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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

89

B.P. No.

Press

Mis.

Dated 24-1-1876 196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

481

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
24th January 1876.*

No. 177. Read the following despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India:—

Statistics and Commerce,

No. 26.

INDIA OFFICE, LONDON,

16th December 1875.

MY LORD DUKE,—I transmit, for the information of your Excellency, a copy of a despatch, which has been this day addressed to the Government of India, on the subject of the Trade and Navigation accounts; and I have to request that your Excellency will issue such instructions as will insure both the more prompt transmission of the necessary statements to Calcutta and the avoidance of any needless reduplication of the work through the want of attention on the part of the compilers to the orders given for the preparation of Trade Returns, as far as possible, on a uniform system.

2. I cannot avoid remarking on the unsystematic manner in which the Statements of Imports and Exports received from Madras are still prepared and on the mechanical execution of the printing, which contrasts very unfavorably with the Trade Returns received from Calcutta.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) SALISBURY.

His Excellency the Right Honorable

The Governor in Council, Fort St. George.

ENCLOSURE No. 1

Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India.

Statistics and Commerce,

No. 122.

INDIA OFFICE, LONDON,

16th December 1875.

MY LORD,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter, dated the 28th of October, No. 27, Statistics, reporting that, owing to the delay of the Government of Madras in the transmission of its provincial returns, you have been unable to forward the forms containing revised statements of the sea-borne trade of India for 1874-75 so early as you desired, and that the monthly statements for 1875-76 have been delayed from a similar cause.

2. I have, also, to intimate the receipt of copies of the Trade and Navigation Accounts for India for the month of April 1875 and of the duplicate set of provincial returns, to which reference is made in the letter from the Secretary to your Government in the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, of the 7th of October, as well as of two copies of the Accounts for May and June.

3. It is with much satisfaction that I perceive the great improvement in the form of these monthly statements, and I desire to express my commendation of the manner in which the instructions contained in my despatch of the 15th of October 1874, No. 49, are being carried into effect. A copy of a Note prepared in this Office on the forms for April and May last,*

embodying some further suggestions on matters of detail, is transmitted for your information.

4. I regret to see that the returns from Madras for April and May were received at Calcutta later by about two months in the one case and seven weeks in the other than the latest of the other returns. I cannot but think that the delay may be partly due to the fact that the local returns of Imports and Exports continue to be prepared in the old form, under the old denominations, and without any distinction between Foreign and Interprovincial Trade,

* With annotated copy of April Statement.

from which it would appear that the revised statements have not been substituted for, but merely added to, those previously prepared, and, moreover, that precedence is given to the old forms, since the returns for October have reached me. If the form in which those Imports and Exports are exhibited be revised, so as to harmonise with the general accounts, it appears to me that (so far as they are concerned) they would meet the local wants of Madras, and that it would be unnecessary to compile the information twice on different plans.

5. A copy of a despatch addressed to the Government of Madras is transmitted for your information.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) SALISBURY.

His Excellency the Right Honorable
The Governor-General of India in Council.

Notes on the new Form of Monthly Trade Statements, April and May 1875.

The Monthly Trade Statements for 1875-76 are very well prepared, and are a great improvement on those of former years; but the comparison with the figures of preceding years must, in many cases, be fallacious.

It is greatly to be desired that all the provinces should send up uniform returns, and that Madras especially should be more prompt in the compilation.

A few suggestions are submitted on matters of detail, with a corrected copy of the Statement.

Page 1.—Title. The accounts relate to the month of April 1875, as compared with April 1873 and 1874. The statement is rightly called No. 1 of 1875-76, but to speak of April 1875-76 is inaccurate and needlessly confusing to English readers. (This remark applies throughout the volume.)

Pages 1, 2, and 3.—Table of Contents and Summary. A revised form is appended for the purpose of showing the results of the foreign trade more distinctly. It seems inaccurate to exhibit the results of coasting trade in a total, for the whole of India, as the exports of one province become the imports of another. It would probably be better that the whole of the coasting trade, without any summary, should come at the end of the book. In that case, the arrangement would be as follows:—

Foreign Trade and Shipping.

