

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2693

Press

~~Mis.~~

246.249

Dated 14 - 11 - 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th November 1867.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 246. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th September 1867,
No. 5,744.

Read the following letter from the Chairman Chamber of Commerce, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 3rd September 1867.

1. The Collector of Sea Customs has intimated to the Chamber of Commerce that the Board have sanctioned his proposal to introduce the system followed in Bombay and Calcutta in regard to the examination of goods passing through the Custom-house, but the Chamber have not been informed what this particular system is, nor has any reason been assigned for a change in the practice hitherto observed. I am, therefore, desired by the Chamber to request that the Board will be so good as to inform them on these points.

2. At the same time I have the honor, on behalf of the Chamber, to express their regret and surprise that the Board have again sanctioned proposals made by Mr. Blair, involving measures materially affecting the interests of the trading community, without giving them an opportunity of expressing any opinion on them.

3. The Chamber believe that this course of action is not calculated to serve the Government and the public, and, for confirmation of this opinion, they point to the extreme irritation which is caused to those who have business at the Custom-house, and the actual loss inflicted on the traders by the practices which have been introduced by Mr. Blair, apparently with the sanction of the Board.

4. Any reasonable precautions against fraud would not be complained of; but the vexatious mode of carrying out a system, which seems to be founded on the irrational assumption that every declaration of value made by an importer of goods must, under all circumstances, be positively false, and that nothing short of an absolute inspection of the contents of every package, on all occasions, can satisfy the ends of Government in collecting the Sea Customs revenue, is not tolerable.

5. The Chamber need scarcely explain to the Board that the contents of a package of manufactured good, which has been once opened, are not saleable except at a reduction on the market value. The packages after being opened cannot be moved from one place to another, and cannot be kept in store in Madras, without injury from dust, dirt, and damp, and a very serious depreciation in the value is the result of the indiscriminate, vexatious, and objectless manner, in which the powers vested in the Collector of Sea Customs for the administration of the law, are now exercised. It is obvious that it is the duty of the Custom-house authorities to pursue a course the very opposite of this, and by every possible means to prevent injury to goods, which, for the purposes of the revenue, the Government require should be temporarily under their control, and the Chamber do not doubt that this also is the view of the Board of Revenue. Something must be due to those who contribute so largely to the Government funds, and it cannot be the desire of the Board that the Collector of Sea Customs should regard himself, as the Chamber have reason to fear is the case, as appointed for the purpose of repressing and punishing what he considers the crime of importing goods into Madras.

6. The Chamber are not aware that Mr. Blair expects to obtain any increase of revenue by his new system, and they beg to express a strong opinion that nothing

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but a diminution of the revenue can be looked for as its results, for it is certain that the loss to importers, caused by the Custom-house practices, must have the effect of diverting goods to other ports where the interests of trade are not regarded with disfavor by the authorities.

7. The Chamber respectfully urge that the Board will have the goodness to cause this matter to be inquired into, with a view to the practice at the Custom-house being placed on a satisfactory footing; and they again pray that the Board will do them the justice and the favor to refer to them before sanctioning changes affecting general interests.

8. The Chamber deeply regret that they find it necessary to address the Board on such matters, as it is evidently of the utmost consequence that the best understanding should exist between the traders of the port and the Custom-house authorities, and it is the desire of every member of the Chamber to cultivate this feeling.

9. The Chamber are confident that the Board will take the same view of the question, and will take the necessary measures for carrying it out.

P. S.—I have the honor to point out that the provisions of the Sea Customs Act, which require the rules for regulating the practice of the Custom-house to be published in the official Gazette, do not appear to have been complied with by the Board.

(Signed) A. F. B.

Forwarded to the Collector of Sea Customs for his observations.

No. 247. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th September 1867,
No. 6,241.

Read again letter from the Chamber of Commerce, dated 3rd September 1867,
recorded in the Board's Proceedings, dated 4th idem, No. 5,744.

Read also letter from the Collector of Sea Customs, dated 6th September 1867;
No. 942, submitting his observations on a letter from the Chamber of
Commerce, under date 3rd September 1867.

1. From the letter addressed by the Chamber of Commerce to the Board recorded above, there appears to be some misapprehension as to the orders recently issued in respect to the examination of goods at the Madras Custom-house, and the Board will, therefore, state briefly how the so-called change of system originated.

2. On his return from Calcutta, Mr. Blair brought to notice that the system under which goods were examined at Madras was very lax and incomplete, as compared either with the system which he had found in force at Calcutta, or the Bombay system as it had been described to him by Mr. Bellasis, and as, in order to carry out the improvements and increased checks which he desired to introduce at Madras, a small addition to his establishment was necessary, Mr. Blair requested and obtained the sanction of the Board and the Government to this increase of expenditure. He duly stated the purposes for which the additional establishment was needed, and the reasons which induced him to recommend it, which seemed to the Board and Government to be sufficient.

