

1139

102

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th July 1872.

No. 255. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st June 1872,
No. 1,063.

Read the following letter from D. BARBOUR, Esq., Officiating Under-Secretary
to the Government of India, to the Chief Secretary to the Government
of Madras, dated Simla, 31st May 1872, No. 103:—

With reference to Secretary Mr. Hudleston's letter No. 104, dated the 17th
January last, I am directed to enquire whether the Government of Madras have
any objection to the absolute prohibition of the export of opium from Madras
under Section XXIII. of Act VI. of 1863.

REFERRED to the Board of Revenue for their opinion with copy of the letter
quoted.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

8th June 1872.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Copy of letter, dated 17th January 1872, No. 104.

THE Board see no objection to prohibiting the export of opium, but they are
of opinion that little good will be done in this way unless the transport, possession,
and sale of opium are restricted by a special law as proposed in the Proceedings
recorded with G. O., 12th April 1871, No. 658.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

20
REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
OOTACAMUND,
30th July 1872.

No. 256.

No. 1,139.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT,

SIMLA.

Separate Revenue, No. 25.

Customs.

SIR,—In reply to Mr. Barbour's letter of 31st May 1872, No. 103, I am directed to state that while His Excellency the Governor in Council would

not object to the absolute prohibition of export of Opium from this Presidency, if deemed indispensable, he considers such a measure calculated to aggravate smuggling, and would decidedly prefer the enactment of a law to legalize the levy of such Customs-duty as the Supreme Government may consider sufficient for the protection of the Imperial revenues.

2. It is assumed from past correspondence that a rate of Rs. 600 per chest would be deemed sufficient for this purpose.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Rev. 2255/72
for: Secy of Revenue
Council for Eldridge
Copy

No. 1,063.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 21st June 1872.

Read the following letter from D. BARBOUR, Esq., Officiating Under-Secretary to the Government of India, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, 31st May 1872, No. 103:—

WITH reference to Secretary Mr. Hudleston's letter No. 104, dated the 17th January last, I am directed to enquire whether the Government of Madras have any objection to the absolute prohibition of the export of opium from Madras under Section XXIII. of Act VI. of 1863.

REFERRED to the Board of Revenue for their opinion with copy of the letter quoted.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

8th June 1872.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Copy of letter, dated 17th January 1872, No. 104.

THE Board see no objection to prohibiting the export of opium, but they are of opinion that little good will be done in this way unless the transport, possession, and sale of opium are restricted by a special law as proposed in the Proceedings recorded with G. O., 12th April 1871, No. 658.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

J. G. S.
Secretary.

No 103

610

To The Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras

Financial Dept Sir,

With reference to Secretary Mr Shirdleston's letter No 104 dated the 14th January last, I am directed to enquire whether the Government of Madras have any objection to the absolute prohibition of the export of opium from Madras under Section XXIII of Act VI of 1863.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your Most Obedient Servant

J. D. Brown

offg Under Secy to the Govt of Madras

Simla The 31st May 1872

3075

No 203

belong to the Government of Madras

Revenue 1872 Sept

No 2167

1872.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 21st JUNE 1872, No. 1,063.

22nd June 1872

Encl.

Received 28th June 1872

JUNE. No. 1,063.

Export of opium from Madras. - Government informed that there is no objection to prohibition of - as proposed by Government of India, but that little good will be done in this way unless transport, possession, and sale of opium are restricted by a special law as already proposed by Board.

S.D. No 1139 - 30th June 1872

Memo for Orders.

Under Section 4 Act 13 of 1871, passed on 31st March, no opium can be exported from India unless it be covered by a pass granted by an officer appointed in this behalf by the Local Government.

The Preamble to the Act states that it is expedient to consolidate and amend the law relating to Duties of Customs on goods imported and exported by Sea.

Section 8 provides that the same Duties as are prescribed in the schedules shall be levied on goods passing by land into or out of foreign

116

Revenue 1072 Sept. No 1952.

From

The Govt of India -
Financial Dept.

