

Revenue (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1313

DATED 5th April 99

[Despatch Abstract.]

*Sanctioning the proposition
statement for the establishment required in connection
with the new arrangements for the collection of the
uniform duty at Kankal Ry. Sta. and addressing the
French Govt. for the payment of the cost of
maintaining these establishments.*

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
C no 2669999 6032							
C no 2678999							

0 18 4,000 18-10-96.

Revenue (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 1969

From
The Board of Revenue
(Sep. Rev.)

Order To Secy.

Please see draft

Press. No. 6.

below.

May the Political
Dept., from which the letter to
the French Govt. will issue, be
asked to accept the draft?

Dated 9.1.99.

Received 19.3.99.

Registered 20.3.99

Enclosures /

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Communicating to the
Collector of Tanjore, with instructions
to communicate letter from the
Government of French Settlements in India
regarding to certain arrangements
required by the Madras Govt for the
collection of British Customs duty at
the Karikal Ry. Sta. and submitting
for sanction prop. st. for the establish-
ment required in connection therewith

PA. Dept

Note in the Cd.

The draft letter may, if
it is subd. be accepted

Cmb

To Rev.

To Rev.

To Rev.

To Rev.

To Rev.

To Rev.

To Rev.

To Rev.

To Rev.

To Rev.

To Rev.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Mis	615	Rev.	10-2-99
Press	3	Rev.	3-1-99
Mis	5/80	Rev.	11-1-99
Press	413	Rev.	7-3-99

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1899.

Board of Revenue

(Separate Revenue),

MADRAS.

Current No 1969

No 3 of 3.1.99

413 of 7.3.91

5780 of 11.11.97

Printed February th.

Recd. 19-3-99

Regd 20-3-99

Incl. 2

Proceedings, No. 6, 9th January 1899.

See 1

JANUARY.

Communicating to the Collector of Tanjore, with instructions, Government Order communicating letter from the Governor of the French Settlements in India agreeing to certain arrangements proposed by the Madras Government for the collection of British Customs duty at the Karikal railway station.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(SEPARATE REVENUE).

Read—the following G.O., No. 3, Revenue, dated 3rd January 1899 :—

Read—again G.O., No. 2199, dated 21st May 1898, referring to the Board of Revenue, for very early remarks, letter from His Excellency the Governor of French Settlements regarding the difficulties experienced in the transport of goods from Karikal by the Peralam-Karikal Railway.

Read—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue), Mis. No. 4451, dated 7th November 1898 :—

Read—the following letter from J. TWIGG, Esq., Acting Collector of Tanjore, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Salt, Abkari and Separate Revenue, dated 25th August 1898, No. 3777-Rev. :—

Adverting to Board's Reference, No. 255, dated 25th May 1898, calling for report on the communication (herewith returned) of His Excellency the Governor of the French Settlements in India regarding the delays and inconveniences complained of under the present system of examination, at Peralam, of the goods transported from Karikal, I have the honour to report as follows.

2. The complaints of the consulting Committee of Commerce at Karikal embodied in the letter of His Excellency the Governor of Pondicherry are—

(1) that the goods transported from Karikal to British territory are unpacked at Peralam for examination by the Superintendent and then repacked on the platform for transmission to their destination ; and

(2) that the owners of the goods or their agents are obliged to go all the way to Peralam to have their goods examined and assessed to duty which entails additional expenditure and inconvenience.

3. The Administrators of Karikal, the British Consular Agent, Pondicherry and Karikal, the Traffic Manager, Trichinopoly, and the Assistant Traffic Manager, Tanjore, have also brought to notice the existence of the difficulties referred to in the preceding

paragraph—*vide* the marginally-noted references. Copies of which are herein enclosed. The Administrator has further pointed out that the examination of passengers' baggage was carried on with great delay to the inconvenience of the passengers.

(2) Letter No. 82, dated 20th July 1898, from the British Consular Agent.