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3. Since the receipt of the Chamber's letter, the Board have ascertained that the practice at Bombay is somewhat dissimilar from that at Calcutta, but at both ports the examination of goods is much more stringent than it has been at Madras. On general principles the Board are of opinion that fixed rules prescribing the examination of a declared proportion of the goods passing through the Custom-house are inexpedient, and they do not consider that the Collector should be bound to examine a part of every consignment. This is a matter, however, which the Collector must be left to deal with entirely as he finds necessary, and it must be distinctly understood that every package which passes through the Custom-house is liable to examination at the Collector's discretion. It is to him that the Board and Government must look for the protection of the Customs revenue, and it is necessary that he should be vested with ample powers for the purpose. The Board are, however, confident that, while employing his powers of examination and check with sufficient strictness thoroughly to protect the interests of Government, the Collector will exercise them with as much forbearance and consideration as possible.

4. With advertence to the remarks made by the Chamber in paragraph 2 of their letter, the Board observe that, though there are many occasions on which the Board deem it advisable to seek the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce, and though they have frequently done so before sanctioning the introduction of changes in the procedure of the Custom-house, it by no means follows that the Chamber should assume a *right* to advise in such matters. The Board, however, did not ask for an expression of their views on this occasion, because the question involved was the very simple one, of whether the examination of goods passing through the Custom-house should be conducted in such an efficient manner as would satisfy the responsible officer, or on a plan which appeared to him to be lax and imperfect as compared with that in force elsewhere. The change in fact was one simply of administrative procedure. The practice of examining goods was to be more strictly carried out; hence it was unnecessary to publish any notification of the nature referred to in the postscript of the Chamber's letter.

5. The Board cannot conclude these Proceedings without expressing their regret that the Chamber should have treated the subject of their reference to the Board rather as a personal matter between Mr. Blair and the gentlemen forming the Chamber of Commerce, than as a general one between the Customs Officers and the Traders of the Port. The tone of their communication, too, is certainly not calculated to further that good understanding between the Custom-house authorities and the Merchants of Madras, which they express themselves so desirous to maintain.

No. 248. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th October 1867,
No. 7,035.

Read again the following telegram:—

From the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, to the Collectors of Customs, Calcutta, Bombay, and Point-de-Galle, dated Madras, 7th September 1867, No. 5,808.

Please telegraph whether you open and examine a portion of all consignments passed through your Custom-house, irrespective of the respectability of the consignees.

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Read also the following papers:—

Telegram from the Commissioner of Customs, Bombay, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated 10th September 1867.

Portions of all consignments are *not* opened. Discretion is exercised by Custom-house officer. Respectability of consignee has due weight. But consignments of the first firms in Bombay are examined at times. Full particulars given in my letter, No. fourteen hundred and eighty, July 5th, to Madras Collector Sea Customs.

Telegram from the Collector of Customs, Point-de-Galle, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated 9th September 1867.

Yes, excepting overland goods which are passed without examination if the documents accompanying them are satisfactory.

Telegram from the Collector of Customs, Calcutta, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated 12th September 1867.

Your telegram received. Answer, yes.

From the Collector of Sea Customs, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 6th September 1867, No. 912.

1. Board's Proceedings of September 4th, 1867, No.—, forwarding letter to Board of Revenue, from Chamber of Commerce, of September 3rd, 1867, for my observations.

2. My letter to the Board, of March 13th, 1867, No. 252, has already fully explained why I considered it necessary that a part of each consignment of goods should be opened and examined, and the Board* and Government† were satisfied of the validity of the reasons given.

3. I should premise that no communication has been received by me from the Chamber on this subject, but I have corresponded with individual merchants, and from the tenor of the Chamber's letter, it is clearly grounded on the aforesaid correspondence. I shall, therefore, refer to statements in it when necessary.

4. Paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of the Chamber's letter to the Board require no comment from me, as they refer only to the Proceedings of the Board, and not to those of the Custom-house.

5. Paragraph 4.—I submit that opening from one to ten per cent. of every consignment of goods is only a "reasonable precaution against fraud." The Custom-house does not thereby assume that "every declaration of value must, under all circumstances, be positively false," and "the absolute inspection of every package "on all occasions" has never been the practice: in some instances a full and searching inspection of every case in a consignment has been ordered, but on such occasions there have been special reasons for the order, which I can give if called upon. Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. were also informed by me that "if parties decline to produce invoices, samples, " &c., or to give information, I have the power of opening and fully examining

* Letter to Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., No. 914, dated 2nd September 1867.

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"every case of goods. In cases where invoices, &c., are produced, and information "given, from one to ten per cent. only of each consignment will be opened and "examined; the examination, moreover, will not be so full or thorough."

6. Paragraph 5.—Traders in Calcutta and Bombay find no difficulty, I imagine, in selling goods which have been opened in Custom-houses. I see, therefore, no reason why a difficulty should be experienced in Madras, which is not felt in other commercial ports, or why opening goods in the Madras Custom-house should cause depreciation when no such effect, as far as I am informed, is caused by the same procedure elsewhere. Opened packages can be re-packed and closed, and have been opened and re-packed constantly, without any complaints; in fact the practice has been carried out ever since there has been a Custom-house. I do not think the argument of "deterioration of value" requires further comment.

The argument "that it is the duty of the Custom-house to prevent injury to goods" is answered by the statement already made that goods must be examined in part to prevent frauds on the revenue. No doubt, as the Chamber observes, consideration is due to those who are the instruments of commerce; an interest so important to the community; but this consideration must be harmonized with what is due to the revenue and to Government, which is the object I have in view, nor can it, I submit, be correctly affirmed that "the importer is the party contributing," in the words of the Chamber, "so largely to the Government funds," the contribution referred to being in reality made by the consumer.

