

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1468	Press ~~Mis.~~
207-208 Dated	16-9-1870	19..

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
116th September 1870.*

No. 207. Read the following letter from Messrs. HYSLOP & Co., Bimlipatam, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, dated 1st September 1870 :—

WE have the honour to bring the following circumstances to your notice, with a view that Government may give a decision on this vexed subject, so as to avoid constant annoyance and inconvenience to us by the arrival of every fresh Acting Collector in this district.

2. By the enclosed correspondence you will see that in 1869 Mr. Minchin our Collector, after a "careful consideration of the Rules for coasting steamers," and also after reading all the previous correspondence," came to the conclusion that Free Goods need not be brought to the Custom-house, and by his orders, dated 4th February, 5th and 8th May, most courteously settled the Custom-house procedure.

3. A few days ago the Acting Collector, under date 9th August, No. 639, issues, as you will see, directly opposite orders, and, further, refuses to protect us at all, as distinctly pointed out under Section 54 of the Custom-house Act, but has ordered the Custom-house officer to take charge of the goods on landing, and deliver them to any person applying for same without our Delivery Order or the Bills of Lading cancelled.

4. His order places us in this most unfortunate position. The British India Steam Navigation Company require us to grant receipts for the cargo landing on board the steamers, and after that we are answerable for its care and proper delivery; but on the goods landing, they are forced out of our possession by the Custom-house officer, who refuses to grant us receipts under Section 54 of the Act, ignores our lien, and delivers the same to any person applying without our Delivery Order or the Bills of Lading cancelled. Under these circumstances, and because we can receive no justice from the Acting Collector, who positively refuses to protect us at all, we are constrained to appeal to Government for protection. Whilst these goods are in the Custom-house, should they be robbed, which formerly was a constant occurrence, the officer in charge of the Custom-house ignores the matter, the Company also, and we are the losers only; and under Section 188, even if robbery is proved, the officer is exempted.

5. This new order of the Acting Collector forcing Free Goods into the Custom-house is based on Rule XV. of the coasting steamers which runs as follows :— "Free Goods need not, unless so directed by the officer in charge of the Custom-house, be taken to the Custom-house, but may be passed from the beach." This rule makes it optional, and we take it to prevent fraud. Mr. Minchin, the Collector, by his letter, 4th February, is of the same opinion, and, further, as Government have no claim whatever on Free Goods, their detention in the Custom-house is an illegal detention; at any rate the Acting Collector's order seems most arbitrary, not alone in cancelling a pukka order of the Collector of the district (Mr. Minchin), but in placing us in such a risky position.

6. In conclusion, may we be allowed to mention that our Custom-house here is a perfect ruin at present, and not able to receive one-third of the Free Goods landed by steamers; and should the Government decide to place Free Goods in the Custom-house, they must be prepared to build proper godowns to hold the n.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th September 1870.*

We hardly think they will be prepared to sanction this expenditure, when it is quite *optional* for the Acting Collector to make the order at all. Hoping for an early answer, we have, etc.

No. 208.

ORDER THEREON, 16th September 1870, No. 1,468.

Separate Revenue, No. 10.
<i>Customs.</i>

FORWARDED to the Board of Revenue
for report.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

No 2925

Revenue 1870 Sept

From

Messrs. Wyke & Co

Manchester

Antil 1st 1870

Recd: 9th 1870

Sept 16 1870

Submitting copy of your
papers to the Messrs
Wyke & Co. Manchester
relative to the
recovery of the
the the same
regarding the
decision on the subject

No 1468

To the Bd of Revenue

Forwarded
In report

W.D.

16 Sept 70

List
W.D.

14 To the Bd of Revenue with an Encl Dec 20

Bill of 1870

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated September, 1870.

Recd.

G. O. 1870 September 1870 No. 1,468

SEPTEMBER

No. 207.208.

Landing and delivery of Free Goods at
Birmingham.—Letter from Messrs. H. J. & Co.
complaining of inconveniences to which they are
subjected in connection with them, referred to
the Board of Revenue for report.