0/9 2,000—5-8-98.

Revenue (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 2918

DATED 11th July. 98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Considering that for the convenience of passengers an appraiser should be in attendance at the Custom House to appraise and pass dutiable goods on Sunday and holidays as well as office hours; that all the Appraisers should attend in turn when required to do so; and that no appraiser who so attends is entitled to receive fees for such attendance.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Revenue (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 2914.

Order Mis. No: 2918 dt 11 July 1898

From The Secretary to the Commissioner of Salt, Abkari and Separate Revenue, Madras.

Mis. No. 1519.

The Govt coincides that, for the convenience of passengers, an appraiser should be in attendance at the custom House to appraise and pass dutiable goods on sundays and holidays as well as after office hours; that all the appraisers should attend in turn when required to do so, and that no appraiser who so attends is entitled to receive fees for each attendance

KD. 9/7/98

C.P. 10.7.98

Letter Board (S.R.) with accompaniments } Dft. 14-7-98

From orders.

Dated 30th March 1898.

Received 16 April

Registered 18 "

Enclosures 3

Spare copies

SECRETARIAT 15 APR 1898 REV. DEPT.

SUBJECT.

Submitting to Government for sanction certain proposals for the better appraisement of dutiable goods landed by passengers on Sundays and holidays.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

3,000
10-4-95.

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE
MADRAS

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Separate Revenue),

Dated 17th December 1897 ~~189~~ .

His. No. 1628.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Sea Customs, Madras No.6275.G, dated 2nd September 1897:-

"I have the honor to submit the following for the Board's consideration and orders.

2. On the 22nd November 1894, soon after Government sanctioned the appointment of four Preventive officers for this Custom House, the then Collector Mr.Turner, with a view probably to afford increased facilities to passengers in clearing their baggage appears to have issued a departmental order directing the Baggage Superintendent and Preventive Officers to board vessels on arrival and examine and pass it directly from the vessel after collecting import duty, if any, due thereon. It will be observed that this procedure is a departure from the express provision of the Board's Standing Order No. 69, which requires that dutiable baggage should invariably be brought to the Custom House there to be examined, assessed —

assessed and finally passed by the proper officers of Customs. These instructions were probably overlooked when the departmental order above quoted was issued.

5. One result of this procedure was that a gun and a rifle imported sometime ago by a passenger were undervalued by the Baggage Superintendent who passed them on board the vessel and this casually came to the notice of Mr.Atkinson in disposing of an application from the passenger for a certificate testifying to the payment of duty on the arms in question.The Baggage Superintendent and Preventive Officers are not specialists in apprisement and the arrangement which delegated apprising work to them must result in frequent undervaluations and consequent loss of revenue.It is desirable therefore that all baggage except small hand bags should be brought to the Custom House for examination and appraisement there in conformity with the Board's Standing Order. Instructions will be accordingly be given to the baggage Superintendent and Preventive Officers to change the practice.

4. As to whether inconvenience would be caused to passengers by the Board's Standing Order/ being followed,I find that even the moderate proposal to examine free baggage on board made by the Local Government before approving Board's Resolution No.6150, dated 21th August 1882,on the subject of baggage rules was withdrawn on 11-23 17-10-82 the Collector satisfying Government that none would result by passengers being compelled to bring their baggage to the Custom House which is situated within a few yards of the landing place.At Bombay Bombay and Calcutta,Preventive Officers do board vessels on arrival and collect duty on dutiable goods(vide replies from Calcutta and Bombay enclosed).But the status of those offices and the circumstances of those ports are different from those of Madras.And even there these officers get such goods as -- they cannot apprise valued by the appraisers,while the officers at the Under sheds seem to reserve the power of examination when the goods come ashore.

5. There would appear to be some difficulty however,in regard to passing baggage on Sundays and holidays.Under the Board's Standing Order,passengers arriving on these days and wishing to proceed up country immediately cannot do so but will have to be detained until the office reopens.At Calcutta and Bombay dutiable baggage is passed even on Sundays and holidays and before and after office hours,the necessary staff being in attendance whenever its services are required The Baggage Superintendent attends here also on these days , but dutiable goods should not be passed by him.If an appraiser is made to attend along with the Baggage Superintendent dutiable goods also may be passed,thus avoiding all inconvenience.to passengers.Should this proposal meet with the approval of the Board it is requested that the necessary alterations may be made in the Standing Order.