(3) Letter No. 98-M./ 1968/ 4301, dated 17th March 1898, from the Traffic Manager, South Indian Railway, Trichinopoly, with its enclosure.

(4) Letter No. 3142/ 1218, dated 21st June 1898, from the Assistant Traffic Manager, Tanjore, with enclosures.

4. The enquiry caused to be made into these complaints shows that only 10 per cent and not all of the packages containing non-dutiable articles are examined by means of a testing rod and that the packages containing dutiable articles are opened and examined invariably in the presence of the owners or their agents. The unpacking of the goods is not done in the reckless manner complained of,

but the inconvenience that the merchants or their agents have to attend in person and arrange for repacking their goods and for payment of duty at Peralam exists and is considerable. As regards the delay in the examination of the passengers' baggage, this is an operation which necessarily takes time. As the staff gets more accustomed to its duties, the work will, no doubt, proceed more expeditiously and smoothly. The remedy suggested by the Administrator, Karikal, of removing the Customs office to some other place nearer to French territory and close to Ambagarattur can in no way mend matters inasmuch as it merely transfers the scene of examination from Peralam to another place.

5. To open a Customs office at Karikal, as recommended by His Excellency the Governor of Pondicherry, would remove the grievance of the merchants. A proposal to this effect was made by Mr. Andrew in paragraph 5 of his letter to Board, Reference on Current, No. 815-Ver., dated 28th August 1897, but it was negatived by the Board in paragraph 3 of its proceedings Mis. No. 3886 dated 7th September 1897, on the ground that Karikal being a small place as compared with Pondicherry, there would probably not be any heavy imports through it for some time. As will be seen from the subjoined statement, the extent of import traffic on the line has been very small, and the duty collected since the opening of the line has never covered even the existing establishment charges, (Rs. 144) in any month.

Month.	Dutiable goods		Free goods.
	Value.	Duty.	Value.
From 14th March 1898	Rs. 1,344	RS. A. P. 71 14 3	Rs. 120
" " April "	1,248	65 13 10	9,985
" " May "	2,225	113 14 0	11,967
" " June "	2,076	111 3 11	849

In explanation of the small collections of duty, the Assistant Commissioner of Salt, Abkari and Customs Department, Negapatam Sub-Division, and the Head Assistant Collector state that the inconveniences and difficulties alluded to in paragraph 2 *supra* appear to stand in the way of the merchants freely resorting to the Peralam Karikal line. I doubt if these difficulties have so great an effect as supposed, but it would certainly be desirable to remove them if it can be done without unreasonable cost. Proposals for establishment of a Customs office at Karikal are contained in the next paragraph.

6. The following statement compares the present establishment at Peralam with those now proposed for Peralam and Karikal by the Head Assistant Collector and the Assistant Commissioner, respectively :—

		Establishments proposed by			
		Present establishment at Peralam.	Head Assistant Collector.		Assistant Commissioner for
			Peralam.	Karikal.	
1	Superintendent	Rs. 60	Rs. 40	Rs. 60	Rs. 50
1	Clerk	20	15	20	20
1	Do.	15	15	12	15
1	Do.	12	12	12	12
2	Peons on Rs. 6 each	6	6	6	6
1	Peon	15	15	15	15
1	Do.	15	15	15	15
1	Female searcher	15	15	15	15
	Total	113	82	110	83
			192	134	

This is in addition to the preventive force, which now consists of one petty officer and three peons, at Peralam costing Rs. 31 a month.

7. The Head Assistant Collector proposes to transfer the work of consolidating land customs returns, &c., and of exercising general supervision over all the other land customs amins in the district from the amin of the Sennamangalam chowky to the officer now to be appointed at Karikal who should be called Sayer clerk and have a salary of Rs. 60. The clerk on Rs. 12 now working at Sennamangalam may also be transferred to Karikal, and though the Head Assistant Collector is silent on the point, it is presumed that the Sennamangalam amin's pay can be reduced to what it was till lately, viz., Rs. 20, so giving a saving of Rs. 10.