M 103

Dated 31st May
Recd. 8th June

Agreed to the Board of Revenue
Chairman & Members
8 June 72
Secy. to Govt.

Inquiring whether the
Madras Govt. have any
objection to the absolute
prohibition of the export
of opium from Madras
under Sec. 23 of Act 13 of 1871

Secy.
Secretary

W. Hamilton

Received 11th
Entered & Returned 12th June 1872.

Agreed
Sd. No 1139 - 30th July 1872

foreign settlements on the
line of coast.

In a letter of 15 April 1871
from this Govt to the Supreme
Govt it was pointed out that
no conditions for the pass to
be granted by the Officer to be
appointed by the Local Govt
were prescribed, and that no
rate of export duty was fixed
in the tariff.

It was noted in the
Proceedings which accompanied
the letter that Cochin and
Travancore depend on British
India for the supply of
opium for their Govt monopoly,
much of which has hitherto
been obtained by land, and
that Ceylon also obtains a
considerable quantity of the
drug from British India.

In reply the Govt of
India stated it to be "the
intention of the law that the
Govt of Madras should impose
an export duty of Rs 600 a
chest (on opium) as is

done

done in Bombay "and that
this should be done "irrespec-
tive of the place to which
the drug may be exported,
whether to Cochin, Ceylon, or
elsewhere."

Orders were issued
accordingly, and at the same
time it was stated in
reply that this export duty
would provide a sufficient
check on the traffic in the
drug which the Supreme Govt
desired to bring under regu-
lation in this Presidency.

But subsequent doubts
having arisen as to the legality
of the arrangement, the Govt
of India were requested
on 17 Jan'y last to inform
this Govt where the intention
of the law which was
said to warrant it would
be found expressed, and it
was at the same time pointed
out that opium was intended
among "export articles free
of duty" in a classified
list.

list issued by the Govt of
India on 12 July 1871 after
the passing of the Act above
quoted.

In reply to this letter
the Govt of India request to be
informed whether there is any
objection to the absolute pro-
hibition of the export of opium
from this Presidency under the
powers vested in the Governor
General by Sec: 23 Act 6 of 1863.

The question was referred to the
Board of Revenue, who are no
objection to the prohibition, but
add that it will operate
imperfectly in checking
smuggling "unless the transfer
and possession and sale
of opium are restricted by
a special law."

This imports a new
question into the discussion,
the one which has been repeatedly
considered before, and I imagine
the Govt would certainly not
advocate the adoption of so
oppressive and inquisitorial

a measure merely to limit
the facilities for export.
I therefore proposed to
reply simply that this Govt
saw no objection to the absolute
prohibition of export which
would interfere with no
legitimate trade now existing
but at the same time I
think that the imposition
legally of an export duty
calculated at such rate as
might be necessary to
protect the Bengal and Bombay
revenues from this source
would be more legitimate and
probably more efficacious.
~~At the same time there~~
~~might perhaps~~ ^{might perhaps} be difficulties
in the way of fixing this
duty so long as the Bengal
system of raising the revenue
by a monopoly of manu-
-facture and auction sale
of the drug is maintained.
But absolute prohibition tends
to promote smuggling -

This is my view.
When any law can
be made in duty. We
can add let the
same rate.

L. A. S.
or let a law
imposed.

Absolute prohibition
seems unnecessary
what is required is a

L. A.

considering duty
to protect the Revenue,
I presume that the
Govt. of India
considers that
the 6000 per cent
which they secured
is sufficient for the
purpose -

Yr

Ms. A. 10. 1139 - 30th July 1872

Memo from
Export of Opium

Copy
N^o 10

Beit Eddin le 5 juin 1872.

H A

Monsieur le Consul Général,

J'ai eu l'honneur de recevoir la lettre en date du 29 Mai dernier par laquelle en m'informant que Monsieur le Général Cotton vous a fait expédier par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté à Madrass une quantité de semence qui produit des arbres destinés à arrêter les progrès du salin dont l'inondation ravage les propriétés, vous voulez bien me proposer de mettre à ma disposition une quantité de cette semence et de faire diriger par M^r P^r le travail de la plantation aussitôt que je vous aurais écrit que les hommes et le terrain nécessaires à l'opération sont prêts.

