(1) Number of pages 6

(2) Date of repair 22-11-1983

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~	958	Press. / Mis.
Dated	24-6-1878.	~~197~~ .

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Archives I—5,806—24-2-78.

958
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

24th June 1878, No. 958.

Read the following paper :—

No. 286. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th June 1878, No. 1,507.

Read the following letter from C. VENGU PILLAI, Acting Deputy Collector of Sea Customs Department, Madura, to H. J. STOKES, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, dated Paumben, 8th May 1878, No. 142 :—

G.O., 29th April 1875, No. 664.
Board's Procs., 22nd July 1875, No. 2,048.

WITH reference to the correspondence noted in the margin regarding the case of opium smuggling from Paumben in 1875 in Boat *Mohidin Cader Bux*, and which case is still pending without disposal for want of clear information on the subject on account of the absence of all the crew from this part of the coast, I have the honor to submit, for your consideration and orders, the following facts since elicited on inquiry in connection with it.

2. The boat or the crew, &c., concerned in the smuggling, have not yet returned ; but in February last the Sea Custom Superintendent of Paumben had a man arrested upon landing there from hearing his name given out on suspicion of his being that Chinnavappa who is suspected to have been the consignee of the article smuggled.

3. And upon orders from me when he was proceeding with the inquiry to find out if he was in any way concerned in the fraud that was perpetrated on the Indian revenues, one Bavameah Saib of Paumben petitioned me, filing some documents which I shall advert to hereafter and offering to prove that this Chinnavappa and another Assanisai Ebrahi of Paumben are the real offenders ; the latter he alleged as the owner of the opium, exported, and the former his agent who accompanied it in the boat to Nigombo and which was eventually seized at Colombo. He at the same time pointed out that as the latter individual being very influential and having many relations around him his witnesses might be suborned. I thereupon transferred the case for inquiry to Keelakarai Superintendent who went into the case fully and made a report with the papers which I herewith submit for your perusal.

4. In all eight witnesses were examined on the side of the complaint including Bavameah Sahib. Of these the evidence of the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, and 7th witnesses directly points out to Chinnavappa and Assanisai Ebrahi as the smugglers. They identify the former as the person who went in the boat, which to all appearance was laden with a cargo of rice, and which on reaching Nigombo was declared to have been laden with opium, also without being covered by a pass. Some of them even admit of having seen opium in Assanisai Ebrahi's godown before the seizure at Colombo was talked of at Paumben, and the evidence of the 7th witness, if it could be relied upon, appears to be important as helping to arrive at the right conclusion in the case. He states that Chinnavappa and Omar, the Tindal of the boat, having been unable to pay the customs duty on the opium at Colombo, obtained a loan of Rupees 750 by executing a bond to him and to a neighbouring bazaarman there, and which sum not having been repaid, he (witness) sued him in the Civil Court there, but before the decree was passed in the suit the amount was paid by Assanisai Ebrahi to his (witness') master at Paumben.

5. I shall now proceed to notice the documentary evidence tendered in behalf of the complaint, and it is by far the satisfactory evidence which this case, I believe, can admit of.

6. Of the documents filed I hereunder describe those which have a direct bearing on the case under inquiry. Exhibit A is a letter sent by Assanisai Ebrahi from Paumben by Avalu to Chinnavappa at Colombo conveying instructions as to the

disposal of some article (not specified), and authorizing to obtain a loan if the sale proceeds of the rice together with the money in his possession be not sufficient to pay the duty on the article; this is dated 15th or 19th March 1875. Exhibit B is a telegram from Assanisai Ebrahi to Chinnavappa at Colombo asking how many Rupees were required by him; this is dated 24th March 1875. Exhibit C is a telegram on the same date from the same person authorizing Chinnavappa to receive 500 Rupees from Mana Tavanna Vappa Levai. Exhibit D is a telegram from the same person to the abovesaid Vappa Levai asking him if he had paid 500 Rupees to Chinnavappa. Exhibit E is a telegram from the same person to Chinnavappa directing to receive 500 Rupees from Matha Canarana; this is dated 27th March 1875.

7. Just at this very time when these telegrams were sent, Chinnavappa had been on dire demand for money and had been raising it therefore payment of the duty on the smuggled opium to legalise his retention of the article in the Ceylon frontiers. And this fact was noticed in the judgment of the Police Magistrate embodied in the Government Order noted above.

8. Both the offenders deny all knowledge of these telegrams, and Chinnavappa pleads to get off that his name is Nyna Mahomed and that he used to be called by the former name by his mother. He examined witnesses in his defence, but they do not avail him.

9. These state of facts create an invincible presumption in my mind that Assanisai Ebrahi as alleged by the first witness for the complaint was the owner of the opium and Chinnavappa was only his agent, and that the opium must have been exported from Paumben concealed in rice bags.

No. 175.

SUBMITTED to the Board of Revenue with reference to G.O., No. 664, dated 29th April 1875, and Board's Proceedings, No. 2,048, dated 22nd July 1875.

