

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 770	<u>Press</u> <u>Mis.</u>
110-111	
Dated 7 - 4 - 1862	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
7th April 1862.*

No. 110. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st March 1862,
No. 1,420:—

Read the following letter from J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, to W. HUDLE-
STON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated 12th February 1862,
No. 61.

SIR,

1. With reference to the Board's order of the 30th ultimo, No. 708, subjoined to the Pro-
ceedings of Government under date the 28th idem, No. 121, I have the honor to forward a copy of
the entire report and finding of the Deputy Collector, Mr. Underwood, on the result of the inquiry
held by him, into the charge of over-valuation of goods at the Tuticorin Custom House, and
that proper receipts are not granted for payments made.

2. The 1st paragraph of the Deputy Collector's finding, about the duty charged on the
planks imported from Colachi in Travancore, not being clearly or fully expressed, I beg to explain
the same.

3. Certain planks were landed at Tuticorin on the 3rd June, as per Clearance granted at the
Custom House at Colachi. The owner having no money on hand to pay the Customs duty,
requested the Chowkeydar to give him five of the planks for the purpose of selling them and pay-
ing the Customs duty, and the Chowkeydar complied with his request. After four days the
owner came to the Chowkeydar, and requested him to give him four planks more, but the
Chowkeydar refused and ordered him to pay the duty at once on 71 planks, being the number
given in the Manifest and Clearance. Some days afterwards the owner brought Rupees 38-1-7
and paid the same to the Chowkeydar, but on counting the planks, as there were three in excess
of the number given in the Manifest, the Chowkeydar demanded an extra duty of Rupees 4-0-10.
The owner was unwilling to pay the same in the first instance, on the ground that the three planks
formed part of those given in the Manifest, but the Chowkeydar having insisted on the payment
of extra duty, he paid it after a few days delay, and the duty was brought to the public account
on two different days, viz., the 28th June, and 6th August, being the dates on which the duty
was paid, and two Rowannahs, were granted for the same.

4. From this it will be observed that the usual Rowannahs were granted for the sum of
Rupees 38-1-7 and 4-0-10, which make the total of Rupees 42-2-5 paid by the parties.

5. There is a pretty large European community at Tuticorin, and the merchants would not
fail to bring to my notice any marked irregularity, if such really existed in the Custom House.

From W. E. UNDERWOOD, Esq., Deputy Collector of Tinnevely, to J. SILVER, Esq.,
Collector of Tinnevely, dated Tuticorin, 14th November 1861.

SIR,

1. I have the honor herewith to forward the result of my inquiry on the several charges
preferred against the Sea Customs subordinates of Tuticorin, by one Motha Brothers of this place,
which I hope will meet with your approval.

2. I take the liberty of here stating, that I am of opinion that the charges were brought
through enmity, by complainant; and I think you will on perusal of the documents see the absur-
dity of some of the charges made by the prosecutor. One charge, that of receiving a fee of (1)
one Rupee (2) two Annas, for Port clearance by the Gumáshta, Shroff, and Peons, I consider as
established, but there is no direct proof; each witness states on solemn affirmation that they have
on several occasions paid the sum, but cannot name any witness, who ever saw them give the
money, so there is actually only their individual evidence to the statement; I should have recom-
mended a punishment for this to the parties receiving the amount, but I think a sufficient punish-
ment will be made in the removal of the parties, for although no doubt remaining on my mind
that they did receive the fees as stated, yet it seems to have been a mamul here, to give the fee,
and I think it was oftener tendered, than asked for, and was received as a matter of course,
without any thought by the parties, that they were acting wrongfully.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
7th April 1862.*

3. On the other charge of receiving fees for onions, &c., there is merely the statement of the parties themselves that they have paid them; and they admit that for eighteen months, this practice has been discontinued. I therefore consider it is unnecessary to take any further notice of this subject.

4. All the other charges are entirely without foundation, and were brought through malice. I think perhaps that formerly the Chowkeydar may have not been so attentive to his duties, as he has lately been obliged to be since the Department has been placed under the direct supervision of a European Officer on the spot, and that he is now more watchful to the interests of the State than formerly, and one or two parties, complainant amongst them, having on one or two occasions lately, endeavoured to evade the Customs duties, found their goods were seized and confiscated: accordingly these charges have been fabricated with the intent of ousting him; when they hoped the next party appointed in this place, would be deterred from watching too narrowly their illegitimate proceedings.

5. The first signature in the Petition from Colombo, was signed by complainant's brothers, the other signatures cannot be verified, for the parties if residents here at all, are now absent, the above witness watched the proceedings on behalf of his brother now absent in Colombo.

6. The witness has applied to me for a copy of the judgment. I have endorsed his Petition as dismissed, and referred him to you.

7. In conclusion, I beg to state that for the last eight days I have pitched one of my tents at the Custom house for the inquiry of this case, and also to see the manner business is conducted in the Customs house, the whole of which has gone through my hands, with one or two exceptions, which I have rectified. I believe all to be carried on in the most satisfactory manner.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. SILVER, Collector.

In Cons. 29th January 1862, No. 135.

1. Ordered to be submitted to Government with reference to their Order, dated 28th January 1862, No. 121. Revenue Department.

2. The Board are confirmed in their opinion that no further notice of the Petition is needed than has been taken. The Collector will notify publicly at Tuticorin that the demand of the fees for Port Clearance formerly improperly received has been strictly prohibited, and that the receipt of them if proved will be punished by dismissal.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, Secretary.

No. 111.

ORDER THEREON, 7th April 1862, No. 770.

The Government coincide with the Board in thinking that no further action need be taken in this matter. The conduct of the Chowkidar, however, as apparent from the papers now submitted, does not show in quite so favorable a light as was to be inferred from the extract from Mr. Underwood's report sent up in the first instance.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

Jan. 28 January / 62. No 250-337.

Recd 1862. Department.
No. of Post for April.

No. 1830

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REFERENCE.

Dated 1st March 1862.
Despatched, 10 57
Received, 11 1/2
3 1/2 1/2

No. 1,430.

Submitting a letter from the Collector of
Thimereilly forwarding report of his Salt Depu-
ty on the result of the inquiry held by him in-
to the charge of over valuation of goods at the
Tuticorin Custom House, and directing the Col-
lector to notify publicly at Tuticorin that the
demand of the fees for Port Clearance formerly
improperly received has been strictly pro-
hibited.

18/11/61 4711-

As per Memo of 18/11/61

As per Memo of 18/11/61
With and Order

No. 770.

After Government

concerned with the Government. The
my hand was put to the action, and
belonging to the Government. The
meeting of the Government, but
very apparent from the paper
now enclosed, does not show in
quite as much as the Government was
the original from the Government
submitted upon the Government's
report, and also in the Government's

For the Government's

18/11/61

As per Memo of 18/11/61
The Government's
with the Government's