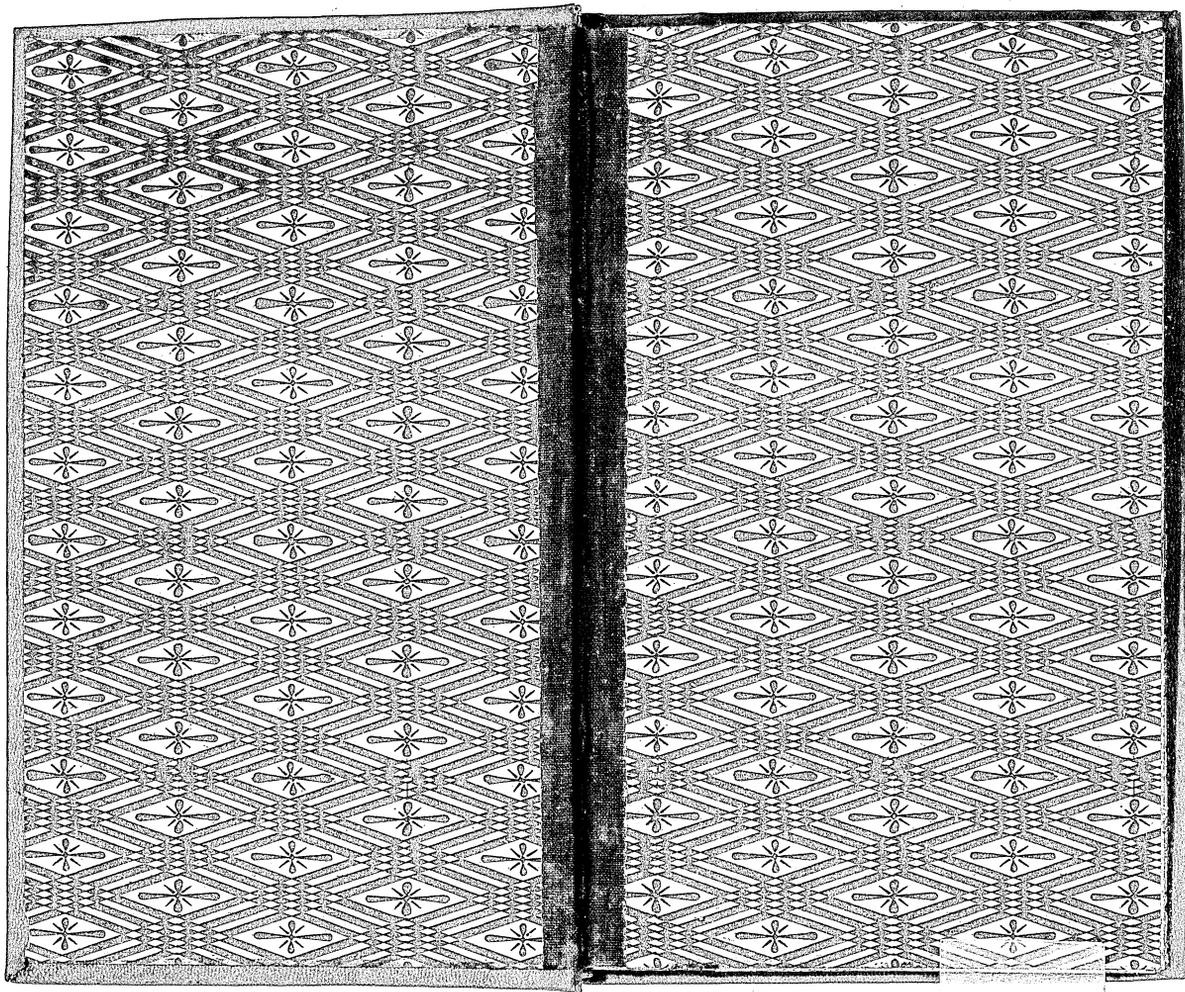


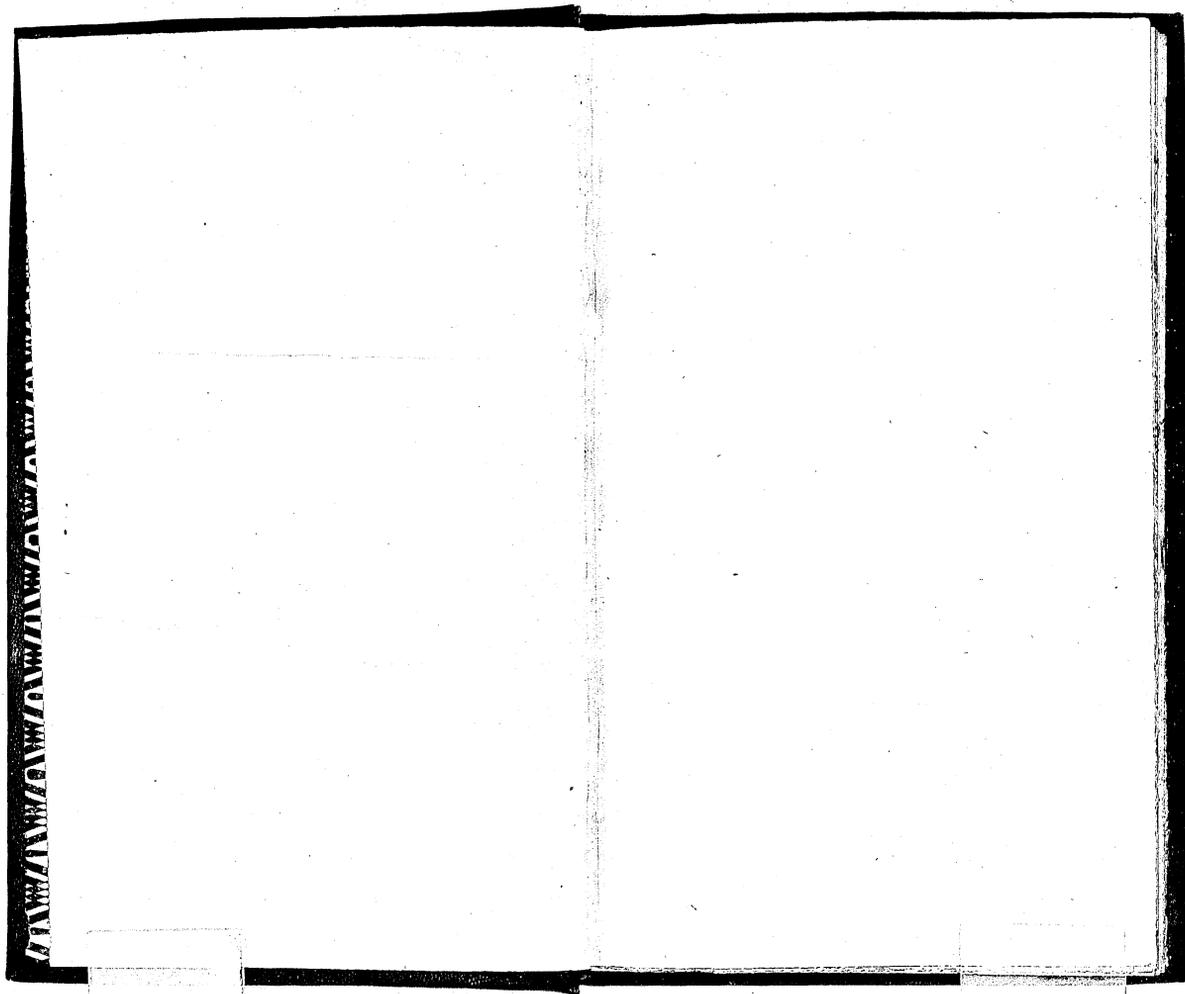
REPORT

OF THE

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1ST MAY-31ST OCTOBER 1861





THE COMMITTEE

OF THE

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

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From 1st May to 31st October 1861.

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Calcutta:

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*Proceedings of a General Meeting of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce held on Thursday the 28th November 1861.*

THE President having taken the chair and read the advertisement under which the meeting had been convened, stated that the report about to be submitted was a record of the more important matters which had engaged the attention of the Committee since their election in May last; other subjects had been and were still under consideration, but it would be premature to bring them forward on this occasion: he therefore contented himself by begging the attention of the meeting to the Committee's report which the Secretary would read.

The report having been read, it was resolved that it be received and published.

Messrs. Playfair, Duncan and Co., proposed by the President and seconded by Mr. D. C. Mackey, were admitted as Members of the Chamber; and the conditional election by the Committee of Mr. G. C. Chalmers, Manager of the Central Bank of Western-India, was confirmed by the meeting.

Thanks having been voted to the Committee for their services, and to Mr. Fitzwilliam for presiding at the meeting, the proceedings terminated.

H. W. I. WOOD,  
*Secretary.*

## BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE HALF YEAR  
ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 1861.

### ADDRESS TO THE HON'BLE SAMUEL LAING.

#### APPENDIX A.

On the 1st July the Chamber in concert with the Landholders' and Commercial Association, the British Indian Association, and the Trades Association, addressed the Hon'ble Samuel Laing, expressing how deeply they regretted the circumstances which, after a brief interval of only six months, had compelled him to suspend his official labours, and to seek in rest and relaxation the restoration of health shattered in the performance of his public duties. They further expressed the hope that he would be enabled to resume his position in the Council of the Supreme Government of India, and realize his anticipations of the future prosperity of the Indian Empire under the improved system of finance which he had so materially assisted to establish.

To this address Mr. Laing replied to the Chamber from Edinburgh, under date the 25th August, saying how deeply he regretted the cause which

compelled him to leave India so prematurely, and how grateful he felt for the expression of sympathy conveyed to him on the part of such influential bodies as those who had addressed him. He said his heart was in his Indian work, for it seemed to him that India was the place and the present the time to decide the question whether our English race was capable not only of colonizing new continents and conquering old ones, but of governing wisely and beneficently for their own good an empire of 150 millions of fellow subjects; that he saw no reason why with the blessings of peace India should not support a far larger population in a higher state of comfort and civilization, or that her commerce should not double or even quadruple the present amount. He stated that he hoped to return to India in the cold season, so as to endeavour to realize the results promised in his budget, when he should also have the opportunity of personally expressing his thanks to the several influential bodies who had addressed him.

#### PAPER CURRENCY.

The officiating Chief Commissioner of Oudh having submitted to the Committee the following points relative to Paper Currency,—whether they approved of Calcutta Notes being receivable at local treasuries or of District Notes payable at the capitals of the Districts (any circle or province and not merely a zillah) and whether they thought Notes of either description

might safely be made a legal tender or not,—they replied that in order to give the fullest effect to the perfect introduction of a Paper Currency in India, both as regards the facilities which such a currency should afford to the monetary transactions and trade of the country, and the necessity of popularising paper money by proving its utility to the people, the notes should be made payable on presentation at all treasuries and agencies throughout India irrespective of circles or provinces. To establish uniformity as well as security the Committee were of opinion that all the notes should be issued in Calcutta. With regard to the notes being made legal tender, the introduction of a Paper Currency intended to supply a less cumbersome and expensive circulation than that furnished by the precious metals renders a provision both as regards its utility and convertibility a matter of absolute necessity.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF GOVERNMENT.

On the 26th June the Committee received a communication from a member of the Chamber with a letter and enclosures from the Financial Secretary, addressed to himself and three others of the mercantile community, requesting them to make a selection for publication of such items from the accounts submitted as the commercial public were desirous of being acquainted with. In the absence of two of the gentlemen addressed the others referred the matter

to the Committee, and requested them to reply to Mr. Lushington's letter; this the Committee declined to do, as the communication had not been submitted to them through the ordinary official channel of reference, the more so as similar discourtesy had been shown to the Committee last year by the same department of Government upon the question under notice. The result of the Committee's refusal to recognize any communication not made direct to them was the receipt of a letter from the Financial Secretary requesting their opinion as to the publication of certain returns relative to the finances of India and requesting on the part of the Government to be furnished with any suggestions or remarks which the Chamber should think it necessary to make upon the subject.

In reply the Committee stated that *all* the returns submitted for consideration were of interest to the mercantile community and recommended their publication, and expressed the hope that similar financial statements would be furnished periodically by H. M.'s Secretary of State and published for general information by the Government of India.

The returns were published in the *Government Gazette* of the 10th August last.

#### HINDOO HOLIDAYS.

##### APPENDIX B.

The question of public holidays has again occupied

the attention of the Committee, and they have endeavoured to meet the opinions expressed by the members of the Chamber upon this subject by addressing to the Government of India the correspondence which will be found in the Appendix, from which it will be seen that, though accepting the revised number of Hindoo holidays, specified by the Government notification of the 6th April, as being in accordance with the Chamber's application for as large a reduction as could be made in them, the Committee pointed out the inconvenience to which the commercial community were subjected by the public offices being kept open on such days, and respectfully requested that such offices might be closed on all recognized public holidays. The reply of the Government is, as will be seen, to the effect that as temporary inconvenience may be expected to result from all great changes it may be well to wait the further working of the present system; but that if after a further trial the inconvenience is found to be such as to interfere with the interests of commerce, the subject, if brought to the notice of the Government, would be reconsidered. In accordance with this the Committee again called the attention of the Government to the subject, pointing out that the majority of the commercial community had been seriously inconvenienced by the working of the present system, and requesting its amendment as proposed by the Chamber. The result of this and of a subsequent application has been the closing of all public offices

during the four Hindoo holidays of the Doorgah Poojah. The Committee will not however fail to again impress upon the Government the necessity of closing all public offices during the recognized holidays.

#### MODIFICATION OF CONDITIONS OF SALE OF OPIUM.

##### APPENDIX C.

The evils attending the system under which the Government sales of opium were conducted having been brought to the notice of the Committee, they addressed the Bengal Government upon the subject, under date the 7th June, expressing their opinion that circumstances in connection with the recent speculative purchases of opium suggested the necessity of considering whether the general conditions of sales could not be modified with regard to the amount of deposit and the period allowed for redemption of promissory notes, and with this object they suggested certain modifications which will be found in the correspondence. They further expressed their opinion that by the adoption of these suggestions undue speculation would be checked, purchases limited to the actual requirements of trade, and the security of Government in regard to payment materially increased. In reply to this communication the Committee received a letter from the officiating secretary of the Government of Bengal enclosing the correspondence which had passed

between the Board of Revenue and that Government, by which it will be found that after taking evidence upon the subject from the opium dealers it made sundry recommendations to the Government for the modification of the system as it then existed, which were adopted; and though the change has not been made to the extent recommended by the Committee, yet it is an improvement, and the Committee hope that they may upon a future occasion be able to induce the Government to adopt further modifications. It is satisfactory to observe that the opinions of the most influential and wealthy dealers in the drug accorded with those expressed on the part of the Chamber.

#### SALT OBTAINED IN REFINING SALTPETRE.

The Chamber's representation to Government regarding refiners of saltpetre being allowed the privilege of benefitting by the manufacture of common salt obtained in the process of refining has resulted in the recognition of the claim made on their behalf and its protection by legislative enactment.

#### WET DOCKS.

##### APPENDIX D.

We insert in the appendix communications from the Supreme Government and the Government of Bengal relative to the establishment of Wet Docks at Calcutta.

In submitting this Scheme to Government in May 1859 the Committee were of opinion that it would not be possible to raise the capital required for so large an undertaking unless the following points were secured, viz. a Government guarantee of interest, free grant of land, and the levy of appropriate charges on the shipping authorised by legislative enactment.

The Governor General in Council having however desired it to be distinctly understood that a guarantee of interest could not be given, the Committee have abandoned the further consideration of a project which His Excellency's decision renders impracticable.

**TRANSMISSION BY TELEGRAPH OF COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE TO LONDON THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY AT BOMBAY.**

On the application of Mr. Reuter's Agent at Bombay the Committee have undertaken to prepare a brief market report and transmit it by telegraph in time for the mail steamer leaving Bombay every fortnight. The Government make no charge either for this or the fortnightly message *via* Galle, on the understanding that Mr. Reuter will instantly publish them for general information at home.

**SUBSIDIARY LANDING AND PASSING PLACES UNDER CUSTOM HOUSE CONTROL.**

APPENDIX E.

The Committee had an interview on this subject

with the Collector of Customs on the 9th July, when the question was fully discussed; they arrived at the conclusion that the proposed establishment of subsidiary landing and passing places would not be attended with advantage, and recommended a considerable enlargement of the river frontage now appropriated to Custom House purposes, with suitable facilities of wharf, jetties, cranes, &c.

The Appendix contains the correspondence on this head.

**ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH SERVICE.**

APPENDIX F.

The Government of India having addressed the Chamber requesting their opinion as to the efficient working of the electric telegraph for commercial purposes, the Committee forwarded a circular to all the members of the Chamber, requesting their opinion upon the subject, and any data in their possession as to the working of the system upon which a report to Government could be founded; the replies to this circular were forwarded to the Government with a letter from the Committee expressing the opinion that the electric telegraph service of India was deficient in the two great points which could alone render it valuable either to the Government or the commerce of the country—namely, dispatch and accuracy in transmission,

an opinion which was supported by most of the leading merchants of Calcutta. The causes of the unsatisfactory working of the system the Committee considered were defective construction and bad organization, which in a great measure neutralized the exertions of the officers employed in the service, however able and zealous they may be. The gross errors which have so frequently occurred in the messages transmitted they thought were caused chiefly by the class of persons employed as signallers and copyists being unfitted by want of education and proper training for the appointments which they hold. The Committee further expressed the opinion that the telegraphic system of India could be worked more satisfactorily by a private company than by the Government, the capital for which could readily be found in England.

At the request of the Government the Committee have since called upon the members of the Chamber to furnish a tabulated statement of the messages which they have received during two months, showing the number of errors and the extent of delay made in their transmission.

**VESSELS NEGLECTING TO HOIST THEIR NUMBERS  
WHEN PASSING SIGNAL STATIONS.**

APPENDIX G.

The serious inconvenience to which merchants of

Calcutta were subjected by vessels neglecting to hoist their numbers when passing signal stations formed the subject of a communication made to the Lieut. Governor of Bengal early in the year 1859, and, in accordance with the views expressed by the Chamber and the Superintendent of Marine, a bill was introduced into the Legislative Council imposing penalties upon Masters and Pilots who neglected to hoist ships' numbers in passing the signal stations in the river. This bill was however negatived upon the second reading in Council.

The evil still continuing to exist, the Committee again addressed the Government of Bengal upon the subject, and His Honor the Lieut. Governor fully concurring in the views submitted upon the question, has urged upon the Legislative Member for Bengal the necessity for passing a law which shall meet the recommendations of the Chamber.

**SUNDAY MAILS.**

APPENDIX H.

The inconvenience caused to the commercial community by closing the English Mails on Sunday having been brought to the notice of the Committee, they addressed the Government of India, requesting that when the Mail day via Galle and Bombay falls on Sunday its despatch should be postponed until Monday. In reply to which they were informed that the Go-

vernor General in Council would address the Secretary of State for India upon the subject and recommend that H. M.'s Post Master General be asked to make the necessary arrangements with the P. and O. Company to give effect to the measure. In the meantime on any occasion on which the date fixed for the departure of the mail steamer may fall on Monday, a special order will be given by Government for the detention of the steamer for twenty-four hours. In reference to the mail via Bombay the Governor General in Council was unable to concede the request, as it would frequently make it necessary to postpone the departure of the steamer from that port; and moreover the fact of there being a daily post to Bombay would obviate the necessity of despatching letters on Sunday, should that happen to be the mail day.