7. Paragraph 6.—I do not know any ports where the Custom-house does not examine goods. I fail to comprehend, therefore, why the Government of Madras should lose revenue by the examination of goods in their Custom-house, a loss which is not incurred elsewhere.

8. Paragraphs 7 and 8.—I am aware that the trade of Madras was perfectly satisfied with the indulgent system of the Custom-house in past times, which has been, to all intents and purposes, a very large and convenient warehouse for the reception and stowage of goods on most advantageous terms. As far as Government was concerned, it was almost useless as a Custom-house. Goods were brought in, kept for weeks and months, without payment of even warehouse rent, until in June 1864,* the godown rent rules were altered, and till quite lately almost all goods passed through the

* Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd June 1864, No. 3,399.

yard without any examination whatever. They might just as well have been passed direct from the Beach to the Merchants' godowns, in ninety-nine cases out of one hundred. Government would have been saved much expense in buildings and establishment, and the system would have been more convenient to the trade. Of course traders cannot be expected to accept without remonstrance a greater strictness and supervision in the Custom-house, and though it has always been my desire and endeavour to promote a good understanding between Traders and the Custom-house authorities, I am well aware that the introduction of various alterations, which are distasteful and repugnant to them, must be attended with a certain amount of dissatisfaction and unpopularity.

9. I consider, however, I have a clear duty to perform towards Government, however unpleasant to myself personally; and though the result is what I have stated, and perhaps may be again the same on future occasions, I shall never allow

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any considerations of such consequences to influence my proceedings, while I act in conformity with the orders of Government.

10. P. S.—No new rules have been made; it was not therefore requisite that any should be published in the Gazette; this information was given to Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. in my letter of September 3rd, 1867, No. 925.

11. I have now fully answered the charges brought against me by the Chamber. I have only further to assure the Board that if more information, or a report of special cases proving that traders have attempted to smuggle goods, to pass prohibited ones, to clear goods much below market value, &c., is required, it can be sent in at once.

12. As the Board may wish to know what grounds I had for stating what is the practice at Calcutta and Bombay, in paragraph 4 of my letter of March 13th, 1867, No. 252, I beg to state that I made personal inquiries myself from the Collector, Deputy Collector, and Head Appraiser of the Calcutta Custom-house on several occasions, and was present in the different departments while business was being carried on by those officers. I also made personal inquiries from Mr. Bellasis, the Commissioner of Customs, Bombay, and his personal Assistant, Meclamtrow Anmet, third class Assistant Commissioner, a remarkably intelligent officer, as to the practice in the Bombay Custom-house, and they assured me it was exactly the same as at Calcutta, namely, opening and examining from one to ten per cent. of each consignment. Both the Calcutta and Bombay Officers were much astonished when I informed them of the lax system existing in this Custom-house, and asked me what was the use of a Custom-house which never examined goods. Mr. Shaw, the Appraiser here, visited Calcutta last March on leave, was daily at the Custom-house inquiring and observing how business was carried on, and corroborates all that I have advanced. The new Deputy Appraiser, Mr. Blake, who has been an Appraiser in the Calcutta Custom-house, and is a decidedly intelligent observing officer, of whom Mr. Crawford, the Collector, wrote in the highest terms, also confirms all the statements made by me. What better evidence could be possibly obtained, that nothing has been done here which is not the practice in Calcutta and Bombay?

13. I would here beg to bring to the Board's notice that the subject of examination of goods has already been most fully discussed and inquired into at Calcutta in 1859, 60, and 61, and the subject will be found at length in the printed Reports of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, which can be sent if required.

From the same Officer, dated Madras, 13th September 1867, No. 955.

To Calcutta and Bombay, No. 605, dated 19th June 1867.

From Bombay, 5th July 1867, No. 1,480.

From Calcutta, 30th August 1867, No. 827.

In continuation of my letter to the Board, No. 942, of the 6th instant, I have the honor to forward copies of the letters marginally noted, regarding the examination, &c., of goods.

From the Collector of Sea Customs, Madras, to the Collector of Customs, Calcutta, dated 19th June 1867, No. 605.

Having been informed while at Calcutta that every consignment of goods that passed through the Calcutta Custom-house is opened and examined at the rate of from two to ten per cent., and that certain descriptions of goods undergo thorough examination, I have the honor to request you will

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be good enough to furnish me, at your earliest convenience, with all the Rules and Departmental Orders now in force relating to the admission of Invoices, and instructions for the guidance of the Head Appraiser and his Assistants, the duties and responsibilities apportioned to them respectively, and all rules relating to the examination of goods, as I wish to institute your system here. No. 606, copy to the Collector of Customs, Bombay.

From the Officiating Commissioner of Customs, Bombay, to the Collector of Sea Customs, Madras, dated 5th July 1867, No. 1,480.

1. In acknowledging the receipt of your letter, No. 606, of the 19th ultimo, I have the honor to state that the practice observed here with regard to opening and examining packages of goods is as follows.

2. The Customs authorities reserve to themselves the right of examining and weighing or gauging any, and every package of goods. But the examination of all goods is not only an impossibility, but also a course which it would be inexpedient to pursue. As a general rule, (except in cases of doubt,) we are content in the case of English goods (where accredited Invoices are presented) of examining only a case or two of a consignment now and then. We are guided in the more or less rigid examination of goods, to a certain extent, by the standing and well known respectability or otherwise of the importer.

