

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 236

DATED 16. Jan'y 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Ordering to forward to the G. O. India
Chancery Commr. approving the letter which
Bombay Milliners Association addressed to G. O.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Cus 1024	197						

Revenue (1896) Department.

CURRENT No. 9372

From ^{Vice} The Chairman
Chamber of Commerce
Madras

Order no. 236 of 16th Jan'y 1897.

ordered that the letter
read above be forwarded
to the Govt of India.

No.

Dated 19.12.96

Received 19.12.96

Registered 21.12.96

Enclosures 1

Spare copies

To the ^{Vice} Chairman, Chamber of Commerce

SUBJECT.

Encl 236A

Copy to the Govt of India
Dept of Fin. & Com.
for information.

Subs: a copy of letter
dt: the Bombay Mill owners
association has addressed to the
Govt of India re: the import duty
levied on cloth at Chinese
ports, with the request that
the Govt may be informed that
the representations of that Assn
have the approval of the Madras
Chamber of Commerce.

16.1.97

(A)

13 Jan'y 97

List 2

Recd
4.1.97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Millowners' Association,

BOMBAY, 16th November, 1896.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA,
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & COMMERCE,
CALCUTTA.

SIR,

The Committee of the Bombay Millowners' Association are informed that negotiations are being carried on between the Chinese Government and the Foreign Powers regarding the increase in the import and export duties at the Chinese Ports, and that if the Powers come to some agreement on the point the present Treaty clauses will have to be altered.

2. According to the present Chinese Customs Tariff on imports (Articles 28 to 46) duty is levied alike on all pieces of cloth up to a certain length, irrespective of weight or price, and it often happens therefore that a piece costing say one Rupee has to pay the same duty as one costing say three to four rupees. About 9 years ago a local firm of millowners had sent to Shanghai some pieces of cloth weighing about 1½ to 3 lbs. per piece, and the duty levied on them was the same as on 7-pound T. Cloths. A protest was entered at the time but the firm in question was informed by the British Representative that the anomaly would be removed next time the Treaty clauses came under revision.

3. As the Treaty will now most probably be revised the Committee of the Association desire me respectfully to ask that the Government of India may be pleased to take such steps as they may deem necessary with the view, if possible, of making the duty fall evenly and proportionately on all sorts of goods, and they desire me to append the following suggestions for the consideration of Government:—

In the first place there should be no classification of goods as to length or width; the basis of classification should be the warp and weft employed in the texture of the cloth. Thus the goods may be classified as coarse, medium and fine, that is to say goods in which the average count of warp and weft comes to 20s or under; goods in which the average count is from 20s to 40s; and finally goods containing finer yarn than 40s. The duty can then be levied at the rate of so many cents. per lb. or per catty that is to say on the *weight* and not on the whole piece. Of course the rates should be different for the abovementioned three classifications. The French Tariff is of this nature and the system in many European Countries is, the committee understand, similar.

The cloth most liked in China is the locally-made, hand-woven sort, of very short width and length, just sufficient to make one garment. These goods fetch a comparatively better price, but the Indian Mills are precluded from imitating them under the present system of levying duties.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) N. N. WADIA,

Deputy-Chairman.

The Madras Chamber of Commerce,

Madras, 19th Decr - 1896.



FROM

W. S. Shaw Esq.

Via - CHAIRMAN, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

MADRAS.

To

*The Secretary, to Government
Revenue Department
Fort Saint George*

Sir,

*This Chamber has been favoured
with a copy of a letter (copy enclosed)
dated the 16th ultimo, which the Bombay
Millionners' Association has addressed
to the Government of India regarding the
import duty levied on cloth at Chinese
ports, and I beg to request that you
will inform the Govt of India that the
representations of that Association have
the approval of this Chamber.*

*I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant*

W. S. Shaw

Chairman

Encl. 1