#### INLAND TRAFFIC.

##### APPENDIX I.

The creation of a department for ascertaining and publishing accurate particulars of the internal trade of Bengal, and the suggestion that the manifests or chullans of all native boats arriving in Calcutta, as also the way-bills of the railways, should bear a stamp to be fixed by the Government, formed the subject of a recent representation by the Committee to the Government of Bengal. Such manifests or way-bills to be published daily, as in the case of Custom

House returns, either in a condensed form, or, as the Committee recommend, in a detailed form, specifying the number of boats, the name of the steamer, the line of railway, the quantity of each article, the mode of conveyance, the town and district from which it comes, and the name of the consignee. It was further suggested that the same stamp duty should be levied on the chullans as on external bills of lading, and that no cargo should be permitted to be landed without the production of a stamped chullan. In acknowledgment of this communication the Lieut.-Governor of Bengal through the Secretary informs the Committee—"that he regards the suggestions of the Chamber of Commerce contained in their letter of the 17th September as very important, especially the one for the constitution of a department for ascertaining and publishing the particulars of the trade of Calcutta," and refers to a letter which had been addressed to the Board of Revenue on these subjects. The opinions of the members of the Board of Revenue, as expressed in their letter to the Secretary of the Government of Bengal, are generally favourable to the proposition, and though they differ in some respects as to the mode of carrying it out, there seems little doubt of the plan being adopted with some modifications. As it is impossible in the condensed form of a report to convey what appear to the Committee to be the most prominent features of this proposition, they recommend to the members the perusal of the correspondence which will be found in the appendix.

## IMPORT DUTIES.

### APPENDIX J.

The Bombay Chamber of Commerce having addressed this Chamber requesting their co-operation in obtaining the removal of duties at present imposed upon piece goods imported into India, the Committee replied that this important subject had fully occupied their attention, and that the merchants of Calcutta were quite as desirous of removing this burden as those of Bombay. But considering that these duties were imposed at a time when the exigencies of the Government compelled their imposition for retrieving the financial position of the country, and that the time had not yet arrived when they could be spared, they did not consider it expedient at present to move the Government upon the subject; they were however quite willing and prepared to co-operate with the Bombay Chamber at the earliest moment it was apparent that the financial position of the country would allow the Government to dispense with the duties referred to.

The Committee believe that Government brings much energy to bear on the reduction of expenditure, particularly in military and police departments.

#### REDUCTION OF DUTY ON FOREIGN MANUFACTURED TOBACCO.

The excessive rate of duty levied on foreign (American) manufactured tobacco having seriously affected the im-

portation of that article into the Calcutta market, the Committee brought the subject to the notice of the Government of Bengal, recommending the imposition of an *ad valorem* duty of 20 per cent. instead of the prohibitory rate of one rupee per seer which was equivalent to more than 220 per cent. of its actual value.

His Honor the Lieut.-Governor concurred in this view and recommended to the Government of India the change suggested by the Chamber.

#### PRACTICE OF SHIPPING GUNNIES PER TON OF 14 CWT.

Notwithstanding the existence both at Bombay and Calcutta of a recognised tonnage schedule which fixes the ton of measurement goods at fifty cubic feet, a practice has grown up in the trade between Calcutta and Bombay of taking *bales of Gunny Bags at 14 cwt. to the ton*. It is believed that this practice is not recognised or adopted by any European firm either here or in Bombay, and that it has been introduced by Native Commanders of vessels or their agents who, on engaging a ship for the round, invariably insert in all charter parties the clause "at the rate of not under 14 cwt. per ton." This involves a heavy loss to the ship, since 14 cwt. Gunnies in bales loosely screwed as they usually are—to avoid the expense which would attend screwing the bales to the size to which Europeans reduce them—represent a measure-

ment of from 100 to 110 cubic feet. This was so manifestly unfair that the Committee considered it their duty to bring the practice to the notice of all Chambers of Commerce and other Commercial Institutions in India, London, America, the Colonies, &c., with the view of putting masters of vessels on their guard when engaging their ships in the country trade.

#### POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The irregularities and delays which have of late characterized the postal service of Calcutta have induced the Committee to address the Director General of the Post Offices of India, enquiring into the cause of such delays and irregularities. In reply they have been informed that the Post Master of Calcutta is to blame for those of a local nature, and that those which relate to the transmission of letters between Calcutta and Bombay have been caused by the rains and the consequent breaking up of the roads through which the mail passes. The Committee cannot accept these several explanations as satisfactory, and consider that the whole system of postal service throughout India requires an entire reconstruction.

With the object of calling the attention of Government to this subject they have sought the co-operation of the Chambers of Commerce of Bombay and Madras, but the former decline any interference in the matter, and the latter have not as yet expressed any opinion upon the subject. The Committee are still more fully

impressed with the necessity of urging this subject upon the notice of the authorities, as they have every reason to believe that the home Government will, upon the recommendation of the Governor-General in Council, abolish the postal service by steamers via Galle,—the English mails being conveyed weekly by way of Bombay; and that this change will take place next year. The experience of the past season convinces the Committee that such change must be attended with serious inconvenience and loss to the merchants of Calcutta and of the trading ports of Pegu; and it will be their duty to repeat their protest against the contemplated change.

#### PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT BY GOVERNMENT OF A TIMBER PURCHASING AGENCY IN RANGOON AND MOULMEIN.

##### APPENDIX K.

The merchants of Rangoon and Moulmein have forwarded to the Committee copies of the petitions which they had addressed to the Government of India in reference to the proposed establishment at those ports of a Government timber purchasing agency. The subject was taken into consideration, and it was thought advisable that the Committee should address the Government on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, expressing their opinion that any interference upon the part of Government with trade generally or with any part thereof must be fraught with con-

sequences prejudicial not only to the Government but to the mercantile community generally, not only in the locality where the interference takes place, but in all ports or places where such competition is carried on. The whole subject has been fully treated in the letter addressed to the Government. The Committee, though advocating the general views of the Rangoon and Moulmein memorialists, cannot however but express their regret that the language used by these gentlemen is such as must tend seriously to injure the cause which they have come forward to advocate.

**SURVEY OF STEAM SHIPS BY PROPERLY  
QUALIFIED ENGINEERS.**

APPENDIX L.

The lamentable loss of life caused by the explosion of the boilers of the Steam Tug "John Bull," induced the Committee to address the Government of Bengal, submitting to the Lieut.-Governor the expediency of introducing here the laws now in force in England, under which every steam vessel belonging to the port of Calcutta would have to be periodically surveyed by competent and qualified officers appointed by Government. In the event of such recommendation being adopted, the Committee named Mr. W. H. Sandeman, Chief Superintending Engineer at Kidderpore, as a suitable person for the appointment of surveyor. The reply of the Lieut.-Governor has

been received, in which he fully concurs in the views of the Committee, and has referred the subject to the Legislative member for Bengal, with a view to a law being so framed as to empower the Government to carry out the suggestion made.

**THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

With reference to the 18th Section of Act 24 and 25, cap. 67, for making better provision for the constitution of the Council of the Governor General of India, by which His Excellency is empowered to make rules for the conduct of business at Meetings of the Council for the purpose of making laws and regulations under the provisions of the Act, a petition was presented on the 7th instant on behalf of the Chamber and others,—bankers and merchants of Calcutta,—praying that the public may be admitted as heretofore to the Council Chamber during the sittings of the Council, and the proceedings be published for general information.

The Petition has been laid before the Governor General in Council, who, as the Chamber are assured, will give it proper consideration.

**TRADE AND FAMINE REPORTS BY COLONEL  
BAIRD SMITH.**

APPENDIX M.

In their last Report the Committee entered fully into the circumstances which induced them to suggest

the deputation of Colonel Baird Smith to the North Western Provinces, and the mission of this distinguished officer has been productive of the most valuable results. No reports ever furnished by members of the Indian Services, abounding as the latter have done at all times in men of high ability, have exhibited more patient research, striking reflections, or sounder conclusions. They form a text book for the use of future enquiries into the state of the country, the condition of the people, and the modes by which agriculture may be improved and commerce extended to the advancement of the common good. They show that it is not only possible but perfectly easy to reconcile the claims of the trading and mercantile classes with the true interests of Government and of the native races; and it is a knowledge of these facts which has impressed the Chamber with a sense of deep obligation first to Colonel Baird Smith, and secondly to the Government which permitted him to enter upon the task that has been so thoroughly accomplished.

It was but an inadequate token of their gratitude and respect that the Chamber offered to Col. Baird Smith in the shape of a Testimonial; but they believe that it was accepted in the spirit which dictated it, and they have the pleasure of saying that the Governor General in Council was good enough to suspend, in this case, the operation of the rule which prohibits servants of the State from receiving such gifts.

The correspondence and other details relative to this interesting subject will be found in the appendix.

The Committee took measures to republish and circulate the report at home among Members of both Houses of Parliament, and all the leading commercial associations in the United Kingdom, with the view of drawing the attention of the public to its important contents: and the result is shewn in the influence it has had in framing the arguments and speeches of many of the prominent men who have lately spoken on Indian affairs.

**REPORT OF MR. PATERSON SAUNDERS, SENIOR,  
ON THE COTTON CULTIVATION IN THE DOAB.**

The Committee have received from the Government Mr. P. Saunders' report upon the cotton districts of the territories lying between the Jumna and Ganges, commonly called the Doab, and the obstacles that impede the trade in cotton. This report which is ably drawn up furnishes much interesting information as to the past, present, and future of cotton production in the districts to which it refers; it also contains many very valuable suggestions as regards taxation and land tenures.

His remarks upon canals and irrigation in a great measure accord with those of Col. Baird Smith, and especially so as regards roads, the improvement of which in the district referred to are urgently called for. The opinions expressed upon the necessity of

a contract law to ensure the extension of cotton culture fully agree with those of all the authorities who have written upon the subject. The Committee are glad to know that the report has received the approbation of the Government, and that their recommendation of Mr. Saunders for the mission upon which he has been employed has been fully sustained by the result of his services.

At a special Meeting of the Chamber held on the 18th June

**THE REVISED SCHEDULE OF RATES OF COMMISSION AND MERCANTILE AGENCY**

(APPENDIX N.)

was adopted, with effect from the 1st January 1862.

It was also resolved that the

Standard Rate of Exchange of 2 shillings per rupee be adopted from 1st January 1862 in adjusting freights, expressed in Sterling, payable in Calcutta.

On the same occasion the following alterations of Chamber's Rules, Nos. IV. and XI, were also adopted.

By the lamented death of Mr. John Deffell on the 3rd June a vacancy was created in the Committee of the Chamber, and occurring so recently after the election at the General Meeting of the 6th May, and almost at the commencement of the annual period for which the Committee were chosen, they were of opinion that this

and all future vacancies should be filled up as they arose. They therefore suggested the alteration of Rule No. XI. of the Chamber's Code which provides for filling up vacancies at *General Meetings* only.

The Rule No. XI. runs thus :—

*That vacancies in the Committee created by the absence of Members from the presidency for two months, or by departure for Europe, or by death, be filled up at a General Meeting by a majority of the Members present thereat.*

In substitution of which the Committee proposed the following :

*The annual elections of President, Vice-President, and Members of the Committee shall be determined by a majority of votes of Members, such votes being given in voting cards to be issued, numbered and signed by the Secretary; and no voting card shall be received for such purpose unless so authenticated: and all vacancies created by the absence of the President, Vice-President, or any of the Members from the Presidency for two months, or by departure for Europe, or by death, shall be forthwith filled up, and the election determined by votes of Members to be taken as above in voting cards and declared by the Committee.*

The Committee further recommended an alteration in Rule No. IV. of the Chamber's code, as suggested in a paper circulated to members by Mr. W. Maitland.

The Rule No. IV. runs thus :—

*That candidates for admission, proposed by one member and seconded by another, shall be ballotted for, and a majority of votes shall decide the election.*

In substitution of which the Committee proposed the following :—

*That candidates for admission, proposed and seconded by members, may be admitted provisionally as members by the Committee, subject to confirmation at the next General Meeting.*

**RATE OF EXCHANGE FOR COMMISSIONS AND DIFFERENCE OF FREIGHT AT THE RICE PORTS.**

As the great bulk of the tonnage loaded at the Rice-ports—Akyab, Bassein, Rangoon and Moulmein—is either chartered in Calcutta or through Calcutta agency, it was deemed desirable that the rate of exchange at which the commission on such transactions is to be calculated, as well as any difference of freight, should be fixed by the Chamber.

It was therefore proposed by the Committee that, from and after the 1st January 1862, where the commission, or difference in freight, on Rice or Timber charters, has to be reduced, for the purpose of settlement between parties, from Sterling into Indian money, the rate of exchange be fixed at 2 shillings per Company's Rupee.

And in connexion with this matter, it was also proposed that from and after the 1st January 1862, and

for the purpose of settlement of freight, the weight of the basket of rice be assumed at

26 lbs. for	.....	Akyab.
63 " "	.....	Rangoon.
63 " "	.....	Bassein.
63 " "	.....	Moulmein.

These propositions have been adopted by the Chamber, with effect from the beginning of next year.

**VOTE OF THANKS TO THE LATE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT.**

APPENDIX O.

In Appendix O. will be found the Committee's Address to their late President and Vice President, conveying the vote of thanks passed to those gentlemen at the General Meeting in May last.

**PORTRAIT OF MR. D. MACKINLAY.**

The portrait of Mr. Daniel Mackinlay, subscribed for by Members of the Chamber in recognition of their appreciation of his earnest and successful devotion to their interests while occupying the office of President, was in August last presented to the Committee, who received with sincere pleasure this token of the value placed on Mr. Mackinlay's services by those best capable of estimating their worth.

**EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

We subjoin a brief out-line of the progress of the

E. I. Railway as reported by the Chief Engineer, Mr. George Turnbull, in his report for the six months ended 30th June 1861. On the *Open line from Howrah to Raneegunge*—121 miles—traffic has been carried on without interruption during the half year; works are in a sound condition and the permanent way is in good working order. The *Singarron Valley Branch*—8 miles—will it is believed be ready for public traffic before the end of this year. The *extension to the River Barrakur*—22 miles—the progress in this section has been slow on account of financial restrictions, incomplete transfer of land, scarcity of labor, and sickness among the workmen; but the work is now progressing satisfactorily. *Beerbhloom District*—102 miles—works in good order, and traffic has been carried on without intermission: the same remarks apply to the *Central Rajmehal* section—26 miles. The *Peerpointee* and *Colgong* Divisions were well advanced. In the *Bhaugulpore* district—24 miles—the heavy works on the main line have been completed, arrangements for early opening the line to the public pushed on rapidly, and on the 25th June a trial trip was made from Howrah to Bhaugulpore in a successful manner; the train left Howrah at 5-15 A. M. and reached Bhaugulpore at 4-15 P. M., thus accomplishing the distance—264 miles—in eleven hours, or at an average speed of 24 miles an hour; deducting stoppages the real average speed was 30.7 miles per hour. The train returned to Howrah next day.

Now that the line is opened to Bhaugulpore, there are 320½ miles in the *Bengal Division* open for public traffic. By the end of January 1862 the line may be opened to *Monghyr*: in the *Barrh* and *Patna* District works are well advanced; and in the *Soane* District satisfactory progress is being made, the *Bridge*—4731 feet in length—rapidly approaching completion and may be ready for the passing of trains by the end of June 1862.

In the *North West* the line was opened from *Cawn-pore* to *Elawah* on 1st July last, and on the 13th instant from *Elawah* to *Sheteoabad*, making in all 239 miles; or a total length of open line on the *Bengal* and *North West* sections of the Railway of 559½ miles.

#### CALCUTTA AND SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

The first portion of the line will be thrown open to traffic on the 1st January next, when a daily up and down train is to run from *Sealdah* to *Choppahattee*—about sixteen miles. The *Pialtee* bridge is satisfactorily progressing, and by March the Company hope to open the whole length to Port Mutlah. The line is now almost completed to within one mile of Mutlah, and communication by trolley will be established towards the end of the year, when *Sunderbund* grantees and others connected with the new port will be permitted to avail themselves of this mode of

communication previous to the general opening of the line.

#### NEW MEMBER.

Mr. G. C. Chalmers, Manager of the *Central Bank of Western India*, has been admitted a member of the Chamber, subject to the usual confirmation.

#### FUNDS OF THE CHAMBER.

##### APPENDIX F.

A half-yearly statement of the funds of the Chamber is given in the appendix, exhibiting a balance in the Bank of Bengal of Rs. 2,168-2-3, exclusive of the reserve, in 4 per cent. Government Paper, of Rs. 7,500.

W. S. FITZWILLIAM,

*President.*

CALCUTTA, }  
Oct. 31, 1861. }

#### APPENDIX A.

#### ADDRESS TO THE HON'BLE SAMUEL LAING.

THE HON'BLE SAMUEL LAING,

*Member of the Council of the Governor General of India.*

HON'BLE SIR,—When we—the Public Bodies represented by the undersigned—had the honor of addressing you, we expressed our congratulations on your arrival and accession to the important office of Financial Member of the Council of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General; we assured you of the satisfaction with which we saw so responsible a charge committed to your hands, and of our confidence in your ability to carry out the object of your mission—the restoration of the finances of the Indian empire to a permanently sound condition.

In the conviction that no effort on your part would be left untried to obtain a result of such vital importance to the present and future welfare of the country, we were content to await the announcement of your financial policy and the development of those measures which in your judgment and experience were essential to an improved system of financial administration.

You have recently declared that policy and the means whereby, in your opinion, the grave difficulties which have so long burdened and impeded the progress of the empire may be met and overcome; and it is our grateful duty to acknowledge the obligations you have imposed upon us, and to record our sense of the valuable service you have rendered to the State.

It is not our purpose on this occasion to enter into the merits of the policy you have enunciated or of the measures proposed for its execution: the object of our present address is rather to express how deeply we deplore the circumstances which, after a brief interval of only six months, have compelled you to suspend your official labors, and to seek in rest and relaxation the restoration of your shattered health, sacrificed in the performance of a public duty of unceasing toil and anxiety.

We desire respectfully to assure you of our sincere sympathy with you under the effects of the severe illness by which you have been visited and which has disabled you from continuing the work so lately undertaken in the full hope of carrying it to a successful issue.

For the early and complete re-establishment of your health you have our most cordial wishes; and we earnestly trust you may be enabled to resume your position in the Council of the Supreme Government of India and realise your own anticipations in reference to the future prospects of this great Empire.

We have the honor to remain,

Honorable Sir,

Your most obedient humble servants,

For the Bengal Chamber of Commerce,

W. S. FITZWILLIAM, *President.*

For the Landholders' and Commercial Association of British India,

WILLIAM MAITLAND, *Chairman.*

For the Calcutta Trades Association,

F. JENNINGS, *Master.*

For the British Indian Association,

RAJAH KALIKRISHNA BAHADOOR,

*Vice-President.*

Calcutta, 1st July, 1861.

*Edinburgh, 25th August, 1861.*

DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the Address which you have forwarded to me on behalf of the "Bengal Chamber of Commerce," as well as of the "Landholders' and Commercial Association of British India," the "Calcutta Trades Association" and the "British Indian Association," to the Chairmen of which respective bodies you will be good enough to communicate this reply.

It is unnecessary for me to say how deeply I regretted the necessity of leaving India so prematurely, and how gratefully I feel the expression of sympathy from such influential bodies.

I may truly say that my heart was in my Indian work.

It seemed to me that India was the place and the present time to decide the question whether our English race is capable not only of colonizing new Continents and conquering old ones, but of governing wisely and beneficently, for their own good, an empire of 150 millions of fellow-subjects, whose destinies a series of heroic achievements has associated with the British Crown.

I can see no reason why an era of peace and progress should not succeed one of wars and conquests; why India should not support a far larger population in a higher state of comfort and civilization; and why commerce should not expand until the exports and imports between England and India double or even quadruple their present amount.

I felt it to be a privilege to co-operate in such a work, and to assist in laying even one stone in the building of so goodly an edifice. My special task was to meet the imminent financial difficulties which threatened to arrest this noble career of future progress at the very outset.

I cannot venture to say that this task is entirely accomplished, for even English budgets often show unexpected results, and when a deficit of £6,000,000 had to be met in a single year, with a revenue depending on such precarious sources as opium, and a system of accounts and estimates scarcely inaugurated, some margin of uncertainty is unavoidable.

