Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th September 1873.

No. 221. Read the following letter from J. W. GARDINER, Esq., Officiating Under-Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, 18th September 1873, No. 3,073 :—

In forwarding the accompanying copy of a letter from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, dated the 20th August 1873, proposing a revision of the values on which duties are assessed under the Indian ~~Customs~~ Tariff Act ~~XVII. of 1867~~ XXIII. of 1871, and of the rates of duty, I am desired to request that you will be good enough to move His Excellency the Governor in Council to favour the Government of India with a report on the proposal.

Enclosure No. 1.

From H. W. J. WOOD, Esq., Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, to R. B. CHAPMAN, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, dated 20th August 1873.

The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce desire me to submit, for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, the expediency of revising the values on which duties are assessed under the Indian ~~Customs~~ Tariff Act, No. ~~XVII.~~ XXIII. of ~~1867~~ 1871, as well as the rates of duty to which merchandise is now subject.

2. The representations made by the Chamber to Government in 1867 and 1868, that a modification of the valuations for duty was then demanded in the interests of trade, and on a basis that would be fair alike to Government and to the merchant, resulted in the appointment of a commission to review those valuations, and in sundry amendments of the Tariff being authorized by Notification, No. 1,770, of 19th March 1869.

3. The Committee believe that on the present occasion also they are in a position to satisfy the Government that there are reasonable grounds for their request that the provisions of the Tariff be adapted to the various changes which have been gradually introduced into the trade since the valuations were fixed four years ago; and they trust the Governor-General in Council will be pleased to accept their assurance on this point as sufficient to justify the course which they now submit should be adopted.

4. The Committee, indeed, venture to believe that His Excellency is not unprepared to direct that the accuracy of present Tariffs be duly tested, to modify valuations if good cause is shown, and to remove any existing anomalies; for references have been recently made to the Chamber by the Collector of Customs, which sufficiently indicate a desire on the part of Government to make such alterations as may be consistent with the interests of merchants and a right regard for the public revenue.

5. The Chambers of Commerce of Bombay and Madras have been addressed on this subject; and the Committee believe that those bodies will communicate with the Government of India, and endeavour to obtain an object in which they are interested in common with this Chamber.

No. 222. Order thereon, 26th September 1873, No. 1,039.

Separate Revenue, No. 12.
Customs.

Forwarded to the Board of Revenue for report after communication with the Chamber of Commerce and the Collector of Sea Customs.

(True Extract.)
(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Folio No. 3924. From the Lords
Sec. of State dated 29 Nov. 1733.
Folio No. 4 Draft to them dated 7 Dec.
Rec. 9th Dec. 1733.

No. 1039

26 Sept 73

3/3 To B of Rev
Sept 4-10-73