

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1703

Press

Mis.

246.247

Dated

16-9-1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th September 1864.*

No. 246. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th April 1864,
No. 2,085A.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Sea Customs, dated Madras, 4th April 1864,
No. 363:—

1. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Board's Proceedings of 23rd ultimo, No. 1,804, forwarding for report letter from the Chamber of Commerce to Government of the 21st ultimo, proposing certain alterations in Customs duties.

2. Corrugated galvanized iron appears to have been first imported in July 1863, and the subjoined Statement shows the value and duty thereon to the end of January 1864:—

IMPORTS.						
Value.			RS. A. P.			
1863, July	Rupees	3,190 at 10 per cent.,	319	0	0	
„ August	„	15,160 „	1,516	0	0	
„ September	„	2,625 „	262	8	0	
„ December	„	12,544 „	1,254	6	5	
1864 January	„	2,317 „	231	11	2	
Total..			35,836	„	3,583	9 7

The import of this article would, I believe, largely increase if the duty were lowered to 1 per cent., so that the actual loss of Revenue would not be very great.

3. With regard to other articles manufactured of iron, machinery, &c., which now pay 10 per cent. duty, it appears from the wording of Section 1, Act XXVI of 1863, and Sir C. Trevelyan's Financial Statement for 1863-64, that he contemplated such articles being passed on a duty of 1 per cent. The amount of duty on 92,583 Rupees worth of machinery imported in 1862-63 was only 1,596 Rupees, the rest having been admitted free; the extension of the same rule to all machinery would involve a very trifling loss of revenue.

4. The duty collected on all articles paying 10 per cent. has been calculated from September 1863 to February 1864 inclusive, as shown below:—

Value.		RS. A. P.		
1863, September	3,50,093 at 10 per cent.	35,009	4	0
„ October	3,20,832 „	32,083	2	3
„ November	3,13,312 „	31,331	2	7
„ December	4,02,434 „	40,243	6	6
1864, January	4,53,358 „	45,333	12	7
„ February	4,39,459 „	43,945	13	8
		22,79,488	2,27,948	9 7

A table of these duties could not be drawn out for five years, as the duties were 5 and 10 per cent. in 1858-59; the average monthly loss as shown by this table would amount to from 30 to 40,000 Rupees, or about 4 lacs annually.

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5. The subjoined Statement shows the values, and duties collected on Copper, Spelter, and all other metals for the last five years:—

ARTI- CLES.	1858-59.			1859-60.			1860-61.		
	Value.	Rate of duty.	Amount of duty.	Value.	Rate of duty.	Amount of duty.	Value.	Rate of duty.	Amount of duty.
Copper, &c.....	2,78,303	5 & 10 per ct.	15,378 20	2,18,825	10 per cent.	21,829 0 10	2,53,522	10 per cent.	25,265 1 11
Spelter	75,262	do.	7,214 7 6	1,27,577	do.	12,935 15 3	16,295	do.	1,629 7 9
Other metals...	5,53,012	do.	29,695 5 4	5,54,131	5 & 10 per ct.	56,691 1	66,40,090	do.	63,620 13 11
ARTICLES.				1861-62.			1862-63.		
Copper, &c...	...	...	...	3,29,253	10 per cent.	32,925 7 1	94,664	10 per cent.	9,466 13 5
Spelter	...	...	...	37,067	do.	3,706 9 10	25,822	do.	2,582 4 6
Other metals	...	...	...	5,68,327	do.	56,514 9	66,07,640	do.	60,476 5 11

A reduction to 1 per cent. would have involved an average loss of revenue of above 80,000 Rupees for the years 1859-60, 1860-61, and 1861-62. The loss in 1862-63 would have been about 63,000 Rupees.

1. Ordered to be submitted to Government with reference to their Proceedings dated 21st March 1864, No. 483, Revenue Department.

2. The Board are of opinion that the immediate reduction of duty on corrugated iron to 1 per cent. is expedient, and that the duty on other manufactured iron should be similarly reduced as soon as possible. At this port the change would involve a very trifling loss of revenue.

3. The more extensive reductions proposed by the Chamber must be considered with reference to the financial position of the Government. The Board advocate reductions to a 5 per cent. duty where feasible.

4. The Collector of Sea Customs will be requested to report further on the subject of paragraph 3 of his letter. As the Board read the Law on the subject, iron is liable to a duty of 1 per cent. ad valorem, under Act XXVI of 1863, but when *manufactured* becomes liable under Act XI of 1862 to a 10 per cent. duty, unless free, as agricultural implements or certain descriptions of machinery, under that Act and Act XXIII of the same year. Mr. Blair should quote the remark of Sir C. Trevelyan which leads him to suppose that Act XXVI of 1863 was intended to admit all iron whether manufactured or not at a uniform duty of 1 per cent. ad valorem.

No. 217. ORDER THEREON, 16th September 1864, No. 1,703.

Separate Revenue, No. 114.

Customs

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,

Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

11-21 Nov 1884/1884-1884-1884

Recd of Govt of India

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Oct 17 }
Oct 27 }
Dec 28 } April 1884.

Ch. ...

Submitting all the
from the collection of
Revenues regarding
the Customs Duty on
from the

Recd
35-10-1884
J. R. S.

18-2-1884
1884.

11. Copies to the Secy of the Board of Revenue

11-21 Nov 1884/1884-1884-1884