

Rev.

1867.

Department.

No. 2063.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 29th July 1867.

*Copy to Mr
R. B. 3
2104*

No. 4,853.

610

Submitting for information letter from Col-
lector of South Arcot, accounting for a portion
of the decrease in Land Customs collections for
1866-67. *84-188*

LODGED

272.000/167

No. 4,853.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 29th July 1867.

Read the following letter from C. W. READE, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 2nd July 1867, No. 167:—

1. In reference to the Board's Official Memorandum, dated 8th June 1867, No. 615, I have the honour to state that the explanation furnished in my Administration Report, for the decrease in the Land Customs Collections, was intended to account for a portion only of the decrease therein shown, and not for the whole decrease. Making allowance for the shortness of the official year, there was still a large decrease, as the Board observe, and this is due to the cause stated in the Demand Collection and Balance Statement for April 1867, viz., a falling off in the export trade with Pondicherry, and which falling off, I anticipate, will be still greater in the ensuing year.

2. The accompanying Comparative Statement will show in what articles of trade the decrease chiefly occurred, and deducting from the figures for 1865-66, the duty collected on these articles in April 1866, the comparison still shows a very considerable falling off in the amount of duty realized upon them during the past year as noticed by the Board. From my occasional inquiries my belief is, that this falling off in the trade is simply owing to the absence of transactions owing to the Pondicherry merchants being unable to come to terms with the producer, and also to the state of the French Home Markets, which of course regulate local trade to a great extent.

3. The depression in trade and commerce generally in Pondicherry has long been, and still continues very great, and the larger part of the Indigo produce of this district, for the past two years, which usually finds a main outlet through Pondicherry, remains on the hands of the producer, owing to the merchants of Pondicherry not being able to come to terms with our ryots as to price, and so it is with ground-nut and several other staple products. Thus, it is not so much any diminished production of these articles in South Arcot as the want of demand for them in the customary market, and the difficulty about prices which have clogged and checked transactions, and I am apprehensive that there is no immediate prospect of this state of things altering for the better as far as my information enables me to judge.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—Comparative Statement showing the value and duty of certain articles for the past official year, in the district of South Arcot.

Submitted for the information of Government, with reference to paragraph 13 of the Board's Revenue Administration Report for 1866-67, forwarded to Government with the Board's letter, dated 28th June 1867, No. 3,989.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

W. C. C. C.
Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with Statement.

Copy to the Collector of South Arcot.

Exd. J. Wright.

*Recd. 20th July 1867
from the Collector
of South Arcot
with a copy of
No. 167
for the Secretary
to the Government
Revenue Department
in the District of
South Arcot
in June 1867*