	Pages.
Summary	2 and 3
1. Quantities and value of principal articles imported	4—29
2. Quantities and value of principal articles of foreign merchandise exported	30—33
3. Quantities and value of principal articles of Indian produce and manufacture exported	34—47
4. Quantities of principal articles remaining in bond	48 and 49
5. Value of registered imports and exports of gold and silver ...	50—53
6. Gross amount of import duty collected	54—56
7. Gross amount of export duty collected	57
8. Number and tonnage of vessels employed in the foreign trade, distinguishing nationality, and the countries whence entered and whither cleared	58—65

Coasting Trade and Shipping.

9. Value of merchandise imported and exported	66 and 67
10. Value of gold and silver imported and exported	68 and 69
11. Number and tonnage of vessels distinguishing nationality, employed in the coasting trade	70

Page 4.—No values should be entered on the quantity side of the return, but the word "value" may be retained in the denomination column to show why the quantity is not inserted. (This remark applies throughout.)

When quantities are entered, they should be so expressed as to leave no ambiguity, such as that occurring in "corks," "thread," &c.

Page 4.—Agricultural implements. It seems useless to publish the number imported. The same remark applies to fire-arms and parts, and to carriages and parts.

Page 6.—Corks. Where an article is entered under two denominations for the sake of comparison with previous years, there is reason to fear that, without special care, the aggregate may be taken at double the real quantity. This may be avoided by a bracket, thus—

{ cwt. 730 }
= gross 11,338 } or perhaps, still better, by inserting the words, "equal to," "numbering,"

"weighing," &c., &c., thus— { cwt. 730 }
"numbering" }
"gross 11,338" } This remark applies also to hides (pp. 10, 11, 38,

and 40), opium (p. 42), and silk manufactures (p. 41.)

Page 8.—Thread, sewing. The entries of quantity from the United Kingdom in 1875-76 are under two denominations, lbs. and gross reels, while the value is put opposite the lbs. only. It is desirable that only one denomination should be used, but, if this cannot be done, or the change of denomination has made the comparison worthless, it then becomes a question whether it is worthwhile to publish the returns of quantity for past years in the monthly statements. In process of time the incomplete returns will be eliminated, and the comparison of quantity will then be fairly made. The first part of this remark applies also to woollen manufactures (p. 46), entered under both yards and lbs.; to silk manufactures (pp. 32 and 44), entered under both yards and dozens, unless the latter can be separately specified as small shawls or handkerchiefs; and to cotton piece goods (p. 48), entered under yards and pairs and yards and dozens. The second part of the remark applies to cotton goods (pp. 6, 30, and 36), flax canvas (p. 10), pitch (p. 18), silk goods (pp. 20, 22, 32, and 44), spices (p. 24), woollen braids (p. 28), and hides and skins (pp. 38 and 40). The information, however, may be of use, and, as long as it is clearly shown that no comparison is to be instituted between the figures, no harm will be done by their publication.

Page 8.—Share of each Presidency in the total value of cotton manufactures. This statement should be transferred to page 9, either as a footnote, or still better, just below the Grand

* Grand Total of Cotton Manufactures.

Thus distributed: Bengal.
Bombay.
Sindh.
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British Burmah.

Total, as in the margin.* The same remark applies to silk manufactures (p. 22), and woollen manufactures (p. 28). If the statements are not retained in footnotes, but incorporated in the body of the return, the same course should be followed with those of liquors (pp. 12 and 13), metals (pp. 18 and 19), salt (pp. 20 and 21), sugar (pp. 26 and 27), and raw cotton (pp. 34 and 35); and also with the share of each province in the quantities, when given.

Page 10.—Hemp. It looks awkward to print the denominations as yards and number, and return the goods all under cwt. On page 33, cwt. alone is entered; probably it is hoped that the other denominations may be obtained in due time. A somewhat similar remark applies to the separation of writing from printing paper (p. 8), and of the various kinds of wood (p. 46), which, nevertheless, are bracketed together.

