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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

423

Press
Mis.

Dated

27.3.1876

196

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th March 1876.*

No. 250. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th February 1876, No. 450-A :—

Read the following letter from J. HUNTER-BLAIR, Esq., Collector of Sea Customs, Madras, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 28th January 1876, No. 182.

With reference to Board's Proceedings, dated 8th December 1875, No. 3,316, I have the honor to forward herewith copy of a letter from the Chamber of Commerce, dated 22nd January 1876, and to state that I concur with the opinion therein expressed.

2. Under the existing rules,* which require manifests to be filed before the departure of vessels, much inconvenience is experienced by the Commanders, who

* Section 128 of Act VI. of 1863. are obliged occasionally to delay the departure of the ship in order to check and compare their manifests with Custom-house documents,—a measure which involves considerable extra expense to the ship.

3. Provided that a sufficient guarantee is produced by the Commander or his Agent to file a correct manifest within a fixed period after the departure of the vessel, I foresee no possible inconvenience to the Custom-house in granting the concession.

4. At present this indulgence is allowed to the P. and O. and Messageries Maritimes Steamers, as already reported in my letter of the 23rd September 1875, No. 1,346.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Hon. P. MACFADYEN, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, to J. HUNTER-BLAIR, Esq., Collector of Sea Customs, Madras, dated Madras, 22nd January 1876.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 18th ultimo and enclosures relative to the proposal of certain merchants in Calcutta, which is approved by the Collector of Customs at that port, that the Customs Act (VI. of 1863) may be modified so as to allow of export manifests being filed within, say, three clear working days after the departure of vessels.

2. The proposal is fully approved by this Chamber, as it involves a change which may often be of considerable convenience to ships' agents. The present arrangement, which requires the manifest to be filed before a ship can effect her clearance, causes a good deal of undesirable hurry and the allowance of three working days for putting in the document would confer a privilege on commerce in India with which commerce in England is already familiar.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. HUNTER-BLAIR,
Collector of Sea Customs.

A copy of the Collector's letter and its enclosure will be forwarded to the Bengal Board of Revenue with reference to their Secretary's letter of the 30th October 1875, and copies of the correspondence will also be submitted for the information of Government.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th March 1876.*

No. 251.

ORDER THEREON, 27th March 1876, No. 423.

Separate Revenue, No. 19.
Customs.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

V
Govt. of 1876 Madras.
REVENUE.

To
THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated March, 27th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 27th March 1876, No. 423.

MARCH.
Nos. 250-251.

Export Manifests.—Recording Proceedings of the Board of Revenue relative to the advisability of modifying the law so as to allow of — being filed after the departure of vessels.

No. 3,316.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 8th December 1875.
Read the following letter from W. H. GRIMLEY, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces (Customs), to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Fort William, the 30th October 1875, No. 1,176-B:—

I AM directed to forward the enclosed extracts from a letter* from the Calcutta Collector of Customs, written with reference to the recommendation of a

Committee of delegates from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and of other merchants who met the Collector of Customs in order to devise means of remedying certain inconveniences of which the merchants complained, and to state that the Member in charge will be much obliged if you will let him know whether the same difficulty has been experienced in Madras in getting correct manifests given in before port clearance is granted, and whether the Board would be inclined to support any such relaxation of the law as the Committee and the Collector have recommended.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Extract from a letter from the Officiating Collector of Customs, Calcutta, to the Secretary to the Member in charge, Customs Department, Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, dated 21st September 1875, No. 472.

Paragraph 4, Clause 2.—As regards the export manifest, it was urged that much advantage would be gained if the agents of the ship could be allowed to file a really correct manifest within a certain number of days, say, three clear working days, after the clearance of the ship under some guarantee or penalty enforceable in case of non-compliance. I pointed out to the Committee that under Sections 126, 128, and 129 of Act VI. of 1863, the law as it now stands would require re-casting; at present the manifest must be filed at the time of requesting a port clearance, and though there is some license allowed on this point, still no ship is allowed to get her clearance paper finally till the manifest is filed.

5. I do not consider, provided that the Collector of Customs is armed with sufficient authority to enforce what is necessary, that the request is unreasonable, and also I consider that it would be advantageous to this office and the public alike, if a carefully prepared and correct manifest were put in three days after the ship's departure, instead of a hastily prepared and incorrect one at the time of departure as is generally the case now. To this end I would recommend that the Collector be empowered, when he shall think fit, upon a deposit of Rupees 1,000 by the Agents, to be forfeited in case of non-compliance, or commutable if the Collector sees reason to a fine of less amount, to allow the ship to obtain her outward clearance upon the condition that the Agents file a correct and true manifest within three working days after the ship has cleared. It will prove a great boon to the Shipping interest, and for all essential purposes it will not in any way cause inconvenience to this office.

