1234

Roll

Gorlo 1269

Back no. 29-30 Dt. 21.9.1858

Revenue Department

G. O No 1269 Dt/17-9-1858

Back No 29-30

Diary 21-9-1858

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 21st September 1858.

No. 29. Read the following Extract from the Proccedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st September 1858, No. 3331.

In Consultation 1st September 1858.

Read letter from the Collector of Rajahmundry, dated 5th August 1858.

(Here enter No. 92.)

Resolved that the above letter be submitted to Government with the following remarks.

2. Two Petitions were addressed to the Board last year by certain residents of Cocanada, complaining that the Mohturpha tax levied on them, as measurers of grain, had been raised gradually from one to four Rupees, and that in that year it was double what it had been in the preceding year.

3. They were forwarded to the Collector for Endorsement and are now returned with a report admitting the truth of their statements, and explaining that the increase in the tax is consequent on that of their work and supposed profits.

4. The Collector submits a Statement shewing that the total amount raised in the whole District under this head is no more than Rs. 310-10, of which Petitioners pay more than half, and observes that the tax appears to have escaped notice at the time when in 1848, the " weighing and measuring tax" was abolished in Rajahmundry under the sanction of the Supreme Government together with several other objectionable small items of extra revenue.

To Government 1st March 1847.
From Government 8th October in Con. 22d Nov. 1847, *No.* 1114, *R. D.*
From Government 22d Feb. in Con. 16th March 1848, *No.* 191, *R. D.*

5. A reference to the correspondence that then passed shews, that among other objectionable items then recommended by the Board for abolition, was the farm of the weighing and measuring tax in Rajahmundry, called " Kollagaram," of the average amount of Rs. 2,439-5-9 per annum, and which existed only in the Talooks of Peddapoor and Pittapoor. It was included under the general head of Mohturpha revenue, but was assessed on a somewhat different principle to that now brought to notice, and conferred a Monopoly of the profession in question which that now existing does not convey.

6. It was thus more oppressive on the general community among whom it existed, but at the same time less disadvantageous to those who paid it than is that under consideration.

7. The amount of this tax is trifling in the extreme, and it is evidently partial in its operation, existing only in 14 villages scattered over seven Talooks : as a burden on the industry of the poorest classes it is highly objectionable in character, and the Collector strongly recommends its entire abolition.

8. In this recommendation the Board entirely concur, and the more so, as they are disposed to believe that the retention of the tax up to the present time has been by an oversight when similar taxes in other parts of the District were abolished under orders of Government.

9. The Board have already alluded to its partial abolition in 1848 from the talooks of Peddapoor and Pittapoor where it was farmed out; but in Extract Minutes Consultation, dated 8th October 1847 No. 1114, R. D. para. 14, the Government observed that its existence in those talooks at that time was opposed to the principle of the orders of Government, dated 11th August 1817, abolishing this tax as similarly existing in the Government Estates of the District at a time when Pittapoor was under Zemindary management.

In Consultation 22d November 1847.

10. The correspondence that passed on the occasion of the above quoted orders of Government seems to shew, that the inclusion of this tax in the Mohturpha revenue of the District was contrary to the intention with which the levy of the impost was originally sanctioned, it being stated that " it never was intended to augment the revenue by this tax," and it having been apparently designed simply as a fee to cover certain charges connected with weighing and measuring grain.

From Acting Collector of Rajahmundry 9th in Consultation 21st July 1817.
To Government dated 21st July 1817.
From Govt. dated 11th in Con. 18th Aug. 1817.

11. At the present day it operates merely as an irritating tax on the industry of the poorest classes of the community, and as furnishing a pretence for interference with the markets, the removal of which is highly desirable ; and the Board accordingly resolve to recommend to Government the abolition of this tax in the Rajahmundry District amounting in Fusly 1266, to Rupees 310-10.

12. They have reason to believe that a sum of about Rupees 160 per annum is still raised in Guntoor by a similar impost, the objectionable character of which was brought to the Board's notice by Mr. Stokes in 1843, regarding which the Board propose to call on the present Collector for further information in view to recommending its abolition also to Government.

From Collector 28th October 1843.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. HUDLESTON, *Sub-Secretary.*

No. 30. ORDER THEREON, No. 1269 ; dated 17th September 1858.