6. The Baggage Superintendent is now granted extra fees for attendance on Sundays and holidays under Government Order

Revenue

Revenue Department No.155, dated 21th January 1871. Enclosed in Board's Proceedings Nis. No 630 dtd 29th January 1871.

Similar allowance may, if the Board deem fit, be given to the appraiser who may attend on those days. The Collector of Bombay sends a copy of correspondence with the Government of India on the subject of extra fees to Customs officials passing baggage, which is submitted herewith for the information of the Board", and Board's reference thereon dated 15th October 1897, requesting the Collector of Sea Customs, Madras, to report how often in a year, foreign passenger steamers arrive at Madras on Sundays and whether any place could be found near the end of the pier suitable for the examination of passengers' baggage.

Read also letter from the Collector of Sea Customs, Madras, No.7571.C, dated 28th October 1897, submitting the report called for as to how often in a year foreign passenger steamers arrive at Madras on Sundays and whether any place could be found near the pier ending suitable for the examination of passengers' baggage and Board's reference thereon dated 19th November 1897, requesting the Collector of Sea Customs, Madras, to report the amount of duty collected on passengers' baggage landed from steamers at Madras on Sundays and the average per steamer.

Read also letter from the same officer No.8257.C, dated 6th December 1897, forwarding the report called for regarding the amount of duty collected on passengers' baggage landed from steamers at Madras on Sundays, and the average per steamer.

Resolution.

The Board considers that either the appraisers other than the Head Appraiser should attend in turn gratuitously on Sundays and holidays or duty-payable baggage should await examination at the Custom House by the appraiser when the office reopens. The Collector is requested to state which he prefers.

(True copy and extract)

(Signed) A.Krishnaswami Aiyangar

Ag.Assistant Secretary.

(True copy)

Ag.Assistant Secretary.

Copy of letter from the Collector of Sea Customs, Madras, No.774.G, dated 7th February 1898.

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"Adverting to Board's Proceedings No.3625, Mis(S.R), dated 17th December 1897, stating that the Board considers that the Appraisers (other than the Head Appraiser) should attend office in turn, gratuitously on Sundays and holidays to appraise passengers' baggage, or that duty-payable baggage should await examination at the Custom House by the Appraisers when the office reopens, and requesting me to state which of the two courses I prefer, I have the honor to say that, in my opinion, heavy baggage including arms and such goods as are not required for immediate use by passengers landed on Sundays and holidays should await examination at the Custom House until the office reopens as only a few articles found in passengers' baggage require to be specially examined and valued by an appraiser, all ordinary passengers' baggage being passed by the Baggage Superintendent or his assistant as is now done.

2. The above arrangement has hitherto worked well and has caused little or no inconvenience to passengers who generally have local Agents to clear their heavy baggage. The amount of duty collected on passengers' baggage on Sundays and holidays is also small and the time of the arrival of the vessels in the Harbour so uncertain (even steamer Agents being unable to give the precise time) that it seems unnecessary to compel an appraiser to attend at the Custom House, per-

5. Arrangements could, however, be made during the long holidays (Easter and Christmas) to ensure the attendance of an Appraiser to prevent actual inconvenience to passengers, but if, for any special reasons, his services are required on Sunday, New Year's Day, Christmas Day, Good Friday, the Queen's Birthday, and any other day specially declared by the Government of India to be a close holiday, some remuneration might, I think, be allowed for the performance of the extra duties-Vide letter from the Government of India to the Government of Bombay, No. 1714 Ex, dated 18th April 1897, referred to in para 6 of this office letter No. 6275.G, dated 2nd September 1897.

4. The original correspondence from the Governments of India and Bombay on the subject of passengers' baggage, received from the Board's office, is herewith retransmitted".

