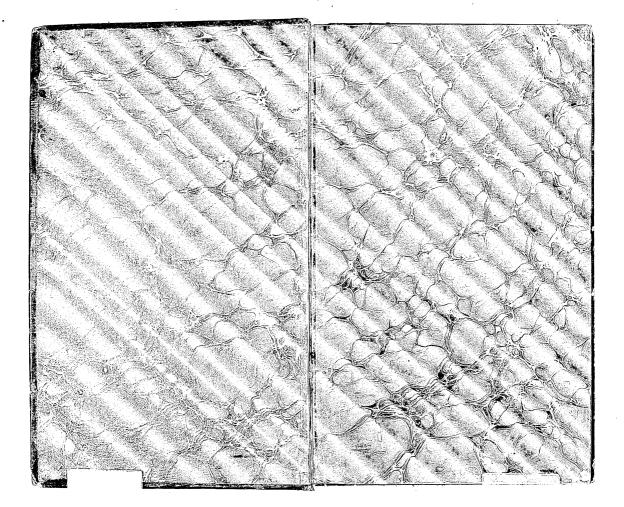
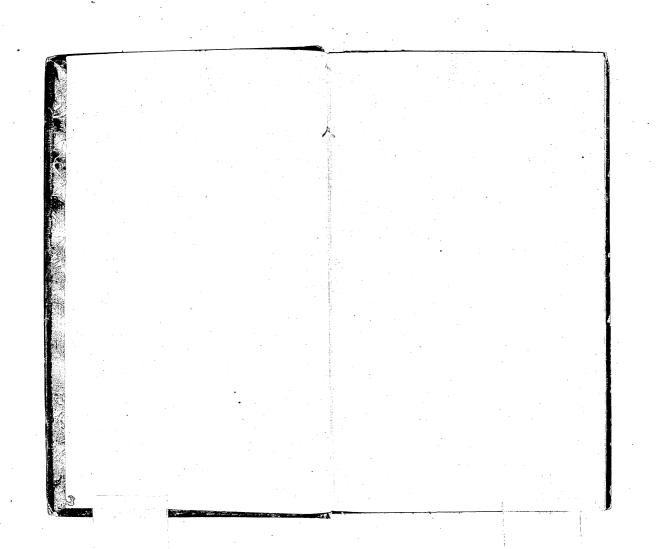
REPORT ORTHE BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. FROM 12 NOVEMBER 1873 TO 30 APRIL 187





REPORT

THE COMMITTEE

OF THE

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

From 1st November 1873 to 30th April 1874.

Calcutta:

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1874.

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Proceedings of the half-yearly General Meeting of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce held on Saturday, the 30th May 1874.

The Hon'ble B, D, Colvin, President, in the Chair.

The advertisement convening the meeting having been read by the Secretary,

The Chairman addressing the members present said :- Gentlemen, - Before offering any remarks on the subjects referred to in your Committee's report, I wish to express to you my sense of the honor conferred upon me in being selected to fill the responsible position of President of the Chamber, on the occasion of the departure to England of my friend Mr. H. H. Sutherland. I accepted the office with considerable diffidence, as, although I take a great interest in general in commercial questions, I cannot lay claim to the experience and judgment of many of my friends here. I must also ask you to bear in mind that having only recently joined the Executive of the Chamber, I am not so entirely conversant with all the matters which have come before the Committee as I should wish, and I trust you will forgive my shortcomings in this respect.

I now pass on to touch upon some of the points which have occupied the attention of the Committee during the past six months.

Budget.-As stated in the Committee's report, they have not had occasion to address the Government regarding the budget, and it would scarcely be necessary for me to say anything on the subject, were it not that the general condition of the imperial finances has always a more or less direct bearing upon the trade of the country, and it is desirable to keep in view, from year to year, in what manner our commerce is affected by the mode in which the revenues and expenditure of the country are dealt with. It has been the lot of more than one former President to have to criticise the administration of the finances of India, but it is my more pleasing task to express what I believe to be the general feeling among you that the budget for the present year is one that is worthy of the Government of India, and deals on safe and sound principles with the resources at their command, not only in respect to the ordinary ways and means, but also to the exceptional crisis which has arisen and caused an unexpected expenditure of between six and seven millions sterling. It is neither my place nor my purpose to enter into any general discussion as to the policy of Government in connection with the famine, but I would

say in respect to the Viceroy's decision not to interfere with the exportation of rice,—a decision which has been much called in question in various quarters, especially in England—that, although at the time it appeared doubtful what the consequences might be, and strong arguments were brought forward in support of the prohibition, it is now generally acknowledged that His Excellency exercised a right and correct judgment in the matter, and many of those who at first took the opposite view will admit that subsequent events have established the soundness of the reasons given by Lord Northbrook for his determination.

I would also say in respect to the extraordinary famine expenditure that the policy of providing for it by loan instead of by extra taxation is one which we must approve. It is true that the drain on the treasury balances in the meantime was a source of no small embarrassment to the trade of the country, enhanced in some degree by the great uncertainty as to its extent and duration, and as to the means which would be adopted to replenish the diminished reserves.

And this brings me to the second subject noticed in the report, which, though headed Government rice purchases, deals with their general operations in connection with the famine as affecting trade. You are all aware how many differ-

ent opinions were entertained, and how many conflicting statements published, on this subject, and your Committee thought it advisable to urge upon Government greater publicity in regard to their proceedings. His Excellency the Viceroy was pleased to express his concurrence in the opinion as to the desirability of such publicity, and to direct the communication to the Chamber of all information of importance affecting the mercantile interests. The Committee trust that their action in this matter will be approved.

LABOR DISTRICTS EMIGRATION BILL.—Regarding this Act I need only say that as I was a member of the Bengal Council from its introduction to its passing, and served on the Select Committee on the Bill, I can conscientiously endorse the remarks quoted in the report as to the very full and careful consideration which the subject received, and I am sure that the recommendations of the Special Committee of the Chamber were of great service in deciding many points of detail. Experience alone can show how far the Act will be found an improvement on the previous law, but I fear that in respect to sirdar recruiting it has already proved rather a check than an encouragement to that system. I think, however, we may anticipate that the bill will serve to set legislation on the subject at rest for some time.

PORT TRUST .-- Under this head will be found a representation to the Government of Bengal as to the extension of the powers of the Port Commissioners to the Sandheads, and as to the need and justice of a contribution from imperial funds to the expenses of the port, instead of charging the whole of those expenses on shipping and commerce. No definite action appears to have been taken in the matter, but it is one which I would commend to the attention of the Committee that may be elected to-day as being of urgent importance in itself, and also as closely connected with the condition of the Pilot Service. We have received a letter from a well-known member of that service, forwarding copy of a resolution of the Government of Bengal, which has not, however, been officially communicated to the Chamber. This resolution, after referring to certain recommendations of the Committee appointed to consider this question, and of which Committee my friend Mr. Murray was a member, proceeds to state that it is necessary to make a deduction of 15 per cent. from the present pilotage receipts and to raise the port charges in order to meet the port expenditure, on which there has hitherto been a considerable deficit. It appears to the Committee that this reduction is neither consistent with the general efficiency of the service nor with fairness to its individual members, and I am

quite sure that the charges on shipping in the port are fully heavy already.

While on this subject I would draw the attention of members to the Bill for amending and consolidating the various Port Acts which has been introduced into the Legislative Council of the Government of India, and, as I am a member of the Select Committee on the Bill, I would invite the suggestion of those who are especially interested in the subject.

