M.R.O. 14-5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1179 Press / Mis.

Dated 18. 5. 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 317. Read the following letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, the 30th April 1866, No. 85 :—

1. I am directed to state that the present form of Annual Return of the external commerce of each Presidency, was prescribed in the Despatch of the Honorable the Court of Directors, No. 1, dated 18th January 1854, of which a copy is herewith transmitted for convenience of reference.

2. As stated in paragraph 1 of the Financial Resolution No. 3,183, dated 25th October 1865, this Return is not affected in either form or details by the orders passed in that Resolution.

3. It is doubtful, however, whether the portion of that Annual Return, which sets forth in one and the same Table the particulars of the trade in each article, and of the trade in all articles with each country, need be continued in the printed volume, though it must be retained as an Office record.

4. No similar Table occurs in the Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom, which is published by the Board of Trade in London, and from the elaborate character of the Table, and the difficulty of printing it accurately, it entails unnecessary risks of error.

5. Moreover, from the space which it occupies, it precludes the insertion in the annual volume of other comparative Tables for several years, of the external commerce of the Presidency to which it relates.

6. At the same time it fails in the main object of the Table, viz., that of giving *in one view* the trade in each article ; and secondly, with each country.

7. These two subjects of enquiry are distinct. A person who may consult the volume for the trade in any one article, would not desire to be presented simultaneously with a record of the entire trade in all articles, with countries which consume or supply that article, and with other countries which do not trade in it at all ; yet this is what the Table supplies. On the other hand, the enquirer would desire to see in a concise form the trade with each country in that article, but this the Table does not give him ; the figures which he seeks must be sought in different columns extending over more than one page and in lines difficult to follow, unless the Table has been very carefully and expensively printed.

8. Again, if the Table be consulted for the trade with any one country, the information is not given there concisely for those articles only which are comprehended in that trade, but is interspersed among the statistics of the trade in articles with which the particular country has nothing to do, and has to be picked out, accordingly, from different parts of the Table, which thus fails to shew, in really one view, either the trade in any article or with any country.

9. The form of the Table also precludes a comparison in it of the trade for more years than one in any article or with any country, though this is an essential process in any intelligent use of commercial statistics.

10. The annual volume of the Board of Trade in London is free from these objections. The trade in each article is shewn in one part of that volume, while that with each country is shewn in another part in a form which admits of the juxta-position of the statistics of more years than one.

11. The English form, if adapted to the trade of British India, might be given as follows, viz. :—

IMPORTS.

PART I.—*Or the trade in each Article.*

METALS.

COUNTRY.	QUANTITIES.		Value of quantity landed.	Average price fixed for value.	Amount of duty collected.
	Landed. B.	Entered for Home consumption.	B.		
Foreign Ports.					
United Kingdom					
France					
And so forth.					
Total A. ...					
British Indian Ports.					
1 ...					
2 ...					
Total A. ...					
Indian Ports not British ...					
3 ...					
4 ...					
Total A. ...					
Grand Total A. ...					

IMPORTS.

PART II.—*Or the trade with each country.*

UNITED KINGDOM.

Imports therefrom.

ARTICLES.	QUANTITIES.					VALUE.				
	1862-63.	1863-64.	1864-65.	1865-66.	1866-67.	1862-63.	1863-64.	1864 65	1865-66.	1866-67.

12. This second account, or Part II., would be prepared from the account in Part I., by throwing the particulars of the latter for the appropriate year into a Statement in the subjoined form, which, it will be observed, is substantially that to which exception has been taken in the foregoing remarks, save that, for facility of computation, there might be one Statement for quantities, and another for values.

Quantities.

ARTICLES.	FOREIGN PORTS.			BRITISH INDIA.			INDIAN PORTS NOT BRITISH.			Grand Total.
	United Kingdom.	*And so forth.*	Total. C.	Madras Presidency.	*And so forth.*	Total. C.			Total. C.	C.

13. In this Statement the inner columns for each country would be posted from the columns marked B. in the Table in paragraph 11, and the totals marked C. of the trade with all countries in each article, would be proved by comparing them with the figures in the lines marked A. in paragraph 11.

14. The Statement having served this purpose of proving the account of the trade with each country, might be simply retained as an Office record, while the account proved by it could be printed in the annual volume, for each country separately, in the form set forth in paragraph 11, Part II.

15. It would then remain to condense in final totals, and in Tables shewing statistics for several years, the results set forth in detail in the Parts I. and II. of paragraph 11.

16. This might be done, perhaps, by adopting for each Presidency and its subordinate Ports, a series of Statistical Returns similar to those set forth for India and subordinate Presidencies and Provinces, in the series 1 to 16 of Appendix A. of the Financial Resolution, dated 25th October 1865.

17. I am to request that with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the Government of India may be favored with a Report on the suggestions in this letter.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th May 1866.

No. 318. ORDER THEREON, 18th May 1866, No. 1,179.

Separate Revenue, No. 12.
Customs.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

For Customs

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No. 1179.

Communicated to the Bd. of Revenue.—

I. D.S.

In Copies Forwarded 19 May 18th May 1866

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