MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 96	Press Mis.
55- 56	
Dated 6th January	1967

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 8,256A.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 21st November 1868.

Read the following letter from J. H. BLAIR, Esq., Acting Collector of Sea Customs, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 7th October 1868, No. 1,080:—

I HAVE the honour to bring to the Board's notice, that, on making to-day a detailed list of the articles lately seized from the Chinese Opium smugglers, two copies of an Ordnance of the Mauritius Government No. 2 of 1867, were found in the pockets of their coats. This forms, I think, another link in the chain of proofs that the opium was intended for shipment to the Mauritius. One copy is herewith enclosed.

Board's Procs., No. 5,638, 3rd August 1868.

2. It will be seen that heavy Import duties of five and ten Rupees per lb. are leviable at the Mauritius on opium.

3. If the Board think it advisable, I would beg to suggest that the Government of Madras be asked to address the Mauritius Government on the subject, and request to be furnished with a Statement of the quantity of opium imported at the Mauritius for the last five years by ships from Madras. All opium landed at the Mauritius from such ships must have been smuggled on board here, as the export is prohibited, and it is not at all improbable that a regular system of smuggling may be discovered, and the smugglers convicted.

4. It might also be advisable to request that, in future, Statements of the quantities of opium imported by any ships from *any port* in India, including Pondicherry and such ports, should be sent to the Governments of Bengal, Madras, and Bombay, according to the respective ports of departure. Smuggling is very probably largely carried on at Calcutta and Bombay, as well as Madras and other Coasting Ports, such as Pondicherry and other places, where ships touch en route to the Mauritius.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Ordnance.

DURING the current year three cases of smuggling have been brought to the Board's notice. In the first case,* which occurred on 27th March, suspicion having been aroused, the Deputy Appraiser and the Manager of the Sea Custom House proceeded with a warrant, under Section 160 of the Customs Act (VI. of 1863,) on board the steamer "Mahratta," and there discovered sixty-two small tins, each containing 1 lb. of prepared opium in possession of the Ship's Carpenter, who admitted that the opium was given to him by one Amung at Madras to be taken over to Rangoon, and that he was to have received two Rupees for each tin on its delivery there. Amung, by the Carpenter's account, had preceded him, and taken a large quantity of opium himself to the same place. The opium seized at Madras was sold for Rs. 469.

* Board's Procs., 6th April 1868, No. 2,580.

2. In another case,† which took place on the 10th June, certain information was received on which a Custom's Duffadar and three Peons with six Government Boatmen were sent to Thangal, a place four miles north of the Pier, where they seized three bags of opium, which were sold for 460 Rupees. The opium was conveyed to Thangal from a street in Madras in a carriage hired by a Catamaran man, and was about to be placed on the Catamaran on the beach when it was seized. One of the smugglers succeeded in running

† Dated 11th June 1868, No. 4,502.

the spot they followed the carts at a distance along the Mount road. They had not gone more than six miles, when they appeared to have noticed their pursuers, for one of the men suddenly ran away from one of the carts, and the speed of the bullocks was increased. Messrs. Blake and Fox, the Customs Officers, who were accompanied by the Superintendent and nine Peons, had no alternative but to pursue and stop the bandies; the Chinamen were disposed to resist, but subsequently surrendered. The opium, on examination at the Custom House, was found concealed in boxes and tins of biscuits constructed with false sides, tops and bottoms. According to the deposition of the servant of the Chinamen, the opium was being taken to Pondicherry for shipment to the Mauritius, and one of the latter admitted that they were going to Pondicherry. The opium confiscated realized Rupees 3,014.

4. In one* of his letters Mr. Blair reported, that from reliable information, he was convinced that opium to the value of about 12,000 Rupees is monthly smuggled to Rangoon and the Mauritius by Chinamen, and that one of the smugglers has constantly smuggled opium through Pondicherry lately. That there is also a class of natives who smuggle the drug largely to Point Pedro, and other places.

