No. 2,227.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 31st October 1873.

Read the following letter from J. HUNTER-BLAIR, Esq., Collector of Sea Customs, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 29th October 1873, No. 1,213 :—

I HAVE the honour to call the Board's attention to paragraph 10 of my letter No. 1,171 of 16th October 1873, and to inform the Board that, having obtained evidence to prove that Vyravey Pillai was the Gumastah of Poonier Chittambaram of Point Pedro, the real owner of the opium smuggled in the dhoney "Annalatchmy," I fined Poonier Chittambaram Rupees 56,000, which is nearly three times the value of the opium smuggled.

2. I have also this day distrained a large quantity of palmyras, the property of the above person, by a warrant from the Magistrate of Police in part realization of the penalty. I am informed that the palmyras are worth only about Rupees 4,000.

3. I have also *reliable* information that in the case of the murder of a dancing girl named Ponnee, which took place at Point Pedro in January 1870, Vyravey Pillai admitted before the High Court at Colombo that he was the Gumastah of Poonier Chittambaram above referred to.

4. As it is important that such strong evidence on the point should be obtained, I beg that Government may be requested to procure it through the Government of Ceylon.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd October 1873.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Collector of Sea Customs.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

1873.

Board of Revenue

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 31ST OCTOBER 1873, No. 2,227.

Encl.

Received

OCTOBER.

No. 2,227.

Opium smuggling—on board dhoney "Annalatchmy."—Letter from Collector of Sea Customs, Madras, reporting that Poonier Chittambaram, owner of the smuggled opium, has been fined Rupees 56,000, and requesting that evidence may be procured from Ceylon Government of Viravey Pillai being Gumastah of former, submitted for orders of Government.

No 60

Colonial Secretary's Office
Colombo 10th August 1874.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 19th December 1873 and 21st April last, in the former of which you enquire whether this Government will consent to refuse admission to opium from India unless accompanied by

The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort Saint George
Madras

by a Certificate of
exportation, and in the
latter of which you state
the result of proceedings
taken by the Customs
Authorities and the
Madras Board of
Revenue against certain
traders and others con-
cerned in the smuggling
and request the assistance
of this Government in
realizing the fines
imposed, and suggest
that measures be adopted
generally for the punishment

and

and repression of smuggling.

I am to state in reply that while this Government is desirous to the utmost of its power to aid in giving effect to the measures taken by the Madras Government for the protection of their revenue, the consideration which the Government has given to the matter has disclosed many difficulties in the way of adopting the proposals which have

been

been made.

As regards the proposal that the import of opium into this Island should not be allowed unless accompanied by a Certificate granted by the authorities at one of the authorised ports, I am to state that while it appears open to doubt whether this prohibition, if enforced would put a stop to any appreciable extent to the illicit export from ports in Southern

Southern India, it is certain that it would lead to wholesale smuggling to which there is no inducement at present along the coasts of the Northern and Eastern Provinces of this Island, and which it would be found impossible to check besides proving a discouragement to legitimate trade to the detriment of the revenue of both Countries

As regards the proposals of

of wider scope contained in your letter of 21st April, I am to state that apart from the constitutional objection to taking notice of, and punishing offences against the penal and revenue laws of another country, this Government is unable to enforce the recovery of the fines imposed by the Sea Collector of Madras, or procure the arrest and delivery up to the Madras Authorities of the persons

persons charged with smuggling the same not falling within the range of our extradition laws.

These difficulties have been anticipated by your Government, and have led to the suggestion that an Act should be passed expressly rendering such penalties recoverable in Ceylon.

For the passing of such a law however as is desired, the sanction of the Home Government

would

would in the first
instance be required, and
even if obtained would
not obviate the opposition
which might be expected
to the carrying of such
a measure in the
Legislative Council.
The procedure in the
case of fines imposed
for breach of Customs
Regulations standing
on a different footing
in this Island to that
in force in India.

Collectors of Customs

here

here have no power
recognized by law to
impose or enforce fines
which can only be recovered
by procedure before the
ordinary tribunals.

Under the circumstances
stated it is hoped that
the Madras Government
will appreciate the wish
of this Government to give
further consideration to
the important subject of
your letter before taking
action with regard to it.

I am Sir,
Your Obt. Servant,
Chas. P. Layard
Actg: Colonial Secy:

No. 2772
Revenue 1874 Dep.t

From
The Colonial Secretary
Colombo.
Ceylon.
Dated 10 Aug.t 1874
Recd 17
No. 66.

Replies to two letters from the Madras Govt. regarding admission of opium into Ceylon accompanied by a certificate of exportation, & regarding the measures adopted generally for punishment & suppression of opium smuggling.

No. 1077

Ordered that this letter together with that to which it is a reply be communicated to the Government of India in continuation of letter dated 16 January 1874 No 69.

25.th August 1874

List
Secretary
in Council

1873.

Board of Revenue.

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 31ST OCTOBER 1873, No. 2,227.

Encl.

Received

OCTOBER.

No. 2,227.

Opium smuggling—on board dhoney "Annalatchmy."—Letter from Collector of Sea Customs, Madras, reporting that Poonier Chittambaram, owner of the smuggled opium, has been fined Rupees 56,000, and requesting that evidence may be procured from Ceylon Government of Viravey Pillai being Gumastah of former, submitted for orders of Government.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

179

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 31st October — 1873.

Read the following

No. 1213

From

From J. Hunter Blair Esqre,
Collector Sea Customs

J. Grose Esqre
Secretary Board of Revenue

I have the honor to call the Board's attention to para 10 of my letter No. 1171 of 15th October 1873 and to inform the Board that having obtained evidence to prove that Vyravy Pillay was the Goomastah of Poonier Sidambarum of Point Pedro, the real owner of the opium smuggled in the Dhoney "Annalatchmy," I fined Poonier Sidambarum Rupees 56000, which is nearly 3 times the value of the opium smuggled.

2. I have also this day destrained a

a large quantity of Palmyras, the property of the above person, by a warrant from the Magistrate of Police pending realization of the penalty. I am informed that the Palmyras are worth only about Rupees 4,000.

3. I have also reliable information that in the case of the murder of a dancing girl named Ponnee, which took place at Point Pedro in January 1870, Vyraney pillay admitted before the High Court at Colombo that he was the Goomastah of Poonen Chittumbarum above referred to.

4. As it is important that such strong evidence on the point should be obtained, I beg that the Government may be requested to procure it through the Government of Ceylon.

Sea Custom House
Madras,
29th October 1873

I have &c
(Signed) J. Hunter Blair
Collector of Sea Customs

Submitted for the orders of Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings dated 23d October 1873.

(True Copy & Extract)
J. Grote
Secretary

To,
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

Rec. 1873 - Dublin

No. 3572

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 3/4/5 October 1873.
Despatched 3/11/73.
Rec'd 3/11/73.

SUBJECT.

Submitting Report of Proceedings in order to letter from Commissioners of Public Accounts dated 31st October 1873 and requesting to know if the Board desire to grant permission to Mr. Thomas Henry Shorey Chancellor Law to attend Court on 5th November 1873 to watch the interests of the Board in the matter of the Estate of Thomas Shorey deceased.

No. 1239

The letter mentioned in the foregoing Proceedings together with the enclosures should be forwarded in continuation of former papers (C. O. dated 31/10/73) to the Law Officers of Govt.

[illegible]

List

[illegible] 5 Nov. 1873

Sec'y to Board of R.