M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 688 — Press Mis.

337 338

Dated 25 June 1862

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 337. Read the following letter from C. BERNARD, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Fort William, Council Chamber, 11th March 1862, No. 2,145:—

SIR,

1. I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 387, dated the 22nd ultimo, submitting, with reference to the orders of the 8th June last, No. 7,443, a report on the appeal made by the Merchants of Cochin for a remission of duty on Cocoanut oil purchased for export prior to the publication of the new Tariff.

2. In reply, I am directed to inform you, that the Cochin Chamber of Commerce made a representation to this Government on the same subject, in October last, and that His Excellency the Governor General in Council then decided against a compliance with the application for refund of duty. A copy of this latter correspondence* is now forwarded for the information of the Government of Madras, and for communication to the Board of Revenue.

* Letter from Chairman of the Cochin Chamber of Commerce, dated 18th October 1861, and enclosure.
Letter to do. do. No. 14,127, dated the 28th November 1861.

From the Chairman of the Cochin Chamber of Commerce, to the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Revenue Department, Fort William, Calcutta, dated Cochin, 8th May 1861.

SIR,

At a General Meeting of this Chamber, it was resolved that I should address you on the subject of the severe loss the Mercantile Community of this place has sustained, through the sudden introduction of the new Export Tariff on the 20th December last, which raised the valuation of Cocoanut oil from 15 Rupees per candy of 5 cwt. to 14 Rupees per cwt., and materially increased that on other produce as well.

No notice was given that so very considerable an increase of valuation was to be established, and indeed such a course was the more unexpected in Cochin, from the fact that there are very strong reasons for the maintenance of a specially low Tariff here, which was in force prior to the 20th December before-mentioned.

Almost all the exports hence, from which the British Government draw a considerable revenue, consist of the produce of the neighbouring States of Travancore and Cochin, and have to bear the duties of these States in addition to that of the British Government.

It is customary to make contracts for goods to be shipped on two or three months' delivery, and oil especially must be stored for some time in casks to make the latter safe for shipment.

As the Mercantile Community had not the slightest intimation that such a great alteration in the Tariff was contemplated, the first cost of their purchases was based on calculations including the old Tariff; and the loss sustained by the different Houses on all goods thus contracted for before the 20th of December (the date that the *Government Gazette* with the new Tariff became law here) and cleared afterwards, amounts to about Rupees 15,000, a loss very heavy indeed considering the small number that has to bear it.

This Chamber has addressed the Government of Fort Saint George on this subject, praying for a return of duty on all such goods as can be clearly proved to have been purchased before the promulgation of the new Tariff, and cleared at a subsequent date, but that Government has replied that it is not competent to give the relief sought for, but that it is open to this Chamber to address the Government of India direct.

I beg, therefore, that you will bring this matter to the notice of His Excellency the Governor General in Council, that the claim of the mercantile community of this place for return of duty may be taken into consideration.

No. 248.

From the Chairman, Cochin Chamber of Commerce, to the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Revenue Department, Fort William, dated 18th October 1861.

I have the honor to enclose copy of this Chamber's letter to you, dated 8th May last, and to express the hope that the subject therein referred to will receive the early attention of Government.

No. 249.

From C. H. LUSHINGTON, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, to the Chairman of the Cochin Chamber of Commerce, No. 14,127, dated 28th November 1861.

1. I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 18th ultimo, and its enclosure, soliciting early consideration of the representation of the Cochin Chamber of Commerce, dated 8th May last, relative to the losses sustained by the mercantile community of that place, by the introduction of the new Export Tariff on the 20th December last.

2. In reply, I am to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General in Council sees no reason for allowing any refund of duty, under the circumstances represented.

Ordered, that a copy of the above letter be forwarded to Messrs. Lawson Brothers & Co., Cochin, in reply to their letter of the 8th May 1861.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. BERNARD,
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 338. ORDER THEREON, 25th April 1862, No. 888.

Ordered to be communicated to the Board of Revenue, with reference to the Proceedings of Government, dated 22nd February 1862, No. 386.

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

No. 2145

From C. H. LUSHINGTON, Esquire,
Secretary to the Government of India,
Financial Department;

To J. D. SIM, Esquire,
Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George.

Fort William, Council Chamber, the 11th March 1862.

Financial Department.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 387, dated the 22nd ultimo, submitting, with reference to the orders of the 8th June last, No. 7443, a report on the appeal made by the merchants of Cochin for a remission of duty on Cocoanut oil purchased for export prior to the publication of the new Tariff.

2. In reply, I am directed to inform you, that the Cochin Chamber of Commerce made a representation to this Government on the same subject, in October last, and that His Excellency the Governor General in Council then decided against a compliance with the application for refund of duty. A copy of this latter correspondence* is now forwarded for the information of the Government of Madras, and for communication to the Board of Revenue.

* Letter from Chairman of the Cochin Chamber of Commerce, dated 18th October 1861, and enclosure.
Letter to Ditto Ditto Ditto, No. 14127, dated the 28th November 1861.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

C. Secretary

Secretary to the Government of India.

Ex-888

Orders to be com-
-municated to the Board of Revenue
with reference to the Govt. of Ind's
Ltr dtd 22 Feby 1862 No 385.

Govt. of Ind
Ltr dtd 1862

Copy to the Govt of Ind
Dispd 25

Ex 337 & 338.

Ex-1862 Copies
Rec'd from Govt of India
Ex 1083.

From the Under Secy
to the Govt. of India

Dated 11th March
1862.
Recd 14th ditto

Ex-2 Ex-2105.

No 688 - 25 April

Forwarded for
the information of the
Govt of India for communica-
tion to the Revd Bd copy of
correspondence regard-
-ing the Appeal made
by the Merchants of
Cochin for remission of
duty on Cocoanut Oil
purchased for exportation
prior to the publica-
-tion of the New Tariff