* Dated 23rd July 1868, No. 815.

5. With another letter, dated 31st March 1868, No. 410, the Collector forwarded copy of a letter from the Collector of Customs, Maulmein, from which it appeared that three Chinese passengers to that port managed, according to their own deposition before a Magistrate there, to smuggle from Madras 600 lbs. of opium worth 12,000 Rupees. The article was conveyed in boxes ingeniously constructed with false sides, probably of the same construction as those in which the opium discovered by Messrs. Blake and Fox was found.

6. The Board consider that steps should be taken to put a stop to this wholesale smuggling which appears to be going on in Madras, and which there is ground for believing has prevailed for a long time past: the Board accordingly recommend an application to the Mauritius Government as suggested by Mr. Blair in the third paragraph of his first letter above recorded.

7. The suggestion contained in the fourth paragraph is also, the Board consider, worthy of consideration, both on the part of the Madras Government, and of the Governments of Bengal and Bombay.

8. If the Mauritius Government were to furnish this Government with an annual list of the quantities of opium imported, and the names of the parties importing it, as well as of the ship, and places whence it was obtained, there is little doubt that it would greatly aid the Collector of Sea Customs in putting a stop to the smuggling now carried on in this article.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, R. D.,
with an enclosure.

Copy to the Collector of Sea Customs.

the spot they followed the carts at a distance along the Mount road. They had not gone more than six miles, when they appeared to have noticed their pursuers, for one of the men suddenly ran away from one of the carts, and the speed of the bullocks was increased. Messrs. Blake and Fox, the Customs Officers, who were accompanied by the Superintendent and nine Peons, had no alternative but to pursue and stop the bandies; the Chinamen were disposed to resist, but subsequently surrendered. The opium, on examination at the Custom House, was found concealed in boxes and tins of biscuits constructed with false sides, tops and bottoms. According to the deposition of the servant of the Chinamen, the opium was being taken to Pondicherry for shipment to the Mauritius, and one of the latter admitted that they were going to Pondicherry. The opium confiscated realized Rupees 3,014.

4. In one* of his letters Mr. Blair reported, that from reliable information, he was convinced that opium to the value of about 12,000 Rupees is monthly smuggled to Rangoon and the Mauritius by Chinamen, and that one of the smugglers has constantly smuggled opium through Pondicherry lately. That there is also a class of natives who smuggle the drug largely to Point Pedro, and other places.

* Dated 23rd July 1868, No. 815.

5. With another letter, dated 31st March 1868, No. 410, the Collector forwarded copy of a letter from the Collector of Customs, Maulmein, from which it appeared that three Chinese passengers to that port managed, according to their own deposition before a Magistrate there, to smuggle from Madras 600 lbs. of opium worth 12,000 Rupees. The article was conveyed in boxes ingeniously constructed with false sides, probably of the same construction as those in which the opium discovered by Messrs. Blake and Fox was found.

6. The Board consider that steps should be taken to put a stop to this wholesale smuggling which appears to be going on in Madras, and which there is ground for believing has prevailed for a long time past: the Board accordingly recommend an application to the Mauritius Government as suggested by Mr. Blair in the third paragraph of his first letter above recorded.

7. The suggestion contained in the fourth paragraph is also, the Board consider, worthy of consideration, both on the part of the Madras Government, and of the Governments of Bengal and Bombay.

8. If the Mauritius Government were to furnish this Government with an annual list of the quantities of opium imported, and the names of the parties importing it, as well as of the ship, and places whence it was obtained, there is little doubt that it would greatly aid the Collector of Sea Customs in putting a stop to the smuggling now carried on in this article.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

T. Brandt

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, R. D.,
with an enclosure.

Copy to the Collector of Sea Customs.

Exd. J. Wright.

ment No. 2 of 1867 were found in

Revenue Dept.
P. 3766.

BOARD OF REVENUE, MADRAS.