3. The weight or gauge of English goods, where duly accredited Invoices are presented, is very often through necessity, or to suit the convenience of merchants, admitted according to such Invoices; as a rule, however, a per-centage is weighed or gauged.

4. Foreign goods, whether Europe or Country, Persian, Arabian, or American, are subjected to an examination, weightment or gauging to the extent of at least ten per cent. Invoices of such goods are invariably rejected.

5. China goods (other than silks) are examined, weighed or gauged, to the extent of from ten to twenty per cent. Silk piece-goods and silk are wholly examined or weighed.

6. Appraisements are conducted under the provisions of Sections 179 and 180 of Act VI of 1863.

7. English piece-goods are admitted on samples, except in cases of doubt, and as an occasional check upon importers, when a per-centage of the cases are opened and the goods appraised.

8. Other English *ad valorem* goods are appraised, as a rule, according to the market value ruling at the time. Those for which there can hardly be said to be a market value, and where Invoices are presented, are admitted at the gross Invoice value, including all charges of Freight, Primage, Insurance, &c., &c., &c., plus ten per cent., the usual discount of the amount of duty being allowed.

9. Where Invoices are not presented, the goods are wholly examined and appraised. Carriages, as a rule, are invariably examined.

10. All foreign goods are examined and appraised to the extent of ten per cent., and where a doubt exists, to a greater extent.

11. China piece-goods are assessed from actual inspection of the whole quantity. Other China goods are assessed after an examination to the extent of from ten to twenty per cent. In doubtful cases a more rigid examination takes place.

12. The two senior Appraisers are alone permitted to appraise valuable goods. The work of the others is restricted to examining and checking Invoices of goods.

13. I also beg leave to refer you to the Standing Orders, two printed copies of which were forwarded to you with Mr. Commissioner Robertson's letter, No. 3,024, of the 5th December last.

From the Officiating Collector of Customs, Calcutta, to the Collector of Sea Customs, Madras, dated 30th August 1867, No. 827.

No. 605, dated 19th June 1867.
" 808, " 8th August "

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters as per margin, and to forward, in original, a letter to my address with enclosure containing the informations required.

from the Officiating Head Appraiser of this Office,

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From the Officiating Head Appraiser, Calcutta Customs, to the Officiating Collector of Customs, Calcutta, dated 27th August 1867.

1. According to instructions received, with reference to a letter from Mr. J. H. Blair, dated Madras, the 19th June 1867, I beg respectfully to submit the following statement of the Rules and Departmental Orders now in force, relating to the admission of Invoices, the instructions for the guidance of the Head Appraiser and his Assistants, and the duties and responsibilities appertaining to them respectively, and all the rules relating to the examination of goods.
2. The duty of the Head Appraiser is to supervise the work of his department, to keep himself fully acquainted with the fluctuations of the market, and to be prepared to decide all cases of doubt or dispute between his Assistants and the Mercantile Community.
3. Whenever any mistake, excess, or discrepancy, is discovered, it is his duty, in forwarding the report of his subordinates, to see that the case is fairly represented, and to explain any extenuating circumstances there may be, in order to afford data upon which the Collector may form his decision.
4. The duty of the Assistant Appraiser is to examine goods, adjust valuations, and report any mistake or misrepresentation, whether in quantity, quality, or value.
5. The Bill of Entry, or form of application to pay Import duty used in this Office, is attached. See Form marked A.
6. In case the Collector, Deputy, or Assistant Collectors, do not admit as correct the statements made by importers, in their Bills of Entry, as regards particulars respecting the goods enumerated therein, the first duty of the Assistant Appraiser, on that document being presented to him, is to see that the necessary preliminaries have been carried out. After which, having satisfied himself that the person presenting the Bill of Entry is duly authorized to act on behalf of the importers, the Appraiser proceeds to examine the Bill of Entry, and compare it with such evidential documents as may be put in with it, explanatory of quantity, quality, and general description of contents.
7. Having ascertained the *bona fide* character of these documents, he proceeds to examine the goods themselves in bulk, or such portion of them as have been brought into the Custom-house. Their selecting from among them such packages as he may deem expedient, he gives the order in writing, upon the Bill of Entry, either to open them for examination on the spot, or to send them to the office examining room.
8. This examination, as well as the values entered, proving satisfactory, and the classification of the different assortments of goods being admitted as correct, he signs the Bill of Entry, which is then presented to the Head Appraiser; who, on approving of the appraisement, likewise initials the document, when after the calculations are completed, it passes out of the department, for the orders of the Deputy or Assistant Collectors concerning the rate of duty to be charged.
9. The Assistant Appraiser is not empowered to avert, as correct, Invoices, or other evidential documents, put in with Bills of Entry by merchants or consignees.
10. However useful such documents may be to the Appraiser, they are only accepted by him as evidence of the quantity and quality of contents of the packages to be passed, when the portion examined is found to correspond with them.
11. But such documents, unless in exceptional cases, (see paragraphs 25 and 26,) are not accepted by the Appraiser as correct statements of the values of the goods they represent; for documents of this kind in every other respect to be relied on, are frequently falsified in price, to suit the interests of importers by the operation known in the market as "Salting" or substituting fictitious prices for real ones.
12. Irrespective of classification for duty, the merchandize commonly imported may, under ordinary circumstances, be arranged, under the classes, as enumerated in the paper marked Appendix B.
13. The object of thus gathering together in the same class goods totally dissimilar in themselves, has been to show at a glance, as nearly as possible, the different varieties of goods requiring an equal amount of examination.
14. Care has been taken to number the different classes progressively, as the necessity for caution, judgment, and experience in appraising becomes more apparent.
15. Goods entered under the first head are usually passed on "out-passes" direct from the ship to the merchants' warehouses, undergoing no examination in this Office. The Bills of Entry are signed, after being compared with Invoices or other documents admitted by the Collector.
16. In some cases, for example, of goods under the second and third heads, their external appearance will, under ordinary circumstances, indicate not only the description, but the quantity of contents.
17. Goods under the fourth and fifth heads may also in many instances be appraised in the same way; but as owing to the variety of qualities which are usually comprised in a consignment,