The next two or three matters noticed in the report are also connected with the arrangements of the port; but as they are merely the answers of your Committee to questions submitted for their opinion, and these replies speak for themselves, it is not necessary to draw special attention to them.

Customs Tariff.—The question of the revision of the Customs Tariff remains in abeyance, pending a reply from Government to the Chamber's letter of 20th August last. Your Committee have been unwilling to press for prompt replies on this and other matters while graver and more urgent questions have necessarily engrossed a great part of the time and attention of the local Government, but

the Committee believe that the defects in the Customs Act and Tariff are sufficiently conspicuous to require early amendments, and the subject will no doubt receive the attention of your future Executive. The Committee believe that you will endorse their action in abstaining from entering into the question raised by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce as to the abolition of the Customs duties on cotton goods.

Doorga Pooja Holdays.—In conformity with the resolution carried at the general meeting in November last, your Committee addressed the Government of Bengal on the subject of the reduction of the Doorga Pooja holidays. No reply has been received, and, with every respect for the advocates of that reduction, I may be allowed to say that I shall personally be quite content if the letter remains in the pigeon-hole where it may now be supposed to rest.

Tonnage Schedule.—I now come to a ground upon which I almost fear to tread, and I think my safest course would be to steer clear altogether of the tonnage schedule. I may, however, remind you of the present position of the matter, which is this; at the last general meeting a resolution was carried by a large majority, adopting in principle the recommenda-

Telegraph.—The defective working of the telegraph line to Rangoon was the subject of a representation to the department; and improvement has since been noticed. The Committee have also had a long correspondence with the same department on two important subjects: firstly, with regard to the adoption of Webster's Dictionary as the standard

in respect to compound words; that highly respectable but antiquated authority having a habit of inserting hyphens between nearly every available syllable, very many ordinary words of two syllables became compound words, and were charged double accordingly, and the new rule was consequently found to be arbitrary and objectionable in the extreme. The Director General explained that the rule was framed to prevent unreasonable and extraordinary combinations only, and has since modified it to meet that purpose.

The second subject on which your Committee have had occasion to address the telegraph administration relates to the rejection of certain codemessages under departmental rules which came in force on the 1st instant, without previous notice to the public. Under these rules several messages, of which examples are given in the correspondence, of the same class as had hitherto been accepted as code-telegrams, that is to say, consisting of words or figures of preconcerted meaning, were declared to be inadmissible under that head in terms of the Convention, and to be of the cipher class, and liable to a double charge. You will observe from the letter of the Director General that these new restrictions were considered necessary in consequence of the very complicated character of some of the codes employed and the

puzzling combinations of words of different languages, and of figures, and so on. Though the Committee differed insoine degree from the Director-General as to the interpretation of the Convention, they thought it better to confine their representation to a request for sufficient notice of any such important changes in the rules to enable the question to be referred home, and to give time for new codes to be prepared, if necessary; and in the mean time action under the new rules has been suspended. It may be, and in fact is, I think, the case that some codes now in use are open to the objection urged by the Director General, but it is only reasonable that ample time should be allowed to amend them.

Having now noticed the chief subjects mentioned in the Committee's report I will proceed to advert to one or two other matters of interest: first, with regard to the Hooghly Bridge. The Committee have been favoured by Mr. Leslie with a short report of the progress of the work, in which he states that he anticipates that it will be open for traffic in September next, the recent accident having delayed completion for about two months

"All the Pontoons of the West half of the Bridge as far "as the central opening for shipping are now permanently "moored in place, and the superstructure with roadway "platform creeted upon them complete, with the exception "of the adjusting way connecting this portion of the bridge "with the Howrah abutment.

"On the Calcutta side the pontoons of the adjusting "ways only are permanently moored in place, two other "sections are erected and temporarily moored and a third "in process of erection; the materials for all the remain-"ing portions of the Bridge including those damaged by "the late accident are in progress.

"It is expected that the bridge will be completed and "ready for traffic in September next.

"Before the accident 220 feet of the Bridge on the Cal-"cutta side was fixed in place, and at the rate of progress "then attained, the Bridge would have been ready some "time in June, the delay due to the accident may therefore "be reckoned at three or four months."

Next with regard to the completion of the surveys and charts of the Indian coasts. I learn that Captain A. D. Taylor, of the Indian Navy, has been assisting the Government in the preparation of a scheme which is now under consideration. Captain Taylor has also shown the Committee a copy of the Indian sailing directory, which he has been editing and which is likely to become a standard work.

There are one or two, what I may call, outstanding subjects, such as those of Octroi Duties,

which, owing to various changes in the Executive, have not perhaps been taken up quite so continuously as I could wish, but with which the new Committee will no doubt deal.

I think that I have dwelt on all the subjects mentioned in the report, and will now move "that the Report of the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for the half-year ended 30th April 1874 be received."

The resolution was seconded by Mr. T. A. Vlasto, and carried.

It was then proposed by the Hon'ble F. G. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. F. Eisenlohr, and carried,—"that the Committee's conditional election of Mr. H. F. Wilson and Messrs Reinhold & Co., as Members of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, be confirmed."

Mr. J. Y. Macknight moved—"that the Committee's conditional election of the Honorable B. D. Colvin and Mr. Andrew Yule as Members of the Committee, in the room of Mr. William Craik and Mr. William Duncan, proceeded to Europe, be confirmed."

The resolution was seconded by Mr. A. B. Struthers, and carried.

It was proposed by Mr. A. B. Inglis, seconded by Mr. Evan A. Jack, and carried—" that the cordial thanks of the Chamber of Commerce be given to the Committee for their services during the past half-year."

Messrs E. Elliott and A. M. Clark having examined the voting cards for the election of a Committee for the current year recorded the result in the return of the following Members:—

The Hon'ble B. D. Colvin, President, the Hon'ble F. G. Eldridge, Vice-President, Messrs. F. Eisenlohr, T. A. Vlasto, Andrew Yule, T. A. Apear, and G. M. Struthers, Members.

Mr. Colvin thanked the members for re-clecting him President, and had only to say that he hoped he might prove himself worthy of the honor.

The meeting then terminated.

H. W. I. WOOD,

Secretary.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Report of the Committee for the half-year ended 30th April 1874.

The Committee have the pleasure to submit their Report on the principal questions which have come under their consideration during the past half-year.

The Financial Statement for 1874-75.

Although the Budget has not formed the subject of any communication between the Government of India and the Committee of the Chamber, it appears to the latter desirable to include in their report the financial resolution which accompanied the publication of the annual statement of accounts. The Committee believe that these accounts have been received with general satisfaction by the commercial community, as confirming the conviction expressed in the statement for the previous year that the normal revenue of the country is now more than sufficient to meet all ordinary expenditure; and the estimates for the year 1874-75 appear to afford sufficient ground for looking forward with confidence to the recurrence of a moderate surplus.

The Committee are also of opinion that the manner in which the extraordinary expenditure rendered necessary by the famine has been provided (although it has caused a considerable temporary pressure upon commercial resources) has been judicious and statesman-like; and the avoidance, under such exceptional circumstances, of any fresh measure of taxnation is a ground of special satisfaction.

No. 2666, dated 23rd April 1874.

Resolution by the Government of India, Financial Department. Read—

The Budget estimates of revenue and expenditure and receipts and disbursements during 1874-75.

RESOLUTION—A statement in explanation of the accounts of the year 1872-73, of the regular estimates of the year 1873-74, and of the budget estimates of the present year, accompanies this resolution.