8. The work and responsibility of the Sayer Superintendent at Peralam in respect of search of passengers' luggage would remain unaltered, and he should not, I think, draw less than Rs. 40 a month.

9. The rest of the Head Assistant Collector's proposals I also support with the proviso that the appointment of a female searcher for Peralam station should lie over until proper accommodation is provided there wherein to conduct searches.

10. The additional cost of the above proposals is Rs. 64 per mensem. There is the reduction of pay (Rs. 22) for Sennamangalam chowky also to be taken into account. As before remarked, existing collections do not cover cost of present establishment, but traffic will, no doubt, develop and collections increase while it is worth the inconsiderable increase of cost now proposed to avoid friction and maintain good relations with our neighbours. Under all the circumstances, I beg to recommend the establishment of a Customs office at Karikal.

Resolution—Mis. No. 4451, dated 7th November 1898.

The Board begs to submit its reply to G.O., Mis. No. 2199, Revenue Department, dated 21st May 1898, referring for remarks, the letter of His Excellency the Governor of the French Settlements in India regarding difficulties experienced in the transport of goods from Karikal by the Karikal-Peralam Railway. This letter was referred to the Collector of Tanjore for report and his reply, annexed to these proceedings, was received in this office on the 5th September. It seemed advisable that the Commissioner should visit the Settlement, confer with the French authorities there and inspect existing Sayer arrangements. This was done last month, more pressing work preventing earlier attention.

2. When the matter originally came under consideration in view of the opening of the railway, the Board,* on the grounds of the small size of the settlement and the improbability of heavy imports at an early date, did not see any necessity for establishing a Custom-house at Karikal. The

* Resolution, Mis. No. 3886, dated 7th September 1897, printed in Proceedings, No. 491 of 15th November 1897.

same may be said at the present time. On two occasions of travel from Karikal to Peralam, the Commissioner saw no goods traffic save a crate of rose water and a bundle of empty kerosine tins; and the information obtained was that goods traffic in a month might amount to 10 or 15 trucks, mainly of rice and raw hides.

3. The complaints formulated by His Excellency the Governor of Pondicherry are that goods per rail from Karikal to British territory are unloaded, examined and reloaded, for customs reasons, at Peralam station, and this necessitates that the owner, &c., should accompany and undergo the expense of the journey and loss of time by waiting there to return. From other papers in the record it would appear also that the examination of goods and of passengers' luggage was of a stricter and more deliberate character than was pleasing or perhaps necessary, and in particular that due care was not taken of goods pending examination or reloading.

4. The troubles incidental to first opening of a Sayer station no doubt existed and were felt by the sayer staff and by the public till knowledge and practice were obtained. It does not appear that any legitimate ground for complaint on this score is

now put forward. In the nature of things passengers and their luggage must be examined at Peralam, since, besides the terminus at Karikal, there are three stations of the branch line in French territory and goods from those stations—understood to be trifling in quantity—must also be examined there.

5. The only matters, therefore, that are open to the remedy desired by the French authorities are the passing of goods, and of such luggage as passengers choose to declare, at Karikal. The convenience of such an arrangement to the Karikal importer who does not accompany is manifest; the Karikal passenger, with luggage separate from himself, would simply be saved at Peralam the trouble he would undergo at Karikal, and trains at present are so timed at Peralam that examination can be leisurely gone about. The question for this Government is whether the sayer income properly admits of the charges of a station at Karikal.

