Revenue (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 4998

DATED 16th December 98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Conveying the M of Rev: G.O. Jud'l directing the publication in the Fort St. George Gazette of a notification exempting from the provisions of sections 10 & 11 of the Petroleum Act XII of 1886 & the rules made thereunder liquid fuel which has its flashing point at or above 205° F. (abels' Close Test) & which is proved to the Satisfaction of the Coll'r. of Customs & the intended for use as fuel.

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 Department.

Government (1898) of Madras.

JUDICIAL.

Current No 2

Recd. 14th Dec
Regd. } 1898.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 1903, 5th December 1898.

No 4998/98

G.O. 5th

Forwarded Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

DECEMBER.

To

The Board of Revenue (S.R.)

Dept 16.12.98

P.K. 15.12.98.

KD 16/12/98

Liquid Fuel.

Directing the publication in the *Fort St. George Gazette* of a notification exempting from the provisions of sections 10 and 11 of the Petroleum Act XII of 1886 and the rules made thereunder — which has its flashing point at or above 205° F. (Abels' Close Test) and which is proved to the satisfaction of the Collector of Customs to be intended for use as fuel.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—again the following paper:—

G.O., Mis. No. 1548, Judicial, dated 1st October 1898.

Read—the following letter from Messrs. BEST & Co., Agents for the "Shell" Transport and Trading Company (Limited), to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 24th August 1898, B.P. No. 1-A—126:—

We have the honour to invite your attention to our letter, B.P. No. 10—258, dated 2nd December 1897, a copy of which we enclose for reference.

2. In a recent modification of the Petroleum Act (Act No. VII of 1898), *vide Fort St. George Gazette* Supplement, dated 19th April 1898, it has been ruled that products of petroleum, such as "oil ordinarily used for lubricating purposes and having its flashing point at or above 200° Fahrenheits' thermometer", are not to be included with those substances within the control of the Petroleum Act, and we shall be much obliged if Government will inform us whether it is intended to include *all* the products of petroleum having their flashing point at or above 200° F. In the course of a month or two we shall be importing liquid fuel, and we shall be glad of an early reply as to whether the exception, as it at present stands,—taking a somewhat liberal interpretation of the word "ordinarily"—is sufficiently comprehensive to include the commodity "Liquid fuel."

P.S.—"Liquid fuel" will have a flashing point not lower than 200° F.

Enclosure.

From Messrs. BEST & Co., Agents for the "Shell" Transport and Trading Company (Limited), to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 2nd December 1897, B.P. No. 10—258.

We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of G.O., No. 1649, Judicial, dated 25th November 1897, asking for an early expression of our opinion on the proposed Bill to amend the Petroleum Act, 1886, and enclosing copies of the Bill, together with Statement of Objects and Reasons.

In reply, we have the honour to state that the Bill seems to meet the case for which it is intended, viz., to regulate the importation, possession and transport of paints, varnishes and other similar substances containing inflammable material and likely to endanger the safety of the public.

In view, however, of the signal success that has lately attended the use of liquid fuel and its contemplated early importation into India as communicated to you in our letter, B.P. No. 10—250, dated 18th instant, asking the Government of Madras to procure an amendment to the Tariff Act, classifying it with coal, coke, patent fuel and the like, we would suggest that provision be made in the Bill now before Government for its importation, possession or transport free of the restrictions at present imposed on petroleum and its products which restrictions in our opinion are unnecessary in the case of liquid fuel having a flashing point over 200° of Fahrenheits' thermometer and likely to prejudice its successful introduction.

In the event of the importation into India of crude petroleum, special rules will no doubt have to be made regulating its importation, possession and transport, but in the case of liquid fuel having a flashing point above 200° F., such rules, in our opinion, are uncalled for.

The application of liquid fuel for the purpose of raising steam in boilers is now no longer in the experimental stage. A large number of boilers, both on boardship and ashore, being fired with this fuel and there is no doubt that as the numerous oil fields in the various parts of the world develope, its application will rapidly extend.