- 2. The Governor General in Council regrets that the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple has been unable to prepare the financial statement himself, but the Government of India have had the advantage of his valuable advice and assistance in arriving at their conclusions upon the financial measures of the year.
- 3. The accounts of the year 1872-73 show a surplus of income over ordinary expenditure of £1,763,878. The particulars in which the accounts vary from the regular estimates are described in the statements and call for no special notice.

- 4. The regular estimates for the year 1873-74, not-withstanding the loss of half a million sterling to the revenues caused by the expiry of the Income Tax Act, show a surplus of income over ordinary expenditure of £1,818,700. This result is apart from the expenditure caused by the famine, which will be subsequently noticed.
- Explanations of the different items of revenue and expenditure are given in the statement. The analysis affords every reason for satisfaction.

The excess of the net revenue from opium over the budget estimate shows that the wise policy pursued during late years of taking a very moderate estimate of the revenue derived from opium has been maintained.

The ordinary sources of income have been fully sustained, excepting the land revenue, which has been slightly affected by bad seasons.

The civil expenditure has been estimated with remarkable accuracy. The only item which shows an unexpected increase is that of "loss by exchange."

The net expenditure upon the army is expected to be £14,806,000, being the lowest amount for any year since 1863-64.

The net charge on account of the guaranteed railways shows a substantial diminution.

6. The expenditure upon reproductivé, or as they are termed in the accounts "extraordinary," public works in the year 1873-74 is estimated to amount to £3,541,000 and the loaus to Municipalities, &c., to £539,300.

7. It will be convenient to recapitulate the principles by which the Government of India are guided in regard to the provision to be made for "extraordinary" public works and loans to the Municipalities, &c., for works of improvement.

In the year 1869 it was determined to draw for the future a stricter line between public works to be paid for out of income and by borrowing, and that only such irrigation works as were expected, after careful examination, to yield a fair direct cash roturn to the treasury, and State railways within certain limits, should be classed as extraordinary, and, if necessary, provided for by loan.

Act XXIV of 1871 authorised Government to make loans to Corporate Bodies and Municipalities for certain purposes on the security of local or municipal funds.

In the financial years 1869-70, 1870-71 and 1871-72 funds were borrowed by the Government for these two purposes. Up to the end of the year 1872-73 the whole not sum borrowed was £10,872,551, to which is to be added recoveries from Municipalities, &c., amounting to £361,799, so that the total receipts amounted to £11,284,350.

Up to the end of the year 1872-73, there had been expended upon 'extraordinary' public works £7,580,433, and lent to Municipalities, &c., £3,699,748, making a total expenditure of £11,280,181.

Thus the sums disbursed by Government upon those objects from the year 1869-70 to the end of the year 1872-73 exceeded the sums received by £45,831.

- 8. Therefore, if the condition of the finances had made it necessary, the sum required for extraordinary public works and lons during the year 1873-74 might with perfect propriety have been borrowed during that year, but (as explained by Sir Richard Temple in his financial statement of last year) the condition of the finances was such that it was not necessary to have recourse to borrowing.
- 9. The cash balances at the end of the year 1873-74 would have stood at 20½ millions sterling, or about 3 millions more than the budget estimate, had not the famine thrown a serious and unexpected charge upon the resources of the year.
- 10. The Government of India became aware, at the end of last October, that the failure of the rains had destroyed the food-supplies of large and populous tracts of country, and they at once determined (to quote the words of the Viceroy's despatch to the Duke of Argyll of the 7th November) not to shrink "from using overy available means at whatever cost, to prevent, so far as they could, any loss of the lives of Her Majesty's subjects in consequence of the calamity."

In carrying this determination into effect, they have received the cordial support of Her Majesty's late and present Governments.

11. The best estimate that can be formed of the net expenditure for famine relief will be found in the statement, and amounts, in all, to £6,500,000. A large part of the original outlay will consist in the purchase and transport of grain, and it has been a matter of some difficulty to determine how this should appear in the estimates and accounts.

As a great part of the expenditure for the purchase and transport of grain has been met during the year 1873-74, while there have been few, if any, recoveries during that year, the net expenditure on account of the famine must be distributed between the two years, for the purpose of the estimates and accounts, into £3,920,000 for 1873-74 and £2,580,000 for 1874-75. It must be remembered, however, that, in fact, the principal part of the actual relief operations will be carried on in the latter year, and, therefore in order to present an accurate view of the whole transactions, the finance of the two years must be taken together.

- 12. After the expenditure on account of the famine has been added to the ordinary expenditure of the year, there will be a deficit of £2,101,300.
- 13. The total cash outlay during the year 1873-74 on account of the famine, adding advances for loans to the net expenditure, is estimated at £4,107,000. This sum has been provided out of the surplus of the year and the cash balances, with the assistance of £350,000 derived from the sale of certain securities, in which part of the surplus cash balances were temporarily invested at the beginning of the year 1872.

Notwithstanding this large and unexpected outlay on account of the famine, the cash balances are expected to amount, at the end of the year 1873-74, to £16,143,838.

or only £920,730 less than was anticipated by the budget estimate.

14. It was stated in the resolution of the Government of India in the Financial Department of the 28th of Murch 1873, "that the estimates for the year 1873-74 had been framed with caution; that the state of the cash balances prevented any risk of financial difficulty during the year; and that the general condition of the finances was satisfactory."

The regurlar estimates show that these anticipations have been fully realised under circumstances of no common difficulty.

- 15. The budget estimates for the year 1874-75 have been framed, as usual, with great care. Apart from the famine expenditure they exhibit a surplus of income over ordinary expenditure of £1,192,000.
- 16. The explanations of the several items of revenue and expenditure given in the statement are, on the whole, and expenditure given in the statement are, on the whole, astisfactory. The opium estimate has again been cautiously made, and the total revenue has been estimated at half a million sterling less than the regular estimate of 1873-74.

Although attention has been paid to the necessity of checking all increase of expenditure at a time when a large extra charge has to be met on account of the famine, provision has been made for the constitution of the Chief Commissionership of Assam, and for strengthening the administration in the Punjab and British Burmah; an addition has also been made to the grant for irrigation works (ordinary), in order that profitable expenditure upon many works, which cannot properly be classed as 'extraordinary', may not be deferred.

The loan operations of the year will considerably diminish the item "loss by exchange;" but this relief is only temporary.

- 17. After making all due allowances, however, there remains, apart from the famine, a considerable surplus of income over ordinary expenditure, based upon cautious estimates.
- 18. This bears out the opinion expressed in the Financial resolution of 18th March 1873, that no additional taxation was required for the purpose of maintaining the finances of India in a sound and satisfactory condition.
- 19. After the expenditure on account of the famine has been added to the ordinary expenditure of the year, there will be a deficit of £1,388,000.
- 20. It was explained in the resolution in the Public Works Department of the 18th of July last that the Government of India were prepared to proceed with 'extraordinary' public works, at the rate of 4½ millions sterling a year for the five years ending with 1877-78, out of funds to be raised, if necessary, by loan; and that, according to the best estimate that could be formed, this might be done without imposing any additional annual charge upon the revenues of India on account of guaranteed railways, State railways, and extraordinary public works.

In accordance with this programme, provision has been

made for the expenditure of £4,563,000 upon 'extraordinary' public works during the year 1874-75.

21. The cash balances at the beginning of the year 1874-75 are estimated at £16,143,838. A sum of 4½ millions sterling has to be provided for reproductive public works and half a million is required to meet loans to Municipalities and other loans under Acts of the Legislature.