× To be returned when done with

Copy attached.

Ag. Assistant Secretary.

D Dept 11.9.98

2
29/4

1,000
19-4-95.

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE
MADRAS

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Separate Revenue),

Dated 30th March 1898.

Mis No. 1319

Copy attached.

× (sd)

Read again Board's Proceedings Mis. No. 5021, dated 17th December 1897, informing the Collector of Sea Customs, Madras, that the Board considers that either the appraisers other -- than the Head Appraiser should attend in turn gratuitously - on Sundays and holidays or duty payable baggage should await examination at the Custom House when the office reopens.

Copy attached.

Read also letter from the Collector of Sea Customs, Madras, No. 774 G, dated 7th February 1898, reporting on Board's Proceedings requesting him to state whether he prefers that appraisers (other than Head appraiser) should attend office in turn gratuitously on Sundays and holidays to appraise passengers' baggage or that duty payable baggage should await examination at the Custom House when the office reopens.

Resolution.

Resolution.

The papers read above relate to the arrangements for passing of passengers' baggage at the Madras Custom House on Sundays and holidays.

2. Under Standing Order No.60 all baggage must be brought to the Custom House where such of it as is not liable to duty may be passed by the Superintendent. But articles liable to duty and closed-up cases can be passed only during office hours, the former being shown to an Appraiser.

3. In 1894 on the appointment of four Preventive Officers to the port, the then Collector, neglecting the provisions of the Standing Order, directed that all baggage, whether dutiable or not, should be passed on board the vessel by the Preventive Officers or the Baggage Superintendent. This order was subsequently cancelled, but the Collector in cancelling it, brought to the notice of the Board that, inconvenience is likely to be caused to the passengers by the absence of provision in the Standing Order of any means of passing dutiable goods on Sundays and holidays.

4. The Board has considered several suggestions for attaining this end and is of opinion that, on the whole, the proposal of the present Collector Viz that heavy baggage, including cots and such goods as are not required for immediate use, when received on Sundays and holidays should await examination until the office reopens and that all ordinary passengers' baggage should be passed by the Baggage Superintendent or his assistant is the best. He further proposes that, in case of emergency and to prevent delays at the time of the longer holidays such as Easter and Christmas, an Appraiser should be directed to attend to pass heavy baggage and should be paid extra remuneration by Government for doing so. The Board accepts this suggestion also, but, as the payment of extra remuneration to the first two appraisers would require the sanction of the Secretary of State and to the third of the Government of India and as the work to be done out of office hours will be very little, would modify the Collector's proposal by making the fourth appraiser alone liable for extra duty and remuneration.

5. The sanction of Government to the proposals thus modified is requested.

(True extract)

Acting Assistant Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with certain enclosures in original to be returned.

Copy to the Collector of Sea Customs, Madras.

B.P. Misc No 1319 dy 30.3.98
(C No 2914)

I should say that all baggage will be taken into the Custom House for exam:- Passengers must have within a few yds of the Custom House, no appreciable inconvenience will be caused. At the Custom House there should be an appraiser - The appraiser will take it in turns. If the day is one of the above holidays mentioned above he is paid according to the Rules. The Bd. say the payment of these fees will require the sanction of the S. of S. in two cases & of India in another. I don't know why this should be. Subject it is so, sanction must be applied for.

HS
7/7/98

To Secy:-

The paper read above deals with the arrangements to be made for passing passengers' baggage at the Madras Customs House on Sundays and holidays. The Baggage Superintendent attends on these days and is paid Rs 4 for each Sunday or close holiday under G.O. No 133 dy 25.1.1875. But as a number of articles are dutiable under the present Tariff Act, and as neither the Baggage Supt. nor his Assistant can be trusted to appraise them correctly, the question for consideration is what should be done in the matter.

2. After some correspondence with the Collector, the Board propose the following plans:-

(i) that heavy baggage, including arms and such food as are not required for immediate use, should be detained till the office reopens,

(ii) that all ordinary baggage should

C 8/7/98
R.o. 7/7/98.
R 8/7/98.

should be passed by the Baggage Supt or his Assistant; and (iii) that during the Easter and Christmas holidays the fourth appraiser should attend to pass heavy baggage and be paid extra remuneration for doing so.

