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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

953

Press

B.P. No.

Mis.

Dated

31st July 1961/874

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
31st July 1874.*

No. 263. Read the following Endorsement of the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 31st July 1874:—

Read the following letter from CHARLES P. LAYARD, Esq., Acting Colonial Secretary, Colombo, to the Hon. D. J. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Colombo, 20th July 1874, No. 50.

I am directed by His Honor the Administrator of the Government to refer to you the accompanying copy of a letter from the Government Agent for the Northern Province, submitting certain correspondence with regard to the detection of fraud amongst the Customs officers at Paumben; and I am to request that you will be good enough, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor of Madras in Council, to afford this Government assistance in putting a stop to the practices complained of.

Enclosure No. 1.

From W. C. TWYNAM, Esq., Agent, to the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Colombo, dated Jaffna Cutcherry, 3rd July 1874, No. 168.

I have the honor to annex, for your information, copies of a letter from the Assistant Agent, Mannar, dated 26th ultimo, No. 20, and of its annexure, with regard to the detection of fraud amongst the Customs officers at Paumben.

From A. BAILEY, Esq., Assistant Government Agent, to the Government Agent, Jaffna, dated Mannar Cutcherry, 25th June 1874, No. 20.

With reference to my letter, No. 1, of the 20th January last, I have the honor to enclose copies of a letter and its annexures about the detection of fraud amongst the subordinates of the Sea Customs Paumben.

From T. L. REIDY, Esq., Superintendent of Immigration, Ceylon Government, to the Assistant Government Agent, dated Davypatam, 15th June 1874.

I have the honor to inform you, for the information of Government, that during past season of six months in Paumben we were greatly troubled by the subordinates of the Customs there; our immigrant kangories and coolies were grossly imposed upon by having illegally money extorted from them, and the coolies complained so repeatedly to me that I was considered as their protector, bound to see them righted as far as I possibly could by having no justice done them.

2. One person I complained of has been dismissed from the Customs Department, and I am very glad to mention the concession I begged for has been granted in favor of the immigrant coolies, that is, that all coolies who now pay duty for any amount, has to be granted a written receipt by the Customs officers. This letter will, I hope, effectually stop the grievance we had to complain of as to extorting money from coolies.

3. In reference to similar matters, I wrote in on the 11th of last January last reports of correspondence I had, referring to the trouble we had with the Customs men last year at this Port of Davypatam.

4. I beg to annex copies of the letters I have written on this subject to the authorities here.

5. The receipts for money paid by Ceylon immigrant coolies as duty paid at the Customs at the Ports of Davypatam and Paumben have been now issued for the past ten days.

6. I beg here to mention that since the 1st of May last, now seven weeks, the four vessels we have on this Immigration line have not been near sufficient to convey across the large number of immigrant coolies coming for passage from this Port to Ceylon. We have taken during this period 32,000 coolies, yet we had daily always over 1,000 or 2,000 coolies detained here from one to three days. Had we a fifth vessel of 200 tons, there would be full work for her on this line during the present season.

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7. From what kangamies inform me I believe this rush of labor will give more than full work to our four vessels for the next few months.

From T. J. REIDY, Esq., Superintendent of Immigration, Ceylon Government, to N. RAMASAMY MODILAE, Deputy-Collector, Ramanad, dated Paumben, 4th February 1874.

I have the honor to inform you, in connection with my letters of the 4th November 1873, in answering yours about the complaint of kangamies being over-charged duty at Davypatam, that we have now found out a regular system of fraud carried out here at Kundigalle in the immigrant coolies landed here by Ceylon Government vessels.

1. It is most difficult to find out these frauds, and a great deal more so to prove the matter against the peons.

2. This complaint with fourteen witnesses have been examined in the Paumben Cutcherry this day and yesterday, and they all are now forwarded to you direct with their depositions. It appears by what these coolies state to me that the coolies by this one vessel alone (arrived on the 2nd instant) have been cheated out of some 50 or 100 Rupees. Some 300 coolies were charged by the Customs peon in various sums from 2 Annas to 3 Annas illegal duty.