There will, therefore, be, in the year 1874-75, a sum of five millions sterling which, according to the principle explained in the 7th paragraph of this resolution, can legitimately be raised by loan. To this must be added a sum of 1½ millions, in order to meet the withdrawals during the year of part of the capital standing in the Government books to the credit of the guaranteed railway companies, and two millions for the purpose of meeting the deficit caused by expenditure and advances on account of the famine and of making a slight increase in the cash balances.

Thus the total sum to be raised by loan during the year 1874-75 is, according to the information now in the possession of the Government, estimated at 84 millions sterling.

22. Her Majesty's Government have obtained authority from Parliament to raise a sum not exceeding £10,000,000 in England on behalf of the Government of India. £5,000,000 of that sum have been called up and this will provide for the requirements during the early part of the year. A sum of £860,000 will be received on loan under the arrangements entered into with the Maharajahs of Gwalior and Indore for the construction of railways through their Highnesses' territories. The remaining sum of about 23 millions sterling, or such portion

of it as may, as the year proceeds, be found necessary, will be raised hereafter in England or India as may be most advisable in the then condition of the money market.

23. The drafts of the Secretary of State upon the Indian treasuries have been reduced in the month of April to 40 lakls of rupees at each periodical drawing. They will be still further reduced to 20 lakhs on and after the first drawing in May until further notice.

The Government regret that circumstances have prevented an earlier announcement of the measures in regard to the loans and the drafts upon the Indian treasuries.

- The cash balance at the end of the year 1874-75 is estimated at £16,541,338.
- 25. From a review of the estimates of the years 1873-74 and 1874-75, taken together, it will be seen that in round numbers—the surplus of income over ordinary expenditure is expected to be 3 millions sterling; the net expenditure on account of the Bengal famine is estimated at 6½ millions; after adding the cost of the famine to the ordinary expenditure, there will be a deficiency of 3½ millions; there will be expended upon 'extraordinary' public works and upon loans to Municipalities, &c., 9 millions; and that it is intended to raise by loan the sum of 8½ millions.
- 26. The sum to be borrowed does not equal the sum which will be spont in the two years 1873-74 and 1874-75 upon 'extraordinary,' public works and leans to Municipalities, for which purposes the Government of India were justified in borrowing money if necessary.

The condition of the finances has been so strong that an expenditure of 6½ millions sterling on account of the famine will be byrne out of the surplus of income over ordinary expenditure, and out of the eash balances, which stood very high, mainly in consequence of the large surpluses of income over ordinary expenditure in the three preceding years.

- 27. His Excellency in Council regrets that the necessities of the State in obliging the Government largely and rapidly to reduce their balances in the Presidency Banks have tended to produce considerable tightness in the money market, which was increased by the great demand for silver to meet the transactions of Government and of the trade for the purchase of grain. The general condition of trade has, however, been sound, and the Government are gratified to believe that nothing more than a temporary inconvenience has been occasioned by the large and exceptional financial transactions of the State during the last six months.
- 28. The Government of India are anxious to avoid the imposition of fresh taxes and any disturbance of the present financial arrangements of the country, and it is with particular satisfaction that they arrived at the conclusion that, notwithstanding the large and unexpected demand upon the resources of the State, no increase of taxation is necessary.
- 29. The large amount of the estimated expenditure on account of the famine, and the principles which have guided the Government of India in dealing with the calamity make it necessary to examine whether, although upon the present occasion the charge can legitimately be

met without fresh taxation, it will be safe to rely upon the present resources of India for the purpose of meeting future demands of the same kind.

- 30. If the occurrence of serious deficiencies in the food-supplies of the people in parts of British India depended upon causes so rare as the potato disease which produced the Irish famine of 1846-47, it would be sufficient to say that the expense of meeting such visitations should not be borne by one generation, but, in accordance with the course adopted by the Imperial, Government in dealing with the Irish famine, the necessary funds might legitimately be raised by loan if the ordinary resources of the State should prove insufficient.
- 31. Unfortunately, however, drought, which is the cause of all serious and extensive famines in India, cannot be regarded as an extraordinary visitation. Within the last ten years there have occurred, in the year 1866, a drought very similar to that of last year, which occasioned what is termed the Orisas famine; in the years 1868 and 1869 a failure of rain in the North-Western Provinces and Rajpootana, which occasioned great distress over a considerable tract of country, and severe famine in Ajmeer and Marwar; and, lastly, in the year 1873, a failure of the autumn rains in Behar and parts of Bongal, which has produced the present famine.
- 32. Such being the facts with which the Government of India have to deal, it would not be safe to depend upon leans for the purpose of meeting future charges on account of famines. Although means have been taken and will be taken to obviate or mitigate those calamities, some such

charges must, for a time at least, be looked upon as contingencies to be expected to recur with more or less regularity.

- 33. It is necessary, therefore, that besides a fair surplus of income over ordinary expenditure, such a margin should be provided in addition in ordinary times as shall constitute a reasonable provision for meeting occasional expenditure upon famines. If the surplus be employed in the reduction of debt, in the construction of reproductive public works, or remain in the cash balances, the expense caused by future droughts may fairly be met by appropriations from cash balances, or by loan, to the full extent of the accumulations of surplus.
- 34. This condition of things has existed in India during the last four years, and the Government of India are resolved to use their best endeavours to maintain for the future a considerable surplus of income over ordinary expenditure, and thus to make provision beforehand for any calls which are likely to arise on account of famines.
- 35. But there remains the further and more important consideration whether the disastrous effect of periodical failures of rain may not be mitigated, and to a great extent obviated, by the extension of irrigation works and of railways, or other means of communication.
- 36. This subject has constantly received the attention of the Government of India. Already a vast area of country has been rendered secure from the effects of a failure of rain by the irrigation works which have been originated or renewed by the British Government. Had it not been for the large expenditure upon the construction of the guaranteed railways, it would have been physically

impossible to have taken adequate precautions to preserve the lives of the people in Behar.

- 37. In the forecast of expenditure upon reproductive public works published in July last, it was amounced that 2,700 miles of railway and firigation works calculated to secure from liability to drought 50,000 square miles of country would be constructed during the five years ending with 1877-78 at a cost of 22½ millions sterling. This programme is sufficient to show that before the occurrence of the drought of the last year, the Government of India were fully alive to the necessity of a vigorous prosecution of such works.
- 38. A general review is now being made of the position of the whole of Her Majesty's dominions in India as regards liability to famine from the want either of works of irrigation or of means of communication. It will be the duty of the Government to consider how far it may be desirable to accelerate the construction of reproductive public works, and if so, how the necessary funds shall be provided.
- It is sufficient now to observe that a scheme of irrigation has been commenced which will give security to some of the portions of North Behar which are most liable to suffer from a failure of rain, and that surveys are being made of the tract of the country, which extends between the Gunduck and the Kussi. rivers with the view of ascertaining the best lines of railway communication.
- 39. There will be found in the statements some interesting statistics and observations relating to the system of provincial services, and to provincial, municipal, and local

taxation, receipts, and expenditure. The Government of India propose to take a separate opportunity of reviewing the information which has been collected upon these important subjects.

40. It has for a second time occurred that no legislative measure will be introduced in connection with the budget, and, as explained last year, it would, therefore, be in contravention of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, that a financial statement should be made in the Council of the Governor General for the purpose of making laws and regulations.

Ordered—that this resolution, together with the statement and the budget estimates for the year 1874-75, be published in the Gazette of India for general information, and that the separate orders passed by the Government of India upon the estimates of the local Governments and heads of departments be communicated to them.

By order of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in Council.