C'est vraiment un fait à la fois touchant et admirable que l'empressement du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté à Madrass à prendre en sérieuse considération un besoin des populations de la Syrie que M^r le Général Cotton a bien voulu signaler à sa haute bienveillance et à envoyer de si loin la matière destinée à y pourvoir. Aussi pour ma part je ne taris pas d'admiration et d'éloges sur ce trait de générosité, j'en suis profondément reconnaissant au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté dont il émane, et je

Monsieur
Monsieur J. Eldridge
Consul Général d'Angleterre en Syrie
et et et

Circular

15 July 1872 R 22 July

vous serai bien obligé d'être auprès de lui l'interprète
de mes sentiments de haute gratitude.

Je rends aussi hommage à la noble et
louable initiative de M. le Général Cotton dont l'esprit
élevé a conçu une si heureuse idée, et je ne saurais
assez vous remercier, Monsieur le Consul Général, d'avoir
pensé si obligeamment à faire une part au Liban dans
la distribution de la semence bienfaisante. C'est un acte
qui ajoute à ma reconnaissance et à ma haute estime
pour votre digne personne dont l'intérêt pour le pays
s'est traduit par bien d'autres faits, d'où je conclus
que dans la circonstance actuelle vous avez la plus grande
part dans ce service dont il est appelé à recueillir les fruits.

En appréciant à sa haute valeur l'heureuse
idée qu'il s'agit de réaliser et en me déclarant un de
ses plus sincères partisans, je vous prie de me faire
savoir à quelles conditions M. Post serait disposé à
accorder à l'entreprise son intelligente direction. Si
je me permets de poser cette question, c'est que, comme
vous le savez, Monsieur le Consul Général, l'insuffisance,
ou pour mieux dire, la grande exigence des ressources
de la Montagne me font de l'économie une loi
impérieuse et me forcent à m'abstenir de bien d'
entreprises utiles. Or si l'exécution de celle, qui à
nos communes sympathies, étant dirigée par
M. Post n'exigeait pas de fortes dépenses et pouvait
être supportée par le budget, je m'y prêterai de
tout mon cœur. Dans le cas contraire je vous
prierai de me donner une certaine quantité
de la dite semence pour en faire l'essai avec les
moyens

102
moyens qui sont à ma portée et sur les renseignements
que vous aurez la bonté de me procurer.

Mon plan est déjà arrêté: C'est de faire
la plantation en trois endroits rapprochés afin de former
trois forêts dont la première doit à juste titre porter
votre honorable nom qui a présidé à l'acquisition
de cet avantage et qui le distribue, la seconde
celui de S. E. le Gouverneur de Madras et la
troisième celui de Monsieur le Général Cotton.
Rien je crois de plus équitable et de plus naturel
que de perpétuer ainsi par un témoignage frappant
le souvenir des auteurs du bienfait. —

Je saisis cette occasion pour vous offrir,
Monsieur le Consul Général, les assurances de
ma haute considération. —

Signé: J. Nasri Zano.

Revenue Department.

30th July 72.

No. 1139.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Financial Dept.

Simla

Sir,
In reply to Mr.
Barbours letter of 31st
May 1872 No 103, I am
directed to state that
while His Excellency the
Governor in Council
would not object to the
absolute prohibition of
export of Opium from
this Presidency, if deemed
indispensable

25
As per 24th Aug 72

Copy

For: Secy of Dist

Lebanon

and Secy. Eldridge

No. 2255/72

indispensable, he considers
such a measure calculated
to aggravate smuggling,
and would decidedly
prefer the enactment of
a law to legalise the levy
of such customs duty
as the Supreme Govt.
may consider sufficient
for the protection of the
Imperial revenues.

Impost on opium.
It is assumed that

a rate of Rs 600 per
chest

1872
chest would be deemed
sufficient for this purpose.

LB

East India Office

sub

No 255-256

To

Govr of India

Report of opium
from the Madras Presy

Residence