3. Some thirty-five coolies who had articles liable to duty were sent to Paumben Cutcherry to pay duty. Some 100 others were told by the Customs peons "you must pay duty at Kundigalle and to me." So these people paid the peon duty in sums as I mention, and then they went off to their homes and their villages.

4. One coolie said my coolie, Ruyman, took Annas from behalf of Customs, then the coolie had no witness to prove, and the peon denied it, so if true or not I cannot say: I send my two peons to you with other witnesses.

5. Some of these people went to pay duty a second time at Sea Customs, Paumben.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Duty levied illegally on fourteen coolies by Sea Customs peon, Kundigalle.	4	12	0
Proper duty paid at Paumben the second time.	1	12	3
Total.	5	8	3

I hope that you would kindly arrange in some way to prevent these frauds, as it is also so much loss to the British Government.

6. I am informed by Mr. Davayagun, our Registry Clerk, that the Collector of Tanjorevelly has given orders last year at Tuticorin that receipts should be given for all duty paid on imported articles. If this was done at this port no money would ever be lost to your Government.

Names of fourteen Witnesses.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Nodun peon. | 8. Raman. |
| 2. N. Nodun. | 9. Carupen. |
| 3. P. N. Carupen. | 10. Madan. |
| 4. Raman. | 11. P. N. Carupen. |
| 5. Carupen. | 12. Madan. |
| 6. N. Nodun. | 13. Raman. |
| 7. Raman. | 14. Raman. |

From T. J. REIDY, Esq., Superintendent of Immigration, Ceylon Government, to N. RAMASAMY MODILAE, Deputy-Collector, Ramanad, dated Paumben, 29th March 1874.

I have the honor to inform you, in connection with my letters of the 4th November 1873, about Customs peons illegally defrauding our immigrants and the Madras Government out of money, I have the honor to send herewith

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1st July 1874.*

copies of letters from my subordinates, which goes to show the custom is still being continued at Kundigalle.

From Mr. S. W. NATHANIAL, to T. J. REIDY, Esq., Superintendent of Immigration, Ceylon Government, dated Kundigalle, 27th March 1874.

This morning I have found out two persons from whom the Sea Customs peon, Veerasamy Naiken, illegally received some money as duty for three umbrellas, one which is old and the other two new. This has been proved before the Sea Customs clerk who was present then, and the clerk has taken the peon, and the parties concerned in the matter to be tried before the Deputy-Collector. The amount of the collection the clerk had will prove that it has been the practice from a long time since.

From Mr. P. S. HERFT, to T. J. REIDY, Esq., Superintendent of Immigration, Ceylon Government, dated 27th March 1874.

I have sent the 732 coolies to Mandaham, and money (Rs. 4) for mats. I went to the place where the coolies were inspecting.

2. The Customs peon was inspecting, first and two men had three umbrellas; the peon took 6 Annas for the three umbrellas, and left the two men to go, and when inquiring the men told us that they gave 6 Annas. The gamastah came at the time, and he was inspecting. We told him that the peon had done so, and he has taken them to the Cutcherry. The Deputy-Collector also is come here, I am told. I had no one here; the gamastah all went to Mandaham to inform you earlier. Mr. Nathanial also was together when the gamastah was inspecting, and he has taken the Customs peon to Paumben. The letter to Mr. Manuel I am ready to send by to-morrow's vessel. There are 700 coolies more at Vengalle I am told.

TRANSFERRED to the Revenue Department for disposal.

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Chief Secretary.

No. 304.

ORDER THEREON, 31st July 1874, No. 953.

Separate Revenue, No. 24.
Customs.

Forwarded to the Board of Revenue
for enquiry and report.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Ed. F. E. Bardenas.

No 58.