6. The income of the Peralam station since its institution has been as under:—

							RS.	A.	P.
From 14th March 1898	...	...	...	...	...	...	71	14	3
" April "	...	...	...	...	...	...	65	13	10
" May "	...	...	...	...	...	...	113	14	0
" June "	...	...	...	...	...	...	111	3	11
" July "	...	...	...	...	...	...	116	5	5
" August "	...	...	...	...	...	...	180	2	0
" September 1898	...	...	...	...	...	...	259	10	5

while the cost of the force maintained there is Rs. 113, sayer, and Rs. 31 preventive—Rs. 144 in all. In view of the small income the Administrator was asked whether it would not be reasonable that his Government should furnish the contribution necessary for the maintenance of the desired establishment and M. Robail promised to report to His Excellency on the matter, but believes that a Custom-house at Karikal would presently pay for itself by increased receipts. There is no doubt that combined receipts at Peralam and Karikal would exceed present receipts because a sayer station at Karikal would divert some at least of the traffic which now passes through the Kovilkandangudi and Velangudi Sayer gates nearest to Peralam. But the Commissioner sees little reason for thinking that the total of goods exported from Karikal landwards can be more than at present unless and until imports to it by sea are developed.

7. The Board does not approve of the alterations in the present arrangements which are proposed by the district authorities. A small room in the station buildings at Karikal is available for customs work. There is no goods station building. For the present purpose it would appear sufficient to make Karikal a sub-station to Peralam, to post there a sayer clerk on Rs. 25 and a peon on Rs. 6 per month and to make the work subject to the check of the Peralam Superintendent at Peralam and in Karikal as frequently as is found convenient and necessary. That is to say, the Peralam Superintendent would have it in his power to overhaul the clerk's work while the goods passed through Peralam and he could travel as often as might be considered proper by the 3 A.M. morning train into Karikal, check matters there and return to Peralam with the 8-45 A.M. train.

8. An alternative to this would be for the Sayer Superintendent to travel to Karikal with the morning train and remain in Karikal till the afternoon train—leaving the charge of the Peralam station to his clerks—on two or three days in a week and transact there such business as was brought to him. Such an arrangement, however, would not be very satisfactory either from the British or French point of view.

9. The Board, therefore, suggests that the French Government be invited to state their willingness or otherwise to pay Rs. 31 per mensem—the pay of the proposed establishment and pensionary, &c., contribution, Rs. 4-8-8, thereon—to furnish the

Peralam Superintendent with a travelling pass over the line and to place the station room at our disposal for transacting Sayer work. The Board has no objection to a less contribution being demanded, but would not fix it at less than Rs. 20 per month.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. TODHUNTER,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with a letter in French returned,
and copy of Board's Proceedings, No. 491 of
1897, and of the Collector's letter.
„ Collector of Tanjore.

Read—also letter from the Political Department to His Excellency the Governor of French Settlements in India, Mis. No. 847, dated 13th December 1898, on the subject of certain arrangements proposed to be made for the levy of duty at Karikal on dutiable goods imported into British India by the Karikal-Peralam Railway.

Read—also the following letter from His Excellency the Governor of French Settlements in India, No. 22, dated 21st December 1898:—

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's letter, No. 847, dated 15th December, informing me of the conditions under which it would be possible for your Government to place an English Customs office at the Karikal railway station.

2. My Government is prepared to meet the charges on account of pay of officers, &c., necessary to the establishment of the Custom-house which your Excellency estimates at Rs. 35-8-8 per month.

3. A special site has been selected and set ready at the Karikal station quarters for the location of the English Custom-house. I see no objection to granting the Superintendent of the Peralam Custom-house a free pass over our line under circumstances similar to those under which Agents of your Government enjoy a like immunity over the South Indian Railway.

4. It would be desirable that the new service should be ready to work from the 1st January next, and I shall be glad to hear that your Excellency has given orders accordingly.

Be pleased to accept the assurance of the high consideration with which, &c., &c.

Order—No. 3, Revenue, dated 3rd January 1899.

The letter from His Excellency the Governor of the French Settlements in India will be communicated to the Board of Revenue, with the request that the necessary arrangements may be made at a very early date.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue).
„ Accountant-General.

RESOLUTION—No. 6, dated 9th January 1899.

Communicated to the Collector of Tanjore with the request that he will carry out the arrangements agreed to by the Madras and Pondicherry Governments at a very early date.