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more care is requisite in their examination, particularly with goods of the fifth class, which should be carefully compared with the Bills of Parcels, and the samples which generally accompany them, and which, with few exceptions, have been found correctly to represent the goods.

18. Classes 6 to 13, under ordinary circumstances, should be examined on a progressive scale of from three to eight per cent.

19. As a general rule, one or more packages of every consignment imported, where the contents are not admitted by the Collector, should be opened and examined.

20. Class 14. Although parcels of Wines and Spirits are frequently branded so as to indicate their contents satisfactorily, yet very close examination is often necessary either on account of ullage and proof, or owing to the numerous applications for allowance for small bottles. When, however, Wines, Spirits, or Beer, are passed on usual quantities, less examination is necessary, and the paper marked Appendix C will show the quantities admitted in this Office, as the usual contents of the different descriptions of packages.

21. Class 15. A close examination is usually made of goods under this head, in consequence of the provisions in Act VI of 1863, and the orders of Government relative to their importation, No. 477, of 10th May 1866.

22. Class 16. In the examination of these goods, more care than with other piece-goods is required, as they are of very many descriptions and qualities, more especially those of Foreign manufacture. Patterns are, in almost all instances, submitted with the Invoices, but many fancy terms are made use of which embarrass and retard the process of valuation.

23. Class 17 comprises a variety of articles, and it is not possible for them to be accompanied with samples or patterns owing to the peculiar nature of the goods themselves.

24. The usual mode of examining is to turn out one-third, one-half, or the whole of the contents of that portion of the consignment selected for the examination, and to compare them with particulars as represented in the Invoices, when, if the cost appear satisfactory in comparison with Calcutta wholesale prices, less the duty and trade discounts, the amount of Invoice is admitted, and the Bill of Entry proceeded with as usual.

25. Consignments of this kind frequently contain a number of articles for which no market values can be fixed, the demand being exceptional, and the supply merely speculative. Hence the admission of the Invoice as the best criterion of value.

26. Class 18 comprises a variety of articles for which no Invoices or other documents are presented.

The entire contents of all the packages are taken out, and an inventory made, separating them under the different denominations. They must of necessity be minutely examined. The Consignees or their authorized agents are expected to be present to make the entries and declarations. Considerable experience is necessary in dealing with these goods.

27. For all marketable goods for which fixed rates are not provided in the tariff, the importers are expected to enter the current wholesale values of the day of entry.

28. From these values they are entitled to an abatement of the amount of duty for the particular description of merchandize, together with the usual trade discount allowed to purchasers.

29. These are fixed discounts which differ only on account of the nature of the goods themselves, (see Chamber of Commerce Price Current).

30. No further deduction whatever is made, and in the event of goods being declared at other than the market rates of the day as just described, or to be in a damaged state, they fall under the working of the Section XXVII and LXV and LXVI of Act 6 of 1863.

31. The Shipping Bill, or form of application to pay Export duty, is attached, (See Form E).

32. Few articles for exportation are brought into the Custom-house. This is chiefly owing to the fact that nearly every description of merchandize, subject to duty, is provided for in the Tariff in such a way as to render examination unnecessary.

33. Goods, however, for which "drawback" is claimed, are generally examined and compared with the Import Bills of entry and original Invoices.

They are usually examined with an equal care with goods classed under the 17th head in the Import List in Appendix B.

34. Country piece-goods, Shawls, and Miscellaneous articles, for which simple Shipping Bills are presented without any Invoice, &c., &c., usually undergo an equal examination with goods classed under the 18th head in Appendix B.

35. Appendix D. is a Comparative Statement of the number of seizures made by the Assistants of this department during the last seven years, and the five preceding ones.

36. In addition to the seizures shown in this Appendix, there were between the 1st of May 1863, and the end of the last official year, nearly four thousand Bills of Entry, and Shipping Bills presented, in which errors of one kind or another were detected, and for which fines were levied.

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A. This paper has been approved by the Collector of Customs

To the Collector of Government Sea Customs. Captain

Sir, Be pleased to grant a Permit to pass into Town the undermentioned goods landed from the

under Imports (New Form).