But I feel every confidence that the large though cautious and conservative reductions ordered by Lord Canning's Government, before I left India, will be carried fully into effect; I am aware of nothing except the fall in opium to affect seriously the accuracy of my estimates; and, notwithstanding that fall, I see nothing to shake my faith in the general position that, with continued economy, the financial crisis may be considered as surmounted, and the current expenditure of India, apart from railways, brought to a level with its current income.

Without therefore indulging in premature exultation there is every motive for hopeful exertion in realizing the financial programme of April last, the great object of which is to establish a *bona fide* equilibrium without a constant resort to Loans and New Taxes, so as to give India a period of repose and tranquillity, during which to work out her vari-

ous social and political reforms, unimpeded by the urgent fear of pecuniary difficulties.

Although I may be precluded from taking a part in these ulterior measures, I am happy to say that my health is so far restored as to enable me to contemplate returning to India, at any rate for the next cold season, so as to endeavour to realize the results promised in my budget.

I hope then to thank you in person for the kind expression of your sympathy, and in the meantime I will only say that it is doubly valuable to me because it proceeds from bodies representing some of the most influential interests of Bengal, Native as well as European.

I am convinced that India is no exception to the general rule that it is desirable to encourage the free expression of public opinion respecting public men and measures through respectable and recognized organs; and that such an expression has, under the peculiar circumstances of India, a double value when the different classes of Her Majesty's subjects, without distinction of race or religion, co-operate in a common object.

In the present instance I gladly accept your Address both as a token of kindness and sympathy towards myself personally, and, what is more important, as a proof that notwithstanding the differences which from time to time inevitably prevail respecting the policy of a Government, there is a general disposition among the enlightened classes of India to do justice to the honest efforts of that Government for the general good.

I remain,

Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

S. LAING.

W. FITZWILLIAM, Esq., *Chairman,*

*Chamber of Commerce of Bengal.*

## APPENDIX B.

### HINDOO HOLIDAYS.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

*Calcutta, 14th May, 1861.*

C. HUGH LUSHINGTON, Esq.,

*Secy. to the Govt. of India, Financial Department.*

Sir,—With reference to the representation on the subject of Hindoo Holidays which the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce had the honor of submitting, in their letter of 26th December 1860, for the consideration of the Right Hon'ble the Governor General in Council, to the result of the measures adopted by His Excellency as published in the *Government Gazette* of the 6th ultimo, and to the subsequent discussion of the question by Members of the Chamber, I am desired to forward copy of a resolution passed at a special general meeting of the Chamber.

“That the question of public holidays has been duly considered by the Members of this Chamber, and that in their opinion the proper holidays to be observed are—the 22 days of Hindoo holidays in the revised List A, as stated in the *Government Gazette* of 6th April, Christmas-day, New-Year's day, Good-Friday and the Queen's Birth-day; and that on those days all public offices should be closed.”

While the meeting accepted the revised number of Hindoo holidays as being in accordance with the Chamber's application for as large a reduction as could consistently be made, objection was raised by a large majority to the provision by which on all such holidays the several Government offices at the Presidency shall remain open for the conduct of public business. The objection was made on the ground of the extreme inconvenience resulting from the modified system, which by releasing from attendance all the Hindoo employes who chose to avail of the right of absencing themselves rendered it utterly impracticable to carry on ordinary business operations by the agency of the few Christian assistants whose attendance was made compulsory.

The practical effect of this change was experienced on the two holidays which followed shortly after the publication of the notification, and a very general dissatisfaction expressed in consequence.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the new system has not been successful in this respect; and the Committee of the Chamber

trust His Lordship in Council will be pleased to amend that portion of the Government order by directing that all public offices shall be closed on all recognised public holidays.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

H. W. I. WOOD,

*Secretary.*

No. 6346:

From

C. H. LUSHINGTON, Esq.,

*Secy. to the Govt. of India.*

To

THE COMMITTEE OF THE BENGAL

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Financial Dept.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed by His Excellency the Governor General in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your Secretary's letter, dated the 14th instant, relative to the Government Resolution recently published on the subject of the holidays to be observed in the public offices at Calcutta, and to state in reply that the new system was adopted after careful enquiry made in accordance with an application from the Chamber. Some temporary inconvenience may be expected at first from all such changes, and His Excellency in Council trusts that the inconvenience in this case will be found to be but temporary. Should it however be found after a further trial that the inconvenience is such as to interfere with the interests of commerce, the subject, if brought to the notice of Government, can be reconsidered.

I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

C. H. LUSHINGTON,

*Secy. to the Govt. of India.*

COUNCIL CHAMBER, }

The 31st May, 1861. }

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

*Calcutta, 25th July, 1861.*

W. GREY, Esquire,

*Secretary to the Government of India,*

*Home Department.*

SIR,—The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce have been requested to state whether in their opinion native holidays should still continue to be regarded as non-working days in estimating the number of working days which a vessel has in port: but as this reference involves a point of considerable difficulty and of much importance to mercantile interests they hesitate to express their view of a question which they think would be more appropriately decided by competent legal authority.

As the question arises by action of the Government notification (No. 70 of 27th March last) relative to public holidays the Committee venture to request you will be so good as to obtain the sanction of His Excellency the Governor General in Council for the submission of this case for the opinion of the Advocate General.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

H. W. I. WOOD,

*Secretary.*

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

*Calcutta, 2nd September, 1861.*

C. HUGH LUSHINGTON, Esq.,

*Secretary to the Government of India,*

*Financial Department.*

SIR,—The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce availing themselves of the permission granted by your letter of the 31st May desire me to bring again to the notice of His Excellency the Governor General in Council the subject of their reference of the 14th idem, viz. the expediency of closing public offices on recognised public holidays. They do so because it has been represented that the inconvenience arising from the practice of keeping public offices open and at the same time of authorising the absence of native establishments materially interferes

with the ordinary trade operations of the port. Dependent as almost all offices are on the attendance of Hindoo employes the necessary work cannot, it is submitted, be efficiently performed without their assistance, for the attendance of heads of departments with incomplete establishments is obviously insufficient for the ordinary business which the public may have occasion to transact.

After the experience of the past three months, during which many complaints have been made of the working of the new system, the Committee believe they are justified in remarking that it has been attended with so much inconvenience as to render its modification expedient: and they therefore repeat the application already made to His Lordship in Council for the amendment of the Government Notification of 6th April to the extent of providing that public offices shall be closed on authorised native holidays.\*

And in urging this point the Committee respectfully submit that it is not inconsistent with their original request for the largest possible reduction of Hindoo holidays, for while they would be glad to see a still further reduction to the minimum number required for the performance of Hindoo ceremonies on what are said to be strictly religious festivals, not exceeding seven or eight days, they are of opinion that on such occasions the attendance of Hindoo employes should be unqualifiedly dispensed with, and the public offices closed for business.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

H. W. I. WOOD,

*Secretary.*

No. 11785.

FROM

C. H. LUSHINGTON, Esquire,

*Secy. to the Govt. of India,*

*Financial Department.*

TO

THE COMMITTEE OF THE BENGAL

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed by His Excellency the Governor General

To the Secy. to the Govt. of India, Home Department, dated 26th July 1861.  
To the Secy. to the Govt. of India, Financial Department, dated 2nd Sept. 1861.

in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your Secretary's letters noted in the margin, on the subject of reducing the number of authorized native holidays and closing the public offices altogether on such occasions.

2. In reply I am desired to forward herewith a copy of the Advocate General's opinion dated 29th ultimo taken on the first of the above mentioned letters; and to state that before a final answer is given in respect to the questions mooted in your second letter, His Excellency in Council will be glad to be furnished with a further statement of your views in respect to the holidays with reference to the opinion of the Advocate General.

3. In stating your views as above requested, you will be good enough to specify the native holidays which you would recommend to be retained with reference to commercial convenience.

4. Pending the decision that may be come to on receiving the further information now called for, His Excellency in Council has ordered that on this occasion the *general holiday* allowed by the resolution of the 27th March last, to be enjoyed by all classes of Government servants, shall be extended to the Doorga Poojah, and that the General Treasury shall be accordingly closed from the 10th to the 23rd proximo, both days inclusive, due provision being made, however, at the Custom House for the entry and clearance of vessels during such holiday.

I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

C. HUGH LUSHINGTON,

*Secy. to the Govt. of India.*

COUNCIL CHAMBER, }

*The 27th Sept., 1861.* }

OPINION.

The question as observed by the Chamber of Commerce is one of considerable difficulty and importance. Irrespective of the recent notification of Government, the general rule is that all holidays on

which the Custom House is closed, and which by the general usage of the port are treated as non-working days for shipping purposes, must be excluded in reckoning the number of working days which a vessel is allowed in port under a charter party, but that no days on which the Custom House is open, and on which it is not impracticable to obtain a sufficient supply of labour for the purpose (by reason of the prevalence of a settled usage on the part of any class of persons whose attendance is essential to each day's operations to abstain from business) can be properly excluded from the calculation of working days, although days of that description may be Hindoo or Mahomedan holidays.

It appears to me that under the Government resolution of the 27th March 1861, the only days that can with certainty be pronounced to be non-working days within the meaning of an ordinary charter party, are the days on which the Custom House is closed, viz. New-Year's-Day, Good-Friday, the Queen's Birth-day, and Christmas-day, and the ten days general holiday following the four days of the Hindoo holiday of Doorgah Poojah.

But it is possible that in regard to some of the native holidays formerly observed as general holidays at the Government offices, but on which the Custom House is now to be open, although the attendance of Hindoos or Mahomedans according to the nature of the festival is dispensed with, the custom of treating such days as non-working days may have been so constant and so fully established by length of time that it may be impracticable to procure the attendance of persons whose services are necessary for the loading or unloading of vessels, or the conveyance of cargo to or from the shore; and that the merchants and others interested in shipping in Calcutta may consequently not be in a condition, or may be generally unwilling, to treat such days as working days, but may prefer to stand upon the old and long established usage as to such days. I do not think the circumstance that the Government has determined on opening the Custom House will of itself get rid of a custom of the port, sufficiently established by length of time and uniformity of practice, to treat such days as non-working days, or that they can be treated as working days if the mercantile community generally are unable to get the required work done upon them, and consequently are compelled practically to treat them as holidays. The fact that the Custom House is open on a particular day will be *prima facie* evidence that such day is a working day; and the burden of proving an usage of the port by which it has been uniformly treated as a non-working day

for a sufficient time to establish a mercantile custom, will rest with the merchants seeking to treat the day as a non-working one.

It is impossible to determine as to each of the holidays formerly allowed as general holidays whether it be of such a nature, without knowing the circumstances which led to its being originally observed as a holiday, the length of time during which it has been so observed, and the difficulty which will exist in procuring the necessary attendance and labour on such.

With respect to the first four days of the Doorgah Poojah, which though allowed as Hindoo holidays are no longer treated as general holidays, and on which according to the resolution the Custom House will be open, a question of much difficulty may arise. For these four days have been treated as close holidays in Calcutta from a period previous to the year 1790; and have been I believe invariably observed as holidays in all mercantile offices, and by all classes of the community, and not merely by the Hindoos. Unless an alteration of practice be adopted generally in consequence of the Government notifications in the port by merchants or persons interested in shipping, I do not think that the recent order of the Government for opening the Custom House on those days will alone prevent them from being treated as customary holidays, and from being excluded in the computation of working days. If however the ordinary offices are kept open, and if the attendance of the people required for this kind of work can be obtained, those four days will I think lose their privilege as non-working days.

If the mercantile community find that it is practically impossible to transact shipping business on the first four days of the Doorgah Poojah, notwithstanding that the Custom House and Government offices are open in those days, I think they should make a representation to that effect to the Government with a view to the closing of the Custom House on those days as formerly. It will obviously be more convenient for all classes that the Custom House should be closed, and the four days publicly recognised as non-working days than that either those days should be reckoned as working days, while in fact and practically it is impossible to load or unload upon them if such prove to be the case, or that the harassing doubt as to whether those days are to be reckoned as working or non-working days should arise in each individual instance.

I apprehend that few if any of the other holidays which existed in 1790, and on which till lately the Custom House has been closed, will

present the same difficulties as the four days of the Doorgah Poojah; as to most of them, the main if not the sole cause of the suspension of work for shipping purposes will probably be found to have been the closing of the Custom House: and in such cases where that cause ceases the privilege of those days will also cease. Possibly as to some of them, the merchants may find the same difficulty of getting work done as on the Doorgah Poojah; and where such is the case, the remarks above made as to that holiday will apply with reference to the great majority. However, (and indeed with reference to all the native holidays, including the four days of the Doorgah Poojah, if the mercantile community generally adopt the same course as the Government has adopted by the transaction of shipping business on those days) I think that the abolition of the holiday at the Custom House will carry with it the abolition of the privilege of those days as non-working days.

I may mention that a similar instance has occurred in London in the present century, in which the abolition of holidays at the Custom House on particular days has drawn with it the loss of privilege for those days as non-working days. Early in the century St. Thomas-day (the 21st December) and three days following Christmas-day were treated as holidays at the Custom House, and it was held by Lord Eldon and a special jury of merchants of the city of London\* that such days were not to be reckoned as working days in a charter party, although it was proved that there was no difficulty in obtaining labour in loading or unloading vessels on those days. Those days are no longer deemed as holidays at the Custom House and would no longer be privileged as non-working days in the port under a charter party.

(Signed) W. RITCHIE,  
29th August 1861.

(True Copy)

(Signed) F. C. SANDES,  
*Solicitor to Government.*

(True Copy)  
C. HUGH LUSHINGTON,  
*Secy. to the Govt. of India.*

\* See Cockrane, vs. Rotherg, 2, Espinasse, p. 121.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

*Calcutta, 2nd October, 1861.*

C. HUGH LUSHINGTON, Esq.,

*Secretary to the Government of India,*

*Financial Department.*

SIR,—I am instructed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge your letter No. 11785 of the 27th September, and to state that they receive with much satisfaction the orders of His Excellency the Governor General in Council that the four days allowed by the Resolution of 27th March as holidays for Hindoos only,—viz. the 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th October—shall on this occasion be observed as close holidays and added to the general vacation of ten days for all classes; because this modification of the resolution—though applying at present only to the Doorgah Poojah holidays—is in accordance with the views which they have invariably supported, viz. that on recognised holidays public offices should be altogether closed.

Whatever may be the number of holidays, general or special, Christian or Hindoo, it appears to the Committee essential that they should be observed as holidays for all classes, for, as they have already remarked, while natives employed in public and private offices have the privilege of absenting themselves on certain authorized days, and avail themselves of it, the endeavour to conduct ordinary business without the aid of ordinary establishments must obviously be attended with inconvenience to commerce; and the experience of that inconvenience has led to the general desire (the expression of which I am now directed to repeat) to revert to the former practice of closing public offices on public holidays.

In reply to the 3rd paragraph of your letter I am to state that although the Committee believe they could satisfy the Governor General in Council that a further reduction in the authorized number of Hindoo holidays might be made, they are of opinion, and they are content to accept the revised arrangement with the single simple provision that on the twenty-two Hindoo holidays sanctioned by Government all public offices shall be altogether closed.

For the opinion of the Advocate General on the point submitted in the Chamber's letter of 25th July the Committee direct me to express their respectful thanks to His Lordship in Council.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

H. W. I. WOOD,

*Secretary.*

## APPENDIX C.

### MODIFICATION OF CONDITIONS OF SALE OF OPIUM.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

*Calcutta, 7th June, 1861.*

E. H. LUSHINGTON, Esq.,

*Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.*

Sir,—The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce are of opinion that circumstances in connection with recent speculative purchases of opium suggest the necessity of considering whether the general conditions of sale should not be modified with regard to the amount of deposit and the period allowed for redemption of Promissory Notes.

In the judgment of the Committee the sum of 200 rupees per chest, which in practice is the amount taken by Government, is too small a deposit, and they would recommend a scale of deposits varying with the selling price of the drug, viz :

200 Rupees per chest on a value not exceeding 1,000 Rs.	
400 Rupees                   "                   "	2,000   "
600 Rupees                   "                   "	3,000   "

and instead of allowing five days for the redemption of Promissory Notes for such deposits the Committee think the Government should insist upon deposits being paid within twenty-four hours after the sale.

By the adoption of such an increased rate of deposit and a system of earlier payment the Government would obviously be in a better position in the event of unfulfilled engagements, inordinate speculation would be materially checked, and purchases confined to actual requirements of the trade.

I have, &c.,

H. W. I. WOOD,

*Secretary.*

Calcutta, 18th September, 1861.

E. H. LUSHINGTON, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,—The Board's notification in this day's *Gazette* respecting deposits for purchases of opium was the first intimation the Chamber has received of the adoption, to some extent, of the suggestions submitted in my letter of 7th June, and I shall be glad to have your reply for the information of my Committee.

Your's faithfully,

H. W. I. WOOD.

No. 410 B.

FROM

THE OFFICIATING UNDER-SECRETARY

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE BENGAL CHAMBER

OF COMMERCE,

Dated Fort William, the 21st September, 1861.

Mis. Rev.

Opium.

SIR,—With reference to your demi-official letter of the 18th instant I am directed to forward for the information of the Chamber, the accompanying copies of the papers, marginally noted, bearing on the subject of the proposal of the Chamber in regard to the modification of the present opium sale conditions.

From Offg. Junior Secretary, Board of Revenue, No. 311, dated 3rd July, 1861, with enclosure.  
To Do, No. 225, dated 19th Idem.  
From Do, No. 370, dated 2nd Aug.  
To Do, No. 386, dated 14th Do.  
From Do, No. 422, dated 26th Do. with enclosure.  
From Do, No. 423, dated 25th Ditto.  
From Do, No. 441, dated 2nd September with enclosure.  
To Do, No. 422, dated 14th Ditto.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. MONRO,

Offg. Under-Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

From M<sup>OS</sup>LE H. B. DIVEREUX, Officiating Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 311, dated the 3rd July 1861.)

SIR,—I have the honor, by direction of the Board of Revenue, to acknowledge the receipt of the Order of Government No. 275A, dated the 14th instant, forwarding for report, a letter from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, dated the 7th ultimo, in which it is proposed, in modification of the present opium sale conditions, to increase the amount of deposit, varying it, as noted in the margin, in proportion to the selling price of the drug, and to reduce the period allowed for redemption of Promissory Notes from five days to twenty-four hours.

1. The majority of the Board desire me to state that they are disposed to give the fullest consideration to suggestions from the Chamber of Commerce on such points as these; but as these represent only the views of one of the many classes of purchasers who frequent the opium sales, they think it would be right to endeavor to ascertain the opinions on these two proposed alterations of the other classes whom they propose to address on the subject.

2. The proposal to raise the amount of deposit in proportion to the selling price of the opium seems to the majority of the Board to be quite unobjectionable. Clause 5 of the sale conditions already, in fact, provides for it. "A deposit in a Promissory Note, either for 25 per cent. even money of the amount for which each lot is knocked down, or for rupees 1,000 at the discretion of the officer superintending the sale." The latter alternative of rupees 1,000 per lot (of five chests) has hitherto been generally accepted as sufficient, but the superintending officer of the sale has always been able where he thought fit to require an amount equal to one-fourth of the bid which is higher than that of the Chamber's scale.

3. It occurs to the majority of the Board that the proposed shortening of the period allowed for the redemption of Promissory Notes may be attended with hardship to even some of the European houses, whose capital may not be available at all times at such short notice as twenty-four hours. Five days do not seem to the Board too long for producing the large amounts required as deposits from extensive purchasers, and though it is not good policy to encourage rash speculation, it is not on

the other hand advisable to throw difficulties in the way of enterprise on the part of small capitalists. Reasonable time must be given to such to raise money. The Board will not, however, object to shortening the period for deposit to whatever all parties interested in the sales shall agree to be reasonable time.

