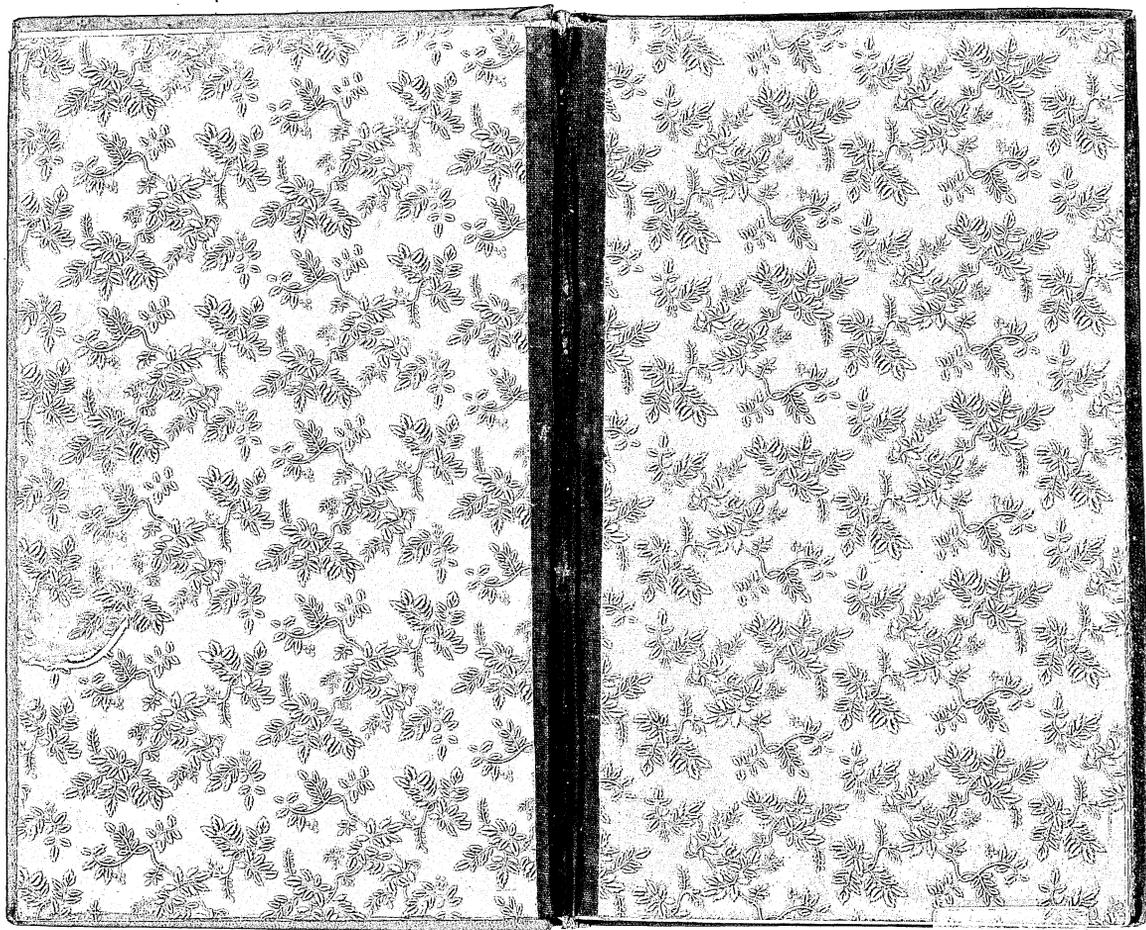
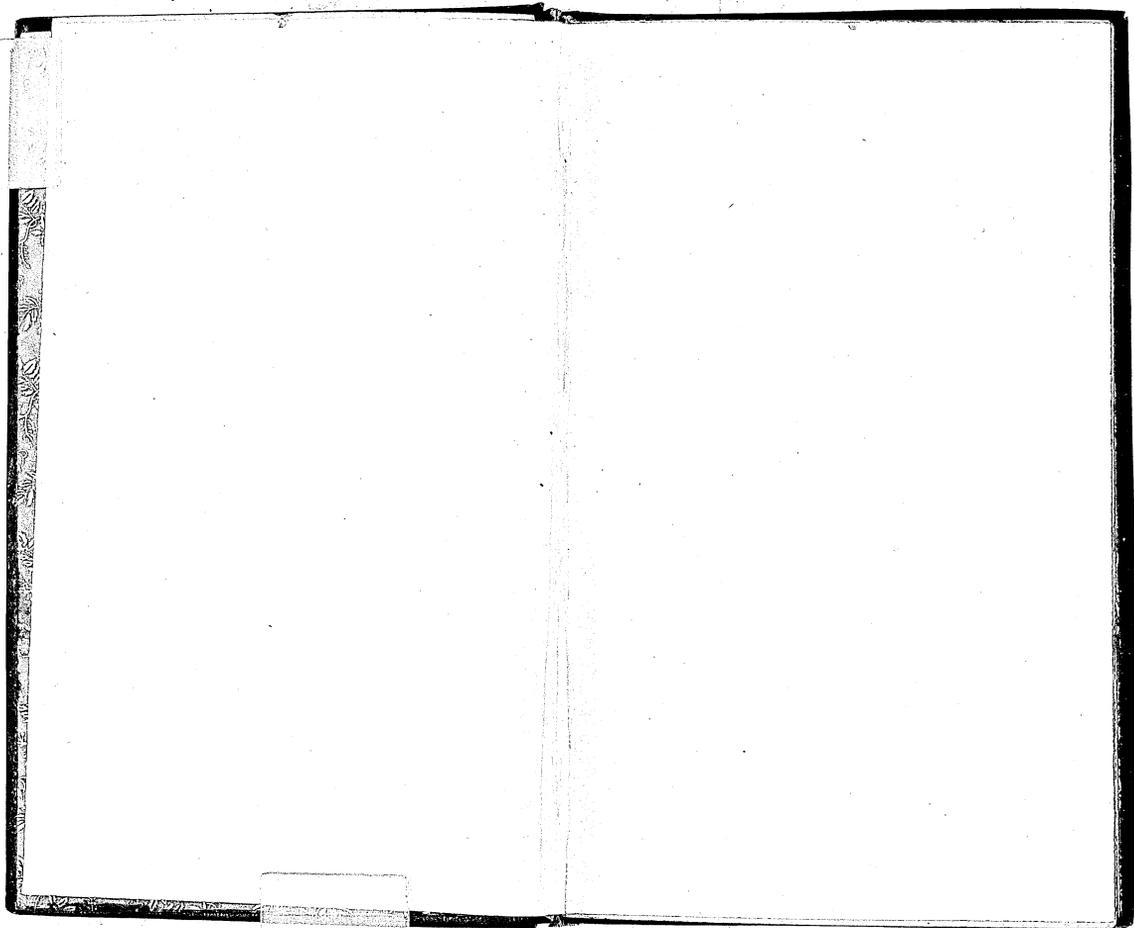


REPORT
OF THE
BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
1865





REPORT

THE COMMITTEE

OF THE

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

From 1st May to 31st October 1865.

Calcutta:

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1865.

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Proceedings of a General Meeting of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce held on Wednesday, the 13th December 1865.

The Hon'ble JOHN N. BULLEN, *President*, in the Chair.

The Chairman commenced the proceedings of the day by stating that the meeting had been convened for the purposes mentioned in the circular which had been issued to members, viz. the submission of the Committee's half-yearly report of proceedings from 1st May to 31st October 1865, the confirmation of the Committee's provisional admission of two new members, the election of another gentleman who wished to join the Chamber, and for the consideration of any other business that members might wish to bring forward.

He would first call on the Secretary to read the report and then briefly address the meeting.

The report having been read, the Chairman spoke as follows :—

GENTLEMEN,—The six months covered by the report which has just been read is the dead season of commercial politics. No subjects of great importance have come under the consideration of the Committee, but to such questions as have been before them their best attention has been given and the results are embodied in the report, the

adoption of which I rise for the purpose of moving.

The ensuing six months will no doubt furnish matter for more interesting comment. The two Legislative Councils are in session, and already before that of the Governor-General one measure has been introduced, and leave has been given for the introduction of two others, all of which are of considerable importance to the commercial classes; whilst in that of the Lieutenant-Governor the introduction of the long expected measure for the constitution of a River Trust will no doubt shortly take place. The measure I allude to as having already been introduced into the Imperial Council is the bill for the management of the Post Office and regulation of the rates of postage. That bill has gone before a Select Committee, by whom I yet hope alterations may be made in it in the direction of more liberal rates for both letters and newspapers, though such a concession did not seem to find much favor with the Honorable Gentleman in charge of the bill when suggested in Council last Friday. I hold to the opinion I expressed on that occasion that each department of the State should pay its own postage. Until that is done, and the expenditure for postage of each Department has to pass under review in the Annual Budget Estimates, no efficient check can be put

on the exuberance of official correspondence, the extent of which may be gathered from the fact that in 1863-64 the computed postage on official correspondence conveyed by post exceeded by three lacs of rupees the whole receipts of the Post Office from all other sources. The other bills to which I have referred are the Bills *to amend the law of partnership*—which has been published and is to be introduced into the Council on Friday,—and *to provide for the incorporation, regulation, and winding up of Trading and other Associations*,—leave to introduce which has been given, but which has not yet been published. The first of these bills proposes to extend to India the Bill passed in the last Session of the Imperial Parliament, to permit advances of money to a trader on condition of receiving a share of the profits of the business instead of interest without thereby rendering the lender liable as a partner to the creditors of such trader. Doubtless, you will all have read the lucid exposition of the Hon'ble Mr. Maine in introducing this bill, and I believe there is little or no difference of opinion as to the soundness of the general principle which underlies this measure, though there may be some as to the expediency of omitting the 5th section of the English Statute, which provides that in the case of the borrower's insolvency the commanditarius lender shall not be entitled to rank on the

estate in competition with the ordinary creditors. Under some aspects such a provision is no doubt in conflict with the spirit of the rest of the enactment, but after much discussion in Parliament it seems to have been retained in the English Act, no doubt for sufficient reasons; and I am not clear that its omission here may not place the commanditarius partner in too favorable a position as regards the other creditors. This is a point which will no doubt receive the attention it merits when the bill goes before a Select Committee. The other bill is a bill to adapt to this country the English Companies Act of 1862 (25 and 26 Viet. Cap 89); under its provisions Insurance Companies may be formed on the limited liability principle, which though permitted in England has heretofore been prohibited here, and a new species of Company will be legalised, viz., "Companies limited by Guarantee;" *i. e.* the liability of the members will be limited to such amounts as they may undertake to contribute to the assets of the Company in the event of its being wound up. Believing as I do that the principle of association with limited liability is, with suitable regulations as to publicity, essentially sound, I consider it matter for congratulation that the same encouragement should be given to its development here as has been given in England by the removal of all legal impediments.

Of the other measure to which I have alluded, viz., the bill likely to be shortly introduced into the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor for the constitution of a River Trust, reference is made in the report: and I will therefore only further express a hope that this important measure may be passed during the present session.

Gentlemen, I desire to take up as little of your time as possible, but the present appears a fitting opportunity for expressing the disappointment which all engaged in commerce must feel at the unsatisfactory working of the Indo-European Telegraph. Instead of improving as it might reasonably be expected the service would have done after experience had been gained and the signallers had become accustomed to their work, there is positive retrogression both as to speed and accuracy. A report recently made by Mr. Walton to the Bombay Government, and published in the papers of that Presidency, shows that whilst the average time occupied between London and Kurrachee was in May 4 days 18 hours, and in August 3 days 21. hours, it was in October 10 days 2 hours, and in November and December it must have been still more; messages have been frequently over 15 days in transmission, and the latest at this moment in town being only to the 1st December.

In justice to Mr. Walton, the manager of the

Mekran Coast and Submarine line, it must be added that the delay appears to be in no way attributable to him, as he reports in October that whilst messages were taking twelve or thirteen days to reach Kurrachee from England, they were being conveyed between Fao and Kurrachee—nearly a third of the whole distance—in less than two hours. It must be added also that there has lately been a marked improvement in the speed with which English messages are transmitted over the Indian lines. The detention evidently takes place on the Persian, Turkish, and Continental lines, and arises probably in great measure from the pressure of work upon those lines. Unless an alternative route be established by laying a submarine cable down the Red Sea, of which there is little likelihood until the Atlantic cable has been laid and for some time worked successfully, there will be no remedy for these delays until a wire be set apart, right through from Kurrachee to England, for Indo-European messages. That the traffic could keep such a line in full work and pay a good dividend on the necessary capital may be judged from the fact that, imperfectly as the line has worked, the number of messages sent and received from May to October inclusive amounted to 14,080, the proportion of revenue accruing to that portion of the line under the British Government alone being Rs. 4,33,079. If messa-

ges could, with reasonable confidence, be calculated to go through in from 2 to 4 days, it may safely be predicted that these receipts would increase threefold. There may be some difficulty in inducing the various Governments through whose dominions the line passes to grant this concession, but it ought not to be impracticable if the influence of the British Government is brought to bear upon them. That it will be so perhaps our best hope lies in the fact that influential parties are beginning to complain that the Indian telegraph, instead of being a boon as it should be, is in reality, as at present managed, almost an incubus on the eastern trade. Had they said *quite* an incubus the description would have been more apposite, but whenever the question is taken up in this spirit by men who can make themselves heard either in Parliament or through the press, like Mr. Crawford or Mr. Goschen, there is some chance of remedy.

Gentlemen, I have already taken up so much of your time that I will only further express a hope that besides an improvement in our telegraph communication with Europe the next half year will also witness an improvement in our postal communication by the establishment of a weekly Mail Service via Bombay. It is to be hoped that when this boon is conceded it will not be shackled by the imposition of increased rates of postage as was at one time threatened, a measure

which even financially would, I believe, be a mistake. This is a battle, however, which, if necessary, our friends must fight for us in England.

Gentlemen, in conclusion, I must express my regret that the general state of trade at this port does not at present afford more ground for congratulation. It has pleased God to withhold this year that abundance of fertilising rain on which the harvest, in the absence of works of irrigation, so much depends in Bengal. There has in consequence been a great deficiency in the yield of all food crops and a consequent rise in prices, which, however necessary and even desirable in order to promote economy in the use of the grain which exists and thus avert absolute scarcity hereafter, has necessarily been productive of great privation and suffering to those thousands of the poorer classes who, under the most favorable circumstances, are ordinarily but little removed from want. These high prices of food necessarily react on our import trade by curtailing consumption, the effects of which have already been felt and will, it is to be apprehended, continue to be felt for sometime. Again these short crops of grain and oil seeds and jute have so raised prices that our export trade is seriously affected and the shipping interest also is greatly depressed. *Per contra* however, it may be said that our cotton trade has recovered the blow which was dealt

by the sudden termination of the American war, and those who are likely to be well informed believe that for years America will not be able to supply anything like the quantity she exported before the civil war, and that all the cotton which India can send to Europe is likely to be wanted. On the whole, though this partial failure of the grain crops in Bengal is undoubtedly a great calamity, and may continue for sometime to operate injuriously on trade, it may be hoped that it will check only temporarily that development of the commerce of the port which has made such astonishing progress during the last ten years.

Gentlemen, I move the adoption of the Committee's report.

Mr. Manockjee Rustomjee seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The provisional election by the Committee of Mr. J. B. Renfiers, and of Mr. R. Macallister, having been put separately to the meeting, their admission as members of the Chamber was unanimously confirmed.

The admission of Mr. A. Preston, of Messrs. Payne and Co., as a member of the Chamber, proposed by Mr. Joseph Agabeg and seconded by the Hon'ble David Cowie, was submitted to the meeting, with the remark of the Chairman that the usual provisional election was not made

by the Committee as it was an exceptional case, and the general meeting of the Chamber was so close at hand. The Chairman having placed Mr. Preston's name before the Meeting, 19 members voted in his favour and 13 against him; he was accordingly declared elected.

The Chairman then called the attention of the meeting to the existence of a vacant seat in the Committee, occasioned by the departure of Mr. Eldridge from Calcutta. The ballot tickets were circulated on the departure of that gentleman, and the result was that Mr. F. A. Tilton, a member of the same firm as Mr. Eldridge, was elected in his stead. Only that morning, however, Mr. Tilton had written to say that he could not accept a seat in the Committee. It was always considered very desirable to have an American gentleman to form one of the Committee; but as Mr. Tilton did not wish, on account of other engagements, to accept the membership, it became necessary to nominate some one else. It was usual in such cases to take the name that stood second on the list; but as Mr. Tilton had a very large majority of votes the Chairman thought it would be better to re-circulate the ballot tickets, to which the meeting assented.

The Chairman stated that he was glad to find from a report which he had seen in the "English-

man" of that morning, that the Manchester Chamber of Commerce had taken up the question of Mildew Damage, and he trusted that the action of that Chamber would be attended with results which would place the question on a footing far more satisfactory than it was at present.

The Chairman having intimated that he had nothing further to submit, but if any member desired to address the meeting he had the opportunity of doing so, it was proposed by the Hon'ble D. Cowie, seconded by Mr. T. H. Mosley, that the cordial thanks of this meeting be given to the President, Vice-President, and members of the Committee, for their services on behalf of the Chamber and their attention to the interests of Commerce.

The Chairman acknowledged the compliment paid to himself and his colleagues, and the meeting broke up with thanks to the Chair.

H. W. I. WOOD,

Secretary.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE HALF-YEAR
ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 1865.

The Committee have the pleasure to submit their report on the subjects which have come under their consideration during the last half-year.

ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

APPENDIX A.

In attention to the resolution passed at the general meeting of the Chamber in June last, touching the assassination of the President of the United States, your Committee transmitted copies of it to N. P. Jacobs, Esq., the Consul General in Calcutta, for submission to the Government of the United States, and to the President of the Chamber of Commerce, New York. The correspondence is recorded in the appendix.

MOORING ACCOMMODATION FOR VESSELS LOAD- ING AND DISCHARGING CARGO.

In May last representations were made to the Committee that numerous vessels, with import

cargo on board or desiring to take in their outward cargo, were unable to procure mooring berths, or even accommodation in the stream within convenient distance of Calcutta, whilst other vessels which had completed their discharge, and had no immediate intention of loading an outward cargo in consequence of the lowness of freights, were occupying many of the best mooring berths off and near the town. It was represented that although it might be a hardship on any ship to compel her to move out into the stream, yet that when the available accommodation was insufficient for all, and that some must of necessity lay in the stream and at a distance from Calcutta, it was more equitable that vessels which had had their turn at the moorings should make way for others and not be allowed to occupy them indefinitely. Concurring in the reasonableness of these representations the Committee brought the subject under the notice of the Master Attendant. At a meeting subsequently convened at the Chamber for further consideration of this question a resolution negating the Committee's recommendation was carried by a majority; the matter consequently dropped for the time; but it is still the opinion of the Committee that some such measure as they advocated must be carried out in the common interest of all engaged in the trade

of the port. It is, to say the least, inconsistent that whilst vessels having on board valuable import cargoes, or vessels engaged in loading export cargoes, cannot, as is frequently the case, get within three miles of the Custom house for many days, that other vessels, laying up, should be allowed to occupy convenient mooring berths off town for an indefinite term.

ABOLITION AND REFUND OF ADDITIONAL EXPORT DUTIES.

APPENDIX B.

Reference was made in the last half-yearly report to the rumoured refusal of the Secretary of State to give his assent to Act XVII of 1865, authorising the levy of additional export duties. These duties continued however to be taken until the 23rd June, when further levy was stopped by telegraphic orders from Simla; and Act XXV of 1865 has since been passed, repealing so much of Act XVII as authorised these duties. Immediately on its being intimated that the levy of the duties had ceased, the Committee applied for a refund of all the additional duties taken since the passing of Act XVII, which was promptly conceded. The Committee heartily congratulate the Chamber on this return to truer principles of commercial legislation, from which it may be hoped the Government will not again be induced to deviate.

