer such further punishment and fine as the Sirkar may adjudge.

In witness of the above conditions having been agreed to by me of my own free will, I have signed this Bond at Cotyet before two witnesses, this 14 Kanee 1035 (21st September 1859).

(Signed.) P. COOTY ATTA.

Witness 1———
„ 2———

No. 352. ORDER THEREON, 23rd December 1862, No. 2,681.

Forwarded to the Board of Revenue in continuation of the Proceedings of Government 27th June 1862, No. 1,412, with a request that they will submit the report called for in that Order at an early date.

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

No. 2681.
Forwarded to the Board of Revenue in continuation of the Proceedings of Government 27th June 1862 No. 1412 with a request that they will submit the report called for in that Order at an early date.

Fort St. George
23 October 1862

14 Copies
Board of Revenue Oct 24
J. C. Brown

27th June/62 Nos 408-409 Revenue 1862 Vol.
Pkt. of Govt Proceedings
No 3468

From
Miss H. C. Brown

Dated 8th December
Received 16th " 1862.
E. I.

120.669+
120-21.69

Enclosing translation of two Bonds taken from the Cardamom growers by the Farmers and giving certain particulars regarding the Cardamom Farms in Malabar.

No 351 to 357.

A. 2681-23 Dec

W. Maude Esq.