5. The senior member of the Board desires me to say, on his behalf, that the first suggestion of the Chamber of Commerce would, if adopted, be in his opinion imperative, inasmuch as the measures taken and being taken to augment the production of opium in India and the large and increasing quantity known to be manufactured in China, exclude all possibility of the price of the drug (now he sees only rupees 1,450 per chest) rising to rupees 3,000, and all reasonable probability of its ever reaching rupees 2,000, which latter price, he finds, was only attained for the first time during the last twenty years in February of the present year.

6. This seems to him sufficient ground for refraining from adopting the first suggestion of the Chamber; and he conceives it to be against the interest of Government to raise the amount of deposit in any way, inasmuch as liberality in the terms of sale unquestionably tend to maintain a wide and free competition and to secure high prices, which more than counterbalance the losses on defaults which some times, but very seldom indeed, occur.

7. It also seems to him very doubtful whether moderate enhancement of the amount of deposit would check rash speculation.

8. Moreover he does not think it the duty of Government to adopt measures against any class of bidders while it seems especially against its interest to act against the class to which the high prices all along obtained are mainly attributable, because once or twice in several years a few of them exceed the limits of prudence and ruin themselves. All that a seller has to look to is, in his opinion, his own protection; and over-speculation should be left to be checked by its own punitive results.

9. He fully concurs with his colleagues in thinking that the second suggestion of the Chamber, which, with reference to the difficulty of arranging loans in twenty-four hours, would render it necessary for every person proposing to bid to keep a considerable sum of money ready in his hands, inexpedient; but he does not join with them in seeking further information on the subject, as, though he can suppose that one class of bidders might approve of alterations in the rules calculated to check the competition of other classes, he cannot see the faintest shadow of a

chance that the numerous classes of which the mass of bidders at the opium sales is composed will unite in praying the Lieutenant-Governor to contract their facilities for purchasing opium.

10. The Chamber's letter is herewith returned, a copy having been retained.

No. 238 (A.)

FROM

E. H. LUSHINGTON, Esq.,

*Secretary to the Government of Bengal,*

TO

THE OFFICIATING JUNIOR SECRETARY

TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

*Fort William, the 19th July, 1861.*

His Rev.,  
Opium.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 311, dated the 2d instant, submitting the Board's report on the proposal of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for a modification of the present opium sale conditions, and to communicate the following observations and orders in reply.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that making the deposit proportionate to the price bid is so thoroughly sound and reasonable a proposal, that there can be in his judgment no necessity for making any further enquiries before adopting it. He therefore agrees at once to the proposal of the majority of the Board, in accordance with the opinion of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce. All that will be necessary will be to cancel that part of the rule allowing the alternative of a deposit of Rs. 1,000 for a lot of five chests at the discretion of the officer conducting the sale. This will be in the sense of the recommendation of the Chamber of Commerce; but it will be still more effectual than the plan they suggest. Moreover, (though a wholesome change of practice,) it will be no substantive change of rule, but will merely prevent the injudicious exercise of a discretion, which it is in no case really necessary to allow.

3. The change of rule and practice, however, will of course be fully made known before the next sale.

4. On the question of shortening the term allowed for paying up, the Lieutenant-Governor awaits the Board's further report, after making the enquiry promised. Perhaps the one change above authorized may be found to make any further change unnecessary.

5. The expression in the rule "even money" is ambiguous and hardly correct; and the Lieutenant-Governor thinks it will be better to express what is intended more completely in the new rule.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

E. H. LUSHINGTON,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

From HON'BLE H. B. DEVEREUX, *Officiating Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—*  
(No. 370, dated the 2nd August 1861.)

Sir,—With reference to your letter, No. 338A, dated the 19th ultimo, I have the honor, by direction of the Board of Revenue, to submit a suggestion for giving effect to the wishes of Government, in regard to a rateable increase of the deposit on opium purchases.

2. As previously stated, the sale conditions allow of a rateable deposit of 25 per cent, but the principle of "making the deposit proportionate to the price bid," accurately maintained, would enliven the proceedings of the sale room, where, according to the conditions, before a bid can be registered, the amount of deposit must be guaranteed by a promissory note, if not demanded in cash. It will be remembered that the purchaser of any lot has the option of naming and purchasing in immediate succession, at the same price, any number of lots to the extent of twenty-five; so that the deposit would have to be immediately ascertained by the process of calculating 25 per cent, or a fourth of the product obtained by multiplying the price bid per chest by five, the number of chests in a lot, and that sum by the number of lots taken. Repeated calculations of this nature could not be made without a risk of inaccuracy in a crowded and noisy auction room, and certainly not without causing a prolongation of the sale, and necessarily inconvenience to the public.

3. The specific proposal of the Chamber of Commerce, which retains

the deposit of 200 rupees on a chest of value 1,000 rupees and raises it to 400 rupees on a chest of value 2,000 rupees, would practically, in all probability, effect no change in the amount of deposit at the next sale of the 5th instant, when, it may be expected, that the bids will vary between these limits. The deposit would in each case be uniformly rupees 200 per chest as at present.

4. As therefore falling into the views of Government and at the same time pursuing the recommendation of the Chamber, I have to submit for the sanction of Government the following scale of deposits, by which it occurs to the Board that the Departament may secure as much as it conveniently can take of the 25 per cent. now demandable:—

	<i>Deposit.</i>
Bids up to any sum less than Rs. 1,200 per chest.....	Rs. 200
From Rs. 1,200 to any sum less than Rs. 1,600 .....	,, 300
From Rs. 1,600 ditto ditto 2,000 .....	,, 400

And so on, adding Rs. 100 to the deposit for every Rs. 400 bid additionally.

No. 386 (A).

From

E. H. LUSHINGTON, Esq.,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal,

To

THE OFFG. JUNIOR SECRETARY TO THE

BOARD OF REVENUE.

Fort William, the 16th August 1861.

His. Rev.,

Opium.

Sir,—I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 370, dated the 2nd instant, submitting a suggestion by which the views of Government, in regard to a rateable increase of the deposit on opium purchased, may be carried out, and in reply to inform you that the Lieutenant-Governor approves of the Board's suggestion.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

E. H. LUSHINGTON,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

From Hon'ble H. B. DEVEDAN, *Officiating Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal.*—  
(No. 433, dated the 26th August 1861).

Sir,—In my letter No. 311, dated the 3rd ultimo, reporting on the proposals of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for certain modifications of the opium sale conditions, it was stated that the Board contemplated ascertaining the opinions of other classes of opium purchasers on the proposed alterations. A circular then issued with this view has elicited the replies accompanying, which I am directed by the Board to submit, with an abstract, for the information of Government.

2. One of the two proposals of the Chamber, viz., that for increasing the amount of deposit, has been already disposed of by the orders of Government.

No. 238A, dated the 19th ultimo, to which effect will be given on receipt of the further instructions\* solicited in my letter No. 370, dated the 2nd instant. The Board would not, therefore, further allude to that proposal, but for the reply made by Mr. Ezra and others, suggesting "a rule for payment of deposit of rupees 2,000 per lot within twenty-four hours," in personally delivering which reply in the office Mr. Ezra wished it to be explained that the object desired was a *uniform* deposit, whatever be the sum judged expedient. Varying deposits, he argued, would be attended with inconvenience, inasmuch as it would introduce some uncertainty in the transactions which ordinarily follow each sale before the lots are cleared by full payment. In these transactions, by which lots are transferred from one to another, the deposit of the first purchaser must form the basis of account, determining, as it does, not further claim of Government. A fixed deposit, he observed, would therefore be preferable, as it would be more generally understood. The Board, however, adhere to the plan of a rateable deposit already suggested.

3. As regards the question of time for payment of deposits, it appears to the Board that the reasons given by Messrs. Nusservanjoo and Co. and others, against shortening the term now allowed, viz., the late period at which orders for purchases are received from their correspondents at Bombay and other places in India, often by telegram on the very day of sale; and the difficulty these Agents would have in making arrangements for advancing funds for such purchases within a shorter period than five days, are entitled to consideration. As bearing on the

From Government No. 256, dated 29th August 1862.  
To Government No. 526, dated 29th September.  
From Government No. 419, dated 29th October.

subject under consideration, I am instructed to request that you will bring to the notice of the Lieut. Governor the correspondence which took place in 1855, and is referred to in the margin, and which resulted in a continuance of the term of five days now allowed for the redemption of promissory notes accepted as security for deposits.

Abstract of Replies received to the Board's Circular No. 312, dated the 3rd July 1861, addressed to the principal Bengal, Bombay, Jewish, Parsee, Murwarree, and Megal opium merchants, inviting opinions on the proposals made by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, in modification of the present opium sale conditions, to increase the amount of deposit, varying it, as noted in the margin, in proportion to the selling price of the drug, and to reduce the period allowed for redemption of promissory notes from five days to twenty-four hours.

*Letter Date.*

11th July 1861.—Baboo Eshan Chunder Bose approves of a variation on the amount of deposit as proposed by the Chamber, but considers twenty-four hours too short a time for payment thereof, and states his conviction that three days would be found generally acceptable.

12th August 1861.—Bhoos Pravinchandra Law and Co. concur in the Chamber's proposal to increase the deposit, but state that for the payment twenty-four hours is too short, "and that two clear days at least ought to be allowed from the date of sale."

8th August 1861.—Messrs. N. Nusservanjoo and Co. suggest a modification in the rates of deposit as

Rspees 200 on valuation of Rupees 1,000.	
" 300   "   "   "   "   1,500.	
" 500   "   "   "   "   2,000.	
" 200   "   "   "   "   2,500.	

per margin, but represent that the majority of the Native firms here are only branch Establishments, and have to depend both for orders for purchases and remittances upon their principals in Bombay and other places; and those orders by telegram very frequently reach them on the morning of the sale day and even during the sale; that consequently time is necessary for payment; and "that if the Board will not increase the number of days hitherto allowed, the present five days be continued unaltered."



APPENDIX D.

WET DOCKS.

No. 4255.

From

LIEUT.-COL. J. P. BEADLE,

*Offs. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal in the P. W. D.*

To

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

*Dated Fort William, 19th Sept. 1861.*

P. W. Dept.

SIR,—I am instructed by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to address

1. Para. 5. I am now directed to communicate the views of His Excellency in Council as follows—

4. He considers that it will be desirable that the Honorable the Lieut.-Governor should now, or at any early date which he judges convenient, appoint a Committee to consider the papers on record, and to report on the degree of aid required from Government.

5. It must be distinctly understood that a guarantee of interest cannot be given. But the Government will be disposed to assist by taking shares, with the privilege of nominating a portion of the managing body, if this shall seem desirable to all parties.

6. No pledge to give land can be afforded in the present position of the affair. The Government is well disposed to do so, but a demand may be made for ground such as Government could not give except at a disproportionate sacrifice.

7. The Government is also ready to give engineering aid, if the Committee should deem it desirable.

8. Government will of course give every facility to securing, by enactment to the parties concerned, the dock, the privilege of levying appropriate charges.

9. The extent to which the aid of Government in the foregoing respects may be necessary or desirable will be considered by the Committee. But I am to observe that unless the plan can be made to work as an ordinary Joint Stock Company, without a guarantee of profits in any form, there is

your Chamber on the subject of the establishment of Wet Docks at Calcutta, with reference to the views enunciated by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council in a letter, dated 26th August 1861, an extract from which is given marginally.\*

2. The Lieut.-Governor is prepared to name a Committee constituted as indicated in the above extract; but before doing this, he wishes to ascertain what probability there may be of the formation, now or at any early date, of a Company with suffi-

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no course but to abandon it, as far as the Government is concerned, and leave it altogether to private enterprise, to which it certainly appears rather than to the class of national undertakings.

10. It appears to the Governor-General in Council that the composition of the Committee should be much the same as in 1856, viz., Government and Railway Engineers, Merchants, a Government Revenue Officer, and a Government Marine Officer. His Honor the Lieut.-Governor will, perhaps, cause a communication to be made to the Chamber of Commerce, with the view of forming such a Committee.

cient funds for so large an undertaking, under the conditions suggested in the letter of the Government of India. The Lieutenant-Governor, therefore, before appointing the Committee, (of which, when constituted, it is his intention to request the favor of your Chamber nominating two members,) is desirous of being informed of the opinion held by the Chamber of Commerce respecting the probable formation of a Company, which appears to him a primary question.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. P. BEADLE, *Lieut.-Col.*

*Offs. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal, P. W. Dept.*

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

*Calcutta, 4th October, 1861.*

LIEUT.-COL. J. P. BEADLE,

*Offs. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal,*

*Public Works Department.*

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 4255 of the 19th ultimo, and to state in reply that the positive declaration by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council that a guarantee of interest cannot be given compels them to abandon the further consideration of the question of Wet Docks for Calcutta.

I have, &c.,

J. W. I. WOOD,

*Secretary.*

APPENDIX E.

SUBSIDIARY LANDING AND PASSING PLACES  
UNDER CUSTOM HOUSE CONTROL.

No. 318.

From

C. CHAPMAN, Esq.,  
*Collector of Customs, Calcutta.*

To

THE SECRETARY OF THE  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
CALCUTTA.

*Dated the 25th June 1861.*

Sir,—I have the honor to forward extract from a letter No. 136A. under date the 16th March 1861, paras. 6 and 7 from the Secretary to the Government of Bengal to the Secretary to the Government of India on the subject of establishing subsidiary landing and passing places under the Custom House Control, and to solicit your favoring me with the views of the Chamber of Commerce on the following points:—

1st. Whether they consider the proposal advantageous to the mercantile community at large.

2ndly. If so, by their pointing out what ghauts or landing places would in their opinion be best adapted for such purposes.

2. I am under the impression that there is no immediate necessity for the establishment of any such subsidiary landing or passing places, and that the merchants themselves would prefer to land and pass their goods, as at present, on the ground that the present landing place is the most central.

3. It seems to me that if the improvements recommended by me in my letter to the Board of the 27th December and in the Customs Committee's report of the 8th of January 1861, be carried out, there would be ample accommodation for landing and shipping goods.

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4. Should the Chamber, however, be of opinion that such subsidiary landing places be required, I will cheerfully support my proposition of theirs, which may appear feasible, and tend to increased facility for the landing of goods.

5. There is also another point on which I am desirous of obtaining the views of the Chamber, viz. in regard to the petty pilfering of goods while on the wharf. I have proposed that the ground outside the Custom House premises be surrounded with a good iron railing with gates, and that at a certain hour the gates be closed and every one turned out. With reference to the inside sheds I have recommended that the open ones be protected with iron gratings with entrances—and that at 5 p. m. each day the entrances be closed and locked with joint keys, one to be retained by the wharf controller and the other by some authorized party on the part of the importers whose goods are lodged in the shed—and that no watchers be allowed to remain inside the premises during the night.

6. I am confident that the pilfering could by these means be put an end to in a great measure if not wholly—but the only difficulty in the introduction of a measure of this nature is, whether, by so doing, the Government might not render themselves responsible for the goods.

7. It would perhaps be better to meet and discuss these points, and if convenient I shall be happy to meet the Committee on any day and at any hour most convenient to them—an early date would be preferable, as I am called on to send up my report with as little delay as practicable.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

C. CHAPMAN,  
*Collector of Customs.*

*Extract from a letter No. 136 A, dated 16th March 1861, from the Secretary to the Government of Bengal to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department—Paras. 6 and 7.*

6. But the Lieutenant Governor thinks it will be right to afford trade the convenience of subsidiary landing and passing places, under Custom

House control, to the fullest extent that may be requisite, such as are described by Mr. Sproner as existing at Bombay: on the one hand it seems to the Lieutenant Governor indispensable for the security of the revenue that all goods should pass under the control of the Custom House, which will examine whatever it thinks fit; but on the other hand it seems to the Lieutenant Governor a real hardship, especially in the case of heavy goods, to require any available loading and carting and unloading, after the goods have once touched the shore.

7. The Lieutenant Governor is inclined to think that the appropriation, though not necessarily the exclusive appropriation, of certain landing places for certain staples would be a convenience.

(True Extract.)

C. CHAPMAN,  
*Collector of Customs.*

CUSTOM HOUSE, CALCUTTA, }  
The 25th June, 1861. }

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
*Calcutta, 11th July 1861.*

C. CHAPMAN, Esq.,  
*Collector of Customs.*

Sir,—Your letter No. 318 of 25th June has been duly considered by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, and I am directed by them to state that in their opinion no necessity exists for the establishment of subsidiary landing or passing places as proposed by the Hon'ble the Lieut.-Governor.

Conducted as it is at present the system connected with the landing of inward cargoes calls for an *extension* of the accommodation it now finds so insufficient, not however in the form suggested, but in a considerable enlargement of the river frontage now appropriated for such purposes, with suitable facilities of wharfs, crane jetties, &c.

If the measure recommended by Mr. Bullen, the late president of the Chamber in the 10th para. of his minute of 1st January 1861, were adopted, the trade of Calcutta would be greatly relieved from the inconveniences it now labours under: the recommendation was "the construction of a wharf running parallel with the Custom House, project-

ing as far as the crane jetty already existing, and extending as far as the Banksall bathing Ghat: on the land thus reclaimed a shed parallel to the present shed should be constructed, and there should be small cranes for landing goods at all states of the tide erected on the wharf." These and other facilities at a central point like the Custom House would to a considerable extent meet the requirements of the inward trade of Calcutta, and the early adoption of this suggestion would be a great convenience to the increasing traffic of the port.

On the subject of petty pilfering of goods while in transit through the Custom House the Committee reserve the expression of their opinion till the question has been considered by them at greater length.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

H. W. I. WOOD,  
*Secretary.*

APPENDIX F.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

No. 1168.

FROM

W. GREY, Esquire,  
*Secy. to the Govt. of India.*

TO

H. W. I. WOOD, Esquire,  
*Secy. to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.*

*Dated Fort William, the 12th June, 1861.*

Home Dept.  
Elec. Telgh.

Sir,—I am desired to request that the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce will favor the Governor General in Council with their general opinion as to the efficiency of the Electric Telegraph for commercial purposes, and that they will be good enough to furnish a statement of the total number of messages, sent or received during a given period,—say from a week to a month previous to this date,—by any firms or establishments connected with the Chamber, showing what proportion of them were delivered with reasonable punctuality and correctness, and in what proportion any delay or error occurred so material as to detract from the commercial value of this means of communication.

2. His Excellency in Council desires me to add that if the Chamber have any suggestions to offer for the improvement of the Telegraph Department, the Government will be glad to receive them.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. GREY,

*Secy. to the Govt. of India.*

XXXIII

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

*Calcutta, 14th August 1861.*

To

W. GREY, Esq.,

*Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department.*

Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1168 of the 12th June, relative to the Telegraph Department, which has been circulated very generally among the commercial establishments of Calcutta; and I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to submit the following observations for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council:—

The Committee consider that the Electric Telegraph Service of India is deficient in the two great points which can alone render it valuable either to the Government or the Commerce of the country, namely, despatch and accuracy in transmission. The Committee can only speak practically as regards the latter, and in support of their opinion they append, for the information of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, the opinions of most of the leading merchants of Calcutta upon this subject. It is not easy to understand why the working of this service should not have improved during the six or seven years which have passed since it was first opened to the public; but with some exceptions the Committee, from every day experience, believe such to be the case. They are well aware that the superior officers in charge of the service are men of ability and zealous for its efficient execution; but in consequence of what the Committee believe to be the cause of the present unsatisfactory working of the system, namely, defective construction and bad organization, the exertions of these gentlemen are neutralized, and but of little value to the public. The Committee are of opinion that if the construction of the line had been entrusted to persons thoroughly conversant with the European system, and not to men who, as far as this particular system was concerned, were mere theorists, the chief defects now evident would have been avoided. Can it be expected that the Telegraphic communication for all India can be maintained with any thing like correctness or despatch when the means of transmission is limited to the use of a single wire?—and when this wire is employed by Government for many hours, as it frequently is, private messages must necessarily be detained, and their correctness endangered by the delay.