Colors, and arrived from

No. and description of Packages.	Marks and number upon Packages.	Description of Goods, and contents of each Package.	Total quantity of Goods.	Rate of value in Rupees of each class and description of Goods.	Total value in Company's Rupees of each class and description of Goods.	Name of Proprietor, Importer, or Consignee.

do hereby declare that the Goods above specified are of the growth, produce, or manufacture of _____, and that _____, do enter them at the total value of Government Rupees (_____) As Witness _____ day of _____ 1867.

Witnesses to Signature _____

Declared value _____

Appraiser.

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APPENDIX B.

Classification of goods showing the usual amount of examination necessary and the number of seizures made during the last twelve years of articles enumerated under each class.

1. Railway materials, telegraph stores, timber, unwrought metals, combustibles, acids, and such other goods for which out-passes alone are granted—*Vide* Section 9 of Office Order No. 46 of 2nd May 1860.

2. Piece-goods. Grey Cottons.
3. Beef in Casks; Beer in wood; Candles; Coffee; Corks in bales; Camphor; Cheese; Canes; Dates; Elephants Grinders and Tusks; Felt; Flour in casks and bags; Garlic; Glass crown; Lac stick; Lead, sheets, for Tea canisters; Lead, red; Lead, white; Metal, sheathing and sheets; Nails, iron and composition; Paints of Sorts; Pitch; Pork in casks; Pepper; Quicksilver; Rat-tans; Sugar-candy, China; Shot; Spelter, sheets; Tin plates; Tar; Turpentine; Tongues, salted, in kegs; Tea; Tobacco, American and manufactured; Vermillion; and Zinc sheathing in casks.

4. White and colored Twist and sewing Cottons.
5. Piece-good, Linen, white and colored Cottons, and Woollens.
6. Naval stores, Paints, Oils, and dye-stuffs not included in class 3.
7. Musical and Band instruments.
8. Glass and Earthenware.
9. Corks, Oilman Stores, Spices and provisions not in Class 3.
10. Gums, Drugs, Chemical and Apothecaries ware not in Class 3.
11. Metal, unwrought do. do.
12. Metal, wrought and manufactured of, including Hardware and Cutlery not included in Class 3.

13. Tobacco, and articles used in consumption of, as Pipes, &c., not included in Class 3.
14. Beer, Wines, and Spirits.
15. Arms and Ammunition.
16. Silk piece-goods, British and Foreign.
17. Haberdashery, Millinery, Hosiery, Perfumery, Jewellery, Clocks and Watches, Fancy goods, small wares, Coach Makers Saddler's materials, Gilder's materials, Stationery and Playing Cards.

18. China and Japan goods, and goods for which simple Bills of Entry are presented without any document whatever, or when particulars of contents are unknown:—

Class.	Seizure made.	Usual examination.
1	...	
2	...	From 1 to 2 per cent.
3	6	" 2 to 3 per "
4	2	" 2 to 4 per "
5	6	
6	1	
7	2	" 3 to 8 per "
8	4	
9	7	
10	7	" 5 to 10 per "
11	...	
12	24	
13	6	" 10 to 15 per "
14	5	
15	4	
16	3	" 15 to 20 per "
17	77	
18	5	100 per "

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APPENDIX C.

Beer in Wood.

Hhd ...	...	...	...	52 Imperial Gallon.
Half do.	...	...	...	26 do.
Barrel	...	...	...	30 do.
Kilderkin	...	...	...	18 do.

Wine and Spirits in Wood.

Butt of Sherry	...	...	...	112 Imperial Gallons.
Do. of Madavia	...	...	...	94 do.
Hhd. of Claret	...	...	...	50 do.
Do. of other Wines	...	...	...	56 do.
Do. of Spirits	...	...	...	59 do.
Aum	...	...	...	35 do.
Barrel	...	...	...	32½ do.
Quarter Cask	...	...	...	28 do.
Octave	...	...	...	7 do.
Robbin...	...	...	...	3½ do.

Beer, Wines, and Spirits in Bottle.

6 Ordinary Wine quarts.	} Equal to one Imperial Gallon.
12 Do. do. pints.	
4 Large square (Hollands.)	
8 Small do. do.	
5 Long stone (Curaco.)	
3 Magnums.	

Ten per cent O. P. is added to all spirits not tested that are imported in wood, but that in bottles (with the exception of Absenthe and Kirchswasser) is seldom over London proof.

Spirits-of-Wine.

Is always tested and the O. P. added.

APPENDIX D.

Statement showing the total and annual average number of seizures made by the Assistants of the Appraiser's Department between the 1st May 1855 and the 30th April 1860, and 1st May 1860 and 30th April 1867, being respective periods of five and seven years.

Year.	Number of seizures made.		Number of packages seized.		Number of seizures released on fine.		Number of seizures released without fine.	
	Total.	Average.	Total.	Average.	Total.	Average.	Total.	Average.
1855 to 1860...	20	4	168	33½	Nil.	Nil	6	1
1860 to 1867...	168	23½	1,483	211½	15	2½	84	12

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E.
SHIPPING BILL.
1. Warehouse or Drawback goods.
2. Foreign goods and for Drawback.
3. Goods exported under special rule of restriction.
4. Country goods subject to duty.
5. Do. not subject to duty.