3. These proposals may be approved but in regard to (iii) it is not clear whether the Board proposes to treat the appraisers like any other Customs officer. Under S.O. No 512 of 2.7.90 the only close holidays allowed are Sundays, New Years day, Good Friday, the Queens Birthday and Christmas Day. On other holidays the office is kept open from 10 A.M. to 12 noon and no fees are chargeable for work done during those hours.

H. H.

KD
3/6/98

I think that arrangements must be made to enable a passenger to get his baggage as soon as possible out of the Custom House and to do so if necessary by an afternoon or Evening train to Bombay or up Country.

D/J 1,000—8-4-97.

3

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No.

From

Dated 189 .

FOR ORDERS.

The Bo Surgeon to give him to wait for 24 hours at least and to drive him into a hotel in Custom Station. If there are articles which Bo be appraised by an Appraiser in baggage an appraiser Bo be required to attend to the Bo. The Bo to be paid extra under the ordinary rules. There are not many things which will bring Junior Assistant in the Customs Dept that had baggage arrangements.

1/4/1898.

To Secy

Please see the H M's remarks on page 1 of this Note marked in red pencil. The pay of the first appraiser is Rs 800 and that of the Second Rs 400 rising to Rs 500 Article 277(2) of the Civil Accounts Code, Vol I

FOR ORDERS.

Rs amended by the 6th list of corrections requires the sanction of the Secy of state for "increasing a salary "which is already in excess of that amount (Rs 5000 "a year), whether by the grant of increased fixed "allowances or temporarily by the grant of fees, rewards "or honoraria". This rule, the Bd and presumes, will apply to the first and Second Appraisers. Nl pay of the third Appraiser is Rs 200 rising to Rs 250, and Article 203 of the same Code will apply in his case. Rule 4(3) extracted therein states that without the previous sanction of the Govt. of India "No "addition may be made to the pay and allowances of "any Officer if they exceed, or would after the addition, "exceed Rs 250 a month".

2. Again, the grant of fees to Officers drawing a salary of Rs 300 and upwards would be opposed to the instructions issued by the Govt. of India in paras 3 and 4 of letter printed on the first page of G.O no 224 Marine dated 25-5-1889. Please see also a further letter from the same Govt. printed on page 20 of the same G.O. It was for this reason that the grant of fees for overtime work to the Deputy Coll'r of Sea Customs was discontinued. The grant of fees to the first and Second Appraisers being out of the question, the question for consideration is whether all the four Appraisers should be made to attend, two of them drawing no fees and two of them not. This would appear to be invidious. May the third and fourth Appraisers only be required to attend, the sanction of the Govt. of India being so obtained in regard to the third Officer?

3. There is one point, which was not prominently brought to notice in the previous note. Overtime fees are levied from Merchants and a moiety of them is paid to the Officers concerned. ~~In the case of~~ Passengers, to pass whose baggage the Appraisers should attend, cannot obviously be made to pay. This difficulty was experienced in the case of the baggage Supdt, and the Govt. decided that the fees, Rs 4 a day, should be paid by Govt. The same course will, it is thought, have to be followed in the case of the Appraisers also.

KD
20/6/98

H.M.

S/7/8

Secretary

Please see a draft order on the docket sheet below on ~~a separate sheet~~ of the current.

KD
9/7/98

Issue draft as revised

S. 7. 8

first
Collector's letter on page 1 of G.O. 133 dated 25-1-89 para 2
do second " do para 3.
do third " do para 4+5
B.D. on page 3

I think all the appraisers should attend in turn, when required & those who are not of them shd get any fees.

BS
5/7/98

Para 4 of G.O. 512 dated 2-7-90

Then given for copying ——
Then copied ——
Then examined ——
Then signed ——
} 189

READ AGAIN G.O., No. DATED
189 ,

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT	..	..	..	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.										
STATEMENT WITH DITTO.										
PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.										

N.B.—
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