As regards the gross errors which so frequently occur in the messages, the Committee believe they are to be attributed to the mistaken policy on the part of the Authorities who, for economical reasons, have thought proper to employ at low salaries, as signallers and copyists, persons chiefly Natives and Eurasians whose want of education and proper training renders them unfit for the appointments which they hold. The Committee are also informed that the Inspectors employed are not sufficiently numerous to keep up an efficient supervision of the several lines in work.

It is generally believed by men practically acquainted with the working of the European system, an opinion in which the Committee fully concur, that Telegraphic communication in India would be worked more satisfactorily and profitably to the Government and the public if it was entrusted to private enterprise, for which capital could readily be found in England.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

H. W. I. WOOD,

Secretary.

*Extracts from the Opinions of the several leading Merchants  
of Calcutta.*

1. In reply to your letter of the 18th instant, we beg to say that the first thing required, in our opinion, for the improvement of the Telegraph Department, is that the Superintendent should be ordered to be present in some part of the establishment whence he can superintend its working, and where he will be accessible to the public. Major Douglas at present sits in a room at the top of a three-storied house—the whole working of the Telegraph is carried on below on the ground floor. It is manifest, therefore, that he cannot be the least aware of the manner in which the work is done. On your wishing to have access to Major Douglas on business, (*sic*.) is compelled to give a card to a peon at the bottom of the stairs, who carries it up to Major Douglas, and in time returns with permission to climb to the top of the house; this time being generally from 10 to 15 minutes, during which the victim has to walk about a dark damp passage without even any thing to sit down upon.

It appears to us that the work of a Telegraph Office is, of all others, one which requires constant superintendence and appropriate accommo-

dation, without which no good system can possibly be carried out. We should, before any other change, recommend that a convenient Telegraph Office be at once provided by Government without which the work can never be efficiently performed.

2. In reply to your circular regarding the Electric Telegraph, we beg to record our opinion that the two leading faults of which the mercantile community have a right to complain, are frequent delays in the transmission of messages, and an extraordinary want of intelligence on the part of those who reduce them to writing.

In a few messages which we lately exchanged with a firm at Madras, we find the following absurd blunders:—

Hydrablay for hydraulic,  
Containing for contain,  
Publication for application,  
Ball for bale,  
Celling for calling,  
And thirteenth for thirteenth.

These six errors occurred in four messages.

With regard to the efficiency of the Telegraph for commercial purposes, we think that, as it is at present managed, a merchant incurs a grave responsibility who acts upon any telegram the purport of which does not tally with his preconceived notions, or, in other words, that if a message reports an unexpected high or low rate of prices, it is probably a blunder of the Telegraph, and cannot safely be acted upon.

3. With reference to your circular dated 18th June, I beg to say I have no evidence to give of the working of the Telegraph Department for the time for which Government require it, *viz.*, from a week to a month previous to 12th June; but former experience warrants my joining in what I believe to be the general opinion, that the Telegraphic Department has been culpable of gross neglect.

4. That the system of Telegraphic communication in India has not improved as regards the correctness of the messages and the time occupied in their delivery during the last five years, is a fact to which I believe the public will generally bear testimony. The Merchants and Bankers certainly will.

The experience of one month in the year hardly conveys an adequate idea of the almost daily blunders which occur in the transmission of messages on all the lines, especially those received from Bombay and Madras, blunders which are liable to cause losses of great magnitude

to the persons sending or receiving the telegrams. The following is an instance of this, but other facts could be adduced in which the errors were more numerous. I can only speak positively to the messages received, but there have been complaints from Bombay in regard to those despatched:—

17th May to 17th June.

Messages to and from Bombay and Galle—21 received and 17 despatched.

On the 16th, from Galle, *hundreds* were quoted instead of *thousands* of ounces.

On the 29th, from Bombay, unintelligible on 11th June, 6 days en route, and quite incorrect.

On 15th June ditto ditto.

Four out of those received were not only useless, but in the instance of one message we had a narrow escape of serious loss,—as though the message received was found when compared with original received from Bombay incorrect, yet the sentence was so connected as to remove any doubt of its correctness when received.—Luckily a later message was received the same day which led me to doubt the accuracy of the first.

5. We shall be obliged by your submitting, for the information of the Chamber, the following case of imposition,—for we consider it nothing less on the part of the Electric Telegraph office:—

We received this morning a bill for rupees 7-5 for a message alleged to have been sent to our address from Bombay. The number of the message not appearing on the face of the bill as usual, we returned it with a memorandum requesting the information, and were informed in reply that “the message did not reach Calcutta.” We then asked why we were called upon to pay for it, and were again informed in reply that “the message was duly sent from Bombay, but appears to have been lost on the road!” Our only course was to pay the bill, which we have done, and now enclose it and the memorandum for your inspection.

6. We make constant use of the wires in directions, and taking last month as a criterion, receive or send on the average sixty-four messages monthly, each ranging in length from 16 to 100 words, in many of which errors to a greater or lesser extent occur; but on the whole we are satisfied with their general accuracy.

We therefore confine our complaints to the following, received within the last few days, which we have brought to the notice of the Telegraph

officials without obtaining a satisfactory explanation of the cause of the blunders made in transmission:—

A message by letter from Mauritius, and correctly given for transmission by our Agents in Galle, quoted a certain staple export *four* dollars per bag, but in the Telegraph message it is given as *five* dollars per bag. We are aware that a neighbouring firm received a similar message in which the same error occurred, and we cannot regard this error otherwise than a wilful one on the part of some in the employ of the Telegraph.

A message transmitted from London by letter to Bombay gives us a limit of *two* thousand pounds, which is delivered to us as *one* thousand, and the only satisfaction we can obtain is the same as given in the former case.

Attention ought to be called to the state of the Lines between Calcutta, Akyab, and Rangoon, and to the alleged fact that between this and Jessore the wires are suspended on slim bamboo poles which give way in every storm. This Line has been virtually closed for months past through constant interruption.

7. Our experience of its operations has led us to the conclusion that, for commercial purposes, it is not of the least use as at present conducted. The two great essentials to render it valuable to commerce being wanting, viz., certainty of transmission within a proper time, and the correct delivery of messages. We have found that messages by Telegraph have frequently reached their destination only a few hours before the copy of the same by Post, and sometimes not until after the copy by Post had been delivered. And frequently messages are so distorted and rendered unintelligible that they are not of the least use when received.

For these reasons we have not of late made use of the Telegraph as a means of communication, trusting in preference to the slower but more certain delivery of messages by the Post.

8. We do get a few Telegraph communications occasionally; but we have *never yet received one* that was of any use to us, being either totally unintelligible, or utterly useless from being “too long on the road,” generally *both together*.

9. Our messages are very often too late and behind time. We had several messages from Akyab when the cable was in *order*, which occupied from eight to nine days.

10. We have continual causes of complaint for mistakes and omissions

in telegraphing our steamers, and have recently on more than one occasion brought them officially to the notice of Major Douglas, but without effecting any reform. On a recent occasion also our Madras Agents telegraphed to us, prepaying for our reply. Our clerk through inadvertence paid here for our reply, and on pointing out the double payment and demanding a refund, Major Douglas on the 11th June informed us he could make no refund here.

11. We have a very unsatisfactory account to give of our Telegrams. They are *often late*, sometimes missing, and rarely correct.

12. We have had frequent cause of complaint.

13. Our experience leads us to place little or no confidence in the Telegraph Office as a means of transmitting messages.

14. The messages we receive are frequently unintelligible, particularly those from Galle. We think that if the hour of despatch was stated in the messages, it would be an improvement and a wholesome check to irregularities.

15. We do not think that the Electric Telegraph Department can be considered as "efficient for commercial purposes" as it ought to be, and as it might be made, and there is still a sufficient amount of *uncertainty* about the receipt and transmission of messages as to prevent its being used as much as it otherwise could be, and to constitute a great drawback on its usefulness. It is not nearly so well conducted as in England, or America, where mistakes and delays are rare indeed, and though in India it probably never will attain to the same degree of efficiency as in those countries, we think it is much more behind hand than it ought to be.

At the same time we are far from thinking it as inefficient, as many may probably suppose it to be from the way in which it is abused in the newspapers; and from the cases there given (no doubt correctly) where it has failed, these cases of *failure* attract attention, but when all goes on well no notice is taken.

We have referred to our accounts, and find that in 1861 we have sent Telegrams to Ceylon 19, Bombay 7, Madras 5, Mirzapore and other places in India 9, Melbourne via Galle 6, London 10 = 56 in all. These are Telegrams the *result* of which we know. We may have *received*, about half the above number, and the result is that the Telegrams have generally been sent and received pretty fairly in point of time, and that the *errors* have come generally accurate enough to be intelligible, in most cases very nearly correct, and in a *good* many cases quite correct.

Some lines appear to be served, being much better than others; for instance, Calcutta to Colombo; we have sent 19 messages, and received 20 in reply, and they were mostly in good time, and nearly all correct; probably this may be partly owing to the fact that all were to the same house and all on the same subject. When delays and mistakes have occurred in this and former years, we have generally found them to be where we have parties telegraphed to for the first time or upon new subjects. For two years we have been sending messages to a house in London always on the same subject, and they always reach regularly and correctly. Lately we sent to Bombay, for London, three Telegrams at same time, one to this house, and two to new houses. Anticipating difficulty, we had written in the beginning of the year to Superintendents at Bombay and Galle, and sent lists of all houses in England to whom we expected to telegraph, in order that there might be means of correcting mistakes in names. Notwithstanding this, our Telegram to the *old* correspondent arrived correctly, but those to the *new* ones only reached a fortnight later and were of no value. Recently we had a message six days coming from Bombay, and one was sent from Mirzapore, and has never been received by us at all. With these three exceptions we have no special cases of complaint, but in all three it appears to us that there must have been great carelessness.

Where messages are *incorrect*, it seems generally to arise from want of intelligence on the part of some of the employes of the department. We make allowance for mistakes in case of new and difficult matters, but such *stupid* blunders are sometimes made as would seem to show that the parties making them can hardly understand the English language, such blunders as are never made in England, and which the possession of ordinary intelligence would avoid.

We have referred to our own private experience of the working of the Department, but we are all interested in public news, and we think the Department is freely entitled to claim credit for the generally accurate despatch of public news from England, China, &c., and of commercial advices to the Chamber of Commerce from England, Bombay, and China; in the *China* quotations, however, mistakes are made more frequently than they ought to be.

We do not use the Telegraph as much as we would do if it were more accurate, and we believe it might be made much more accurate by the employment of better men, and their better payment necessary to secure a better class. We believe the department *pays a profit* at present, and

if so, it would be only just to improve it: we believe it would pay well also to do it, as many more messages would be sent. In cases of proved neglect, what is paid for messages certainly ought to be refunded, and part or the whole of such refund should be deducted from the pay of the person in fault. Good men should be employed, they should have good pay, and be held that they would lose part if they committed serious fault. This is the system in the Bank of England in the Cashier's Department, or used to be. The Clerks were paid "risk money;" if they over-paid a cheque or lost money in other ways, they were liable to make good the loss; if they made no mistakes, they kept the risk money. We think that, if some such plan were tried here, it would be well—the good men would like it. At present it takes some time and trouble to write in with particulars of complaint, and all that is ever got is an expression of regret, the announcement that no money can be returned, and an intimation that the culprit has been reprimanded. We have generally sent in complaints ourselves, but we know of others who do not, considering that it is only waste of time as well as of money.

16. In reply to your favor, calling on us for an expression of our opinion as to the efficiency of the Electric Telegraph for commercial purposes, we regret to say that we have no great faith in the utility of the department while under its present management, as through the frequent disappointments we have met with in consequence of the delay, or unintelligible state of our messages, we have almost ceased to make use of this means of communication, of which we would gladly and frequently avail had we any assurance that we could do so with the certainty that our messages would meet with even ordinary care in transmission. As it is, we are doubtful of the expediency of paying heavily for messages with a great chance of their miscarrying, or which may be delivered at a time, not only to be of no use, but possibly of harm, as the features of the matter of which they treated may have altered. We have suffered considerably ourselves by the length of time our telegraphs to Akyab, Galle, and other places have been in transit, and we have been put to much inconvenience lately by a message from Galle to our address not having reached us until five days after its date, and then in an unintelligible form. It ran thus:—"Muster für Leeds, no shillings for Gorkhan." The Superintendent refused to ask for a repetition, though the wording in its present form is meaningless, and has no reference to our business; and when we inquired if we must pay for this worthless affair, the reply was, that "if you do not pay, you will

never receive another hearing message." In answer to our complaints to the superintendent here, we have generally been sent printed circulars, giving us no satisfaction or explanation whatever.

Not only in the working of the Telegraph itself, but in the commonest details of the office, the greatest carelessness seems to exist, for so late as yesterday we received a letter addressed to us, enclosing a returned telegram intended for Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie and Company, while that firm were sent a message intended for us.

17. In answer to your circular letter of date 25th instant, wishing our opinion with regard to the efficiency of the Electric Telegraph for commercial purposes, we have to state that our own experience of the irregularity and inexactness with which very many of our messages have been forwarded, has caused us to conclude that this department of Government has been inefficiently wrought. Not a few of our intended telegrams never reached their destination; and the same applies to messages intended for us from other stations. Many were incorrectly forwarded, leaving the receivers only to guess at the meaning, and some were quite unintelligible.

Regarding the punctuality and correctness in the transmission of messages by the Electric Telegraph, we have to bring to the notice of the Chamber that a message from London, despatched from Bombay on the 9th instant, reached us only yesterday evening, taking nine days for transmission; while the copy of the above message came to hand yesterday morning by the usual Bombay mail.

On several occasions we had to complain of the general management of the Telegraph office for irregularities; we have always been told by the officials that we have to make our complaint either to Galle or Bombay, as the fault was never with them; threatening to stop all our messages if we did not pay for those that either we were over-charged for, or that came in unintelligible language.

18. Dispatched from Calcutta.	For Steamer.	Leaving Galle.	Reached Galle.	No. of days' transmission.	Remarks.
24th May, 1861..	About June 1 .....	June 3rd.....	4	Too late.	
16th June, " ..	" " 12 Bombay.	.....	4	Refused, because the line was interrupted.	

Received in Calcutta.	Dispatched from Bombay.	Transmission.	Remarks.
1st June, 1861..	20th May.....	2 days..	We have seldom received an English mail message in less time.
15th " " ..	8th June.....	10 days ..	This message took the same time as the Express letter which it was intended to anticipate.

We have not tried the Electric Telegraph much of late, because of the unsatisfactoriness of the working of it. Above is a note of our latest messages and their result.

19. We have had frequent cause of complaint regarding our messages from Saugor and Galle, those from the latter station being frequently 24 hours and more behind the last of the public news. We have also had to complain that the rule which provides for private messages being sent off in the order in which they are tendered is apparently little regarded in the Galle office, and our experience of correspondence with the department for redress of grievances (even when made in the most specific form) is most unsatisfactory. The compulsory insertion in a telegram of the date and hour at which it was despatched would, we think, be a practical benefit, and be generally acceptable even if adding slightly to the cost of the same.

20. We receive messages from Bombay on arrival of every mail, which occupy three or four days in reaching us, besides receiving and sending messages from and to Bombay and other places very often. With one or two exceptions they never have reached their destination at the time they should have done so, and sometimes messages that have been sent have never reached at all. We complained at first, but never got any satisfaction, and of late have kept no record.

## APPENDIX G.

VESSELS NEGLECTING TO HOIST THEIR NUMBERS  
WHEN PASSING SIGNAL STATIONS.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

Calcutta, 2nd August, 1861.

E. H. LUSHINGTON, Esq.,

Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

Sir,—On the 26th January 1859 I had the honor of expressing the opinion of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce as to the inconvenience arising from vessels proceeding up and down the river not shewing their numbers: in acknowledgment of which the Committee were favored with your office memo. No. 124 of 25th February, accompanied by copies of letters from the Superintendent of Marine and the Master Attendant; and these communications were followed by your letter No. 176 of 22nd March (with enclosed copy of letter from Superintendent of Marine—No. 2273 of 15th idem) in which the opinion of the Chamber was requested as to the expediency of adopting the suggestions made by the Superintendent with the view to prevent a repetition of the proceedings returned to. The suggestions were that under Act XXII. of 1855 the hoisting of a vessel's number on arrival within signal distance of any of the river stations be made imperative on all masters of ships, the signal to be kept flying until answered, and a penalty to be inflicted in case of neglect.

That it be also made imperative on the pilot that he shall see that the vessel's number be properly shown, and that he be held responsible, under pain of punishment, for any disregard of this order.

In reply, under date the 19th April 1859, the Committee expressed their entire approval of these suggestions, declaring it absolutely necessary that steps should be forthwith taken for terminating the irregularities

so repeatedly committed, and stringent measures adopted for their non-recurrence. Impressed with the expediency of providing by legislative enactment against the evils complained of by the Chamber, whose representations were fully corroborated by the Superintendent of Marine and Master Attendant, His Honor the Lieut. Governor submitted the subject to the then Member for Bengal, by whom a bill "to enforce signals of the names of vessels passing signal stations established within the river Hooghly and the branches thereof," was introduced into the Legislative Council on 28th May. The Council however did not concur in the reasons advanced in the bill, and it was negatived on the second reading.

After an interval of nearly two years this important matter has again been very urgently pressed upon the attention of the Chamber, and the Committee deem it incumbent on them to submit it anew for the consideration of His Honor the Lieut. Governor. A case has occurred within the last ten days which points forcibly to the absolute necessity of providing means by which the master of a vessel and the pilot in charge shall be rendered amenable to the authority of the Marine Department in respect to the display of a ship's proper signals. The Committee have the most reliable information in stating that the ship "Marselles," which went ashore off Fulta Point, had to land all the troops at that place, and to put the European women and children and prisoners on board the Steam Tug "Phenix;" but all this while the ship shewed no numbers, nor did she shew any on passing Acheepore on the way down: and it is respectfully submitted that this instance of neglect to report by telegraph so serious an accident should not be passed over, and that both the master and pilot of the "Marselles" should be called upon for an explanation of a palpable dereliction of duty.

Accidents to shipping not being duly reported in the Government Telegraph Gazette was the subject of the Chamber's representation of 25th April last, and the Committee respectfully invite the attention of the Hon'ble Lieut.-Governor to it and the whole question involved in the various references they have alluded to.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

H. W. I. WOOD,

Secretary.

No. 322.

FROM

J. D. GORDON, Esq.,

*Junior Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.*

TO

THE LEGISLATIVE MEMBER FOR BENGAL,

*Fort William, the 4th September, 1861.*

Marine.

SIR,—I am desired to forward to you the accompanying copy of a letter, dated the 2nd ultimo, from the Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, urging the adoption of measures to compel Commanders of Vessels ascending the river to hoist their ships' number when within signal distance of any of the river stations.

2. The Lieut.-Governor has read the debate on the second reading of a Bill introduced by Mr. Sconce with the above object in May 1859, which was rejected, and is led to infer that the Council generally has no absolute and insuperable objection to the principle of the proposed enactment, but it was not then convinced that a case had been made out sufficient to justify the imposition of a novel obligation on masters of ships.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts that this doubt will be overcome by this repeated application of the Chamber of Commerce, for certainly no body of persons can have better means of knowing the full force of the practical evils which the measure is intended to guard against than has the Chamber of Commerce. And whilst the Chamber of Commerce speaks in the interests of commerce generally, it is a body which cannot be supposed to have no special regard for the shipping interest, as that is one of the interests which it represents. When, therefore, such a body pronounces a deliberate and matured opinion of the advisability, no less for the sake of the general shipping interest than for the sake of commercial interests generally, that all masters of vessels should be constrained to do a certain service to the public which is pronounced by practical men to be of great importance, and which is known to be so little onerous to Masters of vessels that in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred it is voluntarily done by them, it does appear to the Lieutenant-Governor that very great weight ought to be allowed to that opinion.

