M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 772 793 Press Mis.

126-9

Dated 8. 6. ~~19~~ 1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 8th June 1863.

Read the following papers:—

No. 126. From W. FISHER, Esq., Resident of Travancore and Cochin, to Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated on circuit, Peermade, 9th April 1863, No. 28.

SIR,

1. The Port of Narakal in the territory of His Highness the Rajah of Cochin, and only three or four miles north of British Cochin, has, I believe, already attracted the notice of Government.

2. It is protected by a mud bank very similar to that at Alleppey. No surf breaks on the beach in the heaviest weather, and ships can at all seasons load and unload with perfect ease in the Roadstead.

3. Hence, when the bar Harbour of British Cochin is closed during the south-west monsoon, Narakal not only affords safety to shipping, but might be made available for the trade of the British Port if goods entered and cleared at the Custom House there, could be admitted duty free at British Indian ports, though in reality sent by back-water to and shipped from Narakal.

4. It is the intention of the Burmah Steam Navigation Company to run their vessels throughout the south-west monsoon, and the Cochin Agents of this Company are anxious to know how far Narakal is open to their enterprize.

5. His Highness the Rajah of Cochin is willing and anxious to afford every facility to the British Cochin trade consistent with the due protection of the revenue of the State.

6. A light would be placed on the flag staff already erected at Narakal, and a space on the beach would be allotted (as a temporary measure) for a coal shed.

7. The Circar is willing to forego port dues, and whilst demanding duty on goods landed, in order to protect the Customs Revenue, will grant drawback on all such goods entering British-Cochin by back-water.

8. There is a question, however, as to whether goods entered and cleared at the British Custom House would be admitted duty free into British Indian ports under existing laws, when in reality shipped at a foreign port.

9. It may be urged that in this instance the British Government lose nothing by admitting goods so shipped duty free.

10. Having once entered British Cochin through the Circar back-water, goods shipped thence would of course be admitted into British Indian ports duty free.

11. The Cochin Government having already collected their export duty on goods passing their Chowkies when entering British Cochin, lose nothing by allowing then free passage by back-water to Narakal, and their export thence.

12. It is no doubt a matter of considerable importance to render this seaboard practically open throughout the year, and whilst I am sure that Government will approve the liberality with which the Cochin Circar are prepared to act towards the Burmah Steam Navigation Company, I venture to hope that His Excellency the Governor in Council may deem it advisable to adopt measures for removing any obstacle the law may impose, when that law is already a dead letter in respect to the traffic in question, and the proposed arrangements would, if carried out, increase the prosperity of British Cochin.

No. 127. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st May 1863, No. 3,009.

Read the following letter from G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 4th May 1863, No. 86.

SIR,

1. Some miles north of British Cochin, on the shore of the Cochin Rajah's territory, lies the mud bank of Narakal. The action of the Sea at this place seems deadened by the quantity of mud held in solution, and the consequence is, that whilst the monsoon storms on a lee-shore render the resort of vessels to the coast generally dangerous from June to September, at Narakal they can lie throughout.

2. With this explanation I forward an extract from the report of the Master Attendant at Cochin. It seems that, during the monsoon months, ships unable to lie at British Cochin, to receive cargo from that port, are likely to proceed to Narakal, a place which at present has no trade of its own, and lying there load from British Cochin. But the question arises whether goods actually shipped at Narakal (a place in the Cochin Circar), though really from British Cochin, can claim the privilege of the port-to-port trade; or whether they must be looked on as shipped at a foreign port, and be consequently liable to duty on re-import at another port in British India.

3. I think it desirable to give all legitimate encouragement to those inclined to break the utter extinction of coast trade during the monsoon, and I see no objection to goods cleared from the British Cochin Customs House, and covered by its manifests, being shipped at Narakal; the sanction of the Collector being granted in the case of each vessel for this proceeding.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Extract from a letter from the Master Attendant of Cochin, dated 1st May 1863, No. 119.

The mud flat at Narakal presents unchangingly the same features of serenity, safety and convenience that were apparent when they first attracted notice. A flag staff lately erected, now marks the place, and sailing directions, to discover the anchorage, have been framed and published for the guidance of ships. A question which perhaps belongs more to the Customs than the Marine Department, and which from its complicated nature, is deserving of consideration, is involved in ships loading at Narakal for any of the British Indian ports. Narakal possesses no trade of its own; and only at such times when vessels are unable to remain in these roads, from stress of weather, they will proceed to that anchorage to load, and every package shipped there is likely to be cleared from the British Customs House at Cochin. The question, therefore, is, will goods, shipped under such circumstances, be liable to duty on importation to a British Indian Port, as they were shipped from the Rajah's country, and as such from a foreign port; or will such goods be dealt with as if exported from British Cochin, and vessels which may load at Narakal be permitted to clear from this Customs House. I am induced to bring this matter to notice, as inquiries have been made at this Office on the subject. As the question is likely to arise any day, it would be satisfactory to obtain a decision.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. C. BURNELL,
Assistant, for Collector.