2. I have ordered criminal proceedings to be taken against Chinnavappa and Assanisai Ebrahi, and the result of which will be communicated in due course.

MADURA,
22nd May 1878.

(Signed) H. J. STOKES,
Acting Collector.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G.O., dated 29th April 1875, No. 664.

2. The Board await the further report promised.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 287. ORDER THEREON, 24th June 1878, No. 958.

Separate Revenue, No. 29.
Customs.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of {1878} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated June 24th.

Rect.

Encl.

G.O., 24th June 1878, No. 958.

JUNE.

Nos. 286-287.

Opium smuggling from Paumben in Madura District in 1875 in Boat "Mohidin Cader Bux".

Recording Proceedings of the Board of Revenue reporting certain facts connected with the case of —.

958/3

No. 1,507.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 6th June 1878.

Read the following letter from C. VENGU PILLAI, Acting Deputy Collector of Sea Customs Department, Madura, to H. J. STOKES, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, dated Paumben, 8th May 1878, No. 142:—

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Board's Procs., 22nd July 1875, No. 2,048.

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2. The boat or the crew, &c., concerned in the smuggling, have not yet returned; but in February last the Sea Custom Superintendent of Paumben had a man arrested upon landing there from hearing his name given out on suspicion of his being that Chinnavappa who is suspected to have been the consignee of the article smuggled.

3. And upon orders from me when he was proceeding with the inquiry to find out if he was in any way concerned in the fraud that was perpetrated on the Indian revenues, one Bavameah Saib of Paumben petitioned me, filing some documents which I shall advert to hereafter, and offering to prove that this Chinnavappa and another Assanisai Ebrahi of Paumben are the real offenders; the latter he alleged as the owner of the opium, exported, and the former his agent who accompanied it in the boat to Nigombo and which was eventually seized at Colombo. He at the same time pointed out that as the latter individual being very influential and having many relations around him his witnesses might be suborned. I thereupon transferred the case for inquiry to Keelakarai Superintendent who went into the case fully and made a report with the papers which I herewith submit for your perusal.

4. In all eight witnesses were examined on the side of the complaint including Bavameah Sahib. Of these the evidence of the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, and 7th witnesses directly points out to Chinnavappa and Assanisai Ebrahi as the smugglers. They identify the former as the person who went in the boat, which to all appearance was laden with a cargo of rice, and which on reaching Nigombo was declared to have been laden with opium, also without being covered by a pass. Some of them even admit of having seen opium in Assanisai Ebrahi's godown before the seizure at Colombo was talked of at Paumben, and the evidence of the 7th witness, if it could be relied upon, appears to be important as helping to arrive at the right conclusion in the case. He states that Chinnavappa and Omar, the Tindal of the boat, having been unable to pay the customs duty on the opium at Colombo, obtained a loan of Rupees 750 by executing a bond to him and to a neighbouring bazaarman there, and which sum not having been repaid, he (witness) sued him in the Civil Court there, but before the decree was passed in the suit the amount was paid by Assanisai Ebrahi to his (witness') master at Paumben.

5. I shall now proceed to notice the documentary evidence tendered in behalf of the complaint, and it is by far the satisfactory evidence which this case, I believe, can admit of.

6. Of the documents filed I hereunder describe those which have a direct bearing on the case under inquiry. Exhibit A is a letter sent by Assanisai Ebrahi from Paumben by Avalu to Chinnavappa at Colombo conveying instructions as to the disposal of some article (not specified), and authorizing to obtain a loan if the sale proceeds of the rice together with the money in his possession be not sufficient to pay the duty on the article; this is dated 15th or 19th March 1875. Exhibit B is a telegram from Assanisai Ebrahi to Chinnavappa at Colombo asking how many Rupees were required by him; this is dated 24th March 1875. Exhibit C is a telegram on the same date from the same person authorizing Chinnavappa to receive 500 Rupees

from Mana Tavanna Vappa Levai. Exhibit D is a telegram from the same person to the abovesaid Vappa Levai asking him if he had paid 500 Rupees to Chinnavappa. Exhibit E is a telegram from the same person to Chinnavappa directing to receive 500 Rupees from Matha Canarana; this is dated 27th March 1875.

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MADURA,
22nd May 1878.

(Signed) H. J. STOKES,
Acting Collector.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G.O., dated 29th April 1875, No. 664.

2. The Board await the further report promised.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Madura.

Exd. A. Grubert.

14 Feb. Order Dep. Rev. 29 June

Revenue Board's Proceedings, 1878.

Board of Revenue, MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 6TH JUNE 1878, No. 1,507.

Read letter

Encl.

Received

JUNE.

No. 1,507.

Opium smuggling — from Paumben in Madura District in 1875 in Boat *Mohidin Cadir Bux*.—Submitting to Government letter from Collector reporting certain facts connected with the case of —, and awaiting further report as to the result of criminal proceedings taken against Chinnappa and Assanisai Ebrahi.