M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 560 Press ~~Mis.~~

29-1-93

Dated 27 3 ~~19~~ 1893

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 27th March 1863.

No. 292. Read the following letter from G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Depart Fort Saint George, dated on circuit Cochin, 20th March 1863, No. 24 :—

SIR,

I have the honor to forward a communication* to your address, received this day, from the Chairman of the Cochin Chamber of Commerce.

* Dated 5th March 1863.

From J. H. BERRY, Esq., Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Chamber of Commerce, Cochin, 5th March 1863.

SIR,

1. At a General Meeting of the Chamber held this day, it was resolved to address you with reference to the unsatisfactory working of the present system adopted as regards Stamped paper.

2. I have now the honor to refer you to the former correspondence of the Chamber, as per margin, and the reply of the Under Secretary to the Government of India in which it is written—

Chairman's letter 30th October 1860.
Under Secretary's letter, dated Fort William, 11th December 1860.

"With respect however to the special inconvenience pointed out by the Chamber, at Cochin, I am desired to state that in the opinion of the President in Council, Merchants at out-ports should be permitted to deliver their forms to be stamped to the local Collector, and that he should be required to send them to the Presidency for the purpose. By the adoption of this course, there will be no charge for postage, and it will probably not be necessary for any Merchant at Cochin to keep on hand more than a ten days' supply."

3. In calling your attention to this extract I may remark, that this Chamber regrets to observe the proposition of the President in Council has been superseded by Section 20 of Act X 1862.

4. The Mercantile communities in the Mofussil towns have to contend with the same difficulties now as they had when the letter of this Chamber was written in October 1860, therefore the same argument still holds good.

5. It is essential to every Mercantile Establishment to use its own forms of Bills of Lading and Bills of Exchange as these constitute a great safeguard against fraud. To get these stamped we have now to pay heavily for postage and other expenses besides having to wait from 20 to 30 days for the return of our stamped forms ; but even if we would forego the great advantage of using our own forms, we could latterly not have obtained the usual stamped paper for the several description of Bills of Exchange and Bills of Lading from the Licensed Stamp Vendor, the Revenue Sheristadar of this place ; and several Merchants here would have been compelled to stop their shipping operations on account of the long continued want of stamped Bills of Lading, had it not been for the friendly assistance given by others who fortunately had a large stock on hand.

6. To guard against any such emergency it is necessary for each individual Firm to lock up a comparatively large sum in stamped paper the use of which cannot be depended upon.

No. 293. ORDER THEREON, 27th March 1863, No. 590.

Forwarded to the Board of Revenue for report, especially on the alleged want of Stamped Bills of Exchange and Lading at Cochin.

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

No. 24.

Malabar Collector's Office
On Circuit.
Cochin 20th March 1863.

From,
C. A. Ballard Esqr
Collector of Malabar

To,
J. D. Sim Esqre
Secretary to Government
Revenue Depart.
Fort St. George

Sir,

I have the honor to forward a Communication to your address, dated 5th March 163. received this day, from the Chairman of the Cochin Chamber of Commerce.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedt Servant

Collector.

No. 590.

Forwarded to the Govt. of Bengal
for report, on the alleged
want of Stamped Bills of
Exchange & Lading at
Cochin.

JBS

Fort St. George
27th March 1863

To Capts Commg Ports of Cochin & Calicut

Rev. 1863 dept.
No. 29 of Govt for No. 728.
Fish
the Collector of Malabar
&
the Secretary Bd of Rev.
Rev. dept.
Fort St. George

dated 20 March 1863.
Rec. 26th

Encl. B. Pun. 18 Jan
No. 24.
18/477.
" Jan. 1
Rec.

Forwarding a commn
from the Chairman
Chamber of Commerce

No. 590. 27 March
Ltr to Govt Madras

No. 292 & 293.