

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1870	Press <u>Mis.</u>
⁹¹⁻⁹² Dated	4-7-	19 1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department.
4th July 1868.

No. 91. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th June 1868, No. 4,337.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Sea Customs, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 18th December 1867, No. 1,306 :—

1. With reference to the Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, of December 13th, 1867, No. 2,967, I have the honor to submit a report on the correspondence therein referred to, on the subject of the revision of the tariff values of cotton piece-goods and yarns.

2. As a member of the late Tariff Committee, I can most fully corroborate the pleas advanced by the several Chambers of Commerce in favor of a reduction of the present tariff rates. Almost nothing was then known as to the future prospects of the cotton trade; all was conjecture; and it was uncertain whether prices would rise or fall. The Committee, therefore, recommended that the rates for cotton goods should be exceptionally subject to revision, and the fall in prices has been so decided, and appear so likely to continue, that I have no hesitation in recommending a reduction of the present rates in every class of cotton goods, with one exception.

* Enclosure A.

3. The accompanying Statement* shows the present tariff rates, the actual market values here, less duty, discount, &c., and the rates at which I would propose to tariff each article.

4. It will be observed that certain numbers of mule twists are reduced from seven to fifteen per cent.; the low and high numbers are seldom, if ever, imported here, and therefore, alterations in them can more fairly be made at the other Presidencies. Water twist is also not imported here. Turkey Red twist does not require any reduction; Rupees 1-6-0 per lb being, I consider, a fair tariff rate. The other colored twists may fairly be reduced two Annas per lb., from Rs. 1-2-0 to one Rupee.

5. The next item is grey-shirtings, madapollams and printers; there has been a steady decline in the value of these goods, which, as the price of raw cotton has steadily decreased in England, will of course continue; and, I think, looking at the matter prospectively, they may be fairly reduced from Annas 13 to Annas 10 and Pies 6 per lb., or nearly one Anna per lb. below the present market rates.

6. The next item, long cloths, &c., was, I consider, tariffed rather lightly in comparison with shirtings; and I do not think the same relative reduction is necessary. In this opinion I am confirmed by the statement in paragraph 3 of the letter from the Bombay Chamber, and the statement of values annexed thereto. The Calcutta Chamber make no remarks regarding this class of goods, and I would recommend their being tariffed at 9 Annas and 6 Pies, instead of 11 Annas per lb., a reduction of about fourteen per cent., whereas shirtings, &c., should be reduced about twenty per cent.

7. The question of tariffing other cotton goods was carefully considered by the Tariff Committee, and the result of their deliberations was, that a class of bleached goods, brocades, spotted and striped shirtings, which was in the former Tariff of 1862, was placed in the *advalorem* class, as it was decided that it was practically impossible to tariff fairly such goods, and many others of the same

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th July 1868.*

description. Their qualities, descriptions and values were so numerous, and dependent on so many different circumstances, that their actual value can only be discovered by appraisement, which system is equally fair to Government and the Mercantile community.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Statement.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Correspondence.

Ordered to be recorded, with reference to the Government Order, dated 17th April 1868, No. 1,018.

No. 92. ORDER THEREON, 4th July 1868, No. 1,870.

Separate Revenue, No. 6.

Customs.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Angustin.

*No 13 Dec 67 P 238-239
17 April 68- 372 373*

Collected for day

14 Copies To the Office of Revenue with an Encl. Supp.

Revenue 1868. Department
No of Court for July

No. 2114

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 11th June 1868.

*Supp 15 June
Recd 6 June
C. J. O. B. D.*

No. 4,337.

Recording letter from Collector of Sea Customs reporting on the subject of tariff values of Cotton piece goods and yarns.

RECORDED

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*P. H. 1870.
to day 1870*