PURCHASE OF RICE BY GOVERNMENT

The great uncertainty which prevailed a few weeks ago as to the extent and character of the measures of the Government of India in connection with the famine, and the many conflicting statements published in various quarters on the subject, appeared to the Committee to be adding to the monetary pressure caused by the heavy reduction of the Treasury balances, and to be the occasion of frequent and embarrassing financial fluctuations, and they believed that some relief would be afforded by endeavouring to obtain more precise information as to those operations of Government which directly affected trade; they therefore took the opportunity of making the representation contained in the letter printed below, which was promptly responded to, and has led to the publication of various official papers on the subject which the Committee believe have been of considerable service to the mercantile community.

Chamber of Commerce to Government of India.

Calcutta, 28th March 1874.

The President and Committee of the Chamber of Commerce desire me to request you will take the earliest opportunity of submitting for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General in Council the following representation, which they have been induced to make in consequence of a statement contained in the Friend of India of the 26th instant, and repeated in the Englishman and Daily News of the 27th idem,—to the effect that a fresh purchase of 80,000 tons of rice from Burmah had been ordered by Government, in addition to the supplies previously arranged for and amounting, according to the official estimates, published in the Gazette of Iutica of 31st January last, to 340,000 tons, at a first cost of about 3 millions steriling.

The immediate result of this statement was to give rise to the expectation that further withdrawals of bullion to the extent of 50 or 60 lacs for the purchase named would be at once required, as well as to cause apprehensions that the official estimates of the supplies of grain needed in the districts of scarcity have now been proved to be inadequate.

- 3. Looking at the matter purely from a commercial point of view the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce respectfully submit that the heavy drain on the Treasury balances for the payment of the rice purchased by Government has already caused a very severe strain upon commercial resources, and such as might have led to grave results had it come, as suddenly as it has, upon an active or inflated state of trade instead of (as has actually been the case) upon an extremely curtailed condition of business, both export and import. This strain is evidenced not only by the frequent and rapid advances in the rates of interest, but also by the fact that the value of money and of Government Securities as well as the rates of sterling exchange are now extremely sensitive and subject to great fluctuations according to every report that is circulated in respect to the financial measures and requirements of Government.
- 4. As an instance of the character of the prevailing rumours affecting the value of Government Securities, the Committee of the Chamber may mention that it has been generally stated and believed in the bazar during the last two days that a loan of 2 erores of rupees is about to be issued here shortly in addition to the amount now being raised in England, and that when the Famine Loan was first announced by telegrams from London the uncertainty as to its extent and nature and as to the

manner in which the funds would be made available in this country caused a sudden fall of 2 per cent in the price of Government Paper and a similar rise in sterling exchange, which have both been greatly modified by the official announcement that the probable sum required would not exceed 3 millions, and that the Secretary of State's drawings would only be reduced to 80 lacs a month, and the Committee of the Chamber are of opinion that it would have been well to have published in the Gazette of India a Financial Resolution to this effect, immediately the action of Government had been decided and approved by the Secretary of State, and trust that this course may be adopted in any fiture like transaction.

- 5. These considerations have led the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to venture to enquire, for the satisfaction of the general mercantile community, whether the statement in question was in any way officially authorised or substantially correct, and whether any further large remittances to Burmah for rice purchases will be required to be made. The Committee fully recognize the necessity for the secret action of Government in respect to their rice purchases in the first instance, though they venture to think that the financial pressure caused by these transactions would have been less severe and more readily met by importations of bullion if the extent and period of the Government requirements had been made known sooner, and more precisely, to the banking and mercantile community.
- 6. Perhaps it would be beyond the province of the Committee of this Chamber to express their conviction that on grounds of public policy, as well as of the inter-

ests of the community whom they represent, it would be desirable to check, as far as possible, the circulation of the unauthorised statements which have been made both here and in England regarding the action of Government in connection with the famine, by means of the publication, from time to time, of such official papers on the subject as His Excellency in Council may see fit; but at any rate they trust they will be occused for soliciting for the future such information regarding the matter as is likely to affect the mercantile interest in any serious degree whenever it can be communicated to them without detriment to the general welfare.

Government of India to Chamber of Commerce.

Calcutta, 2nd April 1874.

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor General in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo.

- 2. In reply I am directed to say that the statement which you inform me appeared in the Friend of India of the 26th March to the effect that a fresh purchase of 80,000 tons of rice had been ordered from Burmah had no official authority. It must have been based upon private information received of orders given some time ago by the Government of India.
- 3. In the despatch of the 30th January, to which you allude in the 1st paragraph of your letter, it was stated that according to the best estimates which the

Government of India were able to make, it was thought that the purchase of 340,000 tons of rice would be sufficient for the requirements of the distressed districts; at the same time it was stated that no difficulty was anticipated "in increasing the supplies still further, if in the course of the next three months additional necessities should appear to require it."

- 4. The revised estimates for the requirements of the famine districts, which were subsequently made by Sir Richard Temple, rendered further purchases necessary. The numbers for which the Government have now made provision do not differ materially from the original rough estimate of 21 millions of people for seven months, which was made last November and published in the Gazette of January 31st, but Sir Richard Temple's calculations have been based upon an average daily consumption per head of three-quarters of a seer, insteed of half a seer. The Government of India have thought it desirable to adopt the higher estimate, and therefore, with a view to the maintenance of a proper reserve, they have arranged for further purchases. The amount of rice for which provision has now been made amounts to 453,000 tons, independently of such purchases as have been made by Rajahs, zemindars, and others with funds advanced by Government. Of the whole supply, 280,000 tons have been arranged for from Burmah.
- 5. Arrangements have already been made for paying for the rice ordered from Burmah, and, as far as His Excellency in Council is at present able to judge, no further remittances of specie of any consequence will be required for the rice ports on Government account.

- 6. His Excellency in Council regrets the temporary derangement of the money market, which has been caused by the necessity of suddenly contracting the Government balances and by the demand for silver, and he trusts that the strain will now be quickly diminished.
- 7. In respect to the 6th paragraph of your letter, I am to state that His Excellency in Council entirely concurs with the Chamber of Commerce that it is desirable to give every publicity to the action of Government in connection with the famine. The fortnightly narratives from the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal have from the first been placed at the disposal of the press. In order to give them greater circulation, they will, in future, be published in the Gazette of India. The Calcutta Gazette, which is published weekly, contains a list of prices and the latest reports from each district. The Gazette published weekly in the North-Western Provinces gives the same particulars for the distressed districts in those provinces. The Gazette of India gives general reports and list of prices for the whole country. Any further information of importance, especially such as may affect the interests of the mercantile community, will be published from time to time.
- 8. With reference to the 4th paragraph of your letter, I am to say that, in accordance with your suggestion, any alteration made in respect to the drafts by the Secretary of State upon the Government of India will, in future, be notified in the Guzette, and not, as has litherto been the case, only through the columns of the press.

Calcutta, 30th April 1874.

DEAR MR. COLVIN.

A short time ago the Chamber of Commerce wrote to ask whether a statement which had appeared in the Friend of India on the subject of the Government rice purchases was correct. An official answer was communicated to you on the 2nd of this month.

There is a statement—or rather a calculation—in the Friend of India of this morning to the effect that Government has purchased 570,000 tons of rice. It is incorrect. We learnt a short time ago from Mr. Eden that his purchases amount to 290,000 tons—which is 10,000 tons more than was stated in the letter of the 2nd. He has stopped purchasing. Further, some purchases have been made in the North-West, mainly with a view to relieving the strain on the railway traffic up-country from Howrah. But substantially the position—for all practical purposes connected with the interests of the mercantile community—remains the same as when the letter of April 2nd was written. There has been no change of sufficient importance to make it necessary to notify any thing to the public, in fulfilment of the promise given in that letter.