STAMPS ON BONDS FOR CUSTOMS DUTY.

APPENDIX C.

Reference was made to this subject in the Committee's last report. The Committee had represented to Government the excessive rates levied in India on Customs bonds—amounting frequently (for example at this port in the case of cargoes of Salt) to as much as 300 rupees—as compared with the rates levied on similar documents under the English Stamp Act. The Government recognised the reasonableness of this representation; and in introducing the bill to amend the Stamp Act which passed the Imperial Council during its last legislative session, Mr. Harrington referred to this as one of the cases in which the Executive Government would exercise the power which that bill was intended to confer upon them of reducing the rates then imposed by law. By notification dated 11th July 1865, the reduction asked for by the Committee was made, the maximum sum now leviable on any Customs bond being five rupees.

DUTY ON MACHINERY.

APPENDIX D.

In the appendix will be found a correspondence which has passed between the Chamber and the Governments of Bengal and of India on the subject of a refund of duty which had been exacted by the Collector of Customs from the Goosery Cotton Mills Company on certain iron beams for

foundation and foundation plates imported for their mills now in course of erection, on the ground that these articles formed no component parts of the machinery they were intended to support. An appeal to the Government of Bengal having proved unsuccessful, the Committee carried the case before the Government of India, who reversed the decision of the local Government, and directed a refund of the amount paid. This case is illustrative of the narrow spirit in which the apparently obvious intentions of the Legislature are sometimes interpreted by the Revenue authorities; but it also directs attention to the necessity of widening the operation of Article 19 of Schedule A of the Customs Act, so as to include all machinery for whatever purpose imported. At present machinery used for purposes of manufacture comes in free, but machinery for pressing or baling cotton, jute, or other fibres, pays duty at 7½ per cent., and other such inconsistencies present themselves in the working of the Act. Looking to the increasing cost of manual labor, the difficulty in many cases of procuring a sufficiency of it, and the many purposes for which machinery has been adapted by modern science to do the work of even the more highly-paid skilled workman, it would be a wise policy to encourage the importation of it, for whatever purpose it is to be employed, free of all duty.

REDUCTION OF DUTY ON SALTPETRE.

APPENDIX E.

In the appendix will be found a correspondence which this Chamber has had with the Kurrachee Chamber and the Mooltan Saltpetre Company on the subject of a further reduction of the duty on Saltpetre. The Committee entirely concur in the necessity of further great reduction or entire removal of the export duty on this article, but they have not thought it expedient, for reasons set forth in the correspondence, to memorialise the Government in favor of any immediate reduction. The Committee will however take steps to again bring this subject under the special notice of Government at an early date, and pray that the urgent claims of Saltpetre to be placed amongst the free exports may not be overlooked when next year's financial measures are under consideration.

THE CONDITION OF THE STRAND BANK.

This matter has again occupied the attention of the Committee during the last half-year, as it has of successive Committees for many years. In July the Committee brought to the notice of the Officiating Collector the state of the river bank in front of the Custom House, which at that time and throughout the rains, as it has been at that season for many years, was in a state which caused all goods in course of shipment from that

point, as well as the valuable imports which are compulsorily landed there, to be exposed to great risk of damage. Remedial measures of a temporary character were on the Committee's representation adopted, but these were totally insufficient to meet the exigencies of the trade of the port which urgently demands greater facilities for landing and shipping cargo, and increased shed accommodation on the river bank. On the Committee's representation also the Officiating Collector caused the northern of the two existing sheds, which has for some time been let out to private companies, to be vacated, and its use restored to the public. It is to be hoped that during the present Legislative Session of the Bengal Council the long expected River Trust Act may be at length passed, and the improvement of the river bank be vigorously undertaken.

PUBLICATION OF WEATHER REPORTS IN THE TELEGRAPH GAZETTE.

In August last the Committee's attention was drawn to the discontinuance of publication in the Government Telegraph Gazette of the daily reports on the state of the weather at the principal Telegraph Stations north of Benares. The prospects of trade being much influenced by the probable out-turn of the harvest, this information is of especial value during the perio-

dical rains. The Committee therefore brought the omission to the notice of the Director General of Telegraphs who at once ordered that the reports should be furnished as heretofore and published, which has since been done.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

At the meeting of the Chamber in November of last year, the Committee were invited to address the Government with the view of obtaining the establishment of stations at the mouth of the Hooghly and at points on the east and west coast where meteorological observations might be recorded and telegraphed to Calcutta, in order that on occasions of approaching storms timely warning might be conveyed to the shipping. A correspondence which ensued with the Government was recorded in the last half-yearly report. Since the date of that correspondence a Committee has been appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, at whose recommendation proper instruments have been furnished to the officer in charge of the telegraph station at Saugor, by whom observations are now transmitted twice a day to Calcutta. Similar observations are also transmitted daily from Kandy, and these observations are received and carefully supervised by a member of the meteorological Committee. Arrangements have been made that in case of bad weather

being expected storm signals shall be exhibited to the shipping at prominent and convenient positions. The sanction of Government has also been given to the supply of instruments and to cost of the necessary establishment for recording meteorological observations at Cuttack, Chittagong and Akyab, to the eastward, and at False Point, to the westward of the sea approach to the Hooghly. The Lieutenant Governor has also strongly supported the recommendation of the meteorological Committee that telegraphic communication should be extended to False Point as early as practicable, as well for the purpose of transmitting these weather observations, as for enabling vessels which first make the land at that part of the Bay during the S. W. monsoon to communicate their arrival to Calcutta. Finally an additional establishment has been sanctioned at the Surveyor General's Office in order that hourly observations may be taken throughout the year, without the inconvenient hiatus of Sundays and holidays which has hitherto much impaired the value of these observations. Until the laws of local atmospheric changes are understood, of which little is at present known, it may not be possible to make any reliable forecasts of the weather, but it can scarcely happen when daily reports are received from these outlying stations of observation that Calcutta can again be caught

in such a state of total unpreparedness as on the occasion of the cyclone of 1864.

DETENTION OF OVERLAND-MAILS AT GALLE.

APPENDIX F.

Considerable dissatisfaction having been felt at the detention, apparently unnecessary, of the inward bound mail steamers at Galle on three occasions in June and July last, for periods ranging from 70 to 80 hours, the Committee considered it their duty to make a representation on the subject to the Government of India, in order that the Secretary of State might be informed of the spirit in which the P. and O. Company were carrying out the obligations of their mail contract. The correspondence is printed in the appendix.

INCREASED STEAM POSTAGE FROM CALCUTTA TO CHINA, CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, MAURITIUS, THE AUSTRALIAN COLONIES, &c.

APPENDIX G.

The announcement by the Director General of Post Offices in India that steam postage on covers despatched from Calcutta to the Australian Colonies, China, Mauritius, Cape, &c., would be increased from 4 annas to 8 annas per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., from and after the 1st September last, was promptly noticed by your Committee, who represented

to the Government of India that no reason had been assigned why the then existing rates should be so excessively increased, and that the higher charge appeared to be unattended by any compensating advantages to the public.

The Governor General in Council informed the Committee in reply that the notification of the Director General had been issued in virtue of a warrant from the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury in England; a copy of which and of a letter from H. M. Post Master General, explaining the grounds on which the increased rates had been deemed necessary was forwarded for the Chamber's information.

No room for further action on the part of the Chamber being thus left, the correspondence was published for the information of members.

MEASUREMENT OF JUTE DURING THE RAINY SEASON.

A considerable majority of the members of the Chamber having expressed their approval of the suggestion of the Committee that shippers of Jute during the rainy season might, at their option, require the measurement of their Jute to be taken at the screw house instead of on the shipping wharf—the ton of 5 bales in that case not to exceed 50 cubic feet instead of 52 cubic feet—the Committee recommended that shipping orders

should in future be so worded as to admit of this alteration in the existing practice.

It was understood however that this modification of the established usage could only be claimed by shippers when it was stipulated for at the time the shipping order was taken. The object sought to be attained was simply a modification of a rule which had been found to cause loss (through damage) to the shippers, and was indirectly the cause of loss to ship-owners also by the delay which it frequently gave rise to in getting cargo sent off. The interests of both shipper and ship-owner would be, it was believed, equitably conserved by the arrangement which had been proposed. Still there might be consignees, on the one hand, who thought an allowance of 2 cubic feet per ton insufficient, and might consequently object to give the option; whilst, on the other hand, there might be shippers who thought it was too much. In such cases, where the permissive clause was not inserted in the shipping order, the shipments would be governed by the former rule.

PUBLICATION IN THE TELEGRAPH GAZETTE OF PARTICULARS OF ARRIVALS AT SAUGOR.

APPENDIX II.

The practice of reporting in the Telegraph Gazette particulars of shipping arrivals at Saugor

having been discontinued, the Committee were informed in reply to their inquiry on the subject that in consequence of Government having closed the Telegraph Office at Kedgerie, where the shipping reports used to be landed and telegraphed thence to Calcutta, the publication was necessarily given up; but that if arrangements could be made for the reports being landed at Saugor, or Mud Point, or any other station where there was a Telegraph Office, the usual information could be easily given.

It happens, however, that whilst Kedgerie, from which vessels are boarded by the dāk-boats, is on the western bank, all the Telegraph stations are on the eastern bank of the river, and there is thus no ready means of communication between passing vessels and any of the latter. But as vessels now at all seasons pass close to the eastern bank, and at great distance from Kedgerie, the position of that place as a postal station in connection with the shipping has become almost useless. The establishment of a post office at some point on the eastern bank of the river appears to be desirable, and the Committee have it in contemplation to address Government on the subject.

SCREW MOORINGS.

The screw moorings ordered from England, on the recommendation of the Committee ap-

pointed by the Government of Bengal to report on the state of the moorings after the Cyclone, have arrived, and have been experimentally laid at different points. Doubts having however arisen as to their adaptability to the bed of this river, a Committee has been ordered to report thereupon, which Committee is still sitting. By the recent extension of the limits of the port additional mooring accommodation will be afforded to the shipping: 230 mooring berths in all will, it is expected, be available before the next S. W. monsoon. Some of these moorings are however at the inconvenient distance of 5 miles from the Custom House, and with reference to the remarks under another head it might be expedient that these should be reserved for vessels not actually engaged in the receipt or discharge of cargo.

MILDEW DAMAGE IN COTTON PIECE GOODS.

APPENDIX I.

At the request of numerous members of the Chamber the Committee convened a special general meeting on the 5th September last to consider what measures could be adopted by importers of cotton manufacture with reference to the internal unsoundness of goods commonly known as *mildew damage*. A Sub-Committee was appointed at that meeting to collect facts illustrative of the nature and extent of such damage, with the view

of their being placed before the representatives of the manufacturing interest at home, and of urging the adoption of measures calculated to arrest the progress of an evil which is inflicting so much injury on this important branch of our import trade. The Sub-committee has recently presented its report, which the Committee has forwarded to the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. Copies were also sent to the Chambers of Commerce of Liverpool and Glasgow. The Committee trusts that this representation, coupled with those of other Chambers of Commerce, will cause this subject to receive that serious attention which its importance merits, but which it appears hitherto not to have secured. The report of the Sub-Committee was printed and circulated for the information of members, and is re-printed in the appendix of this report.

COTTON CULTIVATION IN THE NORTH WESTERN PROVINCES.

APPENDIX J.

In August last the Committee addressed the Government of the N. W. Provinces, asking to be furnished with a report on the condition and probable out-turn of the cotton crops, and in the appendix will be found the report which, in reply, that Government caused to be communicated to the Chamber. Being of great interest

these papers were printed as soon as received, and copies furnished to members. On the whole the season is said not to have been unfavourable to the cultivation, the rains though unusually late having been abundant; but owing to the discouragement occasioned by the low prices to which raw cotton had fallen in the months of May and June last, the breadth of land sown in this crop in 1865 is estimated at less than half of last year, the figures being 8,95,102 acres against 17,39,869. The yield is estimated at 8,24,540 maunds against an actual out-turn last year of 16,59,917 maunds; but judging by the actual as compared with the estimated yield in former years, the report states that the actual out-turn this year will probably not exceed 7,50,000 maunds. The cultivation of cotton in the N. W. Provinces appears therefore this year not to have exceeded its normal extent: the acreage under that crop in 1861, before the stimulus of high prices was applied, having been 9,53,076, and the estimated yield 11,99,750 maunds. It is believed however that considerable supplies from the old crop will be available for exportation, now that prices have again so much risen. The reports generally agree that a considerable revival of the manufacture of native cloth has taken place since the decline in prices of raw cotton, some of them stating that this industry has regained the proportions it held before the outbreak of the American war.

GRAIN CROPS IN BENGAL.

Considerable apprehension being entertained that the long continued drought was seriously affecting the grain crops in some of the districts under the Government of Bengal, the Committee suggested to the Board of Revenue the frequent publication of reports of the condition of the crops, prices of food, &c., in order to allay the anxiety felt in this respect, and to place the fullest information before the public.

The Board stated in reply that they had already organised arrangements for the frequent periodical submission of retail prices current from every district in Bengal so long as the present apprehension continued. These returns are communicated to the press at short intervals, and their publication the Committee believe is likely to prove of much benefit both by correcting exaggerated rumours of actual deficiency of food in particular districts, and by encouraging the transport of grain from districts where it is comparatively abundant to those where the scarcity is most felt.

SATURDAY HALF HOLIDAY.

APPENDIX K.

At the last half-yearly meeting a resolution was moved and carried, with only one dissentient voice, affirming the desirableness in the opinion of the

Chamber of closing all offices for business on Saturdays at 2 p. m., and recommending the adoption of this measure where practicable. A notice to the effect that their respective offices would be closed accordingly, was subsequently circulated and received the signature of a large majority of members; the notice thus signed was then published for general information. Except when the closing of any important mail falls on Saturday, the adoption of this movement seems now almost universal.

NEW MEMBERS.

Mr. J. B. Rentiers and Mr. R. Macallister have been admitted into the Chamber, subject to confirmation.

FUNDS OF THE CHAMBER.

APPENDIX I.

The half-yearly balance of the funds of the Chamber amounts to Rs. 4,991-3-3 in the Bank of Bengal, in addition to the reserve in Government Securities of Rs. 10,000.

JOHN N. BULLEN.

President.

CALCUTTA,
31st October 1865. }

APPENDIX A.

ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

Calcutta, 3rd June 1865.

NATHANIEL P. JACOBS, Esq.,

Consul General for the United States of America.

Sir,—As chairman of a general meeting of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce held this day, I have the honor to place in your hands a copy of a resolution unanimously adopted by the meeting, and to request you will have the goodness to transmit the same to the Secretary of State to the Government of the United States.

The resolution records the horror with which the commercial community of this city view the assassination of the late President of the United States, their sympathy in the calamity which the American nation has suffered by the lamented death of their eminent chief magistrate, and their earnest hope that the long continued war may be happily terminated by an early restoration of peace, lasting and prosperous.

I have the honor to be, &c,

JOHN N. BULLEN.

Resolution.

That this meeting desires to place on record the horror with which they, in common with all ranks and classes of Her Majesty's subjects, view the assassination of the late Mr. Lincoln, President of the United States of America; the deep sympathy which they feel for the people of that country under the great national calamity which this event has brought upon them; and their earnest hope that the war from which they have suffered so severely may soon be brought to a close, and be followed by peace, lasting and prosperous.

CONSULATE GENERAL U. S. A.

Calcutta, 5th June 1865.

JOHN N. BULLEN, Esq.,

*Chairman of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce,**Calcutta.*

Sir,—I have this morning the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from you, dated the 3rd instant, covering copy of a resolution, on that day unanimously adopted by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, having reference to the lamented and untimely death of the late illustrious chief magistrate of the United States.

In conformity with your request, that resolution, together with your very courteous letter, will in due course be forwarded to the Honorable Secretary of State U. S. A.

But, in advance of its receipt by him, and on behalf of the authorities of my own Government, permit me to tender the most grateful thanks to you, and through you to the body you so worthily represent, for the expressions of sympathy and condolence most appropriately set forth in that resolution, tender and soothing to the feelings of a nation, kindred by the ties of a common ancestry with your own, now outraged and appalled by a calamity so unexpected, so overwhelming.

With sentiments of the highest respect do I remain,

Your obedient servant,
NATHANIEL P. JACOBS.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

Calcutta, 8th June 1865.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
NEW YORK.

Sir,—The intelligence of the assassination of the President of the United States of America has been received in the metropolis of British India with the profoundest emotion.

All classes of Her Majesty's subjects, capable of appreciating the nature and extent of that great national calamity, have been overwhelmed with deep and heartfelt sorrow, and with horror at the appalling crime which terminated the valuable life of your illustrious chief magistrate.

The commercial community of Calcutta share all the sentiments of regret, indignation, and abhorrence which the public at large so keenly feel; and at a recent meeting of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce a resolution was unanimously adopted, copy of which I have the honor to enclose.

A copy of it has also been presented to the Consul for the United States for submission to the Hon'ble the Secretary of State, Washington; but I am specially charged to transmit to the New York Chamber of Commerce this record of the view which the merchants of Calcutta entertain of the loss sustained by the merchants of New York, in common with their fellow citizens throughout America, in order that they may be assured of the liveliest sympathy which is felt by the commercial body of Calcutta for the people of the United States.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

JOHN N. BULLEN,

President.

Resolution.

That this meeting desires to place on record the horror with which they, in common with all ranks and classes of Her Majesty's subjects, view the assassination of the late Mr. Lincoln, President of the United States of America; the deep sympathy which they feel for the people of that country under the great national calamity which this event has brought upon them; and their earnest hope that the war from which they have suffered so severely may soon be brought to a close, and be followed by peace, lasting and prosperous.

(True copy.)

JOHN N. BULLEN,

President.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,

New York, 3rd August 1865.

JOHN N. DULLEN, Esq.,

President, Bengal Chamber of Commerce,
Calcutta.

Sir,—Your communication of the 5th June was this-day read to this Chamber, and I am directed to inform you that this grateful evidence of your sympathy with our commercial community in their affliction has been deposited in the archives of the Chamber.

I am with great respect,

Your very obedient servant,

JOHN AUSTIN STEVENS, Jr.,

Secretary.

APPENDIX B.

ABOLITION AND REFUND OF ADDITIONAL EXPORT DUTIES.

ACT No. XXV. of 1865.

An Act to amend the Law relating to the duties of Customs on goods imported and exported by sea.

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the law relating to Customs duties; it is enacted as follows:—

1. Act XVII. of 1865 is repealed.
2. In lieu of the Customs duties authorized to be charged in Act VII. of 1859 (to alter the duties of Customs on goods imported or exported by sea), Act XXIII. of 1859 (to alter the rates of duty on goods imported or exported by land from certain Foreign Territories into or from the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, respectively), Act X. of 1860 (to amend Act VII. 1859 to alter the duties of Customs on goods imported or exported by sea), Act XI. of 1862 (to amend Act X. of 1860, to amend Act VII. of 1859), Act XXIII. of 1862 (to amend Act XI. of 1862), and Act XXIII of 1864 (to amend the Law relating to the Customs duties on goods imported by sea), there shall be levied and collected the duties specified in the two Schedules A and B annexed to this Act. Provided always that nothing herein contained shall be deemed to alter the existing duties upon salt and opium, or to authorize the levy of duties in any free port, or to affect the provisions of Act VI. of 1848 (for equalizing the duties on goods imported and exported on Foreign and British bottoms, and for abolishing duties on goods carried from port to port in the Territories subject to the Government of the East India Company), or to affect the provisions of the Consolidated Customs' Act.