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1. The Board resolve to submit the above question for the decision of Government.

2. Every facility for turning to account the natural advantages of the Narakal Bank should be afforded, and there appears to be no objection whatever to the Collector's proposal as limited by him.

3. The Board trust that the Customs convention with the Cochin and Travancore Circars may be completed at an early date, but meanwhile the precautions provided by the Collector will prevent evasion of the British duty, as only the goods manifested as cleared from Cochin can claim the privileges of the interport free trade.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 128. ORDER THEREON, 8th June 1863, No. 992.

1. The Governor in Council sanctions the arrangement proposed by the Collector and Board of Revenue during the monsoon months, provided that the goods are duly cleared from the Customs House at British Cochin and manifested for actual shipment off Narakal. The sanction of the Collector in each case seems unnecessary and would prove very inconvenient in many cases. It may be left to the Chief Customs Officer at British Cochin to allow goods to

be shipped as above proposed and to adopt all necessary precautions against any abuse of the privilege.

2. The Board will circulate this Order to the Collectors of Sea Customs, and the Government will communicate the arrangement to the Government of Bombay.

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

Ordered that the following letter be despatched.

No. 129. From J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, dated 8th June 1863, No. 993.

SIR,

1. I am directed to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the accompanying correspondence regarding the shipment during the monsoon months of goods cleared from British Cochin at the adjoining port of Narakal.

2. The Bombay Government are doubtless aware that during the monsoon ships are often unable to remain in the exposed Roadstead of British Cochin. Two or three miles north of British Cochin is the small place called Narakal, where the action of the sea is deadened by a mud flat, between which and the shore ships can lie and load when the Cochin Roadstead is unsafe. Narakal is, however, situated in the Cochin State and is therefore "Foreign territory." Consequently goods exported thence are liable to duty when imported into any British Indian port. Arrangements have, however, been made with His Highness the Rajah of Cochin for the transit across the very narrow slip of land on which Narakal is situated of goods from British Cochin, and the Government have authorized their Officers to allow goods cleared from the Customs House of British Cochin, and manifested as intended for actual shipment at Narakal, to be shipped at the latter place during the monsoon.

3. His Highness the Rajah of Cochin levies duties on imports into and exports from his own territories. The precautions adopted at British Cochin leave no opening for any evasion of British duties, and the Rajah would at once tax articles not cleared from British Cochin, passing into or out of Narakal. The concession is really no more than allowing goods during the monsoon to be embarked in a sheltered Roadstead quite close to Cochin.

4. I am to request that goods shipped under the above circumstances from Narakal and covered by manifests from the British Cochin Customs House may be treated in Bombay ports as if they had actually been shipped at British Cochin.

No. 3,009.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 21st May 1863.

Read the following letter from G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 4th May 1863, No. 86:—

1. Some miles north of British Cochin, on the shore of the Cochin Rajah's territory, lies the mud bank of Narakal. The action of the sea at this place seems deadened by the quantity of mud held in solution, and the consequence is, that whilst the monsoon storms on a lee-shore render the resort of vessels to the coast generally dangerous from June to September, at Narakal they can lie throughout.

2. With this explanation I forward an extract from the report of the Master Attendant at Cochin. It seems that, during the monsoon months, ships unable to lie at British Cochin, to receive cargo from that port, are likely to proceed to Narakal, a place which at present has no trade of its own, and lying there load from British Cochin. But the question arises whether goods actually shipped at Narakal (a place in the Cochin Sarkar), though really from British Cochin, can claim the privilege of the port-to-port trade; or whether they must be looked on as shipped at a foreign port, and be consequently liable to duty on re-import at another port in British India.

3. I think it desirable to give all legitimate encouragement to those inclined to break the utter extinction of coast trade during the monsoon, and I see no objection to goods cleared from the British Cochin Customs House, and covered by its manifests, being shipped at Narakal; the sanction of the Collector being granted in the case of each vessel for this proceeding.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Extract from a letter from the Master Attendant of Cochin, dated 1st May 1863, No. 119.

The mud flat at Narakal presents unchangingly the same features of serenity, safety and convenience that were apparent when they first attracted notice. A flag-staff lately erected, now marks the place, and sailing directions, to discover the anchorage, have been framed and published for the guidance of ships. A question which perhaps belongs more to the Customs than the Marine Department, and which from its complicated nature, is deserving of consideration, is involved in ships loading at Narakal for any of the British Indian Ports. Narakal possesses no trade of its own; and only at such times when vessels are unable to remain in these roads, from stress of weather, they will proceed to that anchorage to load, and every package shipped there is likely to be cleared from the British Customs House at Cochin. The question, therefore, is, will goods, shipped under such circumstances, be liable to duty on importation to a British Indian Port, as they were shipped from the Rajah's country, and as such from a foreign Port; or will such goods be dealt with as if exported from British Cochin, and vessels which may load at Narakal be permitted to clear from this Customs House. I am induced to bring this matter to notice, as inquiries have been made at this Office on the subject. As the question is likely to arise any day, it would be satisfactory to obtain a decision.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. C. BURNELL,
Assistant, for Collector.

