(1) Number of pages 4.

(2) Date of repair 17. 8. 82

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~	432.	Press. / Mis.
Dated	18. 2. 1878	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Archives I—10,006—19-4-79.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

7th February 1878, No. 84.

Out-ports.

Read the following papers:—

No. 18. *From Messrs. DARLEY BUTLER and CO. and other inhabitants of Tuticorin, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Tuticorin, 29th December 1877.*

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of Captain Phipps' letter to you, under date the 4th December last, in connection with a certain memorial handed to the Governor and signed by ourselves and other merchants of this place. We further have the honor to note the order thereon. The latter requires no comment at our hands, but we are empowered by the memorialists to draw your attention to the Master Attendant's letter, and to request that you will be good enough to lay it before His Grace the Governor of Madras.

The articles mentioned by the Master Attendant as exempt from pier dues have, for the last quarter of a century, been permitted to be exported from the merchants' godowns, and not from the custom house, under the special inspection of Government officers, for whose services the shippers pay. This is a fact so well known to Government and of such long standing that the memorialists lost sight of any necessity for mentioning it in their memorial.

The memorialists referred to the pier dues on imports, especially of rice, and native exports. These have not been trifling, as we find from the Master Attendant's own statement that a net profit of Rupees 13,767 has been realized on an expenditure of Rupees 10,000, and this in eighteen months, the period over which pier dues have been levied.

As regards the Master Attendant's statement that merchants need not pay the pier dues unless they desire to use the jetty, we hand you documents Nos. 1 and 2 which clearly prove the incorrectness of that announcement.

The memorialists request us to state that they consider themselves better judges of what they require for shipping and landing their goods than the Master Attendant can be. The practical working is with them; theory alone constitutes the Master Attendant's experience.

We are pleased to see the intention of the Master Attendant a few months hence, but we trust that, now the necessity for lengthening the pier is allowed, no loss of time may occur in performing the work, and that it may be done effectually and to the extent prayed for by the memorialists.

Lastly, the dredging of the inner harbour is greatly to be desired, and as the pearl oyster nursery, formed some years since in the midst of the harbour by the advice of the Master Attendant and sanctioned by Government, has been the cause of silting up the sand and shallowing the water, the memorialists request us to point out that such work may well form a charge on the Imperial Revenues, and, if the work were taken in hand at once, it would be a great boon.

No. 103.

Forwarded to the Master Attendant, Tuticorin, for his remarks.

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

FORT ST. GEORGE,
18*th January* 1878.

No. 19. *From G. A. PHIPPS, Esq., Master Attendant, Tuticorin, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Tuticorin, 25th January 1878, No. 16.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the accompanying letter from certain merchants and others residing at this port on the subject of the pier, forwarded for my remarks, and I beg to state, with reference to paragraph 4, which appears to me to be the only part which requires attention, that when Messrs. Dowden and Co. applied for permission, as per letter enclosed, to land rice opposite their godowns, I was not in favor of its being granted, as the place was outside the regulated limits for landing cargo; and also it was observed that if some of the smaller boats discharge direct on the beach, while the larger and heavier ones had to go to the pier, that there was considerable delay, and from the division of labor the pier got blocked up, causing inconvenience to other parties. At the commencement of the rice importation I found that to enable the boats to get quick despatch, it was necessary to confine all landing operations to the pier as much as possible. Upon Messrs. Dowden and Co., however, stating that they really wanted the permission, and knowing that they had godowns on the beach, I made no further objection, and the permission was granted. In their application they stated that they were willing to pay the usual fees, and no account was therefore kept of what was landed direct on the beach or over the jetty, and the charge was made for the full quantity and paid without demur. I certainly never gave them to understand that unless all dues were paid the permission would be withheld, but no doubt it was their apparent willingness to comply with the rules which made me desirous of meeting their wishes, and I am now rather surprised at their coming forward with it as a grievance.

Referring also to the extension of the pier, I regret that I have been unable to consult the District Engineer on the subject. I wish to see the extension made of permanent materials; for the cost of this no provision has yet been made in the budget for next official year.

No. 20. ORDER THEREON, 7th February 1878, No. 84.

Copy of the Master Attendant's letter will be communicated to Messrs. Darley Butler and Co. and others at Tuticorin, with reference to their memorial dated 29th December 1877.

2. The Master Attendant in his letter dated the 4th December, recorded in Proceedings of Government, dated 11th idem, No. 667, states that one of the "improvements most wanted by native merchants is the deepening of the inner harbour by dredging," which would require a very large outlay, and that the Port Fund could not bear the charge.

3. The memorialists refer to the subject in the concluding clause of their memorial, and state that the silting up of the harbour is due to the formation of the "Pearl Oyster Nursery," and that the charge for dredging should be borne by Imperial Revenues.

4. The Master Attendant will report upon this, and state approximately what the charge for dredging is likely to be.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To Messrs. Darley Butler and Co. and others, Tuticorin,
with enclosures returned.
To the Master Attendant, Tuticorin.
„ Revenue Department.
„ Master Attendant, Madras.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

Revenue Departt

No 700

Govt. of Madras.

MARINE.

To

Messrs HARLEY BUTLER AND CO.,

&c, &c. &c.

Dated February 7th.

Issued 15

Read. 15 Feby.

G.O., 7th February 1878, No. 84.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 16—20.

Out-posts. — Communicating copy of letter from Master Attendant, Tuticorin, reporting upon one from certain merchants of that town on the subject of the Tuticorin Pier.

No 432

Comm.r to the

Board of Revenue

18 Feb 78

Old Do. 2 to Rev. Dr. 1878