3. So far as regards the Customs duty on the export of saltpetre authorized to be levied by Schedule B. hereto annexed, this Act shall take effect as if it had been passed and had received the assent of the Governor General on the ninth day of March 1865; and so far as regards the alterations made by this Act in Schedules A. and B. of the Customs duties which were authorized to be levied by Act XVII. of 1865, this Act shall take effect as if it had been passed and had received the assent of the Governor General on the first day of April 1865, and all duties which may have been levied from and after that date, other than those authorized to be levied according to Schedule B. annexed to this Act, shall be refunded. But save as aforesaid this Act shall take effect from the fourteenth day of July 1865.

4. This Act shall be cited as "The Indian Customs Duties' Act of 1865."

Short title.

Act of 1865."

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Calcutta, 18th May 1865.

J. A. CRAWFORD, Esq.,
Collector of Customs.

SIR,—With reference to the notification of the Government of Bengal which appears in a Gazette of yesterday's date, and which establishes the values of certain articles of export for Customs' duty, I am directed to enquire if you are prepared to refund any excess of duties which may have been charged on valuations higher than those authorized by the said notification.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

H. W. I. WOOD,
Secretary.

No. 401.

CUSTOM HOUSE,
Calcutta, 18th May 1865.

To

H. W. I. WOOD, Esq.,

Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of this day I have the honor to inform you that I am not prepared to make the refund payments referred to therein without specific instructions from superior authorities.

I have, &c.,

J. A. CRAWFORD,

Collector.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Calcutta, 18th May 1865.

THE HONORABLE A. EDEN,
Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

SIR,—With reference to the notification which appeared last evening in a Gazette Extraordinary, fixing the valuations on which the export duties are to be assessed on jute, silk, sugar, hides, tea, and coffee, and to the annexed letter from the Collector of Customs, stating in reply to a reference I was directed to make to him, that no orders had been received by him to refund the export duties levied in excess of these valuations since the 1st ultimo, I am directed to enquire whether orders for such refund have been, or are about to be, issued by the Government of Bengal.

If a precedent is required for such refund I am directed to point out that in 1859 import duties were for some months levied on valuations fixed provisionally, and that the excess so levied was subsequently refunded when the valuations were definitively fixed at lower rates.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

H. W. I. WOOD,
Secretary.

viii

No. 1971.

FROM

THE UNDER-SECRETARY TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL,

TO

H. W. I. WOOD, Esq.,

Secretary to the Deval Chamber of Commerce,

Dated, Fort William, the 19th May 1865.

Mrs Revenue.
Customs.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 15th instant, and in reply to state that orders were issued to the Board of Revenue under date the 12th idem to allow exporters any benefit accruing under the new valuations, published in the Gazette Extraordinary of yesterday, from the 1st of April last; the refunds to which you allude will therefore be made on application to the Collector of Customs.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. GEOGHEGAN,

Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

APPENDIX C.

STAMPS ON BONDS FOR CUSTOMS' DUTY.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

Calcutta, 22nd June 1865.

E. C. BAYLEY, Esq.,

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

Simla.

SIR,—The representation which the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce submitted to the Government of India in their letter of 16th September last, that the stamp duty chargeable on bonds for Customs' duty on imported merchandise under the Indian Customs' Act. X of 1862, should be levied more in accordance with the English practice in respect of such bonds, having been favourably received by the Governor General in Council, a bill was introduced into the Legislative Council for the purpose of amending Act. X of 1862, so that the Government of India should have, at any time, the power of modifying any of its provisions and of reducing the rate of stamp duty on any particular class of bonds.

This bill received the assent of the Governor General in Council on the 10th April last, as Act. XVIII of 1865, and the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce have been looking forward to an early declaration of the reductions which were contemplated by the Legislature: and as the Committee believe that sufficient time has elapsed, since the passing of the Act, for a notification of such reductions, especially those advocated by the Chamber of Commerce, I am desired to request you will have the goodness to take an early opportunity of bringing the subject to the notice of the Governor General in Council.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

H. W. I. WOOD,

Secretary.

b

X

No. 1900.

From A. P. HOWELL, Esq.,
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India,

To THE SECRETARY TO THE BENGAL CHAMBER OF
 COMMERCE,

Dated Simla, the 27th June 1865.

Hence Department.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, and in reply to inform you that it has been transferred to the Financial Department.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A. P. HOWELL,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

STAMP DUTIES ON CUSTOMS' BONDS.

No. 1285.—*Simla, the 11th July 1865.—Notification.*—Under the provisions of Section 2 of Act XVIII. of 1865, and in the exercise of the power and authority therein reserved, the Governor General in Council is pleased to declare that, in lieu of the rates of stamp duty prescribed in Section 12 of Schedule A. of Act X. of 1862, the following rates of stamp duty shall be charged henceforth on Customs' bonds, viz:—

	Rs.	As.
If the penalty of the bond do not exceed Rs.	25	0 2
If above Rs. 25, and not exceeding	50	0 4
" 50, " "	100	0 8
" 100, " "	200	1 0
" 200, " "	300	2 0
" 300, " "	500	4 0
And for all sums above	500	5 0

APPENDIX D.

DUTY ON MACHINERY.

From THE SECRETARY TO THE GOOSERY COTTON
 MILLS COMPANY LIMITED,

To THE SECRETARY TO THE CALCUTTA CHAMBER OF
 COMMERCE,

Dated Calcutta, the 6th May 1865.

Sir,—The Directors of the Goosery Cotton Mills Company Limited have desired me to hand you the accompanying copies of correspondence on the subject of certain machinery, imported by them from England and forming a portion of the steam engines for the use of their new cotton mills, being charged with import duty, in contravention of Act XI of 1862 of the Government of India, which permits machinery to be imported free of duty.

You will observe that the Company finding they were unable to move the Collector of Customs to rescind his order appealed to the Government of Bengal, but, although in their Secretary's letters of 7th March and 17th April they offered most conclusive evidence that the machinery in question could not properly be charged with the duty, they have failed to obtain any redress. It will be remarked that the Junior Secretary to Government in his reply, No. 1644, dated 27th April, makes no reference or reply whatever to the indisputable evidence laid before the Lieutenant-Governor of the articles in question being "machinery," but that he shelters his action of justice under the clause in the Act which provides that "the Collector of Customs, subject to the general orders of the Government of India, shall decide what articles come within the definition of machinery, and such decision shall be final in law;" and the Directors can only attribute this persistent refusal of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in this case, which is so inconsistent with his usual fair and impartial administration, to that desire to

support a subordinate even at the sacrifice of justice which is occasionally found, and may be perhaps sometimes requisite, in a Government.

I am to request the favor of your laying the case before the Chamber, in order that they may take such action in the matter as they may see fit. The Directors feel themselves aggrieved first in being virtually told by Government that they have made a false claim; and secondly in being mulcted in the payment of a duty to which the legislature has declared they are not liable; and, as they will be for some months to come importing further shipments of machinery for their mills, they are naturally desirous to prevent the recurrence of such an unfair tax on the Company. But in addition to this they conceive that the Chamber might take up the question on public grounds. They understand that there are attached to or retained by the customs authorities at Home Committees of reference, composed of competent professional assessors of various articles of importation that are liable to duty, to assist the collector in forming a right judgment on the character or value of articles on which duty questions might arise, and they would submit for the consideration of the Chamber whether they might not recommend to Government to institute some similar arrangement here with the view of obviating the liability, under the present system, of working an injustice to importers, and of placing the Government in a false or ridiculous position through the incapacity or obstinacy of a Collector of Customs who, however conscientiously he might discharge his duties, might not be qualified by education or experience to decide fairly in such cases as that under notice.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
S. H. ROBINSON.

Secretary, Goosery Cotton Mills Company Limited.

14, Strand, 7th March 1855.

From

THE SECRETARY TO THE
GOOSERY COTTON MILLS COMPANY LIMITED,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Sir,—I have the honor to request you will be good enough to

obtain the orders of the Board for the machinery comprised in the invoice, of which I append a copy to be passed from the ship "Beatrice" free of duty, in accordance with the import tariff list published in the Government Gazette.

The Collector of Customs having ordered that it shall pay a duty of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the value, I am under the necessity of appealing to the Board for redress.

The Board will not fail to observe that the invoice comprises merely the foundation beams, plates and bolts, belonging to steam engines. These engines are for working the new cotton mills this Company are erecting at Goosery, and being, in fact, essential parts of the engines it would be against all reason to class them under any other head than that of machinery.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) S. H. ROBINSON,

Secy. Goosery Cotton Mills Company Limited.

DUPLICATE.

Bolton, 18

MESSRS. THE GOOSERY COTTON MILLS COMPANY,
CALCUTTA.

Bought of Benjamin Hill and Son.

1864.	DESCRIPTION OF GOODS	Price	L.	S.	D.
Augt. 22	Cast iron beam to go across engine house ...	198	0	0	
"	Freight on per bill of Lading. ...	22	13	8	
"	Dock and town dues, forms, &c. ...	0	18	11	
"	Insurance on £300 at 30 per cent. and stamp ...	4	13	0	
"	Cartage, portage, shipping, &c., ...	2	5	2	
"	Bills of lading and postages. ...	0	3	6	
"	Commission forwarding at $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per Ship "Beatrice" ...	1	10	0	
		230	4	3	

Particulars of beams, &c. for the Goosery Cotton Mills Company,
Calcutta, sent to the care of Messrs. Potter Brothers, Liverpool.
G. M.

No.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	
1 to 7	243	3	12	7 Beams for foundation.
8	7	2	19	1 ditto for air pumps & condenser.
9 to 11	9	2	14	3 ditto for ditto & ditto.
12 & 13	6	1	11	2 ditto for foundation.
14 to 16	9	2	3	3 ditto for air pump & condenser.
18 to 21	1	2	19	1 ditto for ditto & ditto.
22 to 25	13	...	19	4 Plates for ends of beams.
26 to 33	18	2	25	4 ditto for ditto.
34 to 37	14	1	10	8 ditto for ditto.
38	16	1	9	4 ditto for ditto.
39	1	...	6	1 ditto for ditto.
				Case 2 ft. 8 in. x 9 ft. 9 in. x 0 ft. 10 in. containing 25- $\frac{1}{2}$ bolts.
				Net weight 6.3.14.

FROM

14, Strand, 7th March 1865.

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOOSERY COTTON
MILLS COMPANY LIMITED,

TO

THE SECY. TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

SIR,—I have the honor to append a letter of appeal I have this day addressed to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, asking for redress in respect to a charge of import duty levied by the Collector of Customs on certain machinery imported by this Company.

On my objecting to the impost the Collector of Customs advised my referring the matter to the Board of Revenue, but I am informed by the Junior Secretary to the Board that they have no authority to interfere, and he suggested my applying to the Government of Bengal; I therefore beg to forward my appeal to you, soliciting the favour of your laying it before the Government for orders.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,
(Signed) S. H. ROBINSON,
Secy. Goosery Cotton Mills Company Limited.

No. 1340.

FROM

THE JUNIOR SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT
OF BENGAL.

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE
GOOSERY COTTON MILLS COMPANY LIMITED,

Dated Fort William, the 6th April 1865.

Customs.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 7th ultimo, appealing against the levy of Customs duty on certain iron beams imported by the Goosery Cotton Mills Company, and in reply to state that beams for an engine house cannot be held to be component parts of the machinery that house is intended to contain; the beams referred to do not therefore come within the meaning of Article 18, Schedule A., Act XI. of 1862, as amended by Section 1, Act XXIII of 1862.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) S. C. BAYLEY,
Junior Secy. to Government of Bengal.

FROM

THE SECY. GOOSERY COTTON MILLS COMPANY
LIMITED,

TO

THE SECY. TO GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

Dated Calcutta, April 17th 1865.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 1340 of 6th instant, informing me that certain machinery in respect of which I appealed for exemption from import duty could not be allowed such exemption for the reason, that "beams for an engine house cannot be held to be component parts of the machinery that house is intended to contain."

It being evident from the above quotation from your letter

that the Government are under a misapprehension as to the nature of the articles for which exemption is claimed by the Company, the Directors have desired me again respectfully to solicit the Lieut. Governor's attention to the subject, they being moreover now desirous of being freed from the imputation, which the above reply has cast upon them, of having sought to avoid payment of a fair and legal import duty.

I am directed to point out that the principal articles in respect of which the duty question has arisen cannot properly be described as "beams for an engine house," and that they are not so denominated either in the invoice or in my appeal, but that, as stated in the latter, they are "essential parts of the engine itself", forming in fact the foundation plates without which no engine can be complete, and that these cannot be component parts of the engine house inasmuch as the latter would be quite complete without them.

In confirmation of this I am also directed to submit the accompanying letter from Messrs. Jessop and Co. (the first civil engineers in Calcutta not in Government employ,) and the Directors feel confident that their report would be confirmed by any other competent person to whom the Government might refer the question.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) S. H. ROBINSON,

Secy. Goosery Cotton Mills Company Limited.

Calcutta, 17th April 1865.

(Copy)

S. H. ROBINSON, Esq.,

Secy. Goosery Cotton Mills Company Limited.

DEAR SIR,—We are in receipt of your letter of the 15th instant enclosing an invoice of machinery forwarded by Messrs. Hick and Son of the Solo Works, Dolton, Lancashire, and said to have been handed ex-ship "Beatrice." We consider that as they form a por-

tion of a steam engine they ought to be exempt from duty under the Act alluded to. The invoice is herewith returned.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) JESSOP AND CO.

No. 1644.

FROM

THE JUNIOR SECY. TO THE GOVERNMENT

OF BENGAL

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE

GOOSERY COTTON MILLS COMPANY LIMITED,

Dated Fort William, the 27th April 1865.

Customs.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 17th instant, requesting a re-consideration of the Lieutenant-Governor's decision communicated in letter No. 1340, dated 6th idem, and in reply I am to say that the Lieutenant-Governor after considering your objections, and the letter of Messrs. Jessop and Co., sees no reason to alter his opinion, and declines to interfere with the decision of the Collector of Customs which is final in law.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) J. GEOGHEGAN,

For Junior Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

Calcutta, 26th May 1865.

TO

THE HON'BLE ASHLEY EDEN,

Secretary to Government of Bengal.

SIR,—The Directors of the Goosery Cotton Mills Company have placed before the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce the cor-

responsende that has passed between themselves and the Government relative to the levy of duty on what they represent as certain necessary component parts of a steam engine, but which the Collector of Customs has decided do not constitute machinery within the meaning of Act XVII of 1865, and the opinion of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor—to whom the Company appealed against the Collector's decision—is adverse to the claim they make for exemption from duty.

When the Committee first considered the case, they were under the impression that the ruling of the Revenue authorities was justified by the circumstances as far as they were disclosed, and that impression would have been retained if they had had no stronger testimony than that presented in Messrs. Jessop and Co.'s letter.

In replying to the Cotton Mills Company the Committee requested to be furnished with any other certificates they could produce as to the materials in question being *bona fide* and absolutely necessary component parts of the engine, and they were informed that if this point could be satisfactorily established the Committee would support their appeal.

The Company have since forwarded to the Chamber two certificates, true copies of which are hereto attached; one from Mr. McLeary, a practical Engineer of considerable experience, and the other from Mr. Gilmore, Superintending Engineer of the British India Steam Navigation Company. These professional authorities declare that the materials are part and parcel of the steam engine, and that they should be as free from duty as the wheels of a portable engine are.

Any doubt the Committee may have entertained having been thus removed they trust the Lieutenant-Governor will now be equally satisfied that the Cotton Mills Company have made out a good case for the exemption they claim, and that His Honor will be pleased to issue the needful orders to the Board and the Collector.

The Committee have had another case before them—an importation of machinery by Mr. Dundas, of Messrs. Shand, Fraser and Co.; but as the decision of the Lieutenant-Governor satisfactorily disposed of the question, no further notice seems required than to observe how much it would tend to simplify the action of the

Customs in respect of such importations, if it could be clearly defined for the future what is and what is not a component part of an engine or of machinery as contemplated by the Act.

I have, &c.,
H. W. I. WOOD,
Secretary.

No. 2346.

From

S. C. BAYLEY, Esq.,

Junior Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE BENGAL CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE.

Fort William, the 10th June 1865.

Customs.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 26th ultimo, and in reply to say that the Lieutenant-Governor has no doubt that it would be difficult to apply the engines imported by the Goosery Cotton Mills Company to the purposes for which they are intended without the foundation beams and plates on which they are to rest, or some efficient substitute for them, but it does not, therefore, follow that the foundation beams are component parts of the engines which they support any more than a masonry platform would be; and the Lieutenant-Governor sees no sufficient grounds for modifying the orders already passed, as the beams do not appear to His Honor to be necessary component parts of the machinery in the sense intended by the law. But as the subject is one of general interest, and it is desirable that the ruling should be the same at all British Indian ports, the matter will be referred for the consideration and orders of the Governor General in Council.

2. In regard to the proposal contained in the concluding paragraph of your letter for a general definition of what are, and what are not, component parts of engines or machinery, I am to say that an attempt was on a previous occasion made to prepare lists of what was, and what was not, entitled to exemption under article 19 of

Schedule A., Act XVII. of 1865, but it was found to be impracticable.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. GEOGHEGAN,

For Junior Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

Calcutta, 22nd June 1865.

E. C. BAYLEY, Esq.,

Secretary to the Government of India,

Home Department, Simla.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to submit for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General in Council the accompanying copies of correspondence which have passed between the Chamber and the Government of Bengal on the subject of exempting from import duty, under article 19 of Schedule A of Act XVII of 1865, certain articles forming component parts of steam machinery for the manufacture of cotton yarn.

It will be seen from the correspondence that although these articles are certified by practical engineers to be to all intents and purposes necessary component parts of the machinery, and although they form part and parcel of the original invoice, yet the Lieutenant-Governor, on the ground, apparently, that substitutes might be provided for the beams and foundation plates in this country, does not consider them necessary component parts of the machinery in the sense intended by the law, and declines in consequence to interfere with the decision passed by the Customs authorities.

My Committee, with all respect for the Lieutenant-Governor, beg to dissent altogether from this ruling, which they consider to be directly opposed to the true intent and meaning of the exemption clause framed by the Legislature. It would be as reasonable, my Committee submit, to argue that the wheels of a locomotive are not component parts of the engine, because wheels could possi-

bly be cast here, or that the boiler of a steam engine was not a necessary component part thereof, because such boiler could be constructed here, as that the foundation plates and beams, on which exemption is claimed in this case, sent out as parts of this engine, and adapted for nothing else are not component parts thereof. Such an interpretation has never however been attempted by the Customs authorities in the one case, and the Committee of the Chamber desire respectfully to protest against so narrow and strained a construction of the Act in the other case.

I am desired in conclusion to express a hope that, in view of the importance of encouraging the introduction into this country of steam machinery used exclusively for purposes of agriculture, navigation, mining or manufacture or for railway purposes, and materials forming necessary component parts of such machinery, His Excellency in Council will instruct the Government of Bengal to re-consider the reference made by the Chamber, and that a broader and more liberal construction, which the Committee believe would be more in accordance with the spirit of the Act, may be placed upon it.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

H. W. I. WOOD,

Secretary.

No. 1898.

FROM

A. P. HOWELL, Esq.,

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India,

TO

THE SECY. TO THE BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Dated Simla, the 28th June 1865.

Home Department.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant with enclosures, and in reply to inform you that the papers have been transferred to the Financial Department.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A. P. HOWELL,

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

FROM

THE JUNIOR SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF
BENGAL,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE BENGAL CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE.

H. M's Yacht "Notes," the 6th Sept. 1865.

Customs.