4. As Merchantmen, generally speaking, carry property consigned to numerous merchants, to each one of whom the arrival of the vessel is a matter of interest, it seems no unreasonable requisition to insist upon

the fact of arrival being made generally known so soon as it can be made known without inconvenience or appreciable trouble. And as by Law every merchantman, without exception, is obliged to carry the public mails, the arrival of which is a matter of public interest, it seems on this ground that the obligation to make known the arrival of the mails at the earliest possible moment should follow as a necessary part of the obligation to carry them, and to deliver them on the earliest possible opportunity, which the law, upon the soundest principles of policy, already imposes. Indeed it seems to the Lieutenant-Governor that the keeping back of the mails intentionally, by making the vessel carrying them lie to, merely for the purpose of giving precedence to private message, whether by letter, messenger, or signal, is a contravention of the intention of the Post office law, which ought to be prevented if possible. But all that this present proposal goes to is to insist upon the fact of the arrival of the mails not being concealed from the public for private objects.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts that, on this repeated application of the Chamber of Commerce, the Legislative Council will agree to such a law as is recommended. It will be necessary, in order to make it effective, to put the signalling into the hands of the pilot, and, besides any penalties that may be imposed, to authorize the pilot to give up all charge of the ship if his orders in the matter are not obeyed.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) J. D. GORDON,

*Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.*

No. 333.

Copy of the above letter forwarded to the Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for information, with reference to his letter of the 2nd ultimo.

J. D. GORDON,

*Junior Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.*

FORT WILLIAM, }  
The 4th Sept., 1861. }

## APPENDIX H.

### SUNDAY MAILS.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

*Calcutta, 27th September, 1861.*

W. GREY, Esq.,

*Secy. to the Government of India,*

*Home Department.*

SIR,—I am desired by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to submit for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General in Council their application that the practice which prevails in London with regard to the dispatch of the overland mail for India via Marseilles may be adopted in Calcutta;—the rule there being that when the usual Marseilles mail day falls on Sunday, the mail is made up on the following Monday, and in the case of transmission via Southampton the mails are closed on the day preceding.

That there should be no unnecessary labour on the Sabbath is the obvious reason for this Post Office regulation at home, and the Committee trust His Lordship will, for the same reason, be pleased to introduce the same system here.

The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company are, it is believed, so bound by their contract with Her Majesty's Government that their mail packets shall be at Kedgeree not later than on the morning of the 10th and 24th of every month: this involves departure from Calcutta on the morning of the 9th and 23rd, and the consequent closing of the mails on the night of the 8th and 22nd; and this arrangement is sufficiently convenient to the public, if the closing of the mails on the 8th and 22nd does not fall on a Sunday; but if otherwise, the Committee would in such case respectfully apply for the intervention of His Excellency's authority and the postponement of the departure of the mail steamer for 24 hours.

The occasions would probably be rare which would call for the exer-

cise of His Lordship's power in this respect, but it would be unquestionably a convenience to the public to be assured that on all such occasions the mail steamer will be detained so as to allow of the mails being closed on Monday evening, and to avoid otherwise compulsory labour on the Sabbath.

And on the same principle the Committee would urge the adoption of a similar practice with regard to the despatch of the Overland mail from Calcutta to Bombay, trusting that His Lordship will see in their recommendation a sufficient reason for the issue of necessary orders for the guidance of the Postal department.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

H. W. I. WOOD,

*Secretary.*

No. 1822.

From

W. GREY, Esq.,

*Secy. to the Govt. of India.*

To

H. W. I. WOOD, Esq.,

*Secy. to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce,*

*Dated Fort William, the 1st October, 1861.*

Home Dept.

Sir,—With reference to your letter dated the 27th ultimo I am directed to forward to you the accompanying copy of a letter addressed to the Trades Association in reply to a similar communication.

A further communication will be made to you in regard to the concluding paragraph of your letter.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. GREY,

*Secy. to the Govt. of India.*

No. 1816.

From

W. GREY, Esq.,

*Secy. to the Govt. of India,*

To

F. JENNINGS, Esq.,

*Master of the Calcutta Trades Association.*

*Dated Fort William, the 30th September, 1861.*

Home Dept.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your memorial dated the 26th instant, praying that when the day for closing the English mail falls on a Sunday, it may be postponed to the following day, in conformity with the practice which prevails in England.

2. As the mail steamers almost invariably leave Calcutta early in the morning on the 9th and the 23rd, and the mails are consequently closed on the previous evening, the practical request preferred in your memorial is that whenever the 9th or the 23rd falls on a Monday, the departure of the steamer may be postponed till Tuesday, the 10th or the 24th, so that Monday instead of Sunday may be the day on which the mail closes.

3. In reply I am desired to inform you that the Governor General in Council considers the request preferred in the memorial to be quite reasonable. He will address the Secretary of State on the subject, and will recommend that Her Majesty's Post Master General may be asked to make the necessary arrangements with the Peninsular and Oriental Company for giving general effect to the measure. In the meantime on any occasion on which the date fixed for the departure of the mail steamer may fall on a Monday, a special order will be given by this Government for the detention of the steamer for 24 hours.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) W. GREY,

*Secy. to the Govt. of India.*

No. 1859.

From

W. GREY, Esq.,

*Secy. to the Govt. of India,*

To

H. W. I. WOOD, Esq.,

*Secy. to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce,**Dated Fort William, the 7th October 1861.*Home Dept.  
Post Office.

Sir,—In continuation of my letter No. 1822, dated the 1st instant, I am directed to inform you that the Governor General in Council is unable to adopt the proposal of the Chamber with regard to the English mail via Bombay, as to do so would frequently make it necessary to postpone the departure of the steamer from Bombay.

2. There is a daily post from Calcutta to Bombay, and, this being so, the Governor General in Council would not think it right to change the date fixed for the departure of the mail steamer from Bombay, because Sunday might happen to be the apparent last safe day [after all a matter of uncertainty] on which letters could be despatched from here in time to reach Bombay by that date.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. GREY,

*Secy. to the Govt. of India.*

## APPENDIX I.

PROPOSED OFFICE OF INLAND TRAFFIC, AND  
APPLICATION OF STAMP DUTY TO CHULLANS  
FOR COUNTRY PRODUCE.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

*Calcutta, 28th August, 1861.*

E. H. LUSHINGTON, Esq.,

*Secretary to the Government of Bengal.*

Sir,—As a member of the Committee appointed by Government to report on the administration of the Custom House the late President of the Chamber of Commerce submitted his views in a minute dated 1st January 1861, and among other recommendations he suggested that, irrespective of the publications in which the returns of the trade of the port are now given, a statistical department should be formed as a regular part of the Custom House staff, whose duty it should be to prepare regular monthly, quarterly, and annual comparative returns of trade and navigation—a suggestion the value and expediency of which cannot be questioned, and in which every one engaged in trade cannot but readily concur: and the Committee feel sure that the Honorable the Lieutenant-Governor himself appreciates the necessity of a well organised system which will render available both to the Government and the mercantile community the fullest and most reliable statistical information relative to the commercial operations of this city.

In reverting to this important subject the Committee have been urged by the consideration of a representation recently brought to their notice, and which they desire me to submit as worthy of His Honor's attention as a material part of the statistical system they advocate.

While the public have tolerably accurate returns of the sea-borne trade of Bengal in the form of daily, weekly, monthly and annual statements of imports and exports, they may be said to be in absolute ignorance of its internal trade, its extent, and the various sources which contribute to it; and it is believed that the information of Government in this respect extends no further.

It will be in the recollection of His Honor that on the suggestion of the Chamber directions were given for the preparation and transmission by officers in charge of tolls on the Dhaugiruttce, Matabangah, and Jellinghee rivers, of periodical returns of traffic passing through those channels, similar to those published by the superintendent of the circular canals; but these statements have no pretensions to accuracy; and being necessarily partial in their nature, representing merely the total amount of the traffic without observing any distinction between imports and exports, the data they afford are useless for any practical or statistical purposes. They are in fact intended rather to shew the amount of revenue raised from these channels of communication than to be taken as any indication of the extent and character of the river traffic which finds its way to Calcutta: and it is remarkable that at the seat of the Supreme Government and in a city whose port is the sole outlet of the Gangetic valley for the surplus produce of a population not much less than forty millions, no machinery should exist for collecting and publishing information which would be of the highest interest to the merchant and no less acceptable to the Government.

To lay before His Honor a scheme which, in the opinion of the Committee, would be calculated to obviate the singular anomaly referred to, is now the object of their present reference; and they trust their exposition of the means by which it may be carried out will receive His Honor's favorable consideration.

The channels of communication by which Calcutta is approached are few in number, well defined, and capable of easy control and supervision: they are, first—the Hooghly, from above and below the city; second—the circular canal; and third—the several lines of railway which converge on Calcutta, and, although yet incomplete, will in a short period radiate from the city and become the channels of an enormous traffic.

The means of communication through these channels are cargo-boats, steam boats, and railway carriages and trucks. Hackeries are excluded from these calculations, as the traffic by such conveyances from remote districts is trifling in extent, and would be difficult to subordinate to any degree of strict control except through purely native agency, the employment of which the Committee are not prepared to recommend.

It is therefore suggested that in connexion with the existing machinery for making up the returns of the external trade, or separately, a department should be created whose sole duty it would be to make up and

publish similar returns of the internal trade. If the present accommodation of the Custom House and the staff employed are fully occupied by the exigencies of the external trade, an office might be established, say of "Internal Traffic," for the purpose of collecting returns required, and by which cognizance would be taken of all produce brought into and despatched from Calcutta by cargo-boats, steamers, and railways.

This object would be gained by the introduction and operation of a few simple but stringent regulations, the most prominent being that every cargo-boat and steamer shall under penalty be compelled on arrival, as in the case of ships, to enter at the office of Inland traffic their manifests or chullans; the railway managers also sending to such office a copy of their traffic way-bill.

The contents of these documents might be condensed and published daily, in a form something similar to the following:—

*Daily Imports into Calcutta.*

	Rice.	Sugar.	Linseed.	&c., &c.
By river.....mds.	10,000	10,000	10,000	
„ Canal.....	„	„	„	
„ Steamer.....	„	„	„	
„ Railway.....	„	„	„	
Total.....mds.				

and so on; every description of produce being thus reported.

But these returns would be far more valuable if furnished in detail in another form, specifying the number of boats, the name of the steamer, the line of railway, the quantity of each article brought by each mode of conveyance, the town and district from which the produce comes, and the names of consignees; thus:—

Number of Boats.	Town or District.	Quantity of Produce.	Consignees.
4	Mirzapore.	4,000 mds. Linseed.	Sewpersaud,
8	Dacca.	6,000 „ Jute.	Ramcomar & Co.
Steamer.	Alkhabad.	6,000 pes. Hides.	Tomlin.
„	Mirzapore.	2,000 bags Sugar.	Ranchunder.
„	„	„ „ „	„ „ „
E. I. Railway.	Delhi.	1,000 bags Wheat.	„ „ „
„	Agra.	4,000 pes. Hides.	„ „ „
„	Cawnpore.	2,000 bags Linseed.	„ „ „

The advantages of a complete return in this form are manifold: for instance, the mercantile community would be kept constantly advised not only of the quantity of each article daily brought into Calcutta, but the source whence it was derived, and into whose hands it went here.

By information furnished in this manner the European merchant would be placed on an equality with the native trader who is daily supplied with the most minute details of the external traffic and who thus possesses obvious advantages over the former as things are now constituted.

The light shed by such returns on the internal trade of the country would, the Committee think, go far to weaken and eventually destroy that vicious system of secrecy and combination which prevails in the bazar and enables native dealers to exercise a pernicious control over the market, entirely irrespective of the laws of supply and demand.

The machinery necessary for collecting and publishing these returns of internal traffic would involve some expense, which the Committee propose to defray by a tax on boats importing country produce, exempting steamers—because they are already subject to the usual mooring charges, and railways—because they land goods on their own premises. Cargo-boats exclusively occupy the banks of the river from about Jackson's Ghat upward to Cossipore without any charge whatsoever; and there would be no hardship or injustice in the imposition of a moderate charge of a rupee or two rupees on every boat landing its cargo within the limits of the port. No class of the community has benefited more by the general prosperity of the country than the owners of these boats, freights having advanced nearly cent. per cent. within the last ten years; and there is no reason why they should be exempt from a tax for the use of the ghâts and landing places which are made and maintained at the public expense, and towards which every ship in the river indirectly contributes in the heavy port charges it pays to Government; the tax to be levied in proportion to the size of all boats, excepting only those engaged in bringing daily supplies to market, or laden with bricks, straw, &c., from the immediate vicinity of the town.

The Committee are of opinion that such a tax would more than cover the expense incurred in the establishment of the Inland Traffic Office, the surplus being appropriated towards improving the river-bank and landing places generally and particularly in the neighbourhood of Nimtollah Ghat where these boats chiefly discharge their cargoes.

The Committee conclude their remarks on this head by observing that

the elements of an establishment for the office which they advocate already exist in the circular canal Department so ably managed by the zealous, active, and intelligent Superintendent, Mr. Galiffe, whose experience of the enormous country traffic passing through the canals would enable him, if called upon by Government, to organise without difficulty a staff of men for the conduct of the duties of the Inland office.

Finally the Committee submit for the Lieutenant Governor's consideration a suggestion emanating from the discussion of the inland trade, and which they respectfully bring to notice as not unworthy His Honor's attention.

Each boat load of up-country produce is represented by a chullan in which details are given of quantity, quality, shipper, consignees, &c., and these chullans represent on an average not much less than what is represented in our Bills of Lading; but while the latter are unavailable unless duly stamped no duty is levied on the former: the Committee are unable to discover any ground of exemption, and propose that every chullan should be subject to the same stamp as in the case of external bills of lading, and that no cargo should be permitted to be landed without the production of a stamped chullan.

From this source Government might derive a large amount of clear revenue, and it is submitted as a very legitimate means of increasing the income of the State.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

H. W. I. WOOD,

Secretary.

No. 452 (A.)

FROM

J. D. GORDON, Esq.,

*Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.*

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE  
BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

*Fort William, the 17th September, 1861.*

Revenue.

Customs.

Sir,—The Lieutenant-Governor desires me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ultimo, and to inform you that he

regards the suggestions of the Chamber of Commerce therein contained as very important, especially the one for the constitution of a department for ascertaining and publishing the particulars of the internal trade of Calcutta. A copy of a letter addressed to the Board of Revenue on these subjects is enclosed for the information of the Chamber of Commerce.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. MONRO,

*For Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.*

No. 451 (A).

From

J. D. GORDON, Esq.,

*Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.*

To

THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE  
BOARD OF REVENUE.

*Fort William, the 17th September, 1861.*

Revenue.  
Customs.

Sir,—With reference to the accompanying copy of a letter dated 26th ultimo, from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, suggesting the creation of a department for the purpose of ascertaining and publishing particulars of the internal trade of India, and proposing that an increase should be obtained in the State Revenue by requiring stamps to be impressed on the chullans sent with their boats by native merchants, I am desired to inform the Board that the first of these suggestions appears to the Lieutenant-Governor to be very important and valuable; and to request that the Board will take into consideration the best means of carrying it out in practice, and report their opinion at an early date for the information of the Lieutenant-Governor.

2. The Board are also requested to report upon the second proposal of the Chamber of Commerce regarding the use of stamp for chullans.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. D. GORDON,

*Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.*

(True Copy.)

THOMAS JONES,

*Register, Bengal Secretariat.*

No. 1579.

From

H. T. PRINSEP, Esq.,

*Offg. Junior Secy. to the Board of Revenue,*

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT  
OF BENGAL.

*Fort William, the 9th October, 1861.*

Customs.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Monro's letter No. 451 (A), dated the 17th ultimo, and forwarding copy of one from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce of the 26th idem,

relative to the proposed creation of a department for ascertaining and publishing accurate particulars of the internal trade of India; and to the stamping of chullans sent with their boats by native merchants. In reply I am desired to submit the following opinions of the members of the Board in regard to these propositions.

2. Mr. Young is of opinion that the suggestion for the establishment of an office for registering the Inland trade with Calcutta is a very useful and practicable one. The best way of carrying it out would be, he thinks, that proposed by the Committee, viz., by an extension of the establishment employed in the Circular Canal Department under the Superintendent Mr. Galiffé. A fund fully sufficient to meet all the

expenses of such an establishment might be raised by the imposition of a very light rate of tax on country boats bringing goods from the interior and landing them at any ghaut in Calcutta. There is no information available on which to base a calculation of the rate which it would be necessary to impose on boats for this purpose; but a tax of one anna per 100 maunds for every day a boat remained at the ghaut, or even less, would probably realize a sufficient fund.

3. The collections should, Mr. Young thinks, be made under the superintendence of the officer entrusted with the preparation of the register, whose office should be somewhere near Neemtollah Ghaut, which would be convenient for the steamers and existing railways as well as for the boats.

4. A mode of collection which would seem to afford the greatest amount of security against abuses on the part of subordinates is that of Cheque receipts. The manjees of each boat on its arrival might be furnished with a receipt on which, at that time, only the date of arrival need be noted, and a similar note would be entered on the marginal countercheque. Once a week (or sooner if the boat left the ghaut within the week), the tax might be collected, entries of the amount being made on the receipt and countercheque. When the boat was ready to depart the receipt should be signed by the collector and its production would clear it. Any boat leaving the ghaut without this clearance would be liable to be seized and its owner to be punished.

5. A collateral advantage of this mode of realizing the fund requisite to meet the expenses of registering the traffic would be, that it would tend to keep the ghauts clear of boats, as none would remain longer than necessary. The production of the chullan or of a correct list of the cargo and of all packages on board a boat within twenty-four hours might be made compulsory under a heavy penalty; and no boat would of course be allowed to commence unloading till its cargo list had been given in. It would be necessary to keep up two or three guard boats in addition to the collecting and registering establishments, to stop or pursue any boat that might attempt to leave the ghaut without discharging its dues, and to examine and pass boats taking receipts on leaving the ghaut.

6. It might be found advisable to give Mr. Galiffe an assistant, if it should be determined to impose upon him the additional duty of superintending the registering of the Inland traffic of Calcutta, and he might reasonably expect an addition to his salary.

Both of these expenses could be provided for from the collections to be made from boats at the ghauts.

7. Mr. Young is not prepared to support the proposal to require native boats to carry stamped chullans. If the cargo lists of these boats are to be stamped, those of the Inland steamers should also be stamped; and if those of the Inland steamers, then the way-bills of the railway traffic, of the bullock trains, and of all other means of transport employed by public carriers.

8. On the whole Mr. Young thinks it would be better to leave the inland traffic of the country free, and not to attempt to impose upon it any tax or duty however apparently insignificant with reference to the extent and value of the traffic.

9. Mr. Stainforth doubts the propriety of extending Mr. Galiffe's jurisdiction over the Hooghly. He considers that it is at present sufficiently extensive, and strongly deprecates Mr. Galiffe's attention being diverted from the canals.

10. He would abolish the tolls on the Matablangah, Jellinghee and Bingerattee rivers, and compel all boats coming to Calcutta to carry chullans showing all the merchandise the produce of the country borne upon them, and these chullans which might, he thinks, bear a uniform stamp of one rupee should be deliverable at appointed places on the river, and receipts (to be produced whenever a boat is visited by an inspecting officer to see whether the chullans have been delivered) taken from them. Fine sufficient to compel delivery of the chullans and their correctness, to be imposed by a Magistrate, should, with the measure generally, be sanctioned by law.

11. About 200,000 boats, exclusive of fishing boats, come into the circular canal in a year, and not less than 100,000 more at all events may be assumed to come down the Hooghly without entering it, so that there would apparently be an income of at least 300,000 rupees from this source.