Yours very truly, E. BARING

TO THE HON'BLE B. D. COLVIN.

LABOR DISTRICTS EMIGRATION BILL.

This most important subject was noticed at considerable length in the Committee's last Report. The Bill relating to the emigration of laborers to the districts of Assam, Cachar, and Sylhet was then before the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor; but after considerable amendments in Committee, and subsequent discussion at two meetings of the Council, it passed through the final stage on 20th December, and received the assent of the Governor General in Council on the 30th of that month, as B. C. Act VII of 1873.

Before the Bill was passed by the Council some very pertinent and interesting remarks were made as to the fair and full manner in which the provisions of the proposed measure had been dealt with, and the interests alike of laborers and their employers duly recognised, by the Council; and your Committee record them in their proceedings as an appropriate sequel of the lengthened discussion and critical examination to which the Bill had been subjected.

The growth of the Tea industry of India has been almost unexampled in the history of our trade, as the following figures representing the value of annual exports during the 10 years ended on the 30th April 1874 will serve to illustrate: and there is every reasonable prospect of a continued progressive advancement, which will ultimately give Indian Tea a foremost place among the principal productions of the country.

Value of Tea exported from Calcutta.

			·
			Rs.
1863-64			 22,92,820
1864-65		•••	 27,34,750
1865-66			 22,65,060
1866-67			 36,27,032
1867-68	·		 68,30,672
1868-69			 86,04,414
1869-70		•••	 1,01,69,786
1870-71		•••	 1,08,35,027
1871-72			 1,35,88,583
1872-73	•••		 1,52,35,270
1873-74	***		 1,69,26,991

Extract from proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council— 20th December 1873.

The Hon'ble the Advocate-General moved that the Bill as amended be passed.

The Hon'ble Mr. Robinson said, before the final vote was taken on this Bill, he would trouble the Council with a very few words. On the introduction of the Bill a desire was expressed by him, on behalf of the Tea interest, that ample time should be given for the consideration of the Bill, and full enquiries made upon the effect of the many alterations proposed by it. He was now anxious to say that the promise that was made at that

time by the Government that that should be the case had been most fully and completely fulfilled. No Bill that" had ever been before the Council had taken, he believed. so long a time to pass or had received such ample discussion, or in regard to which so much and such a variety of information had been collected from both official and non-official sources, as in regard to this Bill. And he rejoiced the more that that had been the case, because he thought it must be admitted that the enquiries that had been made tended to show that the planters as a body had treated their laborers fairly and humanely, and had shown every disposition to act in accordance with the law in all matters connected with their business. The Bill, like all Bills, had been finally settled by a series of compromises, and as it would now be passed, he thought that those compromises, having been made in a spirit of fairness, had brought it into a state equitable to the interests concerned. He thought that every question that had been raised had been fully and fairly considered, and there had been every disposition on the part of the Government to consult the interests both of planters and coolies. He trusted that, in the course of a few years, legislation of this kind would be no longer necessary for the Tea districts; that their conditionwould be so changed that the execution and enforcement of contracts might safely be left to the operation of the ordinary law of the land. Meantime, he earnestly hoped that there would be no further legislation on this subject, which had been now so often and carefully discussed, and that no measure relating to it would again be brought before this or the Supreme Council, unless it was the introduction of a short Act to repeal this Bill entirely.

His Honor the President said, before putting the question to the vote, he thought it right that he should, on the part of the Government, express the very great gratification with which he had listened to the observations of the Hon'ble Member. We did value extremely the testimony that he had been good enough to bear as to the fairness and fullness with which the questions which had been raised had been discussed. His Honor was glad that the Hon'ble Member had been good enough to bear testimony to the fact that ample opportunity for full discussion by all parties had been given. He trusted they had now, by the labors of the Committee and the Council, and more especially by the labors of the learned Advocate-General, who was in charge of this Bill, arrived at a conclusion satisfactory to all parties. He took it that he might receive the expression of opinion which the Hon'ble Member had now given as a testimony to the belief of those whom he represented, as it was our belief, that the compromises to which we had arrived at were the best compromises which the wisdom of this Council could devise; and so far as human foresight could foresee, we hoped that they would work well. His Honor thoroughly endorsed what the Hon'ble Member had said with regard to the enquiries that had been made, that they did show that the planters, as a body, had treated their coolies fairly and well; and he was sure that it was the wish of Government, and of all of us, that we should do the utmost that we could to promote this great Tea industry; to promote the development of those districts which were so lately covered with jungle; to do every thing in our power to promote the welfare of these districts, the increase of tea cultivaton, and the general development of the productions and the revenue of the country.

In regard to the question which had lately most occupied the attention of the Council, and which had been settled by a compromise, he was more and more sanguine that we had made a fair compromise. Assam was a long way off, and some of the opinions from that district did not arrive until a late stage of our proceedings; but he was happy to find that they went to corroborate and endorse the views the Council had arrived at. He found that in Assam, although the planters were not so sanguine as they were in Cachar, there seemed to be a general concurrence of opinion that it was desirable that free labor should, to some extent, be tried. It was suggested by several experienced planters and others that it was quite possible that free labor might sooner or later find its way into Assam. We were told that recruits for the regiments in Assam came of themselves from various parts of the North-Western Provinces, and it was suggested that when the roads which were now being opened were put into proper order, and resting and cookingplaces and other conveniences for travelling provided, free labor would find its way into Assam. That would be an extremely desirable result. His Honor not only concurred in most of the observations that had been made by the Hon'ble Member, but he thoroughly concurred in the last observation, that he hoped legislation on this subject might not be further necessary. His Honor hoped and trusted that the Bill, which was now about to be passed through its final stage-if the Council should see fit to pass the Bill and it should receive the assent of the Viceroy-might suffice for some time to come, and be beneficial in its results; and he hoped that the next occasion on which legislation might, be proposed, it might be in the shape the Hon'ble Member had suggested,

namely, that all special legislation be brought to an end, and that the labor districts being fitted for free emigration, might be brought under the operation of the ordinary law of the land.

The motion was agreed to.

THE FORT TRUST.

Proposed transfer of the management of the entire Port to the Commissioners.

The following communication from the Chamber to the Government of Bengal will disclose the grounds upon which your Committee recommended a material enlargement of the powers and reponsibilities of the Port Commissioners, whose authority and functions are at present limited within the boundaries of the Port proper-that is from Garden Reach to Cossipore, or thereabouts; and being of opinion that the public service would be more advantageously performed if that restriction were removed and the entire Port from its Northern limit at Cossipore to the Sandheads were placed under the exclusive control of the Commissioners, your Committee submitted for the consideration of Government that the Commissioners should be vested with such larger powers as would enable them to conduct the operations of that extended Trust. The Committee at the same time strongly urged on the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor the justice and expediency of relieving the heavy charges levied on the shipping and commerce of the Port by a fair and liberal contribution from the Imperial revenue, which derives so much from the shipping operations of the Port, but gives nothing directly towards keeping the river in an efficient state of navigation, maintaining the Pilot Establishment, or improving the Port. Your Committee hope this point will be generously dealt with by His Excellency the Governor General in Council.

Chamber of Commerce to Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, 23rd December 1873.