SIR,—In continuation of the letter from this office No. 2246, dated the 16th June last, I am directed to state for the information of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce that the Government of India having ruled that the materials imported by the Goosery Cotton Mills Co. Limited come under the designation of machinery, the Lieutenant-Governor has issued orders to the Board of Revenue, directing the refund of the duty levied by the Collector of Customs from the Company.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

S. C. BAYLEY,

Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Calcutta, 11th September 1865.

S. H. ROBINSON, Esq.,

Secy. Goosery Cotton Mills Company.

DEAR SIR,—By my letter of 17th June I informed you of the result of the Chamber's reference to the Government of Bengal on the subject of duty levied by the Collector of Customs on certain parts of machinery imported by you, and of the intention to represent the case to higher authority; and I have now the satisfaction to communicate that the Governor General in Council has ruled that the materials imported by the Goosery Cotton Mills Company come under the designation of machinery, and that the Lieutenant-Gover-

nor has in consequence issued orders to the Board of Revenue to refund the duty.

Yours faithfully,

H. W. I. WOOD,

Secretary.

Calcutta, 20th September 1865.

H. W. I. WOOD, Esq.,

Secy., Chamber of Commerce.

DEAR SIR,—The Directors of the Goosery Cotton Mills Company Limited desire me to offer their best thanks to your Committee for supporting our claim for exemption from import duty on certain machinery imported by the Company, the successful result of which you communicated to me in your letter of 11th instant.

Should you intend to publish the correspondence in your next half-yearly report I am to request the favor of your having an extra number of copies* of that portion containing the correspondence printed off for the information of our shareholders, and any expense attending the same I should be glad to pay.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

S. H. ROBINSON,

Secy. Goosery Cotton Mills Company, Ll.

APPENDIX E.

REDUCTION OF DUTY ON SALTPETRE.

No. 105.

Mooltan, 14th August 1865.

THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

CALCUTTA.

Sir,—I ought to have thanked you sooner, which I now do, for the copy of the memorial of the Chamber of Commerce to the Viceroy and Governor General of India which you so kindly forwarded to me a short time ago.

But my object in making this communication to you is to entitle the aid and support of your Chamber with a view to the removal of the existing export duty on saltpetre. The Kurrachee Chamber of Commerce has recently forwarded a memorial to Government on the subject, and a similar representation at the present time from your Chamber would, doubtless, be attended with good results. For your Chamber must be fully informed of the existing condition of the trade. Indeed there is every probability of saltpetre ceasing to be an article of export so far as India is concerned even under the complete remission of the duty. I beg however, that your Chamber will move the Government in this matter as early as practicable, so that Indian saltpetre may at least be placed in a position to compete with the produce of other countries. Last year the prices of Calcutta and Bombay saltpetre were quoted respectively at 32 and 30 shillings per cent.; it is now 26 and 25 shillings.

The Company has managed with difficulty to continue its operations heretofore. But unless the trade is put on a better footing for the future, and that immediately, we must only wind up our affairs at a considerable sacrifice. I have, however, good hope that as it is the privilege of your Chamber to take Commerce generally under its special protection they will not overlook the claim which so splendid a trade as saltpetre has on their consideration, but will use every exertion to obtain the remission of a tax which is both heavy and injurious.

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I beg to annex for the information of your Chamber a statement shewing the quantity of saltpetre exported from the Punjab and Scinde between the years 1849 and 1865 as taken from the Kurrachee customs returns, and remain,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. C. JOHNSON,

Agent, Mooltan Saltpetre Company.

Extract from "Our Paper," dated 23rd June 1865.

1849-50	Cwts.	530
1850-51	"	5,948
1851-52	"	6,822
1852-53	"	4,710
1853-54	"	25,066
1854-55	"	33,844
1855-56	"	33,679
1856-57	"	59,027
1857-58	"	80,724
1858-59	"	13,109
1859-60	"	1,01,629
1860-61	"	89,770
1861-62	"	68,379
1862-63	"	37,300
1863-64	"	29,659
1864-65	"	25,436

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

Calcutta, 24th August 1865.

A. C. JOHNSON, Esq.,

Agent, Saltpetre Company, Mooltan.

Sir,—I have submitted to the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce your letter of the 14th instant, in which you urge them to move the Government of India to take off the remaining one rupee per maund duty on saltpetre.

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In reply I am directed to inform you that this Chamber has long advocated the free exportation of that important staple of the Indian trade; a large reduction of duty has already been made; and it will be satisfactory to the Chamber and to all who are interested in the article when the duty is totally repealed.

But it is expedient that due regard be had to the circumstances which at present attend the question of removal of duty, and that no endeavour to obtain further relief should be made unless accompanied by indisputable evidence of the necessity for granting it.

It is beyond question that the intrinsically cheaper European substitute manufactured from muriate of potash and nitrate of soda, obtained in abundance and at a very low cost, has materially depreciated the home market value of Indian saltpetre; and the circumstance of the artificial manufacture having thus far successfully competed with the product of this country would be the strongest argument that could be used in any memorial that might be presented to Government for reduction of duty.

If to the fact of competition with an artificial substitute and consequent depreciation could be superadded the continuous falling off of exports, no other conclusion could be arrived at than that the duty was an unjust and oppressive impost which should be at once removed.

Unfortunately our trade statistics not only do not establish that point but exhibit the very reverse.

Taking the exports from Calcutta since the last reduction of duty in March and comparing them with the exports for corresponding period in the two preceding years we find the following results:—

March	1863	45,800	1864	72,550	1865	1,01,300
April	"	75,000	"	10,200	"	84,700
May	"	80,950	"	29,750	"	82,050
June	"	51,000	"	68,250	"	43,000
July	"	35,800	"	46,250	"	52,300
Dr. Mds.		2,89,150		2,36,100		3,63,350
Tots.		10,662		8,637		13,322

The shipments of saltpetre from this port represent the bulk of exports from India and are adopted by Government as a proper index to the trade generally, and in the presence of the foregoing figured statement it would be impossible to point to diminished exports of saltpetre as a collateral result of its competition with the artificial manufacture; and so long as the exports shew no falling off, it will be difficult to persuade the Government of the impolicy of maintaining the duty.

Another material point to bear in mind is the assurance given by Sir Charles Trevelyan on the occasion of his last financial statement that no further change in the duty on saltpetre would be made for a 12-month, and with reference to that announcement and to the shipments made by merchants on the faith of that declaration—and it would be a manifest injustice to them if any further change was made—the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce are of opinion that any present movement for removal of the existing duty would be premature, and would not be attended with any good result. They will however be prepared to urge upon Government the claims of the article to be placed on the free list when next year's budget is under consideration. And the falling off in exports which may intermediately take place will furnish them with a powerful argument which at present is wanting.

I have, &c.,

J. W. I. WOOD,

Secretary.

No. 119.

Dated *Mooltan*, 4th September 1865.

To

H. W. I. WOOD, Esq.,

Secy. to the Chamber of Commerce,

Calcutta.

Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 24th August, and beg you will convey to your Committee my best thanks for the same.

I beg, however, to remark, with due deference to your Committee,

that although increased exports is a general criterion to judge of the prosperity, or otherwise, of the trade in an article, it cannot be taken as a safe guide in respect of saltpetre, for the circumstances connected with the production of that staple are exceptional. Large advances have, in the first instance, to be made to the manufacturers for the purpose of establishing the works and they have to be constantly renewed. Persons engaged in the trade rather than suffer so heavy a loss as would certainly follow the closing of the factories maintain them as best they can with the hope of the business proving eventually profitable. This has been exactly the case with us. For the last four years we have maintained our works intact but at a sacrifice, in spite of our establishment being on the most economical scale.

Moreover, I would observe that the increased exports in 1865 as shown in the figured statement contained in your letter have, doubtless, been stimulated by the late reduction of duty, but even from that statement there appears to have been a considerable falling off recently. In 1862 when your Chamber presented a memorial to Mr. Laing, the late Financial Member of the Council of India, for the removal of the duty, that gentleman pointed to the increased exports as a reason for making no alteration in the then existing financial arrangements. The consequence has been that, year by year, the exportation of saltpetre has decreased till it has been reduced to a minimum as compared to what it was before. In fact the saltpetre trade has been literally "starved out," to use the words so forcibly employed by Sir Charles Trevelyan on the occasion of his making his last financial statement as an argument for giving effect to the reduction of the duty prior to completion of the budget of the year. On the other hand your Chamber of Commerce have so ably pointed out in their memorial to the Viceroy and Governor General of India of the 10th April that a substitute had been found which could be produced at a cheaper rate than Indian saltpetre, that no more powerful argument, in my opinion, can be adduced for the complete remission of a duty the impolicy of which has long been apparent.

In regard to your allusion to Sir Charles Trevelyan's declaration on the occasion above referred to that no change should be made for a 12-month, it appears to me that it was never intended that, if circumstances demanded it in the interval, the tax should

not be entirely remitted. For it is evident that a measure of the kind would be of advantage both to the producer and exporter, since the former would be induced to lay out his capital under the assurance that the article was no longer fettered by an oppressive impost, while the latter would buy with the knowledge that it would be in a position at least to compete with the produce of other countries.

In the Punjab and Seinde extensive works formerly existed, but they have all been nearly closed since the imposition of the duty. In this province at least no factories save those belonging to us are at work. I have the honor to enclose for submission to your Committee a statement shewing the amount formerly demanded for the leases held by this Company, and that which is now paid in Shahpooor which is one of the greatest saltpetre producing districts in the Punjab.

I conclude with the earnest hope that your Chamber will be induced at once to take this matter into consideration and move the Government to abolish the tax. The advices brought out by the last mail from England point to a further fall in price, and the present would seem to be a favorable opportunity for addressing the Government on the subject again.

I remain,

Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

A. C. JOHNSON,

Agent, Mooltan Saltpetre Company.

SHAHPOOR DISTRICT.

Licence fees. Right to dig earth in Government reserves.

	Rs.	Rs.
1858-59	... 4,632	... 3,431
1859-60	... 3,394	... 6,426
1860-61	... 1,912	... 3,492
1861-62	... 1,482	... 2,166
1862-63	... 858	... 495
1863-64	... 422	... 241
1864-65	... 200	... 400
1865-66	... 200	... 400

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BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.
Calcutta, 20th September 1865.

A. C. JOHNSON, Esq.,
Agent, Saltpetre Company, Mooltan.

Sir,—The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce have had under consideration your further communication of the 4th instant relative to the saltpetre duty question.

The Committee note all that has been again urged by you for the relief of the saltpetre trade by at once removing the remaining one rupee per maund duty, but for the reasons which have been communicated to you already they are not prepared to make any present representation to Government.

I am, &c.,
H. W. I. WOOD,

Secretary.

Kurrachee, 31st August 1865.

FROM
THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
KURRACHEE,

TO
THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
CALCUTTA.

DEAR SIR,—I beg herewith to transmit a copy of a petition addressed by the Chamber of Commerce, Kurrachee, to the Secretary of State for India, praying for the repeal of the export duty imposed upon saltpetre, and to request, by direction of the Chamber, that you will be good enough to submit the same to your Chamber with a view that, should the members think fit, they may co-operate with us, and represent the local causes, as this Chamber has done, affecting the saltpetre trade in your part of the country.

I am, Dear Sir,
Your's faithfully,
A. N. DE FLEUREMONT,
Secretary.

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TO
THE RIGHT HON'BLE SIR C. WOOD, M. P.,
Secretary of State for India.

The Memorial of the Firms, composing
the Kurrachee Chamber of Commerce,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,—

That in 1862 the several Chambers of Commerce in India petitioned Government for the reduction or the repeal of the export duty levied upon saltpetre, on the ground that this duty was so burdensome as to check the trade and threaten its ultimate extinction, especially as the manufacture of artificial nitre was being extensively pursued in France at a cost with which Indian saltpetre could not possibly long compete. The Governor General in Council having referred the subject to the Board of Revenue, this body on the 22nd March 1862, reported "that there was no indication whatever of any check having been given to the export of saltpetre by the imposition of the present duty" (Rs. 2 per Indian maund) because the customs returns showed no falling off in the exports, and because, as they stated on the authority of a gunpowder-making firm in England, artificial nitre could not be manufactured at a less cost than 35s. per cwt., and consequently could never hope to compete with Indian saltpetre. Yet it was partly admitted that the export of the article from this country had been well maintained in 1860-61-62, through the impetus received from exceptional circumstances, such, for instance, as low freights at one time and the large demand in England and America at the other. This view of the subject taken by the Board confirmed the Governor General in his opinion previously expressed (Home Secretary's letter No. 438 dated 5th March 1862) to the effect that, "if, after the price shall have returned nearly to the level of former years, it should appear, by a continual falling off of exports, that Indian saltpetre is really exposed to the competition of an intrinsically cheaper article from other sources, Government would be quite prepared to re-consider the question." Keeping this declaration in view, and the fact that on the 9th March 1865 the duty was reduced by one-half, your memorialists feel warranted in inferring that the contingency Government apprehended three years ago has

at last arrived. But, without being prepared to say whether the reduction of one rupee in the duty will benefit the trade in other parts of India, your memorialists feel no hesitation in stating that, as far as Scinde and the Punjab are concerned, nothing short of the repeal of all export charges on saltpetre will serve to revive the trade in the two provinces. To go back before the conquest of Scinde we find that the Amers would not even subject the manufacture of saltpetre to the trifling annual tax of one rupee or one rupee eight annas on each "pan" used in refining the raw material, which our own Government has since imposed, and which in 1863 realized the very small sum of Rs. 1873-5-8. After the conquest (in 1817-48) the exports of saltpetre amounted to only 247 cwts. There was none in 1840. In 1852 the quantity exported had risen to 6,822 cwts. The local government about that time took some interest in the matter and even employed an experienced French gentleman, M. Bussy, then on a visit to Scinde, to enquire into the capabilities of the province as a field for the manufacture of saltpetre. M. Bussy's experiments were highly satisfactory; but unfortunately he knew neither English nor the vernacular, and the difficulty of procuring him interpreters induced the authorities to abandon the project of making him, as it were, an instructor in the manufacture of saltpetre. Still M. Bussy's success and the interest manifested by Government in the prosperity of this branch of local commerce, attracted several enterprising men, one of them an American gentleman, to enter largely into business, and in 1854 we find the exports amounting to 25,066 cwts. Since then, up to the present fiscal year, the following have been the quantities exported annually.

1855-56	33,678	cwts.
1856-57	59,017	"
1857-58	80,724	"
1858-59	1,41,045	"
1859-60	1,01,629	"
1860-61	89,761	"
1861-62	68,379	"
1862-63	37,290	"
1863-64	29,659	"
1864-65	25,435	"

Your Excellency's attention is respectfully invited to the large exportations in 1858-59 and 1859-60, when the demand in England and the United States of America was very great. This fact side by side with the gradual decrease perceptible since 1859-60 indicates plainly that either the adventitious circumstances which developed the trade to such a degree as to make it appear in the eyes of Government a profitable source of revenue no longer exist, or that competition from artificial nitre—which at the present moment costs 25s per cwt, instead of 35s., as it did at first—is seriously felt in the home markets; whether it is one or the other of the above causes, or both, which have occasioned the stagnation of the saltpetre trade, your memorialists venture to reiterate the opinion that this trade cannot be restored unless the duty complained of is removed. In further support of this opinion, they beg to observe that in 1863 there were about 250 refineries in the province, a large proportion of which were carried on by European firms who now have either suspended operations or entirely sold out at a heavy sacrifice—although the quantity of saltpetre that can be manufactured may be said to be unlimited, and though the raw material is procurable from the ruins of old villages and towns, abounding in all parts of Scinde, some covering an area of 40 acres, and over which the plough can never pass, because the soil is valueless for agricultural purposes, the manufacturer has greater difficulties to contend against than he would have to surmount in Bengal. In many places in Scinde, especially where the saltpetre sites are situated, supplies of wood and water are hard to obtain and therefore prove expensive, whilst the maintenance of establishments, owing to the climate, and the necessity of sheltering them well entails a heavy expenditure upon these engaged in the business. Thus, the facilities for refining the article being few, and the duty the same on the raw material as on the prepared, the duty is exercising nothing less than a prohibitory effect upon the trade.

Your memorialists would further represent that the danger of being touched by water to which cargoes of saltpetre are so much exposed during a long sea voyage, inflicting a total loss upon owners, is another serious disadvantage the Indian trade has to contend

against, which does not effect artificial nitre, or saltpetre procured nearer the home markets, to reach which it is scarcely exposed to the same risks.

For the reasons above set forth your memorialists sincerely trust that Your Excellency will take into favorable consideration the advisability of ordering the repeal of duties on saltpetre.

And your memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray.

(Sd.) A. E. DENISS,

AND THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE AND CHAMBER.

(True Copy)

A. N. DE FLEURIMONT,

Secretary.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

Calcutta, 13th October 1865.

To

THE SECRETARY, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

KURRACHEE.

DEAR SIR,—In acknowledging receipt of your letter of the 31st August covering copy of a petition to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, praying for the repeal of the export duty on saltpetre, I am desired by my Committee to state that in their opinion any present movement for the removal of the duty would be premature and lead to no successful issue.

The Committee are as desirous as yourselves to see the remaining duty taken off, and are confident that the Government of India will remove the burthen as soon as they are satisfied that the trade cannot bear the weight of it; and it will be the duty of this Chamber to take the earliest opportunity of bringing this question under the consideration of the Governor General in Council if circumstances are favourable to a further representation.

I am at the same time directed to remark that on the occasion of the last Financial Statement Sir Charles Trevelyan declared that no alteration in the duty (which had been a few weeks previously reduced from two rupees to one rupee per maund) would be made for a 12-month; and it would be a manifest injustice to those who have since entered into operations in saltpetre under the distinct pledge which was then given on behalf of Government if any change were introduced earlier than the period indicated.

Yours faithfully,

H. W. I. WOOD,

Secretary.

APPENDIX. F.

DETENTION OF OVERLAND MAILS AT GALLE.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

Calcutta, 20th July 1865.

E. C. BAYLEY, Esq.,

Secy. to the Government of India,

Home Department, Simla.

SIR,—The unusual detention of the overland mails at an intermediate port is a subject which the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce consider it their duty to bring to the notice of Government; and I am desired to request you will be so good as to submit the following instances for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council, in order that His Excellency may have the opportunity of taking such further notice of them as may appear expedient.

The Committee refer to the detention at Galle of the mail contract packets "Simla" and "Bengal" with the London mails of 26th May and 10th June.

The "Simla" arrived at Galle at 7 P. M. of 18th June, and left at 6-30 A. M. of 21st, being nearly 72 hours in port.

The "Bengal" arrived at Galle at 6-30 A. M. of 3rd July and left at 3 P. M. of the 6th, being upwards of 80 hours in port.

It happens occasionally that the steamer is detained at Galle for the mails and passengers by the China or Australia line, that being provided for by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's contract, and no objection can be made to such provision.

But in the two instances now under consideration the detention could not have been occasioned by the expected arrival of the China and Australian mails, since in the case of the "Simla" the China and Australian packets arrived two days previously; and in the case of the "Bengal," the China mail arrived the same day.

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Assuming 24 hours' stoppage at Galle to be ample time for re-aling, &c., the mails might have been delivered in Calcutta two days earlier, that is on the 24th June and 10th July instead of the 26th and 12th.

The Peninsular and Oriental Company may possibly justify the detention by a strict adherence to their contract, which allows 42 days for the conveyance of mails from Southampton to Calcutta; but His Excellency in Council will probably be of opinion that the company might conduct their contract in a more liberal spirit, and, instead of unnecessarily detaining the mails at an intermediate port, give the public, by whom they are handsomely subsidised, the benefit of any time economised by an unusually rapid passage from Suez.

The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce therefore respectfully represent this question for the consideration of the Governor General in Council, in the hope that His Excellency will refer it to Her Majesty's Government with the view to the unnecessary detention of mails at intermediate ports being authoritatively prohibited.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

H. W. I. WOOD,

Secretary.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

Calcutta, 24th July 1865.