1868.

PROCEEDINGS, 21ST NOVEMBER 1868, No 8,256A.

Encl. 1
Receipt 30 Dec 1868

NOVEMBER.

No. 8,256A.

Opium—imported at Mauritius for last five years by ships from Madras—Government recommended to request Government of Mauritius to furnish statement showing quantity of,

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 6th January 1869.

No. 55. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st November 1868, No. 8,256 A:—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Sea Customs, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 7th October 1868, No. 1,080.

1. I have the honor to bring to the Board's notice, that, on making to-day a detailed list of the articles lately seized from the Chinese Opium smugglers, two copies of an Ordnance of the Mauritius Government No. 2 of 1867, were found in the pockets of their coats. This forms, I think, another link in the chain of proofs that the opium was intended for shipment to the Mauritius. One copy is herewith enclosed.

Board's Procs., No. 5,638, 3rd August 1868.

2. It will be seen that heavy Import duties of five and ten Rupees per lb. are leviable at the Mauritius on opium.

3. If the Board think it advisable, I would beg to suggest, that the Government of Madras be asked to address the Mauritius Government on the subject, and request to be furnished with a Statement of the quantity of opium imported at the Mauritius for the last five years by ships from Madras. All opium landed at the Mauritius from such ships must have been smuggled on board here, as the export is prohibited, and it is not at all improbable that a regular system of smuggling may be discovered, and the smugglers convicted.

4. It might also be advisable to request that in future Statements of the quantities of opium imported by any ships from *any port* in India, including Pondicherry and such ports, should be sent to the Governments of Bengal, Madras, and Bombay, according to the respective ports of departure. Smuggling is very probably largely carried on at Calcutta and Bombay, as well as Madras and other Coasting Ports, such as Pondicherry and other places, where ships touch en route to the Mauritius.

ENCLOSURE No. 1—Ordnance.

1. DURING the current year, three cases of smuggling have been brought to the Board's notice. In the first case,* which occurred on 27th March, suspicion having been aroused, the Deputy Appraiser and Manager of the Sea Custom House proceeded with a warrant, under Section 169 of the Customs' Act (VI. of 1863,) on board the steamer "Mahratta," and there discovered sixty-two small tins, each containing one lb. of prepared opium in possession of the Ship's Carpenter, who admitted that the opium was given to him by one Amung at Madras to be taken over to Rangoon, and that he was to have received two Rupees for each tin on its delivery there. Amung, by the Carpenter's account, had preceded him, and taken a large quantity of opium himself to the same place. The opium seized at Madras was sold for Rs. 469.

* Board's Procs., 6th April 1868, No. 2,589.

2. In another case,† which took place on the 10th June, certain information was received, on which a Custom's Duffadar and three Peons with six Government Boatmen were sent to Thangal, a place four miles north of the Pier, where they seized three bags of opium, which were sold for 460 Rupees. The opium was

† Dated 11th June 1868, No. 4,502.

conveyed to Thangal from a street in Madras in a carriage hired by a Catamaran man, and was about to be placed on to a Catamaran on the beach when it was seized. One of the smugglers succeeded in running off with the fourth bag.

3. In the third case,* which occurred on the 19th August, information having been received that a large quantity of opium was about being smuggled from town to be shipped somewhere on the coast, a strict watch was placed on Stringer's street, where Chinamen principally reside. At 12 o'clock at night, on the above date, the Customs' Officers were informed that three covered carts were being loaded in that street; and proceeding to the spot, they followed the carts at a distance along the Mount road. They had not gone more than six miles, when they appeared to have noticed their pursuers, for one of the men suddenly ran away from one of the carts, and the speed of the bullocks was increased. Messrs. Blake and Fox, the Customs' Officers, who were accompanied by the Superintendent and nine Peons, had no alternative but to pursue and stop the bandies; the Chinamen where disposed to resist, but subsequently surrendered. The opium, on examination at the Custom House, was found concealed in boxes and tins of biscuits constructed with false sides, tops and bottoms. According to the deposition of the servant of the Chinamen, the opium was being taken to Pondicherry for shipment to the Mauritius, and one of the latter admitted that they were going to Pondicherry. The opium confiscated realized Rupees 3,014.

