Revenue Department

G. O. No 1261 dt/15-9-1858

Book No 13-14

Diary 21-9-1858

No. 13. Read the following letter from R. B. CHAPMAN, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India; to W. H. BAYLEY, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George; dated Fort William, the 26th August 1858, No. 1301.

SIR,

I am directed to forward the accompanying Extract (paras. 9 to 13) from a despatch from the Honorable the Court of Directors to the Government of Bombay, in the Revenue Department, No. 11 of 1857, dated the 4th November, and with reference to the question of the eventual abolition of all fiscal restrictions upon the trade between the British Territory and the Ports of all Native States in India therein proposed, to request that, with the permission of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, you will be so good as to furnish a Statement shewing as far as the Presidency of Fort Saint George is concerned, the actual loss of Revenue which will result from the adoption of such a measure.

2. The President in Council also desires to be furnished with a separate Return shewing what Revenue is derived from the trade with foreign *European* States in the Madras Presidency, such as Pondicherry, &c.

3. I am to request that the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, will at the same time specify what articles of commerce—such as opium, spirits, salt or articles of foreign manufacture—should be exempted from the concessions which it is proposed to make.

EXTRACT from a despatch from the Hon'ble the Court of Directors, in the Home Department, No. 11 of 1857, dated the 4th November.

Political Letter dated 3rd December (No. 94) 1856.

Paras. 2 and 3 communicating the opinion of Government, that the ports Kattywar and Kutch, should not be regarded as foreign ports.

Para. 9. We have given to the correspondence which accompanies these paras. as well as to that which was transmitted with your letter dated the 3d January, (No. 2) 1853, our attentive consideration, and we have no hesitation in expressing our assent to the principles laid down by you, and our concurrence in the sentiments expressed by your President on several occasions, as recorded in the documents in this collection, and in that attached to para. 2 of this despatch.

10. In a recent despatch to the Government of India, we assented to their determination, already communicated to you, not to treat by itself the question of the abolition of the duties on goods by land into Goa. But, as was remarked by the late Sir Robert Grant, in the passage of his Minute quoted by Mr. Blain in 1852, the question of affording such a relief to the ports of foreign States belonging to European nations in India rests upon different grounds from that of conferring such a benefit upon the ports of Native States, whose possessions are contiguous to or surrounded by our territory. We regard as Sir Robert Grant did the welfare of these states, as so interwoven with that of our own subjects, that it is both unjust and impolitic to vex or hinder their trade with our ports by any fiscal restrictions. This seems to us especially the case with respect to Kutch, the Rao of which State has always manifested a faithful adherence to British interests, and is now pursuing an enlightened policy in endeavouring, although at the cost of pecuniary sacrifice to himself, to remove some of the obstacles to the freedom of trade within his dominions. There seems reason to hope that the chiefs of Kattywar also will be persuaded to reduce the duties levied on commerce within their jurisdiction. But whether this be the immediate result of the measure or not, we cordially agree with your President that it is manifestly our duty as well as our interest to set them the example of a liberal commercial policy.

11. We therefore strongly approve of the proposal at once to place the states of Kutch, Kattywar and Cambay, the principal states to the northward of Bombay, on the same footing of commercial freedom as the subjects of our own territories. We shall also be glad to have this principle extended to all the Native States on the continent of India.

12. Considering the great success which has attended the enactment of Act VI. of 1848, we can have no doubt of the benefit which will follow the extension of its provisions in the manner proposed.

13. We direct therefore, that you will lose no time in placing yourselves in communication on this important subject with the Governor-General of India in Council, to whom we shall also transmit a copy of these paragraphs.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) R. B. CHAPMAN,
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 14. ORDER THEREON, No. 1261; dated 15th September 1858.

Ordered that a copy of the above letter and of its accompaniment be forwarded to the Board of Revenue for early report and in view to the submission by them of the Statements required by the Government of India.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

25-9-58

No. 1301

FROM

R. B. CHAPMAN, ESQUIRE,
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

To

W. H. BAYLEY, ESQUIRE,
Acting Secy. to the Govt. of Fort St. George.

SIR,

Dated Fort William, the 26th August 1858.

HOME DEPT. SEP. REV.

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2. The President in Council also desires to be furnished with a separate return shewing what revenue is derived from the trade with foreign *European* States in the Madras Presidency, such as Pondicherry, &c.

3. I am to request that the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council, will at the same time specify what articles of commerce—such as opium, spirits, salt or articles of foreign manufacture—should be exempted from the concessions which it is proposed to make.

I have the honor to be,
SIR,
Your most obedient servant,

R B Chapman

Under Secy. to the Govt of India.

EXTRACT from a despatch from the Hon'ble the Court of Directors, in the Home Department, No. 11 *of* 1857, *dated the* 4*th November.*

Political Letter dated 3*rd December (No.* 94*)* 1856.

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(True extract)

D W Chapman

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Rec'd 11th/58

No. 1261.

Ordered that a copy of the above letter and of its accompaniment be forwarded to the Board of Revenue for early report and in view to the submission by them of the Statement required by the Government of India.

Fort St. Geo.
15th September 1858

To Secy to the Bd of Revt Dated 15th

Extract from the Proc.ᵍˢ of Pres.ᵈ/11 May/59 C.ᵗ N.ᵒ 946 in Cons

Revenue is derived from the trade with Foreign European States in the Madras Presidency and to specify what Articles of commerce should be exempted from the concessions proposed to be made —

No. 13 & 14.

C 13

Rec.ᵈ 1858
D.ᵗᵒ to Cons.ˢ 2.

No.

From the Under Secretary to the Govt.ᵗ of India.

No. 1301 -

Dated 26 Aug.ᵗ 4 } 1858
Rec.ᵈ " 11 Sept.ʳ }

Further Cons.ˢ 12 October/58 Nos. 57-58.

No. 1261. 15th " September 1858

Forwarding copies of a despatch from the Hon.ble Court of Directors to the Bombay Govt.ᵗ with reference to the question of the eventual abolition of all fiscal restrictions upon the trade between the British Territory & the Ports of all Native States in India requesting a Statement shewing so far as the Madras Presidency is concerned the actual loss of Revenue resulting from such a measure — Also requesting a Return shewing what Revenue

With an order