E. C. BAYLEY, Esq.,

Secy. to the Government of India,

Home Department, Simla.

SIR,—I am desired by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to supplement the representation made in my letter of the 20th instant, by citing an additional instance of detention of the English mails at Galle.

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The incoming mail steamer "Candia," from Suez for Calcutta, reached Galle on the 19th instant at about 9 A. M., but did not continue her voyage till 7 A. M. of the 22nd: she was consequently nearly three days in harbour.

This practice on the part of the contract carriers of the public mails is considered by the Chamber of Commerce so objectionable that they trust a prompt and energetic remonstrance by His Excellency the Governor General in Council will prevent a recurrence of a great public inconvenience.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

H. W. I. WOOD,

Secretary.

No. 631 A,

From

A. M. MONTEATH, Esq.,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE BENGAL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Dated Simla, the 3rd August 1865.

Home Department.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters dated the 20th and 24th ultimo respectively, and in reply to inform you that a copy of your communications has been forwarded to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A. M. MONTEATH,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

APPENDIX G.

INCREASED STEAM POSTAGE FROM CALCUTTA TO CHINA, CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, MAURITIUS, THE AUSTRALIAN COLONIES, &c.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

Calcutta, 31st August 1865.

E. C. BAYLEY, Esq.,

Secretary to the Government of India,

Home Department,

Simla.

SIR,—By a notification dated Simla, the 18th instant, the Director General of the Post Office announces that after the 1st September 1865 the steam postage on covers despatched to the Australian Colonies, China, (including Hong-kong) Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Ascension, and Mauritius, will be eight annas per half ounce, one rupee per ounce, and one rupee additional for every (additional) one ounce or fraction of an ounce.

With reference to that notification the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce instruct me to observe that if it has been issued as a departmental order of the Post Office of India, the increase of postage from four to eight annas per half ounce is clearly in contravention of Section XXV of Act XVII of 1854; and if it has been issued in consequence of instructions from Her Majesty's Post Master General, and the enhanced rates are chargeable under Section XXVII, in that case the Committee are of opinion that the authority which directed the levy of such enhanced rates should have been expressed. That section provides for the recovery of postage "charged by Her Majesty's Post Master General," but the notification is altogether silent as to the authority under which the rates are to be doubled; consequently as it now stands it is interpreted as the Act of the Government of India, and as being at variance with the law.

But apart from the consideration of the irregularity or illegality of the Director General's notification the Committee cannot but regard this additional burden upon the public as involving great injustice and very questionable policy.

No reason has been assigned why the existing rates of postage should be thus excessively increased, and the modified charge is introduced without any intimation of the slightest compensating convenience or accommodation, present or prospective.

It may possibly be the purpose of Her Majesty's Government, or of the Government of India, that the additional taxation shall be accompanied by advantages which will reconcile the public to the oppressive charges to which their correspondence has been so peremptorily subjected; and it will be satisfactory, especially to mercantile men, if it is in the power of His Excellency the Governor General in Council to communicate any corresponding concessions which can recommend the measure.

I have, &c.,
H. W. I. WOOD,
Secretary.

No. 3294.

FROM

E. C. BAYLEY, Esq.,
Secy. to the Government of India,

TO

H. W. I. WOOD, Esq.,
Secretary, Bengal Chamber of Commerce,
Simla, the 25th October 1865.

Home Department.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 31st August, which transmits a representation from the Chamber of Commerce in Calcutta, on the subject of a notification which was issued by the Director General of the Post Office in India, on the 18th August last, directing an increase in the rates of steam postage on letters between India, Australia, China, the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Ascension and the Mauritius.

2. Since the date of your letter, the Director General has issued a further notification (in the Gazette of India of the 23rd September last,) from which it will be perceived that, as the Chamber rightly surmised, the previous notification was issued under Section 27 of Act 17 of 1854, and in virtue of a warrant from the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury in England, which document has now been published at length.

3. I am, however, desirous, in order to put the Chamber in possession of full information, to enclose a copy of the letter from Mr. Tilley, dated General Post Office, 6th July 1865, which has been forwarded to the Government of India by H. M.'s Secretary of State for India, as explaining the grounds on which it was decided by H. M.'s Government in England to issue the warrant in question.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
E. C. BAYLEY,
Secretary to the Government of India.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
6th July 1865.

THURMAN MERIVALE, Esq.,
India Office.

SIR,—In September 1855, a treasury warrant was issued reducing from one shilling to four pence the sea-rate of postage on a letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, carried by packet between any two British Colonies or between any British colony and any foreign port at which a British packet might touch, such letters of course in no case passing through the United Kingdom; and this rate is still considered sufficient for the sea postage upon letters carried from port to port in the West Indies, &c.; but the Post Master General is of opinion that it is quite insufficient for letters carried over long distances by sea, such, for instance, as letters between the Cape of Good Hope and India, China or Australia, for

wanted via Mauritius, or between India and Australia, forwarded via Point de Galle. In both these instances the letters are carried by more than one line of packets, and the low rate of four pence is insufficient to cover the cost of their transport.

Independently of the long distance over which these letters are carried as above stated, there are two other circumstances which, in the opinion of the Post Master General, make it necessary to increase the sea postage.

1st. This office has engaged to pay the Union Steamship Company half the sea-postage on letters carried by their packets from the Cape to Mauritius, and consequently if the rate be left at four pence, two pence only will remain for the expense of conveying a letter by packet from Mauritius to Aden, and thence to Sydney, a distance of nearly ten thousand miles, or to Hong-kong a distance of more than seven thousand miles.

2ndly. Since the establishment of the French packets of the Indo-China and Mauritius lines, occasions frequently happen in which a mail from one colony for another colony is carried by a British packet as far as Aden, Point de Galle or Mauritius, the three points of junction, and, arriving there intermediately between the departure of two British packets, but just in time for a French packet (whose periods of sailing are fitted to these intermediate lines) is sent on by such French packet. In these cases payment for the sea conveyance, at the rate of about one shilling an ounce, has to be made to France, absorbing at the present rate of charge the whole of the sea-postage; although a portion, and often the larger portion, of the sea conveyance has been performed by British packet.

Under these circumstances Lord Stanley of Alderley has thought it necessary to bring the matter under the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, who, concurring with his Lordship in opinion that the postage for letters conveyed over long distances ought to be raised, have been pleased by their warrant dated the 1st instant (copies enclosed) to increase from 4d. to 10d. the single rate of packet postage on all letters forwarded between the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, St. Helena, Ascension or

Mauritius on the one side, and India, China or Australia on the other side, as well as on letters between Australia and India or China. This sea-rate of 10d. added to the Colonial inland rate of one penny charged by the dispatching and receiving colonies respectively, will make the total postage one shilling the half ounce, instead of six pence as at present.

The present sea-rate of four pence charged on letters sent intermediately between any two ports in India or between India and Ceylon, or between Hong-kong and Penang or Singapore, will remain unaltered.

I have to beg that you will move the Secretary of State for India in Council to communicate to the Government of India the alteration which has been determined on in the rates of postage on letters sent by packet direct between India and Australia, China, Mauritius, the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, St. Helena, and Ascension, requesting them to give the necessary instructions to the Post Office of India for collecting the increased rates of postage, commencing on the 1st September next, and for accounting to this department at the rate of 10d. instead of 4d. the half ounce letter on all letters to or from the colonies referred to, the postage of which may be collected in India.

I am, &c.,

(Sd.) J. TILLEY,

(A true Copy.)

E. C. BAYLEY,

Secretary to the Government of India.

APPENDIX H.

PUBLICATION IN THE TELEGRAPH GAZETTE OF PARTICULARS OF ARRIVALS AT SAUGOR.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Calcutta, 31st August 1865.

LIEUT.-COLONEL D. C. ROBINSON,
Officiating Director General of

Electric Telegraphs in India.

SIR,—The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce desire me to thank you for the promptitude with which the publication of the weather reports has been renewed in the Telegraph Gazette: and at the same time to request you will similarly oblige them with respect to the publication of *particulars of arrivals* at Saugor. This used to be done formerly and was found most serviceable, and the Committee trust you will permit the former system to be continued.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

H. W. I. WOOD,

Secretary.

No. 1301

FROM

THE OFFG. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
TELEGRAPHS IN INDIA.

To

H. W. I. WOOD, Esq.,

Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

Dated Calcutta, 6th September 1865.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter without number dated the 31st August 1865, and in reply to state

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For the information of the Chamber of Commerce that the particulars of arrivals at Saugor were formerly furnished by the commanders of vessels, landed at Koldree, and sent on by telegraph from that station. On the 10th June 1865 the Telegraph Office at Koldree was closed, since when no particulars of arrivals at Saugor have been either received or published by this department. There is some difficulty about getting the particulars of arrivals sent to the Telegraph Offices at Saugor, Mud Point, Diamond Harbour, and Hooghly Point which is, I conclude, the reason why they are not received and published; but if arrangements can be made for their being sent to any of the above Telegraph stations they will be sent on to Calcutta and published in the Gazette.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

D. MURRAY, Major,

In charge of Office of Officiating Director General of

Telegraphs in India.

APPENDIX I

MILDEW DAMAGE IN COTTON PIECE GOODS.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE APPOINTED TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF MILDEW DAMAGE IN PIECE GOODS AND YARN.

In submitting the accompanying abstract statement of the extent of mildew damage, compiled from returns furnished by the undermentioned firms, your Committee would remark that, in accordance with the resolution passed at the general meeting held on the 5th ultimo, they have endeavoured to ascertain the extent of the evil, the losses incurred by goods so damaged, and the many serious injuries with which its prevalence has been accompanied; but they have not in any way alluded to the cause or origin of mildew in English cotton fabrics nor have they suggested a remedy.

2. Several large importers, (who are well-known to have experienced extensive damage of this nature) having declined to contribute their returns, it is to be regretted that fuller and consequently more valuable statistics cannot be furnished; the Committee are however of opinion that the returns now published sufficiently serve to show the alarming extent to which this important branch of our trade has been effected.

3. Apart from the consideration of the pecuniary losses incurred by allowances and re-sales, your Committee desire to draw particular attention to the additional and perhaps more serious evils arising from the prevalence of mildew; they allude to the forfeiture of that confidence which native dealers formerly had in English-made cloth of known marks and numbers, the endless disputes which have proceeded from the settlement of allowances, and the many instances of litigation which have resulted from the buyers refusing to take delivery of or pay in full for damaged goods.

4. There are strong grounds for concluding that the prevalence of this evil has seriously interfered with the consumption of Eng-

lish manufactures in this country; their durability has undoubtedly deteriorated, and there has been an increased demand for country-made fabrics; this aversion to purchase English cloth has been very general of late, and up-country dealers complain bitterly of the losses they have sustained by the purchase of goods, which, on arrival, have opened out damaged by mildew, or rotten and worthless; their agents here are inundated with claims and complaints, but no allowances are usually given by European houses when the bales have once left their godowns. In order more fully to illustrate the subject matter of these complaints, your Committee think that the publication of extracts from native letters may prove of some weight; they have accordingly inserted copies of several placed at their disposal by a member of the Chamber.

5. An analysis of the returns will show the following percentage of Goods and Yarn which have turned out damaged by mildew:—

White Mule Yarn	... 12 per cent.
Colored ditto.	... 6½ ”
Grey Shirtings and Long-cloths	... 21½ ”
Grey Jaconets and Mulls	... 21½ ”
Grey Madapollaus and T. Cloths	... 17½ ”
Colored Goods	... ½ ”
Bleached Goods	... 3½ ”

The damage is chiefly confined to grey cloth, the percentage on bleached and colored being only 2½ per cent., while on grey it is as much as 21½ per cent. Your Committee trust that the publication of these figures amongst those interested in the trade of this country, particularly manufacturers and shippers of fabrics suited for this market, will have a beneficial effect, and that this evil which threatens to materially diminish the consumption of English-made cloth will speedily disappear.

6. In conclusion your Committee desire to tender their best thanks to those who have so promptly and willingly supplied them

with the valuable information now in their possession, and to which they hope the widest publicity will be given.

JOHN N. BULLEN, *President.*

M. HENDERSON,

T. H. MOSLEY,

WALTER DUNCAN,

R. SCOTT MONGRIEFF,

H. M. AITKEN,

A. G. GRAHAM,

J. F. RUTHERFORD,

CALCUTTA,

21th October, 1865. }

STATEMENT OF MILDEW DAMAGE FURNISHED BY THE
FOLLOWING FIRMS:—

Argenti, Sechinri and Co.
Barton, Baynes and Co.
Begg, Dunlop and Co.
Balfour and Co.
Bornsallie, Schiller and Co.
Cairies, Nephews and Co.
Crooks, Rame and Co.
Ernsthausen and Oesterley.
Ewing and Co.
Elliot, John and Co.
Ferguson, J. H.
Gibson and Co.
Gordon, Stuart and Co.
Graft, Smith and Co.
Graham and Co.
Henderson and Co.
Henderson, George and Co.
Hoare, Miller and Co.
Kettlewell, Dallen and Co.

Kelly and Co.
Ker, Dods and Co.
Mackillop, Stewart and Co.
Mackinnon, Mackenzie and Co.
Mosley and Hurst.
Pearce, Macrae and Co.
Pennington and Co.
Playfair, Duncan and Co.
Petrocochino, E. E. and Co.
Ralli Brothers.
Rao Gopani Ghose and Co.
Schillizzi and Co.
Shand, Patric and Co.
Schroder, Smith and Co.
Stevenson, Peel and Co.
Turner, Morrison and Co.
Wiseman, Smead and Co.
Yule, Andrew and Co.

Descriptions.	No. of Bales sold from 1st Aug. to 31st Aug. 1865.	Net Weight in tons.	Allowances to buyers settled by private arrangement.	Lesses incurred by Auction sale.	Survey fee.	Total Lesses and allowances.
White Mule Yarn ..	7,815	949	10,537 8 0	0 0 0	160	10,747 8 0
Colored Ditto (all kinds)	658	45	1,500 0 0	0 0 0	22	1,532 0 0
Grey Shirtings and Long Cloths	35,010	7,571	71,531 3 6	67,947 10 1	1,600	141,678 13 7
Grey Jacquets and Malls	6,414	1,401	10,950 8 0	35,445 4 3	320	46,711 12 3
Grey Madapolams and T. Cloths	6,841	1,383	8,433 10 6	20,555 0 6	272	29,261 1 0
Colored Goods	5,209	30	552 0 0	0 0 0	14	568 0 0
Washed Goods	10,007	331	6,985 12 0	6,650 0 0	0	12,635 12 0
Total ..	78,133	11,565	116,510 18 0	117,293 4 10	2,416	236,424 14 10

Translations of native letters received from up-country dealers by their Calcutta correspondents.

No. 1.—FROM RAMSOOK JUGULKISSORE.

Mirzapore, 15th July 1865.

We have received the 15 bales Grey Shirtings, 5 bales A's, 7 bales B's and 3 bales D's, 2 bales A's have been opened and turned out damaged—15 to 20 pieces—on these we shall have to make an allowance of Rs. 26 on one bale, and Rs. 40 on the other; 2 bales D's are opened which are sold and delivered at an allowance of Rs. 17 for the two bales; one of B's is opened and is entirely rotten, and if you instruct us by post we will return them to Calcutta.

You don't see the bales with your own eyes, but sit at home; how do make your purchases? If you send such goods there will be heavy loss, we will sell such goods on your account, and what-

ever loss we incur here you must recover from the parties from whom you bought them. Before you make your purchases examine the goods closely; damaged goods are unsaleable.

No. 2.—FROM BISSESHAR NAUTH.

Calcutta, 4th August 1865.

Many packages from Calcutta have arrived here and rain has fallen at this place; for the last two days goods have been selling in less quantity than before, and nearly all the goods that have come to different people are turning out damaged, which goods it is impossible to sell to the dealers. How have you sent such goods here? Have you seen them or not before you sent them?

No. 3.—FROM CHOUTMULL SUNTOOKCHUND.

Delhi, 1st August 1865.

All the grey goods that have come to the Chooreewallahs from Calcutta to this place are turning out damaged, and our buyers will not take damaged goods. A's Grey Shirtings are sound, all other goods turn out damaged; B's 2 bales have turned out quite rotten, and the Grey Jaconets have also turned out mildew damaged, and the buyers are wanting an allowance of 50 Rs. per bale. We have offered Rs. 25 to 30 to which they do not agree, but this will be settled.

No. 4.—FROM RAMSOOK BANYERSAD.

Miratsur, 16th August 1865.

Four bales Grey Cloth that you have bought from A and sent them here about one and half months ago, have turned out very much damaged, and the buyers want an allowance of Rs. 200 on them, so recover this amount from the above parties, and do not pay their chitties until the allowance is settled; the utmost we will get is 5 to 6 Rs. per bale, as profit after deducting all the

charges; then how can we afford to lose Rs. 50 per bale. Of 14 bales 7lbs., from B, one has turned out very much damaged, the buyers wanted 100 Rs. allowance, but we settled it at 85 Rs. Do not pay the chitties until the above sum is recovered; 5 bales C's have turned out mildew damaged, the buyers want an allowance of Rs. 25 per bale, if they do not agree to this we will send back the bales. We think we shall be obliged to shut our shop for Piece Goods business rather than be bothered with these damages, for it is impossible to force these damaged goods on people who are unwilling to take them at any allowance. If you can manage things better and do not buy damaged goods, we can go on as before, otherwise we will give up this line of business.

No. 5.—FROM HUNSUNTORAM SODASOOK.

Bachowny, 6th August 1865.

A's Grey Shirtings have turned out damaged—damaged goods are very difficult to sell, and if you write we will send them back to you, and you can return them to the party from whom you bought them; here the buyers will not give us more than 5-14 per piece for them.

Three bales B's have turned out damaged and rotten, we have sold one bale at an allowance of 100 Rs, and the other two bales are lying unsold in the godown. Of C's Jaconets 15 pieces are quite rotten, and 125 pieces are mildew damaged; we cannot understand how you buy these sorts of goods, we hear that the English people are selling their goods by auction, and the buyers resell these goods as fresh in the bazar. It is impossible for us to sell these damaged goods; you can tell the persons from whom you bought these damaged goods to ask any of their friends here to take over these goods from us after paying for the amount and all the charges incurred thereon.

No. 6.—FROM GJEDHARELOLL SEW LOLL.

Unratsur, 5th August 1865.

Do not send us a single piece of grey goods, for whatever grey goods arrive here are mostly damaged goods, and you write that you

get a small allowance for the damaged at Calcutta. In Calcutta, it may be, damaged goods are sold freely, but here, no body wants to buy damaged goods, and all the goods that you have sent here are lying in our godowns. From this time you send us only white goods and prints, and not any kinds of grey goods, because all the grey goods that are coming here to other people are mostly damaged and therefore entail heavy losses; and we hear also that numberless disputes are arising between buyers and sellers in Calcutta.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

Calcutta, 25th October 1865.

To

HUGH FLEMING, Esq.,

Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Manchester.

Sir,—A special general meeting of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce was held on the 5th ultimo for the purpose of considering what steps should be taken by importers of Manchester manufactures with regard to the internal unsoundness of grey goods, commonly known as *mildew damage*; and a Committee was appointed to collect facts illustrative of its nature and extent, the result of whose investigation it was determined should be made known as widely as possible with the view of checking, and if possible of ultimately preventing, an evil which seriously affected the trade in its chief staple.

The Committee have presented their report, and I am desired to forward a copy of it for submission to the Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

It will be observed that the Committee have confined their enquiry to the classes of goods which have been attacked by mildew,

the number of packages damaged compared with the number sold, and the amount of losses sustained by allowances to native dealers and by sales by auction; and that they have abstained from entering into the question of the causes of the evil and of the remedial measures which should be adopted.