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1. The Board resolve to submit the above question for the decision of Government.

2. Every facility for turning to account the natural advantages of the Narakal Bank should be afforded, and there appears to be no objection whatever to the Collector's proposal as limited by him.

3. The Board trust that the Customs convention with the Cochin and Travancore Sirkars may be completed at an early date, but meanwhile the precautions provided by the Collector will prevent evasion of the British duty, as only the goods manifested as cleared from Cochin can claim the privileges of the interport free trade.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to G. A. Ballard, Esq., Collector of Malabar.

Rcd. J. Wright.

Revenue Department

No. 992.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 8th June 1863.

Read the following —

From the Collector of Customs Malabar —

Submitting for decision with the Board's remarks the question raised by the Collector of Malabar relative to goods shipped at Narakal Bank.

(Memorandum)

The Government are requested to favour the Board with their opinion whether the Collector of Malabar is correct in his interpretation of the Rules for the Coasting Trade, and whether the Board should issue instructions to the Collector of Malabar in accordance with his proposal.

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The Government are requested to favour the Board with their opinion whether the Collector of Malabar is correct in his interpretation of the Rules for the Coasting Trade, and whether the Board should issue instructions to the Collector of Malabar in accordance with his proposal.

Council sanction the arrangement proposed by the Collector and Board of Revenue during the known months, provided that the goods are duly cleared from the Customs House at British Cochin and manifested for actual shipment at Narakal. The Collector of the Collectorate in each case deemed necessary and

Rev. 1863. Department.

No. 1216.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

Dated 21st *May* 1863.
Despatched. 26
Received. 27

No. 3,009.

Submitting for decision with the Board's remarks the question raised by the Collector of Malabar relative to goods shipped at Narakal Bank.

The [illegible] made by the Collector on Rule 3 of the Rules and sanctioned by the Board is absolute — [illegible] time to time of the cargo [illegible] countersigned [illegible] the Port of Despatch [illegible] Port of Destination [illegible] Port of Arrival.

and would prove very inconvenient in many cases. It may be left to the Chief Customs officer at British Cochin to allow goods to be shipped as above proposed and to adopt all necessary precautions against any abuse of the privilege.

The Board will circulate this order to the Collectors of Sea Customs and the Govt will communicate the arrangement to the Govt of Bombay.

14 Copies To Mr B of Rev & Dec 1894
5 — Addl Copies
3 — To Govt of Bombay

No 993

To Secretary to Govt

Government of Bombay

Sir

I am directed by
Council for Affairs
to acquaint you
that Commercial Agent
at Cochin may
sanction arrangement
proposed by
Resident at Travancore
for shipping
Monsoon Months &
goods cleared from the
British Cochin Customs
House.

Rd 6

Revenue 1863 Dept.
Pro: of Govt for June.

No 992

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dated 8 June 1863

From Govt of Bombay
No 8 July 1863 C No 1404
Rec. — 28 — 1404

Sanctioning the
arrangement proposed
by the Resident of
Travancore and Cochin
for shipping, during
monsoon Months, &
goods cleared from the
British Cochin Customs
House.

No 126 & 128.

Two or three miles north of British Cochin is the small place called Narakal where the action of the sea is pleadened by a mud flat between which & the shore ships can lie and load when the Cochin road-stead is unsafe. Narakal is however situated in the Cochin state and is therefore "Foreign territory". Consequently goods exported thence are liable to duty when imported into any British Indian port. Arrangements have however been made with H.H. the Rajah of Cochin for the transit ~~through~~ across the very narrow slip of

land on which Narakal is situated of goods from British Cochin and the Govt have authorized their Officers to allow goods cleared from the ~~British~~ Customs House of British Cochin and manifested as intended for actual shipment at Narakal to be shipped at the latter place during the monsoon.

His H. the Rajah of Cochin levies duties on imports into and exports from his own territories. The precautions adopted at British Cochin leave no opening for any evasion

evasion of British duties and the Rajah would at once stop articles not cleared from British Cochin, passing into or out of Narakal. The concession is really no more than allowing goods during the monsoon to be embarked in a sheltered roadstead quite close to Cochin.

I am to request that goods shipped under the above circumstances from Narakal and covered by manifests from the British Customs House may be treated in Bombay ports as if they had actually been shipped at British Cochin.

From Govt. of Cochin
9th June 1863.

Revenue 1863 Sept.r
Pro: of Govt. for June
No. 993.

To
The Secretary to the
Government of Bombay.
Dated 8th June 1863.

Forwarding for information correspondence on the subject of ships at Surat clearing inwards in ballast, and clearing outwards from the British Custom Houses

Pro. No. 49-52
20-8-62
5-8-59
21-8-62
Marine Pro. No. 58-61
21-12-61
17-18
11-2-63
No. 129.