Colonial Secretary's Office
Colonial, 20th July 1899

Sir,

I am directed
by His Honor the
Administrator of the
Government to refer to
you the accompanying
copy of a letter from the
Government signed for
the Northern Province,
submitting certain
correspondence with
regard to the detection
of fraud amongst
the Customs Officers at
Ponchar, and I am

The Chief Secretary

to Government

Fort St. George

to request that you will
be good enough; with
the permission of the
Governor the Governor
of Madras in Council,
to afford the Govern-
ment assistance in
putting a stop to the
practices complained of.
I am

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant

C. P. P. P.

Major General Campbell

No. 168

Stafford Hutchinson

3rd July 1874

Sir,

I have the honor
to acknowledge for your
information copies of a letter
from the Assistant Agent
at Madras dated 25th ult.
No. 20, and of the same
date, with regard to
the detection of opium
amongst the Customs
officers at Tanjore.

I have &c.

Yours faithfully,
Stafford Hutchinson

Agent

The Honble

The Colonial Secy

Calcutta

No. 20.

Arthur H. H. H. H.

25 June 1894

Sir,

With reference to
my letter No. 1 of the
10th January last I
have the honor to
enclose copies of a letter
and the answers about
the detection of fraud
under the administration
of the Sea Customs
Department.

I have &c,

(Signed) A. H. H.

11-3-94

The Government of India

Calcutta

Davy H. H. H.

10th June 1894

Sir,

I have the honor to
inform you for the information
of Government that during
past season of six months
in London we were greatly
troubled by the interference
of the Customs there. Our
Subsidiary Companies and
others were greatly oppressed
upon by having illegally
money exported from them
and the custom complained
is repeatedly to me. It was
considered as their particular
burden to see them righted
as far as it possibly could
by having no objection done
there.

them.
One person I complained
of has been dismissed from
the Customs Department,
and I am very glad to
mention the concession I
begged for has been granted
in favor of the American
traders, that is that all
traders who now pay duty
for any amount has to be
granted a written receipt
by the Customs Officer. This
will I hope effectively
stop the grievance we
had to complain of, and to
withdraw money from action.
In reference to similar
matters I write in the
11th of last January a
full

4
full reports of correspondence
I had referring to the
trouble we had with the
Customs since last year at
the port of Darypatam.

I beg to annex copies
of the letters I have written
on this subject to the
authorities here.

The receipt for money
paid by Captain ~~...~~
traders as duty paid at the
Customs at the ports of Dary
patam and Panchen have
been now issued for the past
10 days.

I beg here to mention
that since the 1st of May
last now seven weeks
the force vessels we have

on

in the Immigration line
have not been near sufficient
to convey across the large
numbers of Immigrant
Reports coming for passage
from this Port to Ceylon.

We have taken down this
period 32,000 coolies yet
we had daily always over
1500 or 2000 coolies detained
here from one to three
days. That is a fifth
Vessel of 200 tons there
would be full coast for
her on this line during
the present season.

From what Mangam
informs me I believe this
work of labour will give
more than full work
to

to our four vessels for
the next few months.

I have &c.

(Signed) E. J. Reidy

Super.

Pamban

4th February 1894.

From

E. J. Reidy

Super of Immigration

Ceylon Port

To Mr. Ramasamy Nalliar

Deputy Collector, Pamban

Sir,

I have the honor to
inform you in connection
with my letters of the 14th
Nov 1893 in arranging
yours about the complaint
of Mangam being a

✓ meeting

overcharged duty at Davy pattern
that we have now found
out a regular system of fraud
carried out here at Kundaipalle
in the Immigrant Coolies.
landed here by Ceylon Govern-
ment Vessels.

It is most difficult to
find out these frauds and a
great deal more so to prove

the matter against the person
This complaint with fourteen
witnesses have been examined
in the District Mischery
the day and yesterday and
they all are now going down
to you direct with the
evidence. It seems by
what these coolies state to
me that the coolies by the

one

one vessel alone (arrived on
the 2nd instant) have been
cheated out of some 50 or 100
Rupies. Some 300 coolies were
charged by the Customs men
in various sums from 2
annas to 5 annas illegal
duty.