The facts disclosed by the report are of grave concern to all connected with the trade in Manchester goods.

That mildew damage existed to a considerable extent and entailed heavy losses has been notorious for some time; but the figured statement appended to the report (imperfect as it is from want of returns from *all* importers) exhibits a far more serious extent of the evil than was generally apprehended, and appears to justify the unfavourable conclusions expressed in the 3rd and 4th paragraphs of the report. It is essential to the integrity and success of the trade that the occasion of so much discredit and reproach be removed without delay: and this Chamber of Commerce performs its part of a common duty by placing before you, as representatives of the manufacturing interests of your city, the facts which it has gathered together for your consideration, and for such active measures as may appear expedient to be adopted with the view to suppress a scandalous evil of great magnitude and of the most mischievous influence on our local trade.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. W. I. WOOD,

Secretary.

APPENDIX J.

COTTON CULTIVATION IN THE NORTH WESTERN PROVINCES.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

Calcutta, 21st August 1865.

R. SIMSON, Esq.,

Secretary to the Government of the North

Western Provinces, Allahabad.

Sir,—As a trustworthy report of the condition and probable out-turn of the cotton crop in the North-west provinces, will be of material interest to those who are engaged in the cotton trade, the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce have been moved to place themselves in communication with the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor with the view to obtain whatever information it may be in his power to give them, and I am desired to submit this application in their behalf.

The reports which have been from time to time furnished to the Chamber of Commerce relative to cotton cultivation in the upper provinces of India have been of much service, and the Committee have had them reprinted for extended circulation both here and at home.

At the present moment attention is particularly directed to two important points, viz:—

1st.—The extent of reduction in cultivation, as compared with last year's, in districts where sowings have been made in time.

2nd.—The extent of cultivation in districts in which, owing to absence of rains, there have been no sowings or sowings only on a very limited scale.

And if his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will be pleased to direct special attention to these inquiries and to furnish the Cham-

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ber with any results they may lead to, the Committee will feel extremely indebted.

While submitting the subject of cotton thus prominently before the Lieutenant-Governor, the Committee are not unmindful of the various cereal crops upon which the population of the North-west are more or less dependent, and they would be glad to receive a general idea of the cultivation in these respects. But they trust His Honor will permit the former subject to receive early attention and disposal, independent of the latter question which the Committee do not press for immediate inquiry.

I have, &c.,

H. W. I. WOOD,

Secretary.

No. 3264 A., of 1865.

From

C. ROBERTSON, Esq.,

Offy. Junior Secretary to the Government of the

N. W. Provinces.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE BENGAL CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE.

Dated Nyaoo Tel, the 5th of September 1865.

GENERAL DIREC.
N. W. P.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st ultimo, in which the Bengal Chamber of Commerce ask to be furnished with a report of the condition and probable out-turn of the cotton crop in these provinces.

2. In reply I am to state that the subject has already engaged the attention of this Government, and that the Sudder Board of Revenue are now collecting information preparatory to submitting a report, which it is hoped will soon be completed.

3. I am to add that the Board of Revenue have been instructed

to forward a copy of their report direct to the Chamber of Commerce.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

C. ROBERTSON,

Offg. Junior Secretary to the Government of the
N. W. Provinces.

No. 723 of 1865.

FROM

W. CHICHELE PLOWDEN, Esq.,

Secretary to the Board of Revenue,

North-Western Provinces.

TO

R. SIMSON, Esq.,

Secretary to the Government of the

North-Western Provinces.

Dated Allahabad, the 4th November 1865.

REVENUE

Present:
R. MOORE, }
Senior Member; }
C. H. THOMPSON, }
Junior Member. }
2

Sir,—I am directed by the Board to submit the following report on the state and prospects of the cotton crop this season, as compared with previous years.

2. His Honor will not be surprised to learn that, as compared both with 1864 and 1863, the breadth of land now under cotton has very largely diminished. The large decrease is, without doubt, to be attributed to the remarkable fall in prices, which originated in rumours of peace in America, a fall which has steadily continued till, at the commencement of last sowing season, cotton in some districts had fallen to the rate at which it was selling before the commencement of the disturbances in the United States.

3. The accompanying table gives the price of cotton at several of the largest marts in these provinces during the past twelve months.

4. It will be noticed that, in May and June, cotton was no where fetching a higher price than Rs. 16 the munda, and had fallen as low as Rs. 8 ; while in October 1864, it was selling as high as Rs. 40 a munda.

Table showing the prices of Cotton (at wholesale) per munda.

Date.	Meerut		Agra		Benares		Cawnpore		Allahabad		Mirzapore		Shahjehanpore	
	Rs.	P.	Rs.	P.	Rs.	P.	Rs.	P.	Rs.	P.	Rs.	P.	Rs.	P.
Close of October, 1864, . . .	35	0	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
November, 1864, . . .	34	0	30	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
December, 1864, . . .	17	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
January, 1865, . . .	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
February, 1865, . . .	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
March, 1865, . . .	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
April, 1865, . . .	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May, 1865, . . .	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
June, 1865, . . .	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July, 1865, . . .	13	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
August, 1865, . . .	13	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
September, 1865, . . .	13	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

5. The principal sufferers by these variations have been the commercial classes. But the losses they have in many cases sustained have re-acted upon the agriculturists, and several of the district officers have taken occasion, in their reports, to notice the great restriction of advances to cultivators on the part of the Mahajans and Bhorals. The result has been a great contraction of cultivation, which has now fallen below what it was in 1863, and is quite 50 per cent. below that of last year.

6. The season has been not unfavourable. The rains were unfortunately deferred till a very late date, but they have fallen in abundance, and the general aspect of the crop may be said to be promising. The yield, acre per acre, will probably be quite as large as it was last year.

7. In the Rohilkhand, Meerut and Jhansi Divisions, the crop is said to be flourishing. In the Allahabad division, it is said to be good ; in that of Agra average ; and it is only in the Tenares division, where but little cotton is grown, that there is said to be a prospect of a bad harvest.

8. The following are the details for each district —
 STATEMENT showing the area and estimated out-turn of Cotton
 in seasons during 1865-66.

DISTRICTS	AREA AND OUT-TURN IN MOUNDS OF 40 CUBES, OR 80 BLS.						REMARKS
	1864-65.			1865-66.			
	The area and estimated out-turn, according to the Report of 24th Oct. last.	The area and estimated out-turn, according to the Report of 24th Oct. last.	The area and estimated out-turn, according to the Report of 24th Oct. last.	The area and estimated out-turn, according to the Report of 24th Oct. last.	The area and estimated out-turn, according to the Report of 24th Oct. last.	The area and estimated out-turn, according to the Report of 24th Oct. last.	
Delan Division (a)	Acres 630	Mounds 1,200	Mounds 877	Acres 630	Mds. 1,200	Mds. 877	Crop said to be fair
Solan District (a)	49,500	75,000	55,436	31,250	51,500	37,000	addition of the crop
Northampton (a)	45,600	70,000	50,000	27,410	42,000	30,000	Prospects all
Northampton (b)	1,00,000	1,50,000	1,10,000	57,710	87,000	62,000	Prospects all
Northampton (c)	95,500	1,20,000	80,000	50,000	70,000	50,000	Prospects all
Albany (a)	1,10,000	1,70,000	1,20,000	51,000	75,000	55,000	Prospects good; bet-
Total of Merck Division (a)	1,02,450	1,73,200	1,28,721	1,06,310	1,54,700	1,12,000	ter said expected
Rumson (a)	1,375	1,800	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	from that of 1st
Hibon (a)	27,500	47,000	37,000	26,800	47,000	37,000	harvest.
Northwell (a)	27,500	47,000	37,000	26,800	47,000	37,000	Average crop.
Basives (a)	60,000	70,000	50,000	30,000	40,000	30,000	Prospects fair.
Facilly (a)	60,000	70,000	50,000	30,000	40,000	30,000	Prospects fair.
Shoepington (a)	20,000	30,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	20,000	Very good
Area District (a)	7,000	9,000	7,000	7,000	9,000	7,000	Indifferent.
Total of Northwell Division (a)	277,450	480,700	376,310	1,11,500	1,50,300	1,10,000	
Mathes (a)	1,50,000	210,000	1,50,000	60,000	80,000	60,000	Crop average rather
Long (a)	1,70,000	240,000	1,80,000	60,000	80,000	60,000	less.
Leff (a)	60,000	90,000	60,000	30,000	40,000	30,000	But average
Mypony (a)	50,000	70,000	50,000	20,000	30,000	20,000	Comp. fair, but will be
Farwood (a)	20,000	30,000	20,000	10,000	15,000	10,000	fair.
Erwin (a)	20,000	30,000	20,000	10,000	15,000	10,000	Backward, but fair
Total of Area District	5,56,000	817,200	5,10,000	2,00,750	2,80,000	2,00,000	average.
John (a)	5,000	7,000	5,000	5,000	7,000	5,000	Very fair.
John (b)	7,000	10,000	7,000	7,000	10,000	7,000	Very fair.
John (c)	7,000	10,000	7,000	7,000	10,000	7,000	Very fair.
John (d)	7,000	10,000	7,000	7,000	10,000	7,000	Very fair.
Total of Northwell Division	61,700	85,000	61,510	47,800	63,000	47,810	Very good.

DISTRICTS	AREA AND OUT-TURN IN MOUNDS OF 40 CUBES, OR 80 BLS.						REMARKS
	1864-65.			1865-66.			
	The area and estimated out-turn, according to the Report of 24th October, 1865.	The area and estimated out-turn, according to the Report of 24th October, 1865.	The area and estimated out-turn, according to the Report of 24th October, 1865.	The area and estimated out-turn, according to the Report of 24th October, 1865.	The area and estimated out-turn, according to the Report of 24th October, 1865.	The area and estimated out-turn, according to the Report of 24th October, 1865.	
Crompore (a)	Acres 11,714	Mds. 81,400	Mds. 47,057	Acres 11,714	Mds. 81,400	Mds. 47,057	Crop very good.
Hemscrope (a)	11,100	81,700	50,000	11,100	81,700	50,000	Most of crop left in
Pothpore (a)	46,500	80,500	60,000	46,500	80,500	60,000	the early part of the
Beas (a)	1,11,300	1,70,000	1,10,000	1,11,300	1,70,000	1,10,000	harvest. The
Albany (a)	27,800	40,000	27,000	27,800	40,000	27,000	harvest runs in the
Hemscrope (a)	1,500	1,200	1,100	1,500	1,200	1,100	latter part of the
Total of Albany-Beas Division (a)	1,01,400	1,298,700	1,03,000	1,01,400	1,298,700	1,03,000	season.
Gomphrey (a)	5,710	8,000	5,710	5,685	8,100	5,685	Crop failed by excep-
Beas (a)	250	300	250	250	300	250	tive rain.
Albany (a)	2,400	2,800	2,400	2,400	2,800	2,400	Crop failed by excep-
Minapce (a)	0	0	0	0	0	0	tive rain.
Beas (a)	150	170	0	150	170	0	No cotton worth, conse-
Gomphrey (a)	4,500	4,000	0	4,500	4,000	0	quently no cotton, conse-
Total of Beas-Beas Division (a)	12,910	12,450	9,000	12,910	10,950	9,000	to the failure of the

ABSTRACT.

DISTRICTS	AREA AND OUT-TURN IN MOUNDS OF 40 CUBES, OR 80 BLS.						REMARKS
	1864-65.			1865-66.			
	The area and estimated out-turn, according to the Report of 24th Oct. 1864.	The area and estimated out-turn, according to the Report of 24th Oct. 1864.	The area and estimated out-turn, according to the Report of 24th Oct. 1864.	The area and estimated out-turn, according to the Report of 24th Oct. 1864.	The area and estimated out-turn, according to the Report of 24th Oct. 1864.	The area and estimated out-turn, according to the Report of 24th Oct. 1864.	
Merck	Acres 1,52,500	Mounds 2,25,000	Mounds 1,60,370	Acres 1,52,500	Mounds 2,25,000	Mounds 1,60,370	Crop generally good.
Rumson	1,360	1,800	1,000	1,360	1,800	1,000	Prospects good.
Hibon	27,500	47,000	37,000	27,500	47,000	37,000	Prospects good.
Northwell	60,000	70,000	50,000	60,000	70,000	50,000	Prospects good.
Basives	60,000	70,000	50,000	60,000	70,000	50,000	Prospects good.
Facilly	60,000	70,000	50,000	60,000	70,000	50,000	Prospects good.
Shoepington	20,000	30,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	20,000	Prospects good.
Area District	7,000	9,000	7,000	7,000	9,000	7,000	Prospects good.
Total	17,35,000	24,27,000	16,91,000	17,35,000	24,27,000	16,91,000	Prospects good.

9. It will be seen from the above return that the estimated yield of the cotton crop this year is given at 8,24,540 maunds against an estimated out-turn of 19,57,738 maunds last year, and an actual crop that year of maunds 16,59,517.

10. The area under cultivation has fallen more than one-half, as compared with last year, and is now put at a lower figure than was given for any of the previous four years.

11. The following table gives the several estimates of area under cotton for the present and past four years in acres, and the estimated crop in maunds :—

	1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.
Acres,.....	9,53,076	9,85,578	11,35,688	17,30,634	8,95,102
Maunds,...	11,89,730	10,57,733	11,22,051	19,57,738	8,24,540

12. Judging by the estimated yield of former years, as compared with the actual out-turn, it is not probable that the crop this season will yield more than three-quarters of a million of maunds, or (taking the average weight of bales consumed in England last year, i. e., 367 lbs.) 1,68,067 bales.

13. The Calcutta Chamber of Commerce has requested information on the following points specially :—

1st.—The extent of reduction on cultivation, as compared with last year's, in districts where sowings have been made in time.

2nd.—The extent of cultivation in districts in which, owing to absence of rains, there have been no sowings, or sowings only on a very limited scale.

14. The district return, already furnished, will give the information required as to the first point,—those districts in which sowings have been made in time being marked A., and the extent of last year's and this year's area under cotton being given in parallel columns.

15. With regard to the second point, Duncans is the only district in which the want of rain, or rather the late arrival of the rains, has prevented any sowings being made.

16. I am desired however to remark, that the cultivation of cotton having been contracted this year to within its normal limits, the timely arrival of the rains, or their being deferred, cannot be held to have had any marked influence on the extent of area put under cotton. The contraction of the area devoted to this particular staple has been caused, and this is universally admitted, by the great fall in price of cotton. The variation of price has made itself felt not only directly, but indirectly.

17. Mr. Forbes, Collector of Meerut, dwelling on this subject, has remarked :—“ This fall in price has been the main reason for the reduced area under cotton. The price is extended from the bazar to the villages, from the buyers to the producers, and the latter fear to have anything to do with such an uncertain article of trade. But besides this, the bazar failures among the speculating buyers were extraordinary. The largest and best known native mahajims and bankers fell in numbers, and the consequence is, that no advances are made to the growers. No money is advanced for the cotton crop, and, without such advances, the cultivator cannot, and will not sow it.”

18. The difficulty of obtaining advances for cotton cultivation this year has been noticed also by other officers, and without doubt the extent of area under cotton has been very seriously affected by the numerous failures consequent on the late depression of the cotton trade.

19. Had the late depression continued, it is believed that the home consumption of cotton would have been considerably larger than has been the case for many years ; for the poorer classes, who have of late been compelled to restrict their purchases of cloth, would have bought largely on the return of prices to their former level. But this is not the case. The price of raw cotton is now rising almost as rapidly as it once fell. At Mirzapore, within the first fortnight of the present month, cotton had risen in value 50 per cent. On the 1st October it was selling at Rs. 20 a maund, and on the 14th at Rs. 30. Should the rise in price be prolonged, it is probable that four-fifths of the crop of this season will find its way

into the export market. There is reason also to believe that a portion of last year's crop will be in the market this year. In several districts it is reported that holders of large stocks of cotton, who had bought on speculation, refused to sell at the unremunerative prices to which cotton fell within the last twelve months. Such holders will now, in all probability, take advantage of the present demand.

20. The area under cotton having been so much circumscribed, having been reduced actually to limits below those of 1861, there is no reason to believe that this year at all events, there has been any displacement of the autumn or other crops, to make room for cotton; nor have the Board had occasion to alter the opinion expressed by them last year as to the effect of the rise in price of cotton on the price of other agricultural products.

21. All the reports received agree in regard to the prospects of the trade in native-wove goods. That trade commenced to revive immediately the price of the raw material began to fall towards its ordinary level. It will be seen from the extracts appended to this report, that native weavers are doing as large a business now as before the commencement of the American war, and that the decline of this particular branch of manufacture, which had been brought about by the rise in price of cotton, has at once been obliterated by the fall to former rates.

22. A rise or fall in the price of the raw material affects the price of Native and English cloth in different degrees. The native fabric, containing the larger amount of cotton, is affected the soonest, and recovers itself the quickest.

23. The remarks on this subject of Messrs. Forbes and Colvin, which are given in the Appendix, will be found suggestive and interesting.

24. A copy of this report has been supplied direct to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

I have, &c.,

W. CHICHELE PLOWDEN,

Secretary.

APPENDIX.

Savaropore.—Mr. C. A. Daniel, Officiating Collector, writes:—

"I have to attribute the falling-off in area of cotton cultivation to the decline in the prices of raw cotton in the English markets, affecting the demand in such markets as Cawnpore and Ghazee-pore, where most of the supply of raw material from this district went. I attribute a certain amount of the falling-off also to the lateness of the rains. I am of opinion, however, that had the demand for raw material been kept up, the cultivators would have sacrificed other crops for the sake of the cotton crop, and that the lateness of the rains would not have had so much effect in the growth of cotton as it has now had, combined with the decline in the market: furthermore, while the staple (cleaned cotton) in 1861 fetched from Rs. 24 to 25 the maund, it now stands at Rs. 11, 12 and 13 the maund.

"The condition of the crops appears good, and the out-turn per acre I anticipate will fully come up to the estimate. In fact it is probable that the present area under cotton is that best suited to the growth of the crop, while the less suitable area has been turned to other account. In Deolund Telesolee slight damage has been done by a visit from locusts in July.

"With reference to paragraph 6 of the circular, the state of the native cloth manufacture appears healthy.

"In 1861 the manufacture of country cloth went down 50 per cent., and now, in 1865, it has risen to 85 or 90 per cent. of its normal state, with every prospect of its soon reaching 'par.' The wages taken by Jolahas' have risen from Rs. 7 and 8 of last year to Rs. 10 and 12 of this year; moreover, last year they took much of their wages in kind.

"In the appended statement, I have given samples of the prices current in the 12 principal markets.

"The 'highest prices' would represent the latest prices got at the chief towns and the 'lowest prices' the earlier prices got at the country-town markets.

"Considering the falling-off in the prices of the raw material, the

" English cloth is used only by Mahomedan proprietors of land, by bankers, by native officials, clerks, &c., and by other classes, at marriage festivals. Hindoo land-owners mostly go about clothed in stuff of native manufacture; it is only when the brotherhood meet to celebrate some festival, that the pure white coat of English cloth is generally worn.

" The decline in cultivation, and the short supply of exportable cotton in the Southern States of the American Republic, said to be 2,000,000 bales only, will run up prices again to about a fourth more than the present market rate. This may encourage producers for next season, but for the present it will be sufficient to note that past-over speculation has for a time deterred the agricultural classes from applying much of their land to the growth of cotton."

Mercur.—Mr. W. A. Forbes, Collector, writes:—" I believe I may safely say that the quality of Mercur's last season's cotton was finer than had ever before been produced. Some of the ordinary bazar quality, but cleaned with great care, was sent as a sample to Calcutta; and this the brokers, to whom it was shown, declared to be so far superior to anything they had seen passing through the Calcutta market from either Bengal or the North-western provinces, that they could hardly believe it was from this part of India.