Page 14.—Metals: iron, wrought. This would be better if arranged thus:—

Wrought: anchors, c., and kentledge.
" other kinds.

Page 16.—Metals: lead, wrought. On the second occasion, before (sheets for tea canisters), the word wrought should not be repeated, but or ditto inserted.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
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Pages 18, 19, 32, and 33.—Paints, colors, and painters' materials. The articles are wrongly split up, and the figures on pages 18 and 32 refer to quantity, not value.

Page 20 and 22.—Silk manufactures. At first sight there seems a waste of room here, some of the quantities being very small, and many lines blank. Probably, this may be revised after the experience of a year, as in a monthly statement very small entries are unnecessary. A similar remark applies to spices (p. 24), where the sub-division has perhaps been badly made by the India Office Special Committee, seeing how large a proportion still comes under other sorts, while the first three specified kinds are blank.

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Page 58.—Footnote. The omission of the figures for Bombay for 1875 is serious, and the omission of three provinces for the previous years makes all comparison useless; it is doubtful if it is worthwhile to publish the figures for the past years. This remark applies also to pages 59 to 61 and 70.

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Page 62.—Last line but 3. The total should not be entered twice. This remark applies also to pages 63 to 69.

Page 62.—Footnote. The returns from Madras should be uniform with those from other provinces.

26th November 1875.

H. W.

No. 178. ORDER THEREON, 24th January 1876, No. 89.

Separate Revenue, No. 17.

Customs.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue.

2. The Government believe that every effort is now being made to submit the Returns correctly and expeditiously, but the Secretary of State's remarks as to their printing should receive early attention.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

Trade and Navigation Accounts and Trade Returns.—Communicating to the Board of Admiralty despatches from the Secretary of State regarding the prompt transmission and correct preparation of the —, and requesting that the remarks as to their printing should receive early attention.

India Office,
London, 16th December 1875.

Statistics and Commerce,
No. 122.

To His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor
General of India in Council.

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I have the honour to be,
My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble Servant,
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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H. W.

26th November 1875.

No. 13. 2193.

Copy Statistics & Commerce Report
to the Govt. of India, No. 125,
dated 16th Decr 1875 & Encl.

Refered to in Statistics & Commerce Letter to
Madras, No. 26, dated 16th Decr 1875.
Para. 1.

G.O. 24th January 1876 No. 89

La Marine No. 17/76.

Statistics and Commerce
No. 26.

No. (Statistics & Commerce) 9. Dec. 1875.

His Excellency
The Right Honorable
The Governor in Council,
Fort St. George.

8/8

India Office,
London, 16th December, 1875.

My Lord Viscount,

I transmit for the
information of Your Excellency
a copy of a despatch which
has been this day addressed
to the Government of India,
on the subject of the Land
and Navigation Accounts,
and I have to request
that Your Excellency will
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most prompt transmission
of the necessary statements
to Calcutta, and the avoidance
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through the want of attention
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preparation of Trade Returns
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contrasts very unfavorably
with the Trade Returns
received from Calcutta.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord Duke,
Your Grace's most obedient,
humble servant,

Salisbury

Ref 1000

Statistics & Commerce
No 12
16th Decr 1875
The
Letter to Fort St George
No 26

No 89

Communicated to
the Board of Revenue.

2. The Government
believe that every
effort is now being
made to submit
the returns correctly
& expeditiously but
the Sec. of State & others
as to their printing
should receive
early attention.

Ld. Ld.

14 To the Board of Revenue 25 Jan'y

24th Jan'y 1876

C 17 Jan'y 76. B 18 Jan'y 76

Enclosure 1

~~No 12~~

Forwards copy of a Des.
patch addressed to the Govt. of
India on the subject of the
Trade and Navigation Accounts
and requests the issue of such
instructions as will ensure
attention to the points noticed.

No 89-24 January 1876

in the order.

Recd 7th January 1876 via
Brimdise & Bombay.