Some thirty five coolies
who had articles liable to
duty were sent to the
Mischery to pay duty. Some
300 others were told by the
Customs Peons "you must pay
duty at Kundaipalle and to
me" so these people paid
the poor duty in sums as I
mentioned and then they went
off to their land and their
villages.

villages

One early mail my Early
Bhymann took answer from on
behalf of Customs then the early
had no column to prove and
the fact denied it. so if true
or not, I cannot say I
sent my two pounds to you
with other moneys.

Some of these 14 men
had to pay duty on moneys
sent at Sea Customs. I remember
Duke lived legally
on 14 cases by the Customs. 12
from Hong Kong.

Duty duty paid at
Customs the 3rd time 12 12 3

12 12 3

I beg that you would
kindly arrange in some

way

way to prevent these frauds
as it is also so much
low to the Madras Govern-
ment.

I am informed by Mr.
Dunoy again our Registry
clerk that the Collector of
Tinnevely has given orders
that last year at Telocorin,
that receipts should be
given for all moneys paid
on cooked articles. If this
was done at this Port no
money would ever be lost
to your Government.

I have &c
(Signed) J. J. Ruddy

Names of persons witnesses.

1. Nothapattu & Raman
2. Valayden & Coorupen
3. Pina Coorupen 10. Madam.
4. Isolan 11. Palany
5. Chayman 12. Kuran
6. Yagayay 13. Kilaran
7. Kuthanay 14. Lickanda

Perambur

From 22 March 1874

J. S. Paddy Esq.

Offl^r of Immigration

Ceylon Government

To

Mr. C. Parnaway Esq.

Deputy Collector, Perambur

Sir,

In reference to my
last letter of the 5th ultimo
about Customs Officers allegedly
defrauding

defrauding our Immigrants
and the Madras Govern-
ment out of money. I have
the honor to send herewith
copies of letters from my
subordinates ^{which} goes to
show the Custom is still
being continued at Kildagalla.

I have &c.

(Signed) J. S. Paddy.

Kildagalla

22 March 1874

Respected Sir,

This morning I have
found out five persons from
among the Sea Custom men
Necunmy Nacker. Illegally
received some money as

sent

duky for three umbrellas one
which is old and the other
two new. This has been
found before the Sea Customs
Officer who was present then
and the clerk has passed
the form and the parties
concerned in the matter
to be tried before the
Deputy Collector. The
amount of the collection
the clerk had with him
that it has been the
practice from a long
time since.

Yours very
obediently
Signed S. M. Chakrabarti

27 March 1914

Sir,

I have sent the 432
coolies to Mandaham and
money. Then for more I went
to the place where the
coolies were inspecting.

The Customs form was
inspecting first and then men
had three umbrellas the form
both 6 annas for the 3
umbrellas and left the four
men to go if when enquiring
the men told us that they
gave 6 annas. The Sumatras
came at the time and he
was inspecting. We told him
that the form had done so
and he has taken them to

the Hutchins. The Deputy
Collector also is come here I
am told. I had no one here,
the Boatmen all went to
Mandurah, to inform you
earlier. Mr Nathaniel
also was together when the
Farrish was inspecting and
he has taken the Customs
from 1st December the
18th to the 20th. I am
ready to send by to-morrow
vessel. There is no coal
more at Vangalla I am
told.

I am
Yours &c
John F. L. Hoff

True copy

(Signed) Co. Secretary
to the

18953

Revenue & the
Treasury. Revenue
report

To the Treasury 1/10/74

31 July 74

W. L. C.

Transferred to the Revenue Report
and for the report.

W. L. C.

Ag. Chief Secretary

Revenue Department

10 July 1874

1863-1864

2/2

Revenue
Office 10/10/74

Revenue
Office 10/10/74

Revenue
Office 10/10/74

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