M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

---

## Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 649. 650 — Press / ~~Mis.~~

395. 398

Dated 24 . 3 . 1862

**Not to be folded or roughly handled**

3. On the abolition of the transit duties it was considered advisable to impose a duty on the importation of certain articles of consumption of which Salt was one, and a duty of Rupees 1-8-0 per Maund of 3,200 tolahs weight was with the sanction of the Supreme Government directed to be levied on all Salt which should be imported into the Province of Nagpore from and after the 1st May 1861.

4. The principle was not a new one, it had been followed in Bengal and the North Western Provinces, and the duty was leviable on all Salt whether imported from Madras, Bombay, or the North West.

5. There has been hitherto no perceptible decrease in the import of this article, nor is any anticipated, the duty amounting to only seven pie on the seer of sixteen chittacks is so slight that there is no danger of the consumption being checked, and so long as the demand exists I see no reason to fear that this duty will in any degree check the importation from the Eastern Coast, as anticipated by Mr. Forbes.

6. The improvement of the communications between this Province and the Districts forming the Northern Circars has been for some time under consideration, and I have no doubt that the Brinjaries will ere long find that they are not the sole carriers on this line. Moreover, the majority of the Brinjaries who carry on a trade in Salt reside in the Raepore District of this Province, from whence they carry grain and cotton to the coast, and it is on their return that they import Salt; it is usually so arranged between them and the Collector of the Duty that the payment thereof shall be suspended till the Salt is sold to the wholesale dealers. In point of fact, therefore, the immediate weight of the impost does not fall on the carriers, but on the traders who purchase the Salt from them on their return.

---

No. 397. ORDER THEREON, 24th March 1862, No. 649.

Under the circumstances stated by the Commissioner of Nagpore, the Governor in Council withdraws the objections urged in Government Order, dated 28th February 1862, No. 446.

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

---

Orderded that the following letter be despatched.

No. 398. From J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, to the Commissioner of Nagpore, dated 24th March 1862, No. 650.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of Major Snow's letter of the 12th instant, No. 424, furnishing information regarding the levy of duty on Salt imported into the Nagpore Territories, and in reply to inform you that under the circumstances therein stated, the Governor in Council withdraws the objections urged in my letter of the 28th February 1862, No. 447.

## *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 24th March 1862.*

Read the following letters :—

No. 395. From G. S. FORBES, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Chetterpore, 8th March 1862, No. 45 :—

SIR,

1. From the accompanying copy of a letter from the Commissioner of Nagpore, the Government will observe that a transit duty of 1½ Rupee on every Indian Maund of Salt is levied in the Nagpore frontier under authority of the Supreme Government.

2. The enclosures which accompanied my letters of the 12th ultimo and 1st instant, Nos. 28 and 35, show that the effect of this measure will probably be to diminish the trade, and thus while prejudicing the Salt Revenue which this District contributes to the Imperial Treasury, the impost is likely to disappoint the expectations formed regarding it as a branch of Revenue in Nagpore.

3. The monopoly price of Madras Salt was lately raised 8 Annas or 50 per cent. on the Maund, the Nagpore transit duty adds another 150 per cent., so that the population of Nagpore will now pay 200 per cent. more for their Salt than before. It will be observed also that the Brinjary trader has to increase his outlay in the same enormous ratio before he can realize a single pice; with this formidable disadvantage to add to the hardships and perils of their vocation, it is not surprising that the tribe should talk of withdrawing their pack cattle from the trade in thousands.

4. I will only add in further illustration of the hazard to which important interests are subjected by this measure, that cotton, wheat and other grains, the produce of the interior, find their way to the coast on the same cattle which return laden with Salt, and the check inflicted on the carrying trade will of necessity impede the export of these products.

—

From Lieutenant-Colonel J. K. SPENCE, Commissioner of Nagpore Division, to G. S. FORBES, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, dated Nagpore, 24th February 1862, No. 357, Miscellaneous No. 44.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 5, dated the 12th instant, together with its enclosure, and in reply to inform you that under instructions from the Supreme Government, a duty of one Rupee and eight Annas (1-8) per Maund of 3,200 tolahs is levied on all Salt imported, from whatever quarter, into this territory.

—

No. 396. From Major R. T. SNOW, Deputy Commissioner, 1st Class, in charge Commissioner's Office to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Nagpore, 12th March 1862, No. 424, Miscllaneous No. 50.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter noted in the margin* with its enclosures, requesting information relative to the practice in force in Nagpore, regarding the levy of duty on Salt imported from the Coast Districts of the Madras Presidency, and in reply to communicate for the information of His Excellency the Governor of Madras in Council as follows.

* Letter No. 447, dated 28th February 1862.

2. Prior to the 1st May 1861, there was no special tax levied on Salt imported into the Province of Nagpore, but under the Mahratta rule, and up to the close of the year 1860, a transit duty was levied on all articles imported inclusive of Salt.

Revenue Department.