6. Section 129 might be supplemented thus:—

Provided that it shall be competent to the officer in charge of the Custom House to allow the export manifest of a vessel to be filed by the Agents of such vessel within three clear working days after such vessel has cleared, under a penalty not exceeding Rupees 1,000, or such guarantee as he may think fit.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. J. BYSACK,
for Superintendent.

REFERRED to the Collector of Sea Customs for report, whether difficulty is found in Madras in obtaining correct manifests before ships sail, and for expression of opinion as to the proposed change. The Board would be glad to know the views of the Chamber of Commerce on the question.

(A true Copy and Extracts.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

To the Collector of Sea Customs, Madras.

Copy to the Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue,

Lower Provinces, Calcutta.

Exd. W. H. French.

No. 451.

From C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue,
To the Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces.

SIR,

IN reply to your letter of the 30th October 1875, No. 1,176-B, I am directed to forward copies of the marginally-noted papers showing that the inconveniences alluded to therein have been experienced by merchants in Madras and to state that the Board concur in the advisability of the proposed relaxation as regards the grant of port clearance.

2. The Board have recently recommended to Government the grant of a similar concession now limited to the steamers of the "P. and O." and "Messageries Maritimes" Companies to all mail steamers. Copies of the correspondence are forwarded herewith for information.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE,
Madras,
15th February 1876.

To the Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, Calcutta,
with copies of Board's Proceedings, dated 8th October 1875, No. 2,821 ;
8th December 1875, No. 3,316 ; 9th December 1875, No. 3,321 ;
Circular Order No. VIII. of 1871 ; and MS. copies of letter from Collector
of Sea Customs, dated 28th January 1876, No. 182, and of its enclosure.

Copy to the Collector of Sea Customs, Madras.

Ed. A. S. Rodgers.

1875.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 8TH DECEMBER 1875, No. 3,316.

Encl.

Received

Dec 16/75

DECEMBER.
No. 3,316.

Customs.—Referring to Collector of Sea Customs letter from Officiating Secretary to Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, forwarding extracts from one from Calcutta Collector of Customs regarding difficulty experienced in obtaining correct manifests before ships sail, and requesting him to report whether similar difficulty is found in Madras, and to give his opinion as to the change proposed therein.

**BOARD OF REVENUE,
MADRAS.**

1876.

FROM THE ACTING SECRETARY TO THE
BOARD OF REVENUE.
TO THE OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE
BOARD OF REVENUE, LOWER PROVINCES.

90 27 March 1876 1423

Received
Dec 10 1876

Encl.

FEBRUARY.
No. 451.

Port Clearances.—Informing Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, that Madras Board concur in the advisability of the proposed relaxation of the law as regards the grant of —

No. 450-A.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 15th February 1876.

Read the following letter from J. HUNTER-BLAIR, Esq., Collector of Sea Customs, Madras, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 28th January 1876, No. 182:—

With reference to Board's Proceedings, dated 8th December 1875, No. 3,316, I have the honor to forward, herewith, copy of a letter from the Chamber of Commerce, dated 22nd January 1876, and to state that I concur with the opinion therein expressed.

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are obliged occasionally to delay the departure of the ship in order to check and compare their manifests with Custom-house documents, a measure which involves considerable extra expense to the ship.

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2. The proposal is fully approved by this Chamber as it involves a change which may often be of considerable convenience to ships' agents. The present arrangement, which requires the manifest to be filed before a ship can affect her clearance, causes a good deal of undesirable hurry, and the allowance of three working days for putting in the document would confer a privilege on commerce in India with which commerce in England is already familiar.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. HUNTER-BLAIR,
Collector of Sea Customs.

A copy of the Collector's letter, and its enclosure, will be forwarded to the Bengal Board of Revenue with reference to their Secretary's letter of the 30th October 1875, and copies of the correspondence will also be submitted for the information of Government.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with copy of Board's Proceedings, dated 8th December 1875, No. 3,316
Copy to the Collector of Sea Customs, Madras.

*Copy of letter to Bengal
Board of Rev: 27 15 Feb: 1876. No. 457.*

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

23rd February 1769 275-277

14th to the Order of Rev. Sec. & Mr.

24/10/61

Res. 1876. Def. 12

BOARD of BEBENT

MADRAS.

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PROCEEDINGS, 15TH FEBRUARY 1876, No. 45

Dec 21/11 on 24/76

Received 13th Nov 1761

FEBRUARY.

No. 450-A.

Export Manifests.—Directing transmission to Bengal Board of Revenue copy of letter of Collector of Sea Customs, Madras, concurring in advisability of modifying the law so as to allow of — being filed after the departure of vessel, and submitting copies of correspondence to Government.

10/10/61

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10.23/61

27th March 1876