M.R.O. 14-5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1485 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 18-6- 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 393. Read the following Endorsement of the Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

From the Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, dated Simla, the 28th May 1866, No. 693 :—

1. In reply to Mr. Under Secretary H. E. Jacomb's letter, No. 445, dated 1st May 1866, I am directed to state, with reference to the inquiry* of the Commissioner of Customs, which is quoted on the margin, that he is not required by paragraph 38 of the Financial Resolution, No. 3,138, dated 25th October 1865, to compile any monthly or quarterly list of prices current. All that is wanted is the transmission, to the Financial Department, of a copy of any Price Current which is issued by the Chamber of Commerce, or a leading Mercantile Firm, or a Publisher, and which is accepted at the place of issue as the standard authority, or (failing a standard authority) as a reliable authority for prices.

* "I beg to be informed whether the list of prices current therein called for, is to be submitted monthly, quarterly, or annually, and in what form and of what articles.

2. For example, the Financial Department receives the Price Current of the Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, and the Bombay Price Current and Mercantile Register. If the latter document be not the most generally accepted authority for prices in Bombay, the Price Current which is of superior authority should be transmitted to this Department. Otherwise, none other is required.

3. It is very desirable, however, that, in the annual volume of the Trade and Navigation of the several ports in the Bombay Presidency, the prices of principal articles should be deduced from the value divided by the quantity of the annual export or import of the article. The real value being declared at the time of passing the article through the Custom House, an annual average price will be more correctly obtained in this way, than by striking an average of the rates in prices current.

4. The averages thus obtained may be tabulated in a list of prices in the annual volume, and it would enhance the value of the list if monthly averages (similarly deduced) could be shewn in it for at least the staple articles of trade, as well as the annual average.

5. The annual volume for India will, in like manner, shew the annual average price in each Presidency, as well as for all India, if the averages for the same article in the several Presidencies differ so greatly as to make a list in such detail interesting.

6. The opinion in the 6th paragraph of the letter of the Commissioner of Customs is understood as affirming in the same sense as paragraphs 32 to 34 of the Financial Resolution, dated 25th October 1865, that for the mere statistical purpose of shewing separately the trade in tariffed and not tariffed goods "it is necessary "that each division or head in the classified list should consist exclusively of "tariffed or untariffed goods, which is not the case at present."

7. The expediency of such a separation has to be determined, however, on other additional considerations, and the subject will doubtless receive attention

from the Tariff Committee, respecting which you were addressed in my letter No. 560, dated 18th May 1866.

Copy to the Governments of Bengal and Madras, and the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

(Signed) J. E. COOKE,
Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 394. ORDER THEREON, 18th June 1866, No. 1,485.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue for their information and guidance.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

No. 1485

Communicated to the Board of Revenue for their information and guidance.

18th June/66.

To The Board of Revenue. Dated 19th June

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