To,

The Secretary to the
Govt of India

Sir; I am directed to forward for submission to the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council the accompanying communications from the Collector of Ganjam regarding the levy of a duty of Rs 1½ per Indian Maund on Salt imported from Madras into the Nagpore territories—

A representation has been made on the subject to the Commissioner of Nagpore but as that officer has informed the Collector of Ganjam that the

There are two points to be considered in this—
in the first place it appears that the duty levied in Nagpore is only sufficient to bring up the amount to that levied on all the inhabitants of Bengal & Central India
I cannot think then that we have any reasonable complaint in addition to our duty which by the way is paid by the inhabitants & not the Govt of that district impose upon the inhabitants a duty which must raise the price to that paid by the northern Provinces generally.
In the second place I think it would be unwise to put the question at issue by a proposal that our Salt should be bonded and the duty returned upon it that sold in Nagpore—a still more

the duty is levied under the orders of the Supreme Govt the Governor in Council deems it necessary to await his reply to the communication.

You are aware that the monopoly price of Madras Salt is now 1/2 per Indian Maund, and as its transport from the coast to Nagpore is difficult and expensive the levy of a further duty of the same amount on the frontier must have a most injurious effect on the Salt trade and must in a great measure neutralize the expenditure incurred by this Govt on the roads leading into Nagpore and on the Upper Godavery.

The Sales at one Depôt alone shew a falling off in the single month of February of Rupees 40,000 and the Brinjarees declare their intention of withdrawing from the trade. These persons however bring down to the produce of Nagpore to the coast and if they are prevented by excessive duties on Salt from conveying it to Nagpore as a return load, they must charge for the carriage of Nagpore produce a sum sufficient for its conveyance to the coast and for the return of their unladen bullocks.

Thus the result of the double duty will be injury alike to the trade of Nagpore & Madras.

The

3

complacement proposed namely that the Govt of Nagpur should be allowed to remit down to the coast that is that Indirects & Sayer and Nagpore should be transferred to Nagpore — It seems that under the circumstances, any that instead of 1/2 per maund Salt should be levied the amount is only sufficient to keep the Salt at the Bengal price the matter had better be allowed to rest as it is.

JR

Under the information now before Govt Sessions with the President as to letting the matter rest. The imposition of the very high Salt Duty in Nagpore is likely soon to be the cause of much inquiry and if this Govt should in the matter by adopting the Supreme Govt a decision may be shown to whom the Traders generally instead of letting on salt go into Nagpore at the Boundary rate The

The Governor
in Council does not at
all question the right
of the Rajpore authorities
to levy the duty ~~[illegible]~~
but trusts that a con-
-sideration of its in-
-jurious effects on both
Governments will lea-
to its abandonment.-

J. D. S

To Govt of India

Relative to the [illegible]
a duty on Salt [illegible]
=ed into Nagpore ter[illegible]

5

Revenue Separate

No. 649.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
under date the 24th March 1862.

Read the following
letters.

From the Collector of Sangaim

Submits copy of a
letter from Commissioner
of Nagpore intimating that
transit duty on Salt is
levied under order of
Supreme Govt and reports
the loss entailed consc=
=quently on the Revenue of
the District.

(Here enter 8 March/62
No 405)

From Major R. S. Lucas
Asst Commissioner 1st Class
in charge Commissioner's office

Agreeably to orders
furnished information re=
=lative to the practice in
Nagpore regarding the levy
of duty on Salt imported
from the coast Districts
of the Madras Presidency.

(Here enter 12 March/62
No 424)

Under the cir=
=cumstances stated by
the

the Commissioner of
Nagpore the Governor
in Council withdraws
the objections urged
in G.O. dated 28th
February 1862 No 446.

J D N

4 Copies
To the Bd of Rev Dispatch — Copies of Encls Dispatch
Ch Collector of Sangaum Disp 34

18/10
5

Rev Dept

Recd 24th March 1862

No 650.

To The Commissioner
of Nagpore

Sir

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of Major Innes's letter of the 12 instant No 424, furnishing information regarding the levy of duty on Salt imported into the Nagpore Territories, and in reply to inform you that under the circumstances therein stated, the Governor in Council withdraws the objections urged in my letter of the 28 February 62 No 449

Fort St George
26th March 62

I have &c
J. H. S.

Revenue 1862 Dept
No 7 Sent for collation.

No 649.

From the Under Secretary to Govt
Dated 24 March 62

Regarding the levy of duty on Salt—

Rec'd 26 March 62
28-2-62
" 20-3-62
12-3-62

No 395 at 397.

Revenue 1862 Dept.
Pro: of Govt. for March
N. 650.

To the Commissioner
of Nagpore.
Dy 24th March 1862.

N. 398.

Acknowledging receipt
of Major Snow's letter of the
12th Instant, No 424, furnish-
ing information regarding
the levy of duty on Salt imported
into the Nagpore Territories,
and intimating in reply
that under the circumstances
therein stated the objections
urged in letter of this Govt. dated
25th Feb.y 1862 No 347 are withdrawn.

L