

Revenue 1891 Sept.

No 25745

From The Under Secretary
Govt of India - Finl. Dept.

Dated 31st July 1891.

Recd. 11 Aug^r - No 2493

Recd. 1. 1891

No 19527 - 11th August 1891
Forwarding copy of papers
recd. from the Bombay Govt.
relative to a representation
against the existing tariff
valuation & the rate of duty
levied on importation of flour
& requesting to be furnished
with the views of this Govt.
on the subject.

Revenue department

Aug 11. 71

Almas
Chief Secy

No 25-66

No 1357

Directed to the
Lth Secy of Finl. & the
Chamber of Commerce
for their remarks.

The Bth will
circulate the following
Circulars in the subject.

L. S.
14 Aug 91

14 To the Board of Revenue Dec 19
1 - the Chamber of Commerce

No. 1544 of 1871. B. 1870
Revenue Department.
Bombay Castle 14th July 1871.

From

The Honorable H. S. Chapman
Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay
To

M. B. Chapman Esquire
Secretary to the Government of India
Financial Department

Sir,

I am directed by the Right
Honorable the Governor in Council
to forward to you, for submission
to the Government of India, the
accompanying copies of Commu-
nications from Messrs. Bennett
Stewart & Co. relative to the rate
of duty levied upon flour imported
into Bombay, and in doing so
I am desired to state that under
the circumstances brought to
notice by them, it appears
to His Excellency the Governor
in Council, that both the
Tariff valuation and the
rate of duty on the article
is

in question urgently require the
consideration. —

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your most obedient servant

J. H. E. Jacobs

For Chief Secretary
to Government

Bombay 27th September 1870

To

J. S. Chapman Esquire
Chief Secretary to Government
Revenue Department Bombay

Sir,

We have the honor to state that
having lately received from Australia a
consignment of 1246 bags of Wheat flour
of 200 lbs per bag, we thereby lead our at-
tention called to the very excessive
rate of Customs duty levied upon
that article. —

The rate of duty is $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent
upon a Tariff valuation of Rupees 25
per bag of 200 lbs, while the market
value for the article is Rupees 18 per bag
of 200 lbs (we sold at Rupees 18-4-0 per
bag the flour being of very excellent quality).

We therefore respectfully submit
that our article as flour the
rate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent duty is even under
a proper valuation very excessive as
flour is much more a necessity and
a staff of life than for instance Iron
which is admitted at a duty of one
per cent only. It is further well
known that the above flour is
of a very superior quality. —

ever to the excellent American and
Continental flour as well as that of
Australia being kept out of the
market by the protective duty im-
posed, consumers are obliged to pay an
exorbitant price for an inferior article,
while the Customs Revenue is not bene-
fitted as the rate of duty simply
puts a stop to importation and
renders a duty levied for the benefit
of the Revenue but a prohibitory
and protective impost. —

By a reference to the latest an-
nual statement of the Trade & Com-
merce of Bombay published for Govern-
ment and at page 36, it will be
seen that the declared value of
flour imported from all Foreign
countries only amounted to Rupees
1,03,798 or a gross revenue to Government
of Rupees 7,785. The market value
of the flour imported however (in
the proportion of Rupees 15 @ Rupees
25) would only amount to Rupees 62,280.

In other words a duty of $12\frac{1}{2}\%$
for that is what it comes to, upon
one of the principal articles of food
puts a stop to imports in it and
^{gives} a revenue to Government
to

so small as not to be worth the trouble
of collecting. —

We beg therefore respectfully
to submit that
1st The Tariff valuation upon Flour
ought to be reduced
2nd The Rate of duty ought also to
be reduced to say 1%
were these points permitted we
believe Government would be no
losers and the country generally
considerable gainers. —

We have the honor to be
Signed) James Lowrie & Co.

P. S.

We believe that the present is
a suitable opportunity for bringing
this matter to the attention of Govern-
ment as we believe a Committee for
revising the existing Tariff is at present
sitting in Calcutta. —

Bombay 30th June 1871.

To

J. S. Chapman Esquire
Secretary to Government
Revenue Department Bombay
Sir,

On the 27th of September last we
had

the honor of addressing your De-
partment relative to the rate of
Duty Levied upon Flour imported
into Bombay, as per Copy of our
letter which for convenience of ref-
erence we beg to hand you herewith.

We have not been favored with
any reply to that communication,
and we therefore beg leave to solicit
your attention to it. —

We may further state, that since
then addressing you we have had
communications from Australia
pointing out that the very excessive
scale of charge in Bombay com-
pletely debar business between that
Country and this port, but that a mod-
ification to some such duty as that
levied upon Iron would enable
business to be done. —

We leave the honor of a
Signed) *Frederick Corbett* &c.

Three Copies)

J^r H. E. Lacomb

Under Secretary to Government
(A true copy)

McCallum

Registrar - Finl. Depart

RE 25745/71
No. 114/71

No 2473

To

The Secretary to Government,
Madras

Financial }
Department. } Sir,

I am directed to forward a
Copy of the papers noted in the margin
Letter from Government
of Bombay No 3414 dated
14th July 1871 and enclosures
received from the Govern-
ment of Bombay relative
to a representation against

the existing Tariff valuation and
the rate of duty levied on importation
of flour, and to request that the
Government of India may be favored
with the views of the local Govern-
ment on the subject after consulta-
tion with the Chamber of Commerce
and the Chief Customs Authority. —

Yours obediently,
Sir,

Ever most obedient servant,

Simla,
The 31st July 1871.

L. H. A.
18.

Wentland.

Under Secretary to the
Government of India