12. Of this sum, were 2,50,000 rupees set apart for keeping open the mouths of the Bingerattee, Matablangah and Jellinghee rivers, on which the net collections in 1860-61 were rupees 1,80,682, there would be an ample margin to pay for a river Police Magistrate, European Superintendent, European Inspectors, boats and establishments.

13. Mr. Stainforth much prefers payment of the revenue by stamps to payments in cash, and he feels confident that the measure of abolishing the tolls at the mouths of the rivers falling into the Hooghly where

there is detention and extortion inseparable from the system, would remove much public inconvenience, and the alteration be hailed generally as an important reform by the trading community. He is of opinion that a Committee should be appointed to consider and report on the details of it.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) H. T. PRINSEP,

*Offg. Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue.*

Copy forwarded to the Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for information.

H. T. PRINSEP,

*Offg. Junior Secretary.*

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

Calcutta, 26th Nov., 1861.

E. H. LUSHINGTON, Esq.,

*Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.*

SIR,—With reference to my letter of the 26th August, suggesting the creation of a department for obtaining returns of the internal trade of Bengal, and to the Board of Revenue's letter, No. 1579 of 9th October, reporting thereon, I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to request you to be so good as to submit to His Honour the Lieut.-Governor the following remarks on the subject, the result of further enquiry and information derived from various sources.

2. The Committee are not prepared to recommend the adoption of Mr. Young's proposal for raising the funds necessary to defray the expenses of such an establishment by the levy of a tax of so much per 100 mands, for every day a boat remained at the ghaut, because, on further enquiry, they are satisfied such a mode of collecting the tax

would be inquisitorial in its nature, irritating to the boatmen, and unsatisfactory in practice; and because, above all, it would result in that system of extortion inseparable from the employment of subordinate, native agency in the collection of petty taxes of this kind.

3. On the other hand the Committee entirely approve of Mr. Stainforth's proposal for the abolition not only of the tolls on the Mata-bhangah, Jellinghee and Blangeeruttee rivers but also of all tolls of a similar nature, such as the Committee understand are levied on boats passing through the rivers in the southern salt agency and elsewhere. The adoption of this proposal would render the internal navigation absolutely free, and the importance of such a result may be best illustrated from the fact that—according to the information furnished to the Committee—for every rupee collected by Government from these tolls at least another rupee is extorted by the native subordinates of the several establishments.

4. By imposing a stamp of one rupee upon every chullan, as recommended by Mr. Stainforth, a sufficient sum the Committee are of opinion might be raised to defray the expenses of keeping the different channels of communication open, and of providing for the cost of the Inland department in Calcutta.

5. The proposed department would publish daily, weekly, monthly, and annual statements, as in the case of the external trade, to which the mercantile community would readily subscribe, and in this way a considerable amount of money might be raised to assist in defraying the cost of the establishment.

6. The Committee also highly approve of the appointment of a River Police Magistrate (who might not necessarily be a lawyer) whose court should be attached to the Inland office, and whose salary would form one of the charges on the department. At present sailors are dragged into the very focus of dissipation and vice, and any change that would result in removing the court from its existing neighbourhood to a locality free from grog shops would be a public advantage. Government have several superior officers of ability of the Bengal Marine unemployed, who, in the opinion of the Committee, would be competent to exercise the functions of Marine Magistrate, and who would bring to the discharge of their duties a practical acquaintance with the habits and idiosyncracies of seamen.

7. In conclusion the Committee desire me to express their acknowledgments of the prompt recognition by His Honor the Lieut.

Governor of the importance of the scheme submitted by the Chamber of Commerce, and have only further to add that the appointment of a Committee to consider and report upon the details of it would be very desirable.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

H. W. I. WOOD,

*Secretary.*

APPENDIX J.

IMPORT DUTIES.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

*Bombay, 13th July, 1861.*

To

H. W. I. WOOD, Esq.,

*Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta.*

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to hand you enclosed copy of a letter addressed to Government on the impolicy of continuing the present high rates of duties on Piece Goods and praying for their early removal.

The Committee have sent copies to the Madras and Manchester Chambers suggesting the desirability of their supporting the representation and trust that your Chamber will likewise aid the movement in such a manner as you may deem most likely to prove effective.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

H. BROOKE,

*Secretary.*

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

*Bombay, 8th July, 1861.*

W. GREY, Esquire,

*Secretary to the Government of India,*

*Home Department.*

SIR,—I am desired by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce to request the honor of your laying before the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council the earnest appeal of its members for a mitigation of the oppressive rates of duty now levied on manufactured goods imported into India.

2. The Chamber is aware that in doubling the scale of import duties on the 14th of March 1859, the object of Government was to provide temporarily for a sudden and alarming deficit in the revenue, and is persuaded that there was no desire on the part of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council to depart from the policy of abolishing all duties of a protective nature which England has for many years been pursuing so unflinchingly and with such success.

3. It is nevertheless beyond doubt that the maintenance of so high an import duty on manufactured goods as 10 per cent. is fast tending to diminish the consumption of British fabrics, and giving an artificial stimulus to native production. In support of this statement it may be mentioned that about twelve months ago Joint Stock Companies, with capitals aggregating Rs. 6,800,000, were set on foot for the building, in this neighbourhood, of cotton spinning and weaving mills, and even at this time additional sums are being subscribed for similar investment; it is worthy of note too that in late extensions of these undertakings, attention has been turned to the increasing of grey piece goods rather than of twist or yarns producing machinery.

4. If imported manufactures, after bearing the expenses of freight and other heavy charges, can successfully compete with the productions, whether by machinery or hand, of this country, they should not, the Chamber respectfully submits, be prevented doing so by being subjected to a restrictive duty of 10 per cent.

5. Labour and capital in India, it will be admitted, can with the best result be employed in increasing the productiveness of the soil, in the cultivation of cotton, seeds, grain and other produce, and if proof were needed that it is not for the benefit of the natives of this country (under the stimulus afforded by high import duties) to be employed in the manufacture of goods, such would be found in the excellent report on the trade of the North-West Provinces, handed to the Government of India on the 8th May last, by Colonel Baird Smith, in which he says (para. 31) "among the sufferers none are more commonly met with or more helplessly prostrated, than the great body of the native weavers."

6. The Chamber would respectfully point out that in maintaining the existing high rate of duties, the present small increase to the revenue is most surely gained at the sacrifice of that trade whose rapid and steady expansion, if unchecked by heavy imposts, would in a short time enable it, at a low rate of dues, to yield to the customs a largely increased sum yearly.

7. There cannot be a question that the increased cost to the consumer of imported goods, consequent on the enhanced duties, has in some measure assisted in bringing about the great falling off in their consumption throughout India, and the present extreme depression in this branch of trade on this point all experience proves the correctness of Colonel Baird Smith's closing remarks; when in para. 33 of the report above referred to, he forcibly calls attention to the stimulating effect on the consumption of goods by the people of this country, produced by low prices, and states that a relief "from the pressure of customs duties, greater than are required for revenue only, will assuredly be followed by a permanent addition to the present consumers, which, while benefiting the trade, will amply compensate the public revenue for the sacrifice made."

8. In conclusion the Chamber would express a fervent hope that the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council will grant an early and favorable consideration of this most important question, and reduce the import duties to the rates at which they stood prior to the 14th March 1859, say 3½ per cent. on twist and 5 per cent. on manufactured goods.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) GEORGE LORD,

*Chairman.*

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

*Calcutta, 10th August, 1861.*

H. BROOKE, Esquire,

*Secy., Chamber of Commerce,*

*Bombay.*

SIR,—I have submitted to the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce your letter of the 13th July with its enclosed copy of a represen-

tation to the Right Honorable the Governor-General in Council relative to the impolicy of maintaining the existing high duties on British imports and praying for their reduction to the rates prevailing previous to the increased assessment in March 1853, viz. to 2½ per cent. on yarns and 5 per cent. on manufactured goods.

This important subject has long engaged the earnest consideration of the merchants of Calcutta who are not less desirous than the commercial community of Bombay that the trade should be relieved from a burden, the imposition of which was resorted to as a measure pressed upon Government by the emergencies of the country and adopted as a means towards retrieving their financial position.

In submitting to an unavoidable enhancement of duty which materially aggravated the unfavorable position of importers of Manchester manufactures they were nevertheless not without hope that an improvement of the revenue would in due time admit of the removal of the heavy tax and of a return to the former lighter rate: but whatever may have been the expectations then entertained that the depressing influence affecting the import trade would soon disappear, they were disappointed by the declaration that Government was unable to abandon the higher duty; for in his statement on the 27th April, the financial member of Council while expressing a wish that he could at once reduce the duty on piece goods and other manufactures from 10 to 5 per cent., stated that unfortunately the amount of revenue was too large to permit him to propose it without imprudence, and that he would not be justified in parting with £400,000 of revenue without seeing very clearly how he could replace it.

If therefore this concession could not be made at a time when an alarming deficit was announced as having been met by reductions of State expenditure, increase of revenue, &c., and the public were congratulated on a supposed surplus, it is difficult to believe that such concession could be made now—when the estimates of the Imperial income have been seriously disturbed, and the financial position reversed from a surplus to a deficit; at a moment too when the financial member of Government is not on the spot to consider the policy of the measure you advocate and to advise the Government as to what action should be taken with regard to it.

These circumstances I am directed to say preclude this Chamber from adopting a course which they would otherwise have been too glad to

have taken: they will rejoice when the tax now levied upon the import trade of this country is reduced, and they will cordially co-operate with you in an endeavour to secure that measure of relief, but it is submitted that any present movement to that end would be, in their opinion, premature and unsuccessful.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

H. W. I. WOOD,

*Secretary.*

## APPENDIX K.

### PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT BY GOVERNMENT OF A TIMBER PURCHASING AGENCY IN RANGOON AND MOULMEIN.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

*Calcutta, 15th August, 1861.*

LIEUT.-COL. H. M. DURAND, c. n.,

*Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India,*

*Foreign Department.*

Sir,—The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce have received from the European mercantile community of Rangoon a copy of a communication addressed by them to the Commissioner of Pegu relative to the proposed establishment, by Government, in that province of a Timber Purchasing Agency, for the supply of timber to the Admiralty and the various departments of the Indian Government: they have also received a copy of a memorial from the British merchants of Moulmein to the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council on the same subject.

These addresses convey the representations of the Rangoon and Moulmein merchants against the adoption of a system which it is asserted will materially interfere with their trade, and the co-operation of this Chamber in averting the purpose of Government has been applied for.

The Committee have given their closest attention to these remonstrances, and they respectfully submit for the consideration of His Excellency in Council the conclusions at which they have arrived.

Any interference of a Government with trade generally, or with any branch thereof, must be fraught with consequences highly prejudicial not only to the Government so interfering but to the mercantile community generally; not only in the locality immediately effected, where a Government enters into competition with local traders, but in every

port and commercial town to which the commodity competed for in the natural course of trade finds its way.

For a Government to establish agencies for the purchase of produce in territories where alone the article sought is procurable, is to enter into competition through its own servants with the mercantile community of the locality, who from their very occupation must necessarily be far better acquainted with the real and market value of the commodity in question than any non-trader can be. The natural consequence of a Government under such circumstances endeavoring to compete in the open market with the legitimate trader will be that they must and will invariably pay more than the full value of the article sought. The trader knowing the full market value of the article competed for, will bid for it till it reaches such a price that to proceed will entail loss. The Government must therefore purchase it *beyond* its value, and thus pay for it far more than they would have done had they, instead of employing an agent, contracted with the trader for what they required: to say nothing of the saving to the State of the cost of their agent and his establishment. This is just the position in which Colonel Balfour and the Finance Commission would place the Government.

If the Government at home or in this country require teak timber from Rangoon and Moulmein their legitimate mode of obtaining it will be to contract with the branches of the firms at those places located in London or in the Presidency towns of India. The traders so contracting can obtain shipping by charter in such ports as at the time freight may be lowest. This no Government agent at Rangoon or Moulmein could possibly do, he must hire such shipping for the transport of his timber as may at the time be available at either port, and as his necessities must be immediate and urgent he must pay proportionately high for his freight.

For these two reasons alone Government can never expect to obtain (through their agencies) timber at so low a figure as the mercantile houses can supply it; if the Government establishments already located at these two ports could, without any increase of their number, undertake the purchase, storing, converting, and shipping of timber for Government purposes, they could not then supply it at so low a figure as the trader, but this it is not for a moment to be supposed the Government establishments as at present constituted could do.

If the Government will place themselves in communication with any of the firms trading largely in timber, they will soon ascertain the

cheapest and safest method of obtaining the timber they may from time to time require: hitherto when any contracts for the supply of timber to Government have been made, it has been solely for the supply of certain large dimensions of timber, either in the rough (round logs) or squared; this very much interferes with the charges on the timber for freight, as it will not stow well, and timber of this class commands a higher price than that which in many instances would suit the Government as well. Besides which on its arrival at its destination it has to be converted into such scantlings as are there required. Whereas were the exact dimensions of timbers and scantlings required specified in the contract, the contractor could supply the whole at a lower figure than on an average he can the large timbers only, and the after cost of converting would be saved to the Government. The impolicy therefore of the establishment of the proposed agencies cannot be doubted. They cannot possibly tend to any good, but may and will be fraught with evil, not only to the trader but to the Government: the former will be deprived of his legitimate trade and profits, and the Government will have to pay a greatly enhanced price for the required commodity.

The Forest Department in Pegu has been allowed a signal failure, the sums realized on the sales of Government timber have not met the costs of the establishments; it is necessary therefore that some other mode should be adopted for the conservancy and working of the forests. It is quite clear that the Government alone can neither work nor conserve their forests, except at a loss. It is equally clear that without certain restrictions placed on the indiscriminate killing and felling of trees, the forests in the vicinity of water-ways would shortly be denuded of teak trees of all sizes. This is not very difficult of accomplishment. Let the Government declare their intention of leasing the Pegu teak forests: say for terms of three or five years, and invite tenders for the same. At the same time let it be declared that it shall be unlawful for any forester or others to kill or fell any tree below a certain dimension of girth, and that any such tree being found in possession of any person the same shall be confiscated and a fine levied.

Let a uniform rate of export duty be fixed on all teak timber whatsoever derived, whether from the Pegu forests or from Burmah Proper or elsewhere on the borders of the British possessions in Pegu; and there can be little if any doubt but that the Government will derive a revenue from their forests which they have never yet done, or under the present system can ever expect to do. Government will moreover

obtain such timber as they require on far better terms than they now can, or any agencies they even establish will ever be able to procure for them.

If the money it is intended to devote to the establishment of these agencies, their maintenance and the procuring and working of steam saw mills, be appropriated to the opening up of such water-ways as are required for bringing the timber to the ports of shipment, such as the Kyassoo and Pyaw Kyoung Creeks, the Government will be conferring a lasting benefit on the country, the mercantile community, and themselves.

Thus far the memorialists have the Chamber's entire concurrence in the view in which they regard the intended course of Government; but while the general principle advocated by them has the unqualified approval of the Chamber the Committee cannot refrain from expressing their regret that the representations have been made in a tone which does not recommend itself to their taste or judgment, and which cannot, they think, tend to advance the object of the memorialists.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

H. W. I. WOOD,

Secretary.

APPENDIX L.

SURVEY OF STEAM VESSELS BY PROPERLY  
QUALIFIED ENGINEERS.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
*Calcutta, 3rd July, 1861.*

E. H. LUSHINGTON, Esq.,  
*Secretary to the Government of Bengal.*

Sir,—The lamentable loss of life by explosion of the boilers of the Steam Tug "John Bull," has induced the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to submit for the consideration of the Hon'ble the Lieut-Governor the expediency of introducing a system similar to that which is in force in England, by which every steam vessel belonging to the port of Calcutta shall be periodically surveyed by properly qualified engineers and officers appointed by the Government.

By the Mercantile Marine Act of 1850, the execution of which is partly entrusted to the naval department of the Board of Trade, special provision is made for the survey of all steam vessels except those which are employed in the conveyance of public mails or despatches, and which are subject, it is presumed, to the orders and regulations of the Board of Admiralty. Surveys are to be held at least twice in every year by shipwright and engineer surveyors appointed for the purpose of declaring the condition of the machinery of every steam vessel other than those excepted as above, and reporting upon its general efficiency for the purposes of the trade in which it may be engaged.

It appears to the Committee that the introduction of a similar system into this port would be very desirable, and they recommend the subject to His Honor's favorable consideration.

If their suggestion has the approval of Government they would respectfully submit that the services of Mr. W. H. Sandeman, who, as chief superintending engineer in the Kiderpore Dock, has, the Committee believe, given complete satisfaction to Government, may be engaged for such an appointment. Mr. Sandeman's experience as a marine engineer is reported to be of the highest character; and for the office of surveyor

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of steam vessels as now suggested by the Committee probably no one could be found better qualified.

I have the honor to be, &c.,  
H. W. I. WOOD,  
*Secretary.*

No. 306.

From

J. D. GORDON, Esq.,  
*Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.*

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE  
BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
*Fort William, the 17th August, 1861.*

Marine.

Sir,—I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd ultimo, and to say that the Lieutenant-Governor, quite concurring in the remarks by the Chamber of Commerce regarding the survey of steamers, has referred the subject to the Legislative Member for Bengal, with a view to the law being so framed as to empower the Government to carry out the suggestions made.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,  
J. D. GORDON,  
*Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.*

## APPENDIX M.

### PRESENTATION OF TESTIMONIAL TO COLONEL R. BAIRD SMITH.

On the 24th September the Members of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and a numerous assemblage of the mercantile community of Calcutta met at the Chamber of Commerce to witness the presentation to Colonel Baird Smith of a testimonial and its accompanying address. The testimonial, consisting of a handsome and massive service of plate, was laid out on a table in the large hall: it was composed of a large centre cup, a salver, and a tea and coffee service; each piece bearing its own inscription of presentation, the order of the Bath, and the heroic bearings of the gallant Colonel. At 11 o'clock Colonel Baird Smith arrived, and, after the usual ceremony of introduction, the President of the Chamber opened the proceedings with the following words:—

“Colonel Baird Smith.—The testimonial which, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor General, I have now the honour on the part of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to present you, very inadequately represents the high estimate which that body have placed upon the eminent services you have recently rendered them. I refer to the report which you, at their request, have made, with the permission of the Government, as to the effect produced by the late famine in the N. W. provinces upon the trade of that country, especially that more immediately connected with Calcutta. The Chamber feel, Sir, that the enquiries which you have made and the information which you have furnished are of great importance and value, not only to Bengal but to the commercial interests of India generally. They also believe that your report has been, and will continue to be, the means of awakening our countrymen at home as to what is needed to fully develop the resources of this great country and render them available to the commerce of the world.

Commerce has always been the companion and often the pioneer of civilization, and there is good reason to hope that, aided by eminent men like yourself, they will be found successfully working together in

the promotion of the happiness and prosperity of the people of this country, and thereby securing their loyalty and affection to its rulers.

I have now, Sir, the pleasure of reading to you the address of the Chamber.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

*Calcutta, 24th September, 1861.*

COL. R. BAIRD SMITH, C. B., A. D. C. TO THE QUEEN,

*H. M.'s Regiment of Bengal Engineers.*

“Sir,—Among the many important subjects which at all times engage the attention of commercial men of this city none are of greater interest than the consideration of the condition and circumstances of the people of Upper India, and the study of the varying influences which affect the trade between the chief provincial towns and the capital of the country upon which they are dependent for supplies of British manufactures.

The development and expansion of that trade during the last ten years have been on a scale of remarkable magnitude: stimulated by the increasing requirements of an immense consuming population in India the manufacturing industry of England has been fully employed; and the rapid progress of commercial enterprise continued undisturbed until rebellion checked its vigorous, healthy, and successful action.

Recovering from the destructive influences of that calamity, trade revived with unparalleled activity, and its future course appeared free from all obstruction to satisfactory and compensating results, when it was again arrested, by causes beyond human foresight and control; and a desolating famine in the populous districts of Hindostan paralysed the ordinary commerce of the country.