1. In 1848, the Supreme Government sanctioned the abolition of the "weighing and measuring tax" and various other objectionable petty items of revenue in *Rajahmundry*. In spite however of such abolition it appears that a tax which in Fusly 1266, amounted to Rupees 310-10, is still levied in that District upon the Measurers of grain, as a branch of *Muhtarfa* revenue. The Board are of opinion not only that the retention of the tax in question up to the present time, has been an oversight, when similar taxes were abolished, but that the inclusion of the impost at all in the *Muhtarfa* revenue was contrary to the intention with which it was originally levied, viz. merely with a view of covering certain charges connected with the weighing and measuring grain. The amount of the tax is shewn to be trifling in the extreme; its operation is partial; it is a burden on the industry of the poorest classes; and its collection furnishes a pretext for interference with the markets, the removal of which is highly desirable. The Collector and the Board on the above grounds, strongly recommend its abolition.

2. So long ago as 1817 the tax was abolished in the then Government Estates in the Rajamundry District, and after the sanction of the Government of India alluded to above, its retention at all has been erroneous and unauthorized; its levy will accordingly be forthwith discontinued as recommended. The Board should instruct the Collector to make the terms of the present order known to the parties concerned.

To Bd. of Rev. dated 11th Augt. 1817.

3. Mention is made in the last para. of the Board's Proceedings of a similar tax of very trivial amount* still collected in Guntoor. The Board propose to call for information from the Collector of that District with a view to recommending its abolition also. If the tax in question proves to be similar to the one, the discontinuance of which has been ordered above, the Board are authorized to abolish it at once, reporting to Government the fact of their having done so.

* *Rupees* 160 *per annum.*

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 3331.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st September 1858.

In Con. 1st Sept. 1858. Read letter from the Collector of Rajahmundry, dated 5th August 1858.
[Here enter No. 92.]

Resolved that the above letter be submitted to Government with the following remarks.

2. Two Petitions were addressed to the Board last year by certain residents of Cocanada complaining that the Mohturpha tax levied on them, as Measurers of grain, had been raised gradually from one to four Rupees, and that in that year it was double what it had been in the preceding year.

3. They were forwarded to the Collector for Endorsement and are now returned with a report admitting the truth of their statements, and explaining that the increase in the tax is consequent on that of their work and supposed profits.

4. The Collector submits a Statement shewing that the total amount raised in the whole District under this head is no more than Rs. 310-10, of which Petitioners pay more than half, and observes that the tax appears to have escaped notice at the time when in 1848, the "weighing and measuring tax" was abolished in Rajahmundry under the sanction of the Supreme Government together with several other objectionable small items of extra revenue.

To Govt. 1st March 1847.
From ,, 8th Oct. in Con. 22d Nov. 1847, No. 1114, R. D.
,, ,, 22d Feb. in Con. 16th March 1848, No. 191, R. D.

5. A reference to the correspondence that then passed shews, that among other objectionable items then recommended by the Board for abolition, was the farm of the weighing and measuring tax in Rajahmundry, called "Kollagaram," of the average amount of Rs. 2,439-5-9 per annum, and which existed only in the Talooks of Peddapoor and Pittapoor. It was included under the general head of Mohturpha revenue, but was assessed on a somewhat different principle to that now brought to notice, and conferred a Monopoly of the profession in question which that now existing does not convey.

6. It was thus more oppressive on the general community among whom it existed, but at the same time less disadvantageous to those who paid it than is that under consideration.

7. The amount of this tax is trifling in the extreme, and it is evidently partial in its operation, existing only in 14 villages scattered over seven Talooks : as a burden on the industry of the poorest classes it is highly objectionable in character, and the Collector strongly recommends its entire abolition.

8. In this recommendation the Board entirely concur, and the more so, as they are disposed to believe that the retention of the tax up to the present time has been by an oversight when similar taxes in other parts of the District were abolished under orders of Government.

9. The Board have already alluded to its partial abolition in 1848 from the talooks of Peddapoor, and Pittapoor where it was farmed out; but in Extract Minutes Consultation, dated 8th October 1847

In Con. 22d Nov. 1847. No. 1114, R. D. para 14, the Government observed that its existence in those talooks at that time was opposed to the principle of the orders of Government, dated 11th August 1817, abolishing this tax as similarly existing in the Government Estates of the District at a time when Pittapoor was under Zemindary management.

From Acting Collector of Rajahmundry 9th in Con. 21st July 1817.
To Govt. dated 21st July 1817.
From Govt. dated 11th in Con. 18th Augt. 1817.