" Of this cotton there is in the district, I regret to say, a large stock still awaiting purchasers, which will hereafter find its way to Calcutta, when prices rise, as they will most assuredly. The wealthier mahajuns and land-owners who could afford to do so, held on and refused to sell, as the prices fell at the close of last year and beginning of this.

" The sadly-reduced estimate, as shown in columns 6, 7 and 8 of the accompanying statement, will not excite surprise; and it is hardly necessary to point out the causes which have been at work to bring about such results. Towards the close of 1864 prices fell rapidly, and from Rs. 30 and 32 per maund, they reached the lowest limit of Rs. 9 to Rs. 10 during the spring of 1865; and even at that price there were no buyers for the export market. Prices are now again slowly rising, and at present stand

" at Rs. 12 per maund; but for the good picking of this season, it is expected that sellers will get from Rs. 18 to Rs. 20 per maund before the year is out.

" In October, it will be my duty to examine the last year's stock still held in the district, and ascertain its quality; for it is to be feared that much has been damaged, and may be mixed with the cotton of the new crop for the market.

" This fall in price of course has been the main reason for the reduced area under cotton cultivation. The panic extended from the bazars to the villages, from the buyers to the producers, and the latter fear to have anything to do with such an uncertain article of trade.

" But besides this, the bazar failures amongst the speculating buyers were extraordinary; the largest and best known native mahajuns and bankers fell in numbers, and the consequence is, that no advances are made to the growers. No money is advanced for the cotton crop, and, without such advances, the cultivator cannot and will not sow it.

" This tightness in the native money market has been, I am told by the people, increased by reason of certain decrees in the Civil courts over the provinces in which they say that the system of advancing money

" for cotton cultivation has been confounded with fraudulent speculation and time bargaining. How far this is true I cannot say, but that the impression is abroad is certain.

" The low price of cotton has influenced necessarily the sale and price of the manufactured article, and there has been a greater demand and a larger sale at reduced prices of both English and home-manufactured cloth. It will be for the trade to consider whether, if the demand for cotton for export increases, as from all the advices from England appears certain, and the small crop is swept away to supply the market, the demand and sale of English goods will not far exceed the present stock in these provinces. I think it will, and that with the rail open without a break from Calcutta through the Mercur district to Delhi, Manchester will have the opportunity of driving native manufactures almost entirely out of the market.

N. B.—Collector has been asked to report what is the nature of these decrees, and to endeavour to ascertain from what Courts they have issued.

Doonadshakar.—Mr. H. B. Webster, Officiating Collector, writes:—"The total area under cotton cultivation in this district during the present year is only 26,012 acres, or one-third of the area under similar cultivation in 1864, and that the estimated out-turn of cleaned cotton is only 41,000 maunds against 1,40,656 maunds, the ascertained out-turn for last year.

"There are two causes for this great decrease; the first, and by far the most powerful, being the depressed state of the cotton market, at the sowing season. The fall of prices in the English market, which proved the ruin of many cotton speculators in this country, together with the reports of peace in America, and a consequent enormous influx of cotton into the English market, prevented speculators from making advances to cultivators, who, as a class, are unable, without such assistance, to enter largely into the cultivation of cotton.

"The same depressed state of the market which prevented speculators from making advances to needy cultivators, deterred those in better circumstances from embarking much of their capital in the cultivation of cotton.

"This state of things is of itself sufficient to account for the great decrease of area under cotton this year; but in addition to this, the season has been most unfavorable. In June and July sufficient rain to render the ground fit for cultivation did not fall except in one or two places, where there were heavy, but partial showers so that the greater part of the very large unirrigated area that was last year under cotton has not had a cotton seed put into it this year.

"The native cotton manufacture in this district is confined among the Kolies (or Hindoo weavers) to the production of the very coarsest *dasuti*, and to a poor and inferior kind of *garoh*.

"The Jolahas (or Mahomedan weavers) produce chiefly *puggies*, and a thin kind of cloth called *dhotee*, used principally for making *vesutes* and light jackets. Secunderabad is famous for the manufacture of *puggies* which have a name, and find a ready sale in the neighbouring districts; and I am assured, find their way, and are appreciated as far east as Benares and Mirzapore.

"This is the only export trade in cotton cloth that I can trace in this district. The manufacture, which was depressed and fail-

ing during the reign of high prices of raw material, and what may be called the cotton mania, is now improving, and bids fair to resume its old status.

"The demand for such native manufactures as are produced here has, I believe, never failed; it was the utter inability of the weavers to pay the enormous market price for the raw material, which for a time prevented their keeping the supply up to the demand. Things are now altered; and though the price of cotton is again rising, it is not likely ever to attain to the excessive height it reached last year."

Allypore.—Mr. J. H. Prinsap, Collector, writes:—"The year 1864 returned about three-fourths of a maund of cleaned cotton per beegah. The result of 1865 is expected to show four-fifths of a maund, the increase being attributable to greater care taken in the selection of the soil in the present year; for though the drought that occurred in July last retarded the crop, there is not the same reckless sowing this year on soil totally unfit for cotton as during the mania of last year.

"As for the cultivation of the present season, it is just half of the area cotton sown in 1863, and one-third of the area of 1864; and the probable out-turn of the cleaned cotton for 1865 is estimated as a falling-off of 1,35,001 maunds or a little more than one-third of the produce of 1864, and nearly three-sevenths of the actual produce of 1863. This was to be expected as a consequence of the wild speculation and heavy losses thereon during the past season. The surplus stock of 1864 has not been all disposed of, but lies in the hands of its unfortunate purchasers,—a drug in the market, for which there is no hope of realizing the price it was bought for.

"But though the cotton trade has sustained a check which may serve as a caution hereafter to the mercantile classes, the agriculturist has greatly benefited by the high price paid for his cotton; and in the diminished demand for that article this year, will be able to replace the deficiency in cereals, by sowing them on the lands which are not now required for cotton.

"As regards the other information called for, I beg to embody

"the Tehsildars' reports, and what I have gleaned from the chowdhrees of the weaving classes, in the following remarks:—

"1st.—Owing to late rains, the cotton seed was not sown at the proper season; the present out-turn therefore is expected to be far from a good one; cultivation only to one-fourth extent of past year.

"2nd.—The prices here are affected by the prevailing rates at Mirzapore and Calcutta. When Rs. 18 per maund is the price at Calcutta, and Rs. 16 at Mirzapore, the market rate at Allypore is about Rs. 12 per maund.

"3rd.—The present state of the native cloth manufacture is much more favorable than it was last year, owing to the price of native thread being half that of last year.

"4th.—Country thread—Ascertained to be in greater request than European. Country thread 1½ seers to be had for the rupee.

"European thread—Of Nos. 40 and 50, mostly used by the Jolahas, and costing Rs. 5 the former, and Rs. 6 the latter per packet (or "pooriya") of 2½ seers, containing ten atees of thread.

"5th.—Sale of European cloths one-fourth less than in past years; annual value of sale about 2 lakhs.

"Country cloths sold in greater quantities than in past years. Of the kinds dark soose checks, Nādur shahon, tookroo, dohra dhotes, muslin pugees, dosootee, dohra, sultum, guzcee, arrah, gegum, dhotee, paytee.

"At Hattaras the demand for Europe cloths is said to be greater than in the past two years, but still less than three years ago.

"There are no new kinds of cloth manufactured.

"6th.—Most of the weaving classes have returned to their trade occupation, few paupers only still living by daily labour.

"7th.—In consequence of the return to cheap prices, more native clothing is being worn by the public.

"Bhowr.—Mr. George Palmer, Collector, writes:—"So far as can be judged from the results in this district, it seems absolutely certain that the recent decline in prices of raw cotton in the English markets has produced a corresponding and immediate effect upon the demand for the staple in this country. This is

"clearly manifest from the fact that prices have fallen concurrently with a decrease of cultivation nearly corresponding to the previous enhancement. The following detail of prices current in the town of Nugeena illustrates very closely the effects "produced upon the local market by the sudden fall in English prices:—

MONTH.	Price of Cotton per Rupee.		
	Maunds.	Seers.	Chittacks.
November and December, 1864, ...	0	1	8
January, 1865, ...	0	2	8
February, 1865, ...	0	3	4
March and April, 1865, ...	4	to 6	Seers.
June, 1865, ...	0	3	4

"Immediately after the harvest of 1864, cotton was readily bought up for a still further rise in price was then expected. When the price began to fall, the dealers at first held back their cotton, in the hope that the fall would prove a temporary fluctuation only; but when it became evident that this was not the case, they sold generally, although at a loss and disposed of most of their cotton in the markets of Meerut, Cawnpore, Chendousee and Farruckabad. The average loss entailed upon cotton speculators, by the unlooked-for decline in prices, is roughly estimated at about nine annas in the rupee. In all parts of this district the present price of raw cotton is about one-half, or something less than one-half the average price in 1864.

"But there has not been a corresponding decline in the demand for country cloth. The fall in price of raw cotton has naturally affected the price of cloth, though not in a corresponding degree; but, so far as I can ascertain, has produced no perceptible effect upon the demand. In the first instance, indeed, when the price of cotton fell, an abnormal condition of things was created; inasmuch as the stocks in hand had been manufactured from cloth bought at the previous high rates; whereas purchasers naturally looked for a diminution in price of cloth corresponding to the fall in cotton, and the immediate result was a temporary stagnation in the trade. But this could be but temporary, and in a few

" months the trade resumed its ordinary channel, and is now as brisk as ever. Prices however have fallen about one-fourth, owing to the fall in price of the raw material.

" Looking to the results of the last three years, experience seems to show that any serious fluctuation in the price of raw cotton in the European markets is sure to tell directly upon the cultivation of the crop in this country. As the English prices rise or fall, so the export trade from India will revive or dwindle; and the cultivation of the crop, beyond the normal limits fixed by the permanent local demand, will increase or decrease in exact correspondence with the demand for export.

" But with respect to the native cloth manufacture the case is different. Rise in price of the raw material will of course enhance the cost of the manufactured article; but unless the price of country cotton cloth is enhanced to such an extent as to become absolutely prohibitive, the demand for it is not likely to be seriously affected by any conceivable development in the export of raw cotton. It is needless to speculate now upon what might happen, if, by a hypothetical enhancement of the cost, cotton clothing in this country were placed above the means of the masses of the people; or if it were to be superseded by the introduction of new staples. Under existing conditions, I think it may safely be assumed that, in any contingencies, the country cloth manufacturers will be first supplied with the raw material from each season's crop, and that their demand will practically fix the limits of the ordinary cultivation; and that, however the export trade may be stimulated by external influences, it will be supplied mainly by additional cultivation, and not by permanent diversion of any part of that portion of the crop which is ordinarily appropriated to the manufacture of country cloth."

Moradabad.—Mr. A. Boulderson, Officiating Collector, writes:—
" The demand for cloth, of native manufacture, is at present greater than usual, owing to the fall in the price of cotton, and the high price at which European cloth is sold."

Dudman.—Mr. G. H. Lawrence, Officiating Collector, writes:—
" Referring to your 5th para. I beg leave to inform you that the late decline in prices of raw cotton in the London and Liverpool markets has told very much against the cultivation of the said

" staple in this district; consequently the expected out-turn of cotton, as shown in the accompanying return, has been estimated at 21,592 against 53,950 manauls of 1864.

" With reference to your 6th paragraph, I have to state that, consequent on the depreciation in the price of old cotton, many more looms are now in use than in the previous years, and that, as a matter of course, the price of the country-made cloth has fallen much; so much so, that a piece of country made-cloth which fetched Rs. 2-8 in 1863, now fetches Rs. 1-8 only.

" In my opinion there will be an increased demand, for sometime at least, for cloth, because during the past four or five years, when the price of cotton reigned high, every man, whatever his position might have been, did with us few suits of cloth as he possibly could; but now every person can return to his former habits, and the constant wear and tear of old clothes for three or four years must soon end in a large demand for new clothes."

Shahjehanpore.—Mr. W. G. Probyn writes:—
" The area of cotton cultivation in this district is I believe about one-fifth less than that of last year; but the prospects of the crop are as yet so very good, that the out-turn promises to be the same, viz. about fifteen thousand manauls.

" About a year ago the price of cotton in this district ranged from Rs. 30 to 40 a manaul. For the first six months of this year it has been from Rs. 10 to 20, falling as low for a few days as Rs. 8. For the last two months it has fetched from 14 to 16 Rs., and at present the latter rate rules.

" With the fall in price of cotton the number of looms has increased; and an impetus to the native manufacture has also been caused by the fact of cloth of English manufacture maintaining a price high in comparison to the cost of the raw material. Should the present crop turn out as well as it now promises, and the Manchester stuffs maintain their high rates, the number of looms will I expect in a few months' time be nearly what it was in 1860."

Mather.—Mr. B. Hardings writes:—
" The demand for the staple has been curiously affected by the general decline of English

"prices. While the speculators and traders have been holding off
 "from new transactions, owing to the tightness of the money market,
 "and the uncertainty of future prices, the poor and the producers
 "have gladly availed themselves of the temporary cheapness of
 "the material to re-clothe themselves, and to supply the deficiency
 "caused by last year's ruinous prices. Country cloth is now 25
 "per cent. cheaper than last year. A thán which sold for a rupee,
 "is now to be bought for 12, or even 11 annas. The looms which
 "last year were lying idle are now busily worked by Hindus and
 "Mahomedan weavers, and the trade and demand are alike brisk,
 "and for the present will probably continue so, as a general rise in
 "prices is expected from the late season, and the gloomy prospects
 "of the crop and out-turn.

"English cloth has gone down about 20 per cent., but there is
 "not the same demand for that as the native manufacture. Various
 "reasons have been assigned for the greater durability and warmth
 "of native cloth; the general rise of prices of all necessaries, wood
 "and food and grain of all sorts, leaving a smaller margin than
 "usual for the purchase of thin and less-lasting material; amongst
 "others, the paucity of auspicious days for celebrating Hindu
 "marriages (according to the Pundits' predictions) in the coming
 "year, on which occasions, chiefly among the richer community,
 "the desire for buying English cloth is largely gratified, &c., &c."

Agri—Mr. W. Kaye, Deputy Collector, writes:—"The causes
 "of the decrease of cultivation are various, and are not confined
 "to the fall of price, which even now is high enough to be very
 "remunerative. The high price of grain in these parts has gone
 "far to induce the cultivators to return to their ordinary crops,
 "from which the profit, if not so large as that derived from cotton,
 "is far more certain. The uncertainty of the cotton speculation
 "too greatly influences them. Indian villagers are not a speculative
 "race, and last year's fluctuation in prices fairly frightened them.
 "It was too great a shock for the villager's mind to find that the
 "field of cotton, on which all his hopes centred, and which in the
 "morning he had valued at Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 was by evening
 "almost unsaleable, on account of some news which had arrived by

"the 'Bijli dak' the purport of which he was utterly unable to
 "comprehend. So he has returned to his old ways, and will sow
 "about as much cotton as he can conveniently sell in the nearest
 "market town, and no more. The effect of the fall of prices upon
 "the demands for cotton has been most damaging; so many mer-
 "chants burned their fingers in cotton last year, that this year
 "dealings have been but small. Every one is waiting to see what
 "will be the ruling prices when the crop is gathered and ready for
 "export. In effect no one will buy and no one will sell. Under
 "the influence of the low prices of cotton, the weaving trade is
 "fast returning to its old condition. With cheap cotton available
 "on the spot, the native weavers have been enabled to reduce the
 "price of their cloth greatly; while the price of English cloth has
 "not fallen in proportion. Native cloth is now 25 per cent. cheaper
 "than it was at this time last year; while the commoner kinds of
 "English cloth have fallen in price about 10 per cent., and the finer
 "kinds hardly at all.

"The high prices which have prevailed for the last few years have
 "much affected the demand for English cloth, most people being
 "content to wear out their old clothes, and wait for cheaper times:
 "also dealers in these parts have bought but sparingly of late, al-
 "ways hoping for a return of the times when they got very much
 "better cloth at lower prices. The prospects of a good season, and
 "the greater stability of prices, which must eventually result from
 "the termination of the American war, will probably lead to a
 "considerably increased demand for English cloth, in spite of the
 "renewed activity of the native weaving trade."

Farruckabad—Mr. R. C. Oldfield, Collector, writes:—"The
 "area under cultivation, and the estimated out-turn, are about
 "one-third less than last year: this is of course in consequence of
 "the great fall in the price of cotton. Cleaned cotton now sells
 "at from Rs. 12 to 16 per maund (Company's weight), as compared
 "with Rs. 35 to 50 per maund last year. The effect in the fall in
 "price has been to reduce the cost of country-made cloth, on an
 "average 50 per cent. all round, and to give an impetus to the native
 "manufacture, which is gradually reviving. English cloth has
 "fallen in price about 25 per cent. My enquiries lead me to believe

“that the imports in English cloth have increased considerably since the reduction in price, and that the demand will continue. In Furruckabad itself, the trade in English cloth goods may possibly have fallen-off, but owing to the exceptional circumstance that many consignments, which formerly were made to Furruckabad, are now, as the rail is gradually extended to the North-west, forwarded direct to other entrepôts of the trade.”

“*Gympoorah*.—Mr. B. W. Colvin, Officiating Collector, writes:—“It will be seen that the estimated out-turn for this year is only one-third of the actual out-turn of last year. Having lately inspected roads which took me through a great deal of the district, I have been able to form some idea, from my own observation, of the proportional area occupied by cotton, and I am inclined to think that the actual quantity produced will be less, if anything, than the estimate.”

“With reference to paragraphs 5 and 6 of circular under reply, the first effect here of the fall of cotton in the English market has been to stop all speculation. The trade consequently has shrunk back into its old channels, which are limited to supplying the local market, and to sending a small surplus into Oudh. The result of this suddenly-diminished demand has been that the price of cotton has fallen 50 per cent. or more in the bazar during the past year; whilst the area under cotton cultivation has diminished in a still greater ratio. The price of all coarse cloth, both English and Native, has also fallen, but in a less degree than that of the raw cotton. On an average of the different kinds, 20 to 25 per cent. may be taken as the measure of this fall. The finer cloths, such as book-muslin and web, which never rose so much with cotton, have fallen very little if at all in price. This is no doubt owing to the material being a much smaller item in the cost of production. The reason which was given me for the coarser cloths having fallen less than the raw cotton, is I think, the true one; viz., that there is a general increase of prosperity in the agricultural classes, from the enhancement in price during the last few years of all the necessaries which they produce, and that, as a consequence, each stage of decrease in the price of cloth, brings it within the reach of a larger and ever-widening class of

“customers; in short, that the demand rises as the price falls, until they balance one another at a point higher than that at which they met before the disturbance of the cotton market.”

“As regards the difference between English and Native-made cloth, unbleached calico, (*mackera*) and long cloth seem to have fallen in very much the same ratio as the coarser country cloths. These last are preferred by the villagers, on account of their greater durability; but the town-people and upper classes buy the English fabrics largely, and their price does not seem likely to fall more than that of their native substitutes. A small fall brings them, as the others, within the reach of a much larger number of purchasers.”

“The cloth-merchants and weavers, between whom the present large profits upon cloth are divided, are very prosperous just now, as might be expected. All the sources from which I have been able to draw information are unanimous on this point.”

“It is rather hazardous to venture upon predictions regarding the future demand for cloth. There are two facts however which are agreed to by every body, and from these (so far as I am able to judge) two results may be confidently looked for; first, the greatly-reduced area of cotton cultivation, which has resulted from the collapse of all speculation, will prevent cloth from falling lower in price for the next year or so, and will more probably cause it to rise; secondly, the generally-improved circumstances of the agricultural community so largely widens the field of purchasers of cloth, as its price diminishes, that it is pretty certain that prices will never fall permanently lower than they were before the American war, and may very probably never fall so low again.”