* Board's Proceedings, 3rd August 1868.

4. In one † of his letters, Mr. Blair reported that from reliable information, he was convinced that opium to the value of about 12,000 Rupees is monthly smuggled to Rangoon and the Mauritius by Chinamen, and that one of the smugglers has constantly smuggled opium through Pondicherry lately. That there is also a class of natives who smuggle the drug largely to Point Pedro, and other places.

† Dated 23rd July 1868, No. 815.

5. With another letter, dated 31st March 1868, No. 410, the Collector forwarded copy of a letter from the Collector of Customs, Maulmein, from which it appeared that three Chinese passengers to that port managed, according to their own deposition before a Magistrate there, to smuggle from Madras 600 lbs. of opium worth 12,000 Rupees. The article was conveyed in boxes ingeniously constructed with false sides, probably of the same construction as those in which the opium discovered by Messrs. Blake and Fox was found.

6. The Board consider that steps should be taken to put a stop to this wholesale smuggling which appears to be going on in Madras, and which there is ground for believing has prevailed for a long time past. The Board accordingly recommend an application to the Mauritius Government as suggested by Mr. Blair in the third paragraph of his first letter above recorded.

7. The suggestion contained in the fourth paragraph is also, the Board consider, worthy of consideration, both on the part of the Madras Government, and of the Governments of Bengal and Bombay.

8. If the Mauritius Government were to furnish this Government with an annual list of the quantities of opium imported, and the names of the parties importing it, as well as of the ship and places whence it was obtained, there is little doubt that it would greatly aid the Collector of Sea Customs in putting a stop to the smuggling now carried on in this article.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 6th January 1869.

No. 56. ORDER THEREON, 6th January 1869, No. 26.

Miscellaneous.

1. Ordered that the necessary application be made to the Mauritius Government, with reference to paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of the foregoing Proceedings.

2. The Board will furnish copy of the papers on the subject to the Collector of South Arcot, and will draw that Officer's special attention to the facilities for opium smuggling offered during the transit of travellers and their baggage across the frontier to Pondicherry.

3. The Board's Proceedings above recorded will be forwarded to the Governments of Bengal and Bombay, and the attention of those Governments drawn to paragraph 4 of the letter from the Collector of Sea Customs, therewith forwarded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

Govt. of Mauritius 24 JAN 1869

JANUARY.

Nos. 25-33.

Opium smuggling.—Despatch on the subject to be adopted to the Indian Government.

Chinese Immigrants, Regulations for Engagement of, with their Families.

COLONIAL OFFICE,
FEB 1869
No. 26
Dated January 6th.
Read.

To
THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

No. 26.

6th. Jany. 1869.

Orders to take the necessary application be made to the Mauritius Govt. with reference to paras 6, 7 & 8 of the foregoing Proc.

2. The Board will furnish copy of the papers on the subject to the Collector of Customs and will direct that Officers specially attention to the facilities for Opium smuggling

officers

offered by the Travish
of travellers and their
baggage across the
Frontiers to Pondicherry.

Revenue Department.

No. 3766.

From Pro: of the Board of Revenue
Dated 21st November 1868.

FOR ORDERS.

I would adopt the
suggestions offered by the
3rd of the Sea Customs Com
dated 7th Feb. 66 and with
the views to the Govt of
the Mauritius which he
has submitted.—

The Collector of S. and A.
should be furnished with
a copy of these papers and
asked to bring all such
special cases to the
Board's notice for sanction
offered by the Travancore
travellers & their baggage
across the frontier to
Pondicherry.

Hd Copies to the Bd of Rev. Dept 1867