Ship's Name.	Whether British or Foreign; if Foreign, the country.	Master's Name.	Port or place of destination.	Marks.	Number.	Description of packages.	Quantity, quality, and description of goods.	Rate of value for duty.	Total Value for duty.	Declared real value under Section XXVI.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

I claim drawback on

I declare the value of the goods above described to be

Calcutta

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Office Order, No. 45 of 1st May 1860.

GENERAL RULES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE APPRAISER.

1. The great change in the mode of passing goods on importation occasioned by the modification of the out-pass system renders it necessary that the Appraisers should, instead of being located at one place as at present, be stationed at different parts of the Custom-house premises.

2. The increase to this Establishment has rendered a measure of this nature feasible. Until further orders, therefore, the Collector has determined to turn a portion of the Warf Controller's residence, and one of the pukka godowns in the new square, into offices for the Appraisers.

3. The Head Appraiser will, as a matter of course, remain in the present Office; and he will from time to time make such arrangements regarding the disposition of the Appraisers, so as to avoid any pressure of work at any one place. Whenever any changes are necessary, the Head Appraiser will report the same for the Collector's approval. The Native establishment will be proportionately allotted.

4. The Head Appraiser is not expected to examine any packages himself. His duty is to supervise the work, and see that the other Appraisers do their duty. He will act as a referee, and the other Appraisers, when in doubt, will apply to him. The Head Appraiser will keep himself fully acquainted with the changes in the market value of goods, and will report immediately to the Collector any misconduct on the part of those subordinate to him.

5. The Collector trusts that this division of Appraisers into separate offices will not only facilitate the general work by bringing them nearer to the goods, but that it will afford to them the means of more readily examining the contents of packages and cases, where cases containing Oilman's Stores and Miscellaneous articles are to be examined, the whole of the contents must be looked at and appraised. The Collector will not allow of any cursory examination, and, in all cases where an Appraiser states that he has opened and examined the contents of any case, the Collector will deem such a statement as conclusive proof that contents have been fairly examined, and he will hold the Appraiser strictly responsible in all such cases.

6. By the above orders, the Collector by no means directs that every case or package should be opened, but he wishes to point out to the Appraisers that whatever is examined must be thoroughly done, and that the examination be real, and not superficial. In regard to Piece-goods and Mule Twist, the Appraisers will be able to judge, by opening one or two bales or cases taken at hazard, whether the contents have been properly described, and they will be cautious in ascertaining that the others agree in size and appearance. In all cases of doubt they will at once open and examine, or refer for orders.

7. Supplementary and detailed rules for the guidance of Appraisers in regard to the staple imports, will be furnished them, as soon as the Collector has been enabled to judge of the working of the new system. In the meantime, as delay might be occasioned to the importers, the Collector rules that where a portion of a consignment, say forty or fifty bales out of two hundred are loaded, and the consignees wish to pay duty on the whole consignment, they will apply to pass the two hundred, and mention that out of this fifty bales are in carts or landed in Section 1 or 2. The forms will be gone through, and the Perwanna, after the fifty bales have been passed, must remain in the hands of the Warf Controller, in order that the remainder of the bales may be checked off as landed and passed through the Custom-house.

8. The Checking Officer, if he has reason to doubt that the bales do not correspond in regard to size, &c., will at once report to the Collector, Deputy Collector, or Assistant Collector, who will issue such orders as may be deemed necessary for the further examination of these packages.

9. It is distinctly to be understood that if at any time it is brought to the notice of the Collector that any portion of a consignment, which has been passed in the above-mentioned manner, be taken direct to the consignee's godowns, without being noted off on the back of the pass, the privilege now allowed will be rescinded, and no goods belonging to such consignee will be passed until the consignment is reported actually on the wharf.

(Signed) C. CHAPMAN,
Collector of Customs.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
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Office Order, No. 46, of 2nd May 1860.

GENERAL RULES.

1. The Government of Bengal having directed a modification of the system which has heretofore been in force of granting out-passes for goods imported by sea, the following rules herein laid down will take effect from the 1st instant, and will supersede all former ones.

2. On and after the 1st May 1860, no out-passes will be granted unless for the goods named below,* and such others as may from time to time be specially exempted by the Collector. All goods must be landed at and lodged in the Custom-house premises until regularly passed.†

* Vide Section 9.

† See Wharf Rules and Appraisers.

3. To insure regularity in passing goods through the Custom-house, and to prevent unnecessary detention, the Collector directs that the wharf be divided into three Sections:—

Section 1 to comprise the sheds to the west of the strand road, and all the land on the river bank adjacent thereto.

Section 2 to consist of the old Custom-house premises, namely, pukka godowns and sheds, import and export, with portion of the Opium godowns.

Section 3 will comprise the seven pukka godowns and the temporary sheds in tank square.

4. A Supervisor, with a sufficient staff of Wharf Officers, will be allotted to each section, and it will be the duty of the Supervisor to see not only that the goods brought into his section are properly arranged, but each ship's cargo be kept separate and distinct as far as may be practicable.

5. In order to facilitate the examination of packages, the Collector has deemed it expedient to portion off a space in each section as offices for the Appraisers. Two or more will be appointed to each office. The Head Appraiser will, from time to time, make such alterations in the disposal of the Appraisers to these offices, as the nature of the work may render necessary. The Head Appraiser with one portion of the establishment will remain in the present office. A portion of the Controller's residence will be assigned as another office, and one of the pukka godowns in Section 3 has been prepared for the reception of goods requiring examination.