We have therefore the honour to suggest that the present opportunity should be taken for allowing the importation, possession and transport of liquid fuel of a flashing point of 200° F., free of the restrictions at present imposed on the importation, possession and transport of petroleum and its products, and that, like lubricating oils, it be exempted from the provisions of the Petroleum Act.

With this end in view and to meet the case of oils having a flashing point of 200° F. or over, used in the arts for other purposes than lubricating, we venture to suggest that the concluding portion of section 3 (1) of the Petroleum Act should read as follows:—

"but it does not include any liquid or oil having its flashing point above 200° of Fahrenheits' thermometer."

In conclusion we would also venture to suggest that the definition of petroleum in section 3 (1) might be enlarged by the addition of the word "naptha," this being another common name used in the arts for petroleum or rock oil.

Order—Mis. No. 1548, Judicial, dated 1st October 1898.

Liquid fuel of the description referred to does not seem to be covered by the proviso to section 3 of the Petroleum Act XII of 1886 as amended by Act VII of 1898. The Government will, however, be prepared, on receiving from Messrs. Best & Co., particulars of the quantity of any consignment of liquid fuel which they desire to import as ordinary cargo, to issue a notification under section 22 exempting that consignment from the provisions of the Act.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

To Messrs. Best & Co.

Read—also the following papers:—

From Messrs. BEST & Co., Agents for the "Shell" Transport and Trading Company (Limited), to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 27th October 1898, B.P. No. 1-A—166.

With reference to G.O., Mis. No 1548, Judicial, dated 1st October 1898, we have the honour to inform you that we have received a sample consignment of 150 barrels and 1,300 tins liquid fuel, with a flash point of about 215° F., Abels' Close Test, and shall be obliged by your issuing a notification under section 22 of the Petroleum Act XII of 1886, exempting it from the provisions of same and allowing us to import and handle it as ordinary cargo.

2. To save a reference to you on arrival of every consignment, we would request that a general notification be issued exempting liquid fuel from the provisions of the Petroleum Act.

From Messrs. BEST & Co., Agents for the "Shell" Transport and Trading Company (Limited), dated 11th November 1898, No. 1-A—171.

From the Chemical Examiner, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 23rd November 1898, D.O. No. 789.

I have the honour to inform you that I experimented with liquid fuel received by me some time ago from the Customs department to test its flashing point and found that it is not likely to become dangerous if stored, either in a building or a ship, in any quantity with ordinary precautions.

Although it is more combustible than ordinary fixed oils, it is not inflammable like the kerosine-oil and requires a fairly high temperature to vapourise, hence its storage in any quantity is not likely to be dangerous at the ordinary temperature of Madras, provided it is received free from admixture with lower hydrocarbons which can be detected by the determination of the flash point.

Fixing the flashing point at 215° F. will no doubt exclude the possibility of any admixture with hydrocarbons of lower flashing points, but in such a case special apparatus will have to be ordered for testing such samples, the present Abels' apparatus being usable only up to 205° F.

ORDER—No. 1903, Judicial, dated 5th December 1898.

The following notification will be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* :—

NOTIFICATION.

In exercise of the power conferred by section 22 of the Petroleum Act XII of 1886, His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to exempt from the provisions of sections 10 and 11 of the Act and the rules made thereunder liquid fuel, which has its flashing point at or above 205° of Fahrenheits' thermometer (Abels' Close Test), and which is proved to the satisfaction of the Collector of Customs to be intended for use as fuel.

(True Extract.)

for *Chief Secretary*.

To Messrs. Best & Co.
„ all District Magistrates.
„ the Commissioner of Police.
„ the Local and Municipal Department.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Chemical Examiner.
„ the Revenue Department.
„ the Marine Department.
„ the Inspector-General of Police.
Gazette.

Exd. W. D'Mose.

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

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.—
A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.