2. Copy of G.O., No. 413, Revenue, dated 7th March 1881, sanctioning the rules for the collection of duty in the Pondicherry station and on the frontier of that Settlement, is forwarded to the Collector of Tanjore for observance in Karikal and on its frontier in supersession of those approved in G.O., Mis. No. 5780, Revenue, dated 11th November 1897. The collections of duty in Karikal will be remitted in accordance with instructions to be issued by the Collector.

3. A proposition statement for the establishment approved will be submitted to Government. The establishment may be entertained at once.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. TODHUNTER,
Acting Secretary.

(True Copy.)

Assistant Secretary.

To the Collector of Tanjore, with copy of
G.O., No. 413, Revenue, dated 7th March 1881.
„ Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with
proposition statement, through the Accountant-General in duplicate.

Endorsement
~~The following~~

of the Accountant-General, No. 1063, dated 18th

March 1899:-

The ~~net~~tries in the column of "Present Scale" have been compared with the Registers of this office, and are correct.

The proposed increase is within the sanctioning powers of the Local Government.

The establishment will fall under Foreign Service of the 3rd kind as defined in Article 302 of the Civil Service Regulations. The amount recoverable from the French Government on account thereof will be Rs. 35-8-8 a month or Rs. 426-8-0 per annum as detailed in the margin - vide Articles 421 and 354 of the Regulations.

Officer	Pay	Rate of contribution	Amount of contribution.	Total including pay & contribution
Clerk	25	1/6 of net salary	4 - 2 - 8	29-2 - 8
Peon	6	one anna in the Rs.	0 - 6 - 0	6 -6-0

Total Rs.
or Rs. 426-8-0 per annum.

35-8-8- P.M.

It is suggested that His Excellency the Governor of the French Settlements be asked to pay at once the amount due for the period from first entertainment to 31st March 1899 viz Rs. 35-12-5 and thereafter to pay the sum of Rs. 426-8-0 annually on 1st October. The amounts thus paid will be taken in reduction of charges and no additional budget provision will be necessary.

Read B.P. (S.R.) No.
62/9.1.99 and the A-G's Encl.
thereon No. 1068 of 18.3.99 (c. no.
1969)

Order inis. No. 1313 of 5th April 1899
The proposition
statement is sanctioned.

2. H.E. the Governor
of the French Settlements in
India will be addressed with
reference to para 2 of the A-G's
remarks read above.

[Signature]

* Letter No 234 P.O.
of 28-3-99

7-4-99

To
The Board of Revenue (S.R.)
" Fin. Dept. (with prop. et.)
" Pol. Dept. (with draft letter
to the French Govt.)

Please see letter before

This has been met
in the 1st of April
1899 as the letter has
been sent in the 1st of April

Letter No. 235 Pol., d/28.3.99

To

H.E. the Governor of the French
Settlements in India,
Pondicherry.

Your Excellency,

With reference to
the correspondence ending with Your Excel-
lency's letter No. 1. dated 26th January
1899 on the subject of the entertainment
of a Customs establishment at Karikal,
I have the honour to request that Your
Excellency will be good enough to issue
orders for the payment at Your Excellen-
cy's earliest convenience of Rs. 35-13-5
the amount of contribution due up to 31st
instant, and of Rs. 426-8-0 annually on
the 1st October of each year.

Be pleased to accept etc.

Forwarded in the Pol. Dept

Hand 8.9.99 to
d/28.3.99 and the 4th of April
to 1008 d/28.3.99 (no
(pdp)

Under no. 1213 d/28.3.99
in prospect
statement is annexed
H.E. the Governor
of the French Settlements in
India will be addressed with
reference to para 2 of the 1st
annexed statement.

The Board of Revenue (R.)
has sent (with proof of)
to the 1st of April 1899
to the Governor (R.)

DR

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

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

CURRENT No.

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

8-7-08 ✓
7-12-09 ✓
23-6-11 ✓
7-11-18 ✓