“*Etawah*.—Mr. A. O. Humo, Collector, writes:—“That, while owing to the fall in prices, scarcely more than half the land was devoted to cotton in 1273 Fuslee that it occupied in 1271, the out-turn for the former will be as nearly as possible two-thirds of that of the latter year.”

“The fall of prices, while it has thus diminished by one-half the breadth of our cotton cultivation, has, by cheapening cloth, both of native and home manufacture, most materially increased its consumption. Thus taking the city of Etawah, in regard to which

"we possess nearly exact statistics, it appears that the consumption of Native and English cloth in this place, during the past 4 years, has been as follows:—

	1st September 1861, to 31st August 1862.	1st September 1862, to 31st August 1863.	1st September 1863, to 31st August 1864.	1st September 1864, to 30th August 1865.
	No. of Thans.	No. of Thans.	No. of Thans.	No. of Thans.
European, ..	32,370	32,954	10,475	10,744
Native, ..	14,187	12,654	11,664	23,222

"A similar increase, though without accurate details, is reported all over the district. In 1864 the people were reduced to the lowest possible consumption of cloth; during 1865 they have purchased largely."

"Blah.—Mr. C. H. T. Crosthwaite, Deputy Collector, writes:—"The manufacture of native cloth has received a very great impetus from the low prices now ruling in the cotton market; and unless there is a considerable rise in price, this impulse will be continued."

"Jaloom.—Mr. A. Terman, the Deputy Commissioner, writes:—"The present price of cotton being in this district about 5 pence per lb, the native cloth manufacturers have increased much lately, owing to the high prices of European articles, the above manufactured cloths selling at a reduction of about 40 per cent. A reaction may be expected in favour of the European articles, which are generally preferred, should their price fall in the market, owing to cotton supply from America."

"Jhansic.—Mr. E. G. Jenkinson, the Deputy Commissioner, writes:—"The estimated area under cotton cultivation this year is less than that of last year by 7,180 acres. This is no doubt attributable to the enormous fall in prices, from Rs. 40 and 45, to Rs. 10 and 12 per maund, one of the immediate consequences of which was, that a considerable quantity of raw cotton was left unsold in the hands of the growers."

"For some months past the demand for the staple has been, comparatively speaking, small. Several respectable mahajans, who speculated largely in cotton have been nearly ruined, and

"the purchase of the staple for export has now almost entirely ceased. Latterly the purchasers have been the native cloth manufacturers."

"In former reports from this district the Board have been informed of the falling off in the manufacture of native cloth, owing to the great demand for cotton in the English market. During the last few months, however, a large number of the weavers, who had left their houses, or had sought work elsewhere, have returned to their homes, and have resumed their occupation. It is estimated that the number of native looms now at work is double that of last year. The demand for native cloth has also increased considerably. Cloth which last year sold at Rs. 2 and Rs. 3, is now procurable at Rs. 1 and Rs. 1-4 per piece, and the middle and poorer classes who could not, while the high prices prevailed, afford to purchase it, but were obliged to content themselves with their old clothes, have now commenced purchasing again. These results bear out the remarks made by me in my last year's report, and I am still of opinion that any decrease in the demand for the staple in the English market, and any decline in prices, will be followed, in this district at any rate, by an increased demand for, and a larger manufacture of native cloths."

"Lullitpore.—Mr. E. Montague, the Officiating Deputy Commissioner, writes:—"The price of cotton this year has fallen to one-third of the price which obtained during the great demand of last year. On account of this fall, the cloth trade has received some impetus; but several weavers (Moniums) who were settled in the Lullitpore by the late Captain Tyler, were driven away by the cholera, and have not returned. In the Lullitpore Tehseel less land has been taken up for cotton as compared with last year; but this is not the case on Mehroonia Tehseel, where the area has increased. The estimated out-turn in the Tehseel for last year was much below the average. Zemindars, when asked, put the out-turn of cotton per beegah at 52 seers uncleaned; or 35 cleaned, which gives about 62 seers (cleaned) per acre. A maund per acre would be a fair estimate on an average. The Lullitpore

"land is not so good as that in Mehroonic. The present prospects
"for the crop are very good as the rain has been favorable."

Cawnpore.—Mr. W. S. Halsey, the Officiating Collector, writes :—
"The manufacture of country cloth is owing in a measure to the
"superiority of the coarser kinds of native cloth over the same
"class of goods from England, arising from there being no adulter-
"ation, no mildew, greater weight, and hence greater warmth for
"the cold season, and greater durability. The demand for country
"cloth is however not likely to increase much; price rules it en-
"tirely if cotton is dear; then native cloth is dear, and the natives
"manage with less."

"The new Elgin Cotton Mills, and others of a similar nature, if
"worked up to their prospectus, ought to produce an article quite
"as good and cheaper; but as this is a matter of the future, it is
"almost idle to speculate on it; no doubt it will have an effect on
"the trade, but it is difficult to say what that effect will be."

Petchpore.—Mr. C. Grant, the Officiating Collector, writes :—
"The manufacture of native cloth has increased, owing to the fall
"in the price of raw material."

Banda.—Mr. A. R. Clarke, the Officiating Collector, writes :—
"The fall in the price of cotton has had the effect of keeping up
"native weavers fully employed."

Allahabad.—Mr. G. H. M. Ricketts, the Collector, writes :—
"The area this year, you will observe, is short of last year by 22,851
"acres. This is owing to the great drought of last year. The
"great prices induced many to extend the cultivation, but owing
"to the great drought, many burnt their fingers, and high prices
"ever since have prevented the cultivation of any but certain
"crops."

"I experimented with acclimatized and Orleans seed in parts
"of the district last year, sparing no trouble or expense, but my
"experiments in two places were unsuccessful. It was proved to
"my satisfaction that the soil in those places was not, under any
"circumstances, adapted for cotton."

"The price fell enormously in December 1864, and has never
"risen since."

"This time last year it was at Rs. 20 a maund; now it is Rs. 13,
"and no purchasers. The weavers are returning to their old trade,
"and the villagers are renewing their stocks of wadded clothing,
"which they have long done without, and are in fact fully clothed,
"instead of only partially."

"The price of English cotton goods has fallen. Long-cloth,
"which last year sold for Rs. 14, now fetches Rs. 10; and Markeen
"has fallen from Rs. 16 to 10, and where it is cheap it is abundant :
"but it will probably fall still lower, for the prices seem to be
"adjusting themselves gradually to their former level. Before
"the American war 'Markeen' was Rs. 7 a piece; now it is 10.
"Last year it was 16. But it would be only guessing, if I were
"to say when the old price will again be reached. There is no
"very great trade in cotton goods in this place: it is generally
"supplied from Mirzapore. There is no direct trade from Calcutta.
"The fact is that Allahabad is about the boundary of the Calcutta
"trade on one side, and the Bombay trade on the other, for it gets
"its supplies indifferently from Mirzapore and Cawnpore and
"Farruckabad, the two latter being supplied mostly from Bombay
"I am informed. Being thus on the confines, the two trades are
"exhausted when they reach here, and there is no great opportunity
"of judging future prices."

"The country trade is as it was before the cotton trade was in-
"fluenced by the American war. The choice, which is the guide to
"go by, fetches now 1-8 to 1-12 as it used to do."

Benares.—Mr. E. Waterfield, the Officiating Collector,
"writes :—"The decline in the price of cotton in the market of
"England and the consequent cheapness of that article in this
"country, have had the effect of discouraging the cultivation of
"cotton; so much so, that the estimated area of cotton cultivation
"for the present year has greatly fallen short of that for the last
"year, and the out-turn for this year will proportionately be much
"smaller."

"The fall in the price of cotton has encouraged native manu-
"facture, which is gradually increasing. The inhabitants of this
"district, who are chiefly agriculturists prefer native coarse-wale
"cloth to European cloth, and from this, among other causes, the

"native manufactured cloth daily secures a higher demand in the market."

Jaipur.—Mr. H. A. Harrison, the Officiating Collector, writes:—"The decline in price of raw cotton in the London and Liverpool markets brought down the price of cotton during the first seven months of the year to about Rs. 12 a maund. The price now is Rs. 21 to 22 a maund. At present there is a better demand for cotton: this I think is owing to the price of the raw material having somewhat risen in Liverpool, owing no doubt to the fear of a short supply from the Southern States of America.

"The smaller area sown this year is simply owing to the fall in the price of cotton; the cultivators will not sow cotton to realize Rs. 10 or 12 a maund only.

"The speculators in cotton have had to put up with severe losses.

"As soon as cotton fell in price the manufacture of native cloth revived; it will however fall off, if cotton continues to rise in value.

"Both English and Native manufactured cloths have fallen in price. Nearly every well-to-do person uses English-made cloths. The native cloth is used by the poorer classes, as it is cheaper, and wears longer. Natives who cannot afford to dress always in English-made cloth prefer to have one suit of it to appear in on particular occasions. The high price of cotton causes a falling off in the consumption of cloth of both kinds, the people making a shift with one suit, when, if cotton was cheap, they would use two. The cheaper that English cloth can be supplied, the larger will the consumption be: for it would be used by a vast majority if within their means to purchase.

"I think if a cloth of a coarser kind than that now sent to this country were made, it would in a great measure supplant the native-made cloth, but whether such a consummation can be desired, is open to doubt."

Budoc.—Mr. F. Wigram, the Collector, writes:—"The price of cotton has lately greatly declined, and in all parts of the district the demand, both for the raw material and cotton-clothing, has been on the increase.

"The cotton cloth manufacturers have lately had full employment, and as long as there is no rise in the price of the material, with the present prospect of an abundant harvest there is every probability of the demand increasing.

"With the exception of cotton, no cloth manufacture is carried on in this district."

Coruckpore.—Mr. C. Daniell, the Collector, writes:—"The high prices lately prevailing (Collector refers, the Board conclude, to last year) have diminished the manufacture of cotton cloth, but at the best the manufacture was inconsiderable."

Azingurh.—Mr. C. Richardes, Collector, writes:—"The manufacture of native cloth is again commencing, and there is an increased demand for it among the former classes."

Mirzapore.—Mr. W. C. Turner, Officiating Collector, writes:—"In consequence of the high price of cotton last year but little native cloth was manufactured. This year a larger quantity will be manufactured, it is expected, and will be readily bought by the poorer classes.

"The price of piece goods has fallen, the difference between this year and last being as much as 2 per piece; but the rise in the price of grain induces the poorer classes to prefer the cloth of native manufacture."

Benares.—Mr. G. E. Watson, Officiating Collector, writes:—"What little cotton was grown in the district was used for home consumption; the fluctuation in price therefore had comparatively little effect on the value to the producer. But the late decline in price of raw cotton in England has produced a perceptible change in the condition of the weaver class. Looms that for three years lay idle have been again set in motion, and a considerable quantity of the coarse kinds of cloth is being woven. European fabrics have however still the command of the market; none but the poorest classes these content with the thick coarse native manufactures, wear any thing else.

"The English cloth is so appreciated by the people generally, that I do not think they would willingly revert to the use of the native manufacture, unless the fall in the price of the raw material was so great as to enable the native weaver to sell his cloth at

"much lower rates than have ever obtained. This I do not consider
 "probable, as the fine Dacca muslins were driven out of the market
 "by English manufactures; so I believe we shall find coarser descrip-
 "tions of cloth superseded.

"What the people want, is a coarse cheap cloth; such a fabric,
 suited to the lower orders, would find an unlimited sale."

Ghazepore.—Mr. G. B. Pasley, Officiating Collector, writes :—
 "There has been very little increase in native cloth manufacture."

APPENDIX K.

SATURDAY HALF-HOLIDAY.

Calcutta, 21st June 1855.

Notice is hereby given, that the Offices of the undersigned will
 be closed for business, on Saturdays, at 2 P. M., from the 1st proximo.

Colvin, Cowie & Co.	Mosley and Hurst, <i>Mail days</i>
Kettlewell, Bullen & Co.	<i>excepted.</i>
Gisborne & Co.	Mackillop, Stewart & Co. do.
Barton, Baynes & Co.	Balfour & Co. do.
Hoare, Miller & Co.	W. H. Smith, Barry & Co. do.
J. H. Ferguson & Co.	Crooke, Rome & Co. do.
Carlisle Nephews & Co.	P. Pro. Schoene, Kilburn
Shand, Fairlie & Co.	& Co. } do.
Ernsthausen and Oesterley.	<i>F. Schuyffer.</i>
George Henderson & Co.	Mackinnon, Mackenzie & Co do.
Gordon, Stuart & Co.	Saml. Smith Sons & Co. do.
Playfair, Duncan & Co.	Andrew Yule & Co. do.
Mair & Co.	Stevenson, Peel & Co. do.
Potter and Co.	P. Pro. Ewing & Co. } do.
Pickford, Mathewson & Co.	<i>A. C. Pate.</i>
R. Thomas & Co.	D. A. Smith & Co. do.
P. Pro. W. C. Stewart & Co.	Kelly & Co. do.
<i>Montague Messrs.</i>	P. Pro. Henderson & Co } do.
E. E. Petrocchino & Co.	<i>W. Blackhall.</i>
Begg, Dunlop & Co.	Heron & Co. do.
Ker, Dods & Co.	John Elliott & Co. do.
L. W. Toulmin & Co.	Turner, Morrison & Co. do.
G. Polmoller & Co.'s Successors.	Argenti, Sechiari & Co. do.
C. Weskins.	Graf and Barziger, do.
Joseph Agabog,	Robert and Chiarriol, do.
Manockjee Rustomjee.	Wiseman, Shead & Co. do.
Mohendronauth Bose,	R. Gentle, do.
Schilizzi & Co., <i>Mail days ex-</i>	For the Borneo Co. Ld. } do.
<i>cepted.</i>	<i>H. Knowles.</i>
Camin, Lamouroux & Co. do.	P. Pro. E. Prestwich } do.
Ramgopal Ghose & Co. do.	<i>A. Wilson,</i>
Aushrotes Day & Nephews, do.	For the Bengal Credit
Ayscar & Co. do.	Mobilier Ld. do.
Mackey & Co. do.	<i>J. A. Cognard,</i>
Graham & Co. do.	William Moran & Co. do.
	and Indigo Season excepted.

APPENDIX I.

Statement of the Funds of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce from 1st May to 31st October 1865.

<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">To Office Rent</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: right;">900 0 0</td> <td style="width: 40%;">By Balance of 30th April 1865—</td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>" Establishment</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5,001 0 0</td> <td>Cash in Bank of Bengal.....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5,401 11 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" Printing Chamber's list half-yearly</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,250 15 0</td> <td>Government Paper</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10,000 0 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" Report on the Bank of London,</td> <td style="text-align: right;">661 8 0</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">15,401 11 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" for Newspapers, books, &c.</td> <td style="text-align: right;">707 14 0</td> <td>" Subscriptions</td> <td style="text-align: right;">7,614 9 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" for Messrs. Dunn and Co. for Office</td> <td style="text-align: right;">315 3 0</td> <td>" Arbitration Fees</td> <td style="text-align: right;">128 0 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" furniture</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9,069 8 0</td> <td>" Net profits of Price Current</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,600 0 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" Balance brought forward</td> <td style="text-align: right;">14,001 3 3</td> <td>" Interest for 6 months on 4 per cent. Government Paper</td> <td style="text-align: right;">107 0 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Government Paper.....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">14,001 0 0</td> <td>" do. 10,000, less income tax.....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9,460 0 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Rs. ... 24,060 11 3</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Rs. ... 24,060 11 3</td> </tr> </table>	To Office Rent	900 0 0	By Balance of 30th April 1865—		" Establishment	5,001 0 0	Cash in Bank of Bengal.....	5,401 11 3	" Printing Chamber's list half-yearly	2,250 15 0	Government Paper	10,000 0 0	" Report on the Bank of London,	661 8 0		15,401 11 3	" for Newspapers, books, &c.	707 14 0	" Subscriptions	7,614 9 0	" for Messrs. Dunn and Co. for Office	315 3 0	" Arbitration Fees	128 0 0	" furniture	9,069 8 0	" Net profits of Price Current	1,600 0 0	" Balance brought forward	14,001 3 3	" Interest for 6 months on 4 per cent. Government Paper	107 0 0	Government Paper.....	14,001 0 0	" do. 10,000, less income tax.....	9,460 0 6		Rs. ... 24,060 11 3		Rs. ... 24,060 11 3
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 | | | | | |---|----|-------------|---| | 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. | 2½ | " | " | | 10. On making advances or procuring loans of money for commercial purposes, when the aggregate commission does not exceed 5 per cent..... | 2½ | " | " | |

CALCUTTA,
31st October 1865.

E. E. H. W. I. WOOD,
Secretary.

Lxxxvii

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 per cent.
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 "
13. On *del-credere* 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 per cent.
- 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 ... ½ "
 23. On settling Insurance claims, losses and averages of all classes, and on procuring returns of premium ... 2½ "
 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 *respondentia* ... 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.
L

TONNAGE SCHEDULE for the Port of CALCUTTA adopted at the General Meeting of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce held on the 28th May 1850. The Schedule came into operation from 1st January 1850.

ARTICLES.	Cwt. per Ton Nett.	Cubic Feet per Ton.
Aloes, in Bags and Boxes	20
Alum, in Ditto	20
Antiseed, in Bags	8
Arrowroot, in Cases	50
Asafoetida in Bags and Boxes	20
Apparel in Boxes	50
Bark, in Bags	8
Bees Wax	20 cwt. gross.
Barilla	20
Betel-nut	20
Books	20
Borax or Tincal	50
Brimstone	20
Bulbous	at per cent.
Cake-ice, in Bags	16
Campher, in Cases	50
Cardamoms, in Robins	8
" Boxes	50
Cassia, in Boxes	50
" in Bags	12
China Root, in Bags	11
" Boxes	50
Chintha	50
Cigars	50
Cloves, in Bags	8
" Boxes	50
Cochineal	20
Coffee, in Bags	18
" Casks	20
Corsl, Rough	16
Cotton, in Bales, 5 to the ton, not to exceed	52
Cumbric	20
Cutch, in Bags	18
Dates, Wet	20
" Dry	16
Dhall	20
Elephants' Teeth, in Bulk	20
Furniture	20
Garlic and Onions	50
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ARTICLES.	Cwt. per Ton Nett.	Cubic Feet per Ton.
Ginger	16
Gram	20
Guns, in Cases	50
Gummy Bags and Gummy Cloth	50
Gunjah	50
Hemp, in Bales, per ton of 5 Bales, not to exceed	52
Hides, Buffalo or Cow, Cured	14
Horns, Buffalo or Deer	20
Indigo	50
Jute, 5 Bales to the Ton, not exceeding	52
Lac Dye	50
Lard	20 cwt. gross.
Linsced	20
Mace	50
Machinery	20
Metals	20
Mirabolans	16
Molasses	2 puncheons or 4 hhds.
Mother o' Pearl, in Bags	20
" Chests	20
Munjeet	50
Mustard or Rape Seed	20
Nutmegs, in Cases or Casks	50
Nux Vomica	16
Oats	16
Oil, in Cases	50
" Casks	4 hupcheons.
Opium	per chest.
Paddy	16
Pearl	20
Pepper, Long	12
" Black	14
Planks and Deals	50
Papay Seed	20
Pateluck	10
Raw Silk, in Bales	10
Rattans for Drummage	20
Red Wood Ditto	20
Rheas, in Bales, per Ton of 5 Bis. not exigi	52
Rice	20
Rooping in Coils	50
" Lines and Twines, in Bundles	16
Run, in Casks	2 puncheons or 4 hhds.

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.

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- Fifth*..... The 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.