In their reply dated the 29th October last to your letter No. 3657 of the 16th idem the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce confined their remarks to the two points specially submitted to their notice for an expression of opinion, viz., whether the pilotage fees should be arranged more according to tonnage, and whether any change should be made in the present system of applying for pilots.

These points were two only of several which had been engaging the consideration of a Committee appointed by Government, of which the late President of the Chamber was a member, to report on subjects connected with the pilot service of the port; but at the same time His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor was pleased to furnish

the Chamber with the report of that Committee and the proceedings of Government relative to the reorganization of the pilot service, as they concerned matters of general interest to the trade of the port.

The Committee have not failed to give their attention to these papers, particularly in respect to the position of the accounts which represent the pilotage dues and charges and the port approaches' receipts and charges; and in their half-yearly report of proceedings lately submitted to the Chamber they recorded the opinion that the whole system required a complete revision, and that any reduction of pilotage and dues was not only hopeless but impossible, until the expenses were put on a much more economical footing and more control over them exercised than was apparently employed at present.

This opinion is entirely in conformity with what, they are informed by Mr. Murray, was expressed by the Pilot Service Committee in their final report, in the following words:—"We would, however, direct the attention of Government, to a close scrutiny of and greater economy in the expenditure of the port. We do not enter into any details in these matters, as the subject, as regards details, appears to us, under the present orders of Government to be with a vives."

The Committee regret that that restriction deprives them of the opportunity of judging how far economy and efficiency are now exercised, with a careful and vigilant control, by the Marine Department, upon whose management materially depends the satisfactory condition of its accounts, and the probability of relief which a reduction of those charges would afford.

While, however, that source of information is closed to them, the Committee find abundant evidence in the report, dated the 18th January 1870, which was submitted to the Government of Bengal by the Commission appointed to investigate the affairs and condition of the Calcutta Port Fund, in support of the proposition they now recommend for His Honor's consideration and adoption.

That Commission was composed of Mr. E. F. Harrison, the Controller-General of Accounts, and Captain H. Howe, officiating Master-Attendant, and two members of the Chamber, the late President, the Hor'ble J. R. Bullen-Smith, and the present Vice-President, Mr. F. G. Eldridge, by whom the then existing system under which the Port Fund was conducted was carefully examined and pronounced to be susceptible of material amendment and improvement; and in closing their exhaustive report upon a very difficult and intricate subject they submitted sundry conclusions at which they had arrived and recorded the following paragraph:—

"Para 48. We had intended to submit for the consideration of Government a recommendation that the affairs of the port should be administered by a Board in which the commercial and trading interests should be verresented, and that its accounts should be audited by an agency independent of the Marine Department; these objects, however, will be fully secured by the appointment of the proposed (Port) Commissioners and by the audit contemplated in Section 52 of the proposed Bill."

The Committee are thus brought to the point which they desire to urge on the attention of the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor. After protracted endeavours to constitute a Trust which should be invested with all needful powers for the proper conservation and improvement of the port, Act No. V. of 1870 was passed by the Lieutenant-Governor on 11th June and confirmed by the Governor-General on 12th August of that year, and the present Port Commission was thereby established.

A reference to the correspondence which passed between the Government of Bengal and the Chamber of Commerce on the subject of that important measure will inform His Honor that the Chamber were then content that the powers and authority of the Commissioners should not extend beyond the limits of the Port proper, the management of the river and of the pilotage being left to existing arrangements: but the Committee added that, should the new Trust be found to work satisfactorily after sufficient trial, they would have confidence in asking, and probably the Government would be more disposed to grant, an extension of the provisions of the Act with the view to placing in the hands of the Commissioners the entire charge of the port and river from Calcutta to the Sandheads, including the care of moorings, lights and pilotage of the Hooghly; and this enlargement of the Commissioners' powers and functions was not lost sight of as the Government of Bengal in their letter to the Government of India of 29th April 1870 wrote asfollows:-

a With regard to the proposed separation of the management of the port from that of the navigable channel leading thereto, I am to state that the Bill now before the Lieutenant-Covernor's Council with make it possible to transfer the whole to the Commissioners for the improvement of the port should such a course at some future time recommend itself, but that it is contemplated at first to make over to the Commissioners the management of the port only.

The Commissioners commenced operations in October 1870, and from that time to the present the duties devolved upon them have been discharged in a manner which entitles them to the most unqualified expression of satisfaction on the part of the commercial public; whatever they have undertaken has been done promptly and with utmost efficiency, and—to use His Honor's own words—"there can be no doubt that the present Port Trust is a great success."

The administrative powers of the Commissioners have been so wisely exercised within the area of operations restricted by the Act that the Committee of the Chamber do not hesitate to suggest that the Commissioners should be vested with such larger powers as will enable them to carry out the more extensive scheme of placing under their exclusive control the entire management of the Port from the city to the sea.

The original views of the Supreme Government on this point are contained in the following paragraph of their letter dated 6th June 1863:—

6. The River Trust might be properly authorised to undertake any works designed for the improvement of the port, such as jetties, docks, varehouses, and transways for connecting the same; it might also be entrusted with the care of the moorings, lights, and pilotage of the Hooghly, every thing in short as far as the Sandheads. There can be no doubt that this extension of the powers of such a Trust can be safely made if the number of Trustees is kept within proper limits, and if there is a due proportion among them of professional Government officers. In fact, this part of the duties of the Commission would be less difficult and important than the proposed new works at Calcutta.

The Committee believe that a more economical, efficient and satisfactory management of the public service would be the result if the Port Commissioners were charged with the responsibilities involved in the transfer of the duties of the Marine Department.

The only exception they would suggest has reference to the Dockyard, which absorbs nearly a third of the receipts derived from charges on shipping, and should not, in their opinion, be permitted to cumber the free action of the Commissioners in the proposed enlargement of their functions. No necessity appears to exist for continuing a system which has not the slighest claim to be pronounced as advantageous to public interests, and the abandonment of the Dockyard would create no void in the service of the Commissioners which they could not fill up from the abundant sources which competitive private enterprise, under their check and control, would promptly supply.

The abandonment and sale of the Dockyard and its appurtenances and the valuable land occupied thereby, would enable the Government to release a large amount of public money locked-up in that unprofitable investment, and place at its disposal a fund, the interest on

which would probably suffice to cover an imperial grant in reduction of charges inseparable from an efficient conservation of the Port and its communication with the sea.

The report on the Port Fund dated 18th January 1870, already referred to, contains numerous suggestions of great value, and the Commissioners will no doubt give them all the attention they are well entitled to; but at the present moment the Committee desire me to urge upon the Lieutenant-Governor's consideration the justice and expediency of the Port charges being relieved by a fair and liberal contribution from Government.

The Port is an imperial one, and its proper maintenance is a matter of vital necessity not only for the commerce of this Presidency, but also, and in a great degree, for the direct interests of the State. Those interests are so material on the grounds of public policy and security of public revenue, which draws no small share from the trade of the Port, that the exemption of the State from a portion of the expenditure incurred in preserving a free and open communication between the Port and the Bay of Bengal can scarcely be held as just towards a special interest which at present bears the entire burden of such service.

The Committee fully endorse all that is recorded in the report on this and other points, and they are satisfied His Honor will give such support to the recommendations and suggestions now submitted as in his judgment they can fairly claim.

From Govt. of Bengal to Chamber of Commerce.

Calcutta, 5th January 1874.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 22nd December 1873, communicating the suggestions and recommendations of the Chamber for the transfer of the entire port to the management of the Port Trust Commissioners, and in reply to say that the Lieutenant-Governor will defer coming to any decision on the subject till the new Superintendent of Marine arrives and the whole matter is fully considered.