6. As a general rule, no goods will be allowed to remain in Section 1. Consignees wishing to pass goods quickly may leave them for twenty-four hours under the sheds, or on the open space, but all goods not passed within that period must be taken to either Section 2 or 3. This rule must be strictly adhered to, in order to prevent delay to others in landing their goods.

7. The Appraisers located at the Wharf Controller's residence will attend to the examination and appraisement of goods in this Section.

8. All valuable goods, as Piece-goods, Twist, &c., and perishable articles, will be stored in Section 2. Beer, Wine, and Spirits in wood or bottles, Crockery, Hardware, Iron, Metals, Betelnut, Cassia, &c., will be stored in Section 3.

9. Free goods—Metals not packed, Railway and Electric Telegraph materials, Anchors, Cables, Chains, Government Stores, Pipes, &c., for the Gas Company, may be passed direct from the vessel under special passes.

(Signed) C. CHAPMAN,
Collector of Customs.

Office Order, No. 71, of 16th March 1863.

Appraisers will discontinue numbering Chellans consecutively, and in lieu thereof note on the right hand upper corner of each Chellan the hour and date on which it is presented to them for appraisement, and the hour and date at which appraisement is completed, making a Memorandum of any delay between presentation and completion due to applicants.

Calculators will likewise note on the right hand upper corner of each Chellan the hour and date on which it is brought for calculation, and hour and date on which calculation is completed.

(Signed) J. A. CRAWFORD,
Officiating Collector of Customs.

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Office Order, No. 74, of 2nd May 1863.

The head of each Department will take a copy of the list of the persons authorized by the different firms to transact their Custom-house business.

(Signed) J. A. CRAWFORD,
Officiating Collector of Customs.

Office Order, No. 81, of 7th August 1863.

Importer of malt liquor and other stores on account of Commissariat Department or other Government Department must produce a certificate from the department concerned, that their importation are for the use of the Government; and on clearing the stores must enter into a guarantee to produce a further certificate of the quantity admitted, as well as the quantity rejected by the department, and engage to pay duty on the rejected portion:

(Signed) J. A. CRAWFORD,
Officiating Collector of Customs.

Office Order, No. 163, of 5th July 1865.

The Deputy and Assistant Collectors are requested to enforce the insertion of the value of the goods entered in all Bills of Entry whether on the Import or Export side without reference to the fact of the goods being tariffed or *ad valorem* articles.

(Signed) J. A. CRAWFORD,
Collector of Customs.

Office Order, No. 177, of 23rd October 1865.

The Deputy and Assistant Collectors will be so good as to take notice that the first order on every Import Bill of entry must henceforth be "to note Manifest." Wharf Officers and Appraisers will not proceed with a Bill of Entry unless the order to note Manifest has been complied with.

All Assistants are particularly enjoined to affix the date of every note or signature they attach to a Bill of Entry.

(Signed) J. A. CRAWFORD,
Collector of Customs.

Extract of Office Order, No. 179.

In modification of No. 177 of 23rd ultimo, it is ordered that the noters will note Manifests on presentation of Chellans, without requiring the Deputy or Assistant Collector's signature or order to that effect; all Chellans will be noted in order of presentation.

The Assistants of each department will ascertain if the requisite orders have been complied with which are necessary before the Chellans reach their department. Thus an Appraiser should not proceed with a Chellan before wharf has been reported, nor a Calculator before the value has been certified to by the Appraiser, and so on.

1st November 1865.

(Signed) J. A. CRAWFORD,
Collector of Customs.

Office Order, No. 260.

To the Appraiser's Department.

Appraisers will take care to see that in every case, whether the goods are free or dutiable, the unit of entry shall be that which is stated in the Tariff, and on which duty is charged. Thus in Twist, the duty is not per bale, it is per pound, and so on with every other article.

This must be strictly attended to. Every Appraiser will sign this order in the Order Book.

(Signed) J. A. CRAWFORD,
Collector of Customs.

The 29th April 1867.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th November 1867.*

Office Order, No. 283, dated 14th August 1867.

To enable firms who have deposited Company's paper as security for the payment of Import duty to clear their goods more speedily, the accompanying order is issued.

The Appraiser, after appraising the goods, will roughly calculate the amount of duty payable thereon, entering the amount on the original Bill of Entry. This document to be then taken to the Accountant who will certify whether the securities deposited on behalf of the Importer are fully sufficient to cover the estimated duty; should this be the case, the goods can be at once passed out, orders being passed by Collector on production of duplicate Bill of Entry.

(Signed) A. V. PALMER,
Collector of Customs.

N. B.—The calculation should be rather above than under the mark.

Ordered to be recorded, with reference to the Board's Proceedings, under date 30th September 1867, No. 6,241.

No. 249. ORDER THEREON, 14th November 1867, No. 2,693.

Separate Revenue, No. 19.
Customs.

The Board's proceedings are approved.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

WON

E. R.
N.

8-2093

The W. P. Jones & Son

Approved. E. R.

14th Nov. /67.

14 Copies to the W. P. Jones & Son Dec 15

Note. I think there is no doubt that
W. P. Jones is heavily underselling
I make reasonable estimates of the
previous order by the same. That
he is fairly trying to put down
other arrangements on a similar
footing to the one at present
being - E. R.