10. The correspondence that passed on the occasion of the above quoted orders of Government seems to shew, that the inclusion of this tax in the Mohturpha revenue of the District was contrary to the intention with which the levy of the impost was originally sanctioned, it being stated that "it never was intended to augment the revenue by this tax," and it having been apparently designed simply as a fee to cover certain charges connected with weighing and measuring grain.

11. At the present day it operates merely as an irritating tax on the industry of the poorest classes of the community, and as furnishing a pretence for interference with the markets, the removal of which is highly desirable ; and the Board according resolve to recommend to Government the abolition of this tax in the Rajahmundry District amounting in Fusly 1266, to Rupees 310-10.

12. They have reason to believe that a sum of about Rupees 160 per annum is still raised in Guntoor by a similar impost, the objectionable character of which was brought to the Board's notice by Mr. Stokes in 1843, regarding which the Board propose to call on the present Collector for further information in view to recommending its abolition also to Government.

From Collector 28th October 1843.

(A true Extract.)

Sub Secretary.

To
T. PYCROFT, Esq., *Chief Secretary to Government.*
Copy to Collector of Rajahmundry.

R D

No 1269

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 17th September 1858 -

Read the following Extract from
the Proceedings of the Bd of
Revenue.

(Recd under 1st Sept 1858. No 3331.)

W.C.
Well

1. In 1848, the Supreme Govt
sanctioned the abolition of
the "weighing and measuring
tax" and various other ob-
jectionable petty items of
revenue in Rajamundry.
In spite however of such abo-
lition it appears that a tax
which in F 1266, amounted
to Rs 310.10, is still levied
in that District upon the
measurers of grain, as a

Recd 17th Sept 1858
By the Govt: Extract
No 1409

Extract from the Proceedings of
the Board of Revenue
Dated 1st September 1858
No 1409
Recd 17th September 1858
No 3331

Read the following Letter from
the Collector of Rajamundry
reporting on the Complaint
made by certain residents of
Cocanada respecting the levy
by the Local Authorities
of a measuring Fee, with
the Boards remarks recom-
mending the abolition of the
Tax in question -

Cond: 12th Oct: by Mr Addl Sec:
2nd Ditto Ditto -
11th Ditto Ditto -

Dup: 11th

branch of Muktasa Revenue
The Board are of opinion that only
the retention of the tax in ques-
tion up to the present time,
has been an oversight, when
similar taxes were abolished,
but that the inclusion of
the impost attached in the Muktasa
Revenue was contrary to the
intention with which it was
originally levied, viz merely
with a view of covering certain
charges connected with the
weighing and measuring grain.
The amount of the tax is shewn to be
trifling in the extreme; the opera-
tion is partial; it is a burden on
the industry of the poorest classes,
and its collection furnishes
a pretext for interference with
the markets, the removal of which
is highly desirable. The Collector
on the above grounds,
and the Board strongly recom-
mend its abolition.

To 18d of Rev. d/11 May. 2. So long ago as 1817 the tax was
1817 abolished in the then Ld Estate
in the Rajamundry District,
and after the sanction of the
Govt of India alluded to above,
its retention at all has been
erroneous and unauthorized;
its levy will accordingly be
forthwith discontinued as
recommended.*

* The 18d shd instruct the Collector to make the terms of the present order known to the parties concerned.

3. Mention is made in the last
para: of the Bd's proceedings
of a similar tax formerly
+ amount still collected in
+ Rs 160 per annum. Guntoor.
The Bd propose to call for
information from the Collr
of that District with a view
to recommending its abolition
also. As the tax in question

~~proper~~ ~~treat~~ ~~out~~ the similar to
the one, the discontinuance
of which has been ordered
above, the Board are au-
thorized to abolish it, at once re-
porting to Govt. the fact of
their having done so.

J.M.
Sept 7

J.P.

3 Copies to the Bd of Rev. Dublin 18th
with 7 Encls

28 Sept 1814

Revenue 1858 Departt.
Dy to Cons: 21st Septr.

No 1269.
Extract Mins: of Cons:
D/ 17th Septr/58.

Re Proc Bd of Rev D/ 4 Octr/58
No. 1559 in Cons
29

Authorizing the
abolition of certain duties
on the measures of grain in
Rajahmundry which
though it was long ago
ordered to be discontinued,
has continued to be levied
through an oversight

No. 29 & 30.