Additional Rule proposed by the Port Commissioners for the protection of the Hooghly Bridge.

The following correspondence has reference to a rule proposed by the Port Commissioners for the protection of the Floating Bridge, by which no vessel will be permitted to pass through the opening of the bridge unless propelled or towed by steam.

The Committee concurred in the propriety of such a precautionary measure, although they suggested that ordinary river craft and vessels of small burthen—a limit of tonnage being fixed—should be exempt from the necessity of using steam.

Since the above was in type the Government of Bengal has published in the Calcutta Gazette of 27th May the additional Port Rule, fixing 200 tons as the maximum burthen of vessels moving without steam,

Calcutta, 7th March 1874.

In forwarding herewith copy of a letter from the Vice
No. 5188, dated 26th February 1874. Chairman to the Portgother with its enclosure, I am directed to say that the Lieutenant-Governor will be much obliged by the Chamber favoring him with an expression of their opinion regarding the proposed draft Port Rule for prohibiting vessels from passing the Hooghly Bridge without the assistance of steam.

No. 5188, dated Calcutta, the 26th February 1874.

I am directed to forward herewith copy of a Resolution passed by the Commissioners, proposing that in accordance with a suggestion made by Bradford Leslie, Esq., the Eugineer in charge of the Hooghly Bridge, a rule should be promulgated at once prohibiting vessels from passing the Bridge without the assistance of steam power. The sanction of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor is solicited to the draft Port Rule proposed in the Commissioners' Resolution, with a view to its publication in the Gazette.

Copy of a Resolution passed by the Commissioners at a Meeting held on the 17th day of February 1874.

Read letter No. 1119, dated the 12th February 1874, from Bradford Leslie, Esq., c. E., the Engineer of the Hooghly Bridge, representing that as the remaining sections of the Bridge will be shortly moored in position, leaving only the 200 feet opening for the passage of vessels, it will be necessary for the prevention of accidents to make it compulsory for all vessels passing the Bridge either up or down to use steam. Mr. Leslie recommends that a rule to this effect should be promulgated as soon as pessible

RESOLVED.—That the following rule be submitted for the sanction of Government.

ADDITIONAL PORT RULE.

Under Section 7, Act XXII of 1855.

38. Without the permission of the Commissioners no vessel shall move up or down the Port through the opening of the Hooghly Bridge except such vessel is propelled or towed by steam; and then only at such a rate of speed, not exceeding 4 miles an hour over the ground, as is absolutely necessary to keep good steerage way.

No. 1119, dated Calcutta, the 12th February 1874.

From B. Leslie, Esq., c. v., Engineer, Hooghly Bridge, to the Vice-Chairman to the Commissioners for the Improvement of the Port of Calcutta.

I shall shortly be ready to moor several additional sections of the Bridge in position, leaving only the 200 feet opening clear for the passage of shipping; vessels dropping down against a southerly breeze take a long

time in passing the Bridge and are very imperfectly under control, frequently sheering very much across the stream. I am therefore of opinion that to prevent accidents, it should be made compulsory for all vessels passing the Bridge either up or down to use steam, and I should be very glad if such a regulation were promulgated as soon as may be.

FORWARDED to the Deputy Conservator for any remarks he may have to offer.

(Sd.) W. D. BRUCE, Vice-Chairman.

I am quite of opinion that this will be necessary when the sections are run out from this side of the river. There is only one difficulty in such a rule, and that is in the freshes when there is no flood. Vessels will then have to drop through.

> (Sd.) J. V. Falle, Depy. Conservator and Harbour Master.

CIRCULATED for the consideration of the Commissioners.

(Sd.) W. D. BRUCE, Vice-Chairman.

Chamber of Commerce to Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, 20th March 1874.

I am instructed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to state in reply to your letter No. 831 of the 7th instant (received on the 13th) that the additional Port Rule proposed by the Commissioners has their genenal approval as essential to the protection of the Hooghly Bridge and the prevention of accidents to vessels passing through.

The Committee suggest however that some limit of tonnage should be fixed by the Commissioners so as to exempt vessels of small burthen and ordinary river craft from the necessity of being towed through the passage.

Proposal to discharge and load the Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steamers at the Fort Commissioners' Jetties.

As the reply given by the Committee to the reference made by the Port Commissioners on this subject appears to embrace all the points submitted for their opinion, and which are fully set forth in the correspondence attached, further comment would be superfluous.

From the Port Commissioners to Chamber of Commerce.

Calcutta, 23rd December 1873.

I am directed to request that you will be good enough to bring to the notice of the Chamber that the Commissioners have had under their consideration the question of discharging and loading the steamers of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company at the Jetties. 2. As the Chamber is aware the vessels of this 'Company have hitherto discharged and loaded at the Company's premises at Garden Reach. The Commissioners have reason to believe that this practice involves considerable inconvenience and much extra expense to the consignees and shippers of goods carried in these vessels; and now that the jetties are nearly ready for loading and discharging, it does not appear that there are good grounds for making any exception in the case of Peninsular and Oriental Steamers, and that they, like all other ships trading to the Port, should use the appliances which the Commissioners have provided for the convenience not only of the owners of vessels but also for that of the consignees and shippers of goods.

3. Objections on the part of the Peninsular and Oriental Company have been raised to the action which it is proposed to take, but the Commissioners have to regard the working of the Port Improvement Act, not only as it affects the shipping interest, but as it bears upon the consignces or shippers of goods carried in vessels trading to the Port. Appliances have been provided in the centre of the business part of the town to facilitate the landing and shipping of goods; and these appliances have been provided as much for the convenience of the consignees as that of owners of vessels. The position of the works certainly was selected chiefly, if not entirely, with reference to the convenience of the owners of the goods to be landed and shipped from and upon vessels and from this point of view, it appears to the Commissioners extremely anomalous that the owners of certain vessels should for reasons of their own remain at one extremity of the port, thus causing great inconvenience and extra expense to a considerable amount to the shippers and consignees of goods.

4. The Commissioners desire to have an expression of the opinion of the Chamber upon the question and especially as to how far the present system of discharging and loading the steamers of the Peninsular and Oriental Company meets the convenience of consignees and shippers of goods, and would be much obliged if you could favor them with a statement showing the inconvenience and the extra expense involved by the vessels remaining at Garden Reach instead of coming to the jetties.

Chamber of Commerce to the Port Commissioners.

Calcutta, 14th January 1874.

The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce desire me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 4645 of the 23rd ultimo, informing them that the Port Commissioners have had under consideration the question of discharging and loading the steamers of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company at the Commissioners' jetties, and requesting their opinion on that question generally and especially as to the working of the present system and its attendant charges to importers and exporters by the Company's vessels which load and discharge at Garden Reach.

The Committee observe, from your letter, that in the opinion of the Commissioners no good reasons apparently

exist for exempting the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's Steamers from a compliance with the Commissioners that they should load and unload at the Calcutta jetties; and that, on the ground of the Commissioners having provided all necessary appliances, and of the inconvenience and expense to shippers and consignees of cargo, there should be no exemption in favor of those vessels.

They also notice that the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company have raised objections to the course proposed by the Commissioners.

The Committee instruct me to say that it is scarcely necessary to prepare any statement of the extra time that would be incurred in loading and unloading at Garden Reach instead of at the Calcutta jetties, because it is obvious that the transaction of business at places so close to merchants' offices as the jetties are would involve much less time than if it were done at the greater distance of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's premises, 3 miles off: and as