It need not be told with what concern they who were engaged in the trade with those districts contemplated the effects of this most disastrous visitation upon the large interests involved therein, and how every indication of its mitigation was anxiously watched, for in the suspension of consumption, the heavy accumulation of importations, and the unusual depression of a hitherto buoyant market, the results to them were material beyond measure.

Assigned popularly to the severity of the famine it was nevertheless apprehended that this stagnation of trade might have been produced by other causes, and it was considered essential to arrive at a correct appreciation of whatever may have contributed to that condition. Im-

pressed with the necessity of ascertaining a point of so much interest to the commercial public, the Chamber of Commerce suggested to the Government of India the expediency of deputed an officer to proceed to the famine-stricken districts with the special object of reporting upon their actual state and the circumstances which had conducted to them so unfortunately affecting the trade of this city. Such a report drawn up by one conversant with the subject and having access to the sources of information which Government could place at his disposal would, in the opinion of the Chamber, be extremely valuable to the mercantile community, and enable them to judge with some degree of accuracy of the probability of an early revival of trade with the important marts of the upper provinces: and for the purposes of that inquiry the Chamber hoped the Government would be in a position to make your own services available, because they were confident that your great local experience of those districts, your sound judgment on the commercial bearings of the question, and your ability to deal with the difficulties attending such a mission peculiarly qualified you for the task.

The Government of India promptly assented to the Chamber's proposal, — the President in Council being of opinion that accurate and comprehensive information regarding the state of the districts afflicted with famine, as well as of those in their immediate vicinity, with special reference to the influence which the calamity might have upon the import trade of Bengal, could not fail to be of great value; and His Honor concurred in the belief that the necessary inquiries could be entrusted to no one more likely than yourself to conduct them in a manner which would give satisfaction to all concerned. Your services were accordingly rendered available for this special employment.

Cheerfully accepting the duty thus imposed upon you, — a duty totally foreign to your own official appointment of Master of the Calcutta Mint — you proceeded without delay to the North-Western Provinces: you visited the cities of Benares, Mirzapore, Allahabad, Cawnpore, Lucknow, Furruckabad, Agra, Muttra and Delhi, and other places to which your researches led you; journeying through the length and breadth of the famine tract, and seeking information from every source and from every class, you gathered together a mass of materials for your future conclusions; and finally you were enabled, in your report of 8th May, to submit to Government the results of a diligent and laborious investigation.

This report, replete with information of the most valuable character, has been accepted as an elaborate exposition of the various causes which have conducted to the serious depression of trade long prevailing and still existing: it abounds with details and illustrations of considerable interest, with useful statistical returns of provincial traffic, and with profitable suggestions on the numerous points elicited in the course of your enquiry.

You have accomplished your task with an enthusiastic appreciation of its importance, and with an ability distinguished by a broad and clear comprehension of the object of your mission, and by the energetic application of the resources of an enlightened mind: and the success which has attended your labors in this new field of exertion has added largely to the high reputation you have already won in your honorable career.

To acknowledge the service you have thus rendered to the commercial public, to testify their estimation of its great value, and to record, in this address, the expression of their gratitude, is now the gratifying duty of the Chamber of Commerce.

They assure you, they feel deeply the obligation which you have conferred upon them, and they now tender you their most hearty thanks, accompanied by the gift which, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, they have the honor to present to you, and which they offer for your acceptance as a token of their esteem, and in recognition of your meritorious service on their behalf.

For the Bengal Chamber of Commerce,  
W. S. FITZWILLIAM,  
*President.*"

After the address had been read, the President remarked that it might be satisfactory to Colonel Baird Smith to hear the terms in which the Government of India had expressed their approval of the presentation of the testimonial. He then read the following letter: —

FROM  
W. GRIDY, Esq.,  
*Secy. to the Govt. of India.*  
TO  
H. W. I. WOOD, Esq.,  
*Secy. to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce,*  
*Dated Fort William, Aug. 28, 1861.*

"SIR, — I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 21st instant, in which the Bengal Chamber of Commerce request the sanction of Govern-

ment to their presenting Colonel Baird Smith with a testimonial in recognition of the manner in which he had conducted the enquiry into the causes of the depressed state of trade between Bengal and the upper provinces which, at the request of the Chamber of Commerce, he was deputed by Government to make.

2. In reply I am directed to state that though it is opposed to the orders of Government that public officers should accept presents or complimentary addresses in connection, directly or indirectly, with the discharge of their official duty, the Governor General in Council thinks the present case sufficiently peculiar and exceptional to warrant a deviation from the rule. His Excellency in Council considers that the compliment which the Chamber wishes to pay to Colonel Baird Smith has been well earned, and he is pleased to permit him to receive it.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. GREY,

*Secy. to the Govt. of India.*"

Colonel Baird Smith then said:—

Mr. President and Gentlemen.—I heartily wish that nature had gifted me with, or practice trained me to, a readier power of speech than I possess, that I might have acknowledged less imperfectly than I am able to do the high compliment you have paid me in the remarks with which you have prefaced the reading of the address just completed. But however imperfectly the forms of expression may be, there is no shortcoming in the feelings which prompt them. I am deeply sensible of the honor the Chamber has conferred upon me in the judgment it has pronounced on the value to commerce of the work I have lately had to do. It is the judgment of the body which represents the commercial intelligence of the capital of India, and I receive it with the respect and gratitude which are due to it.

It will be most gratifying to me, Sir, to find that the prospects of more than local usefulness you anticipate from my work are likely to be realised; they will be the best fruits it can produce.

With your permission, I will now read the formal reply I hold in my hand to the address with which the Chamber has honored me:—

To

W. S. FITZWILLIAM, Esq.,

*President of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.*

*Calcutta, 24th September, 1861.*

"Sir,—It is with feelings of sincere gratitude and cordial appreciation

that I acknowledge the honor done me by the Chamber of Commerce in presenting me with this address and gift, which the Government of India has been pleased, on your application, to permit me to accept. Both will be to me and mine the treasured memorials of a high and rare distinction, and my grateful sense of the manner in which the merchants of Calcutta have received and valued the work which, on this occasion, it was my special duty to do, must ever be very deep and true.

I must however be allowed to explain how much that work has been facilitated by their assistance. It was with your respected predecessor, the late President of the Chamber—Mr. J. N. Bullen—that the first thought of my deputation to the North-West Provinces originated. It was by him and his temporary successor, Mr. Edward Kilburn, that the matter was brought before the Government, and so recommended it was sure of an attentive consideration. It was from the Committee of the Chamber, and from no one more effectively than from yourself, that I received advice so suggestive and discriminating that its practical worth grew the greater the more the subject developed itself in the course of my enquiries. It was from confidential correspondence with mercantile friends in Calcutta that help was obtained in the solution of many of the anomalies and difficulties met with; and it is my most pleasant duty to acknowledge now with the heartiest gratitude the great debt I owe to the Chamber for their constant and varied aid.

I have only to add that so uniformly and so kindly has your own interest in my work been shown that its recognition by the Chamber receives an added grace in reaching me through your hands.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient and grateful servant,

R. BAIRD SMITH, Colonel,

*H. M. Bengal Engineers."*

APPENDIX N.

SCHEDULE OF COMMISSION CHARGES,

Revised and adopted by a Special General Meeting of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce held on the 18th June 1861,—with effect from 1st January 1862.

1. On the sale, purchase, or shipment of Bullion, Gold Dust, or Coin .....	1 per cent.
2. On the purchase (when in funds) or sale of Indigo, Raw Silk, Silk Piece Goods, Opium, Pearls, Precious Stones, or Jewellery .....	2½ "
3. On purchasing ditto when funds are provided by the Agent.....	5 "
4. On the sale or purchase of all other goods—the commission in all cases to be charged upon the gross amount of sales, and in regard to purchases upon both cost and charges .....	5 "
5. On returns for Consignments if made in produce.....	2½ "
6. On returns of Consignments if in Bills, Bullion, or Treasure .....	1 "
7. On accepting Bills against Consignments .....	1 "
8. On the sale or purchase of Ships, Factories, Houses, Lands, and all property of a like description .....	2½ "
9. On goods and treasure consigned, and all other property of any description referred to Agency for sale, whether advanced upon or otherwise, which shall afterwards be withdrawn; and on goods consigned for conditional delivery to others and so delivered, on invoice amount at 2s. per rupee .....	half com.
10. On making advances or procuring loans of money for commercial purposes, when the aggregate commission does not exceed 5 per cent.....	2½ per cent.
11. On ordering or receiving and delivering goods, or superintending the fulfilment of contracts, or on the shipment of goods, where no other Commission is derived .....	2½ "

12. On guaranteeing Bills, Bonds, or other engagements, and on becoming security for administration of Estates, or to Government for the disbursement of public money.....	2½ percent.
13. On <i>del-credere</i> or guaranteeing the due realization of sales .....	2½ "
14. On the management of Estates for Executors or Administrators .....	2½ "
15. On chartering ships or engaging tonnage for constituents for vessels to proceed to outports for loading .....	2½ "
16. On advertising as the Agents for Owners or Commanders of ships for cabin passengers, on the amount of passage money, whether the same shall pass through the Agents' hands or not .....	2½ "
17. On procuring freight for a ship by a shipping order or charter, or on procuring employment for a ship on monthly hire, or acting as Agents for Owners, Captain, or Charterers of a vessel, upon the gross amount of freight, brokerage inclusive .....	5 "
18. On engaging Asiatic Emigrants for a ship to the Mauritius, the West Indies, or elsewhere, upon the gross amount of earnings .....	5 "
19. On engaging troops for a ship to Great Britain or elsewhere, on the gross amount of passage money for rank and file .....	2½ "
20. On realising inward freight, inward troop, Emigrant, or Cabin passage money .....	2½ "
21. On landing and re-shipping goods from any vessel in distress, or on landing and selling by auction damaged goods from any such vessel, and acting as Agent for the Master on behalf of all concerned on the declared value of all such goods as may be re-shipped, and on the net proceeds of all such goods as may be publicly sold .....	5 "
If Opium, Indigo, Raw Silk, or Silk Piece Goods.....	2½ "
If Treasure, precious Stones or Jewellery.....	1 "
22. On effecting Insurances, whether on lives or property .....	1 "

23. On settling Insurance claims, losses and averages of all classes, and on procuring returns of premium ..	2½	per cent.
24. On drawing, purchasing, selling, or negotiating Bills of Exchange .....	1	"
25. On debts or other claims when a process at law or arbitration is incurred in claiming them .....	2½	"
Or if recovered by such means .....	5	"
26. On Bills of Exchange returned dishonored .....	1	"
27. On collecting House Rent .....	2½	"
28. On Ships' Disbursements .....	2½	"
29. On realising Bottomry Bonds, or negotiating any Loan on <i>respondentia</i> .....	2½	"
30. On granting Letters of Credit .....	1	"
31. On sale or purchase of Government Securities and Bank or other Joint Stock Shares, and on every exchange or transfer not by purchase from one class to another .....	½	"
32. On delivering up Government Securities and Bank or other Joint Stock Shares, on the market value ...	½	"
33. On all amounts debited and credited within the year (less the balance brought forward) upon which no Commission amounting to 5 per cent. has been charged .....	½	"
Brokerage when paid is to be separately charged.		

H. W. I. WOOD,

*Secretary.*

## APPENDIX O.

## VOTE OF THANKS TO THE LATE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

*Calcutta, 4th June, 1861.*

JOHN N. BULLEN, Esq.,

*9, Moorgate Street,**London.*

Sir,—At the general meeting of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce held on the 6th of last month, the occasion of the election of office bearers for the current year, it was unanimously resolved "that the cordial thanks of the Chamber are due and be given to the late Committee, and especially to the President and Vice-President, for the ability with which they have conducted the business of the Chamber during their term of office;" and in transmitting this resolution to you I am desired by the Committee to express the gratification with which they communicate this recognition of the very valuable services rendered by you as their late President.\*

The Chamber for many years has had the benefit of your active co-operation as a member of the Committee, as Vice-President, and finally as President. In that last office you have had opportunities of advancing the interests of the Chamber which have not been neglected; and on all occasions those interests have been advocated by a heartiness of purpose which have won for you the grateful thanks of your brother-merchants: but your services were never so conspicuous as when they were devoted to the laborious duty imposed upon you as a member of the commission appointed by Government to revise the Customs tariff, to introduce a uniformity of tariff for all India, to consider the provisions of a consolidated customs bill, and to report on the customs administration of this city; and the vote of thanks which I have now the

\* A letter in terms of this para: was also addressed to E. D. Killburn, Esq., the Vice-President.



## MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Agberg, Joseph.	Jardine, Skimmer and Co.
Anderson, W. Agent, Oriental Bank Corporation.	Jenkins, Dearman and Co.
Apear and Co.	Johnson, P.
Argenti, Sodiari and Co.	Kettlewell, Ballen and Co.
Atkinson, Elton and Co.	Kelly and Co.
Balfour and Co.	Ker, Dods and Co.
Borradale, John and Co.	Lyall, Rennie and Co.
Camin, H. and Lamouroux.	Mackillop, Stewart and Co.
Carrioles, Nephews and Co.	Mackimion, Mackenzie and Co.
Carter, T. E.	Mackenzie, Lyall and Co.
Chalmers, G. C. Manager of the Central Bank of Western India.	Mackey and Co.
Colevin, Cowie and Co.	MacLachlan, J. E.
Crooke, Rome and Co.	Mair and Co.
DeSouza, Thos. and Co.	May, Pickford and Co.
Dickinson Brothers and Co.	Moran, W. and Co.
Duff, Thos. Agent Borneo Company.	Mosley and Hurst.
Durschmitt, Grob and Co.	Ogle, John and Co.
Eglinton, R. L. Agent, Chartered Bank of India.	Pearce, Macrae and Co.
Ernsthausen and Oesterley.	Pennington and Co.
Ewing and Co.	Pehmoller, G. and Co.'s Successors.
Elliott, John and Co.	Pietsch, G. Manager Comptoir D'Escompte de Paris.
Fergusson, J. H.	Playfair, Duncan and Co.
Fielding, Alexander, Agent, Commercial Bank of India.	Potter and Co.
Elizabethan, W. S., Agent Chartered Mercantile Bank.	Prestwich, E.
Foster, Rogers and Co.	Purrier and Co.
Forrester, Chas.	Ralli Brothers.
Gillanders, Arbuthnot and Co.	Ralli and Mavrojani.
Gisborne and Co.	Ran Gopal Ghose and Co.
Gladstone, Wyllie and Co.	Robert and Charriot.
Gordon, Stuart and Co.	Schilzi and Co.
Grindlay and Co.	Schneider, J. P.
Grant, Smith and Co.	Schoene, Kilburn and Co.
Herriot, John.	Shand, Fairlie and Co.
Henderson and Co.	Sham Chaud Mitter.
Henderson, George and Co.	Stewart, W. G. and Co.
Heron and Co.	Thomas, R. and Co.
Hoare, Miller and Co.	Wattenbach, Heilgers and Co.
	Williamson, Brothers and Co.
	Whitney, Brothers and Co.

## NON-FUSSIL MEMBERS.

Becher, Wm.— <i>Gresham's, Assam.</i>	Hay, J. O. and Co.— <i>Allyp.</i>
Deverell, H.— <i>Achragunge.</i>	Kenny, J. P.— <i>Salganoodich.</i>
Cope, H. and Co.— <i>Umritsur.</i>	Pelletreau & Co.— <i>Mirzapore.</i>
Gale, John.— <i>Pandoul.</i>	Todd, Findlay & Co.— <i>Moulmein.</i>
Hamilton, Brown & Co.— <i>Mirzapore.</i>	

RULES AND REGULATIONS  
OF THE  
BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

*First*..... That the Society shall be styled "THE BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE."

*Second*..... That the object of the Chamber shall be to watch over and protect the general interests of Commerce; to collect information on all matters of interest to the Mercantile Community; to use every means within its power for the removal of evils, the redress of grievances, and the promotion of the common good; to communicate with authorities and individual parties thereupon; to form a code of practice whereby the transaction of business may be simplified and facilitated; to receive references and to arbitrate between disputants, the decisions in such references being recorded for future guidance.

*Third*..... That it being highly desirable not to recognize any principle of exclusion, all persons engaged or interested in the Commerce or Shipping of Bengal, shall, upon payment of the Subscription and on signature of the Rules and Regulations, be admissible as Members in the manner hereinafter described.

*Fourth*..... That Candidates for admission, proposed and seconded by Members may be admitted provisionally as Members by the Committee, subject to confirmation at the next General Meeting.

- Fifth*..... That voting by proxy, or by Members whose Subscriptions are in arrears, be not allowed.
- Sixth*..... That the Chamber reserves to itself the right of expelling any of its Members; such expulsion to be decided by the votes of three-fourths of the Members of the Chamber.
- Seventh* ... That any number of Members present shall be held to constitute a General Meeting, called in conformity with the Rules of the Chamber, for the despatch of ordinary business; but that no change in the Rules of the Society can be considered except at a General Meeting at which the majority of the Members of the Chamber shall be present.
- Eighth* .... That the Subscription for individual Members of the Chamber be 10 Rupees per mensem, while those alone carrying on business under any style or firm do pay 16 Rupees per mensem.
- That the Subscription for Mofussil Members be two Gold Mohurs or 32 Rupees per annum.
- Ninth* ..... That the business and funds of the Chamber shall be managed by a Committee of seven Members, consisting of a President and Vice-President and five Members, to be elected annually at a General Meeting of the Chamber in the month of May; the President, or, in his absence, the Vice-President, being ex-officio Chairman of the Committee, and in the absence of the President and Vice-President, the Committee to elect its own Chairman. Four to form a quorum; the Chairman, in cases of equality, having the casting vote.

- Tenth*..... That the Committee shall meet on such day of every week as it may fix as most convenient, for the purpose of transacting such business as may come within the limits of the objects of the Chamber, and that its proceedings be laid on the table open to the inspection of Members, subject to such Regulations as the Committee may deem expedient.
- Eleventh*... All annual elections of President, Vice-President, and Members of the Committee shall be determined by a majority of votes of Members, such votes being given in voting cards to be issued numbered and signed by the Secretary; and no voting card shall be received for such purpose unless so authenticated: and all vacancies created by the absence of the President, Vice-President, or any of the Members from the Presidency for two months, or by departure for Europe, or by death, shall be forthwith filled up, and the election determined by votes of Members to be taken as above in voting cards and declared by the Committee.
- Twelfth*.... That the Secretary be elected by the Committee; such election to be subject to confirmation at the next ensuing General Meeting.
- Thirteenth*. That the General Meetings of the Chamber be held from time to time as the Committee for the time being may deem necessary. That a Special General Meeting shall be called by the President, or, in his absence, by the Vice-President, or by his order on the requisition of any five firms, Members of the Chamber,

to be held within five days subsequent to the receipt of such requisition.

*Fourteenth.* That all Proceedings of the Committee be subject to approval or otherwise of General Meetings duly convened.

*Fifteenth...* That strangers visiting the Presidency may be introduced as Honorary Members for two months by any Member of the Chamber inserting their names in a book to be kept for that purpose.

*Sixteenth...* That the Committee be empowered to make Bye-laws which shall not be of any force until approved of by a General Meeting.

*Seventeenth.* That an Annual Report of the Proceedings be prepared; and, after being approved of at a General Meeting, printed and circulated.

*Eighteenth.* That the above Rules be added to or altered only by a majority of Members of the Chamber.

*Nineteenth.* That the foregoing Rules be printed, and an authenticated copy, subscribed by each Member on admission, be kept as part of the records of the Chamber. That printed copies be forwarded to Members of the Chamber, to the Secretary to Government, and to such other parties or authorities as it may be desirable to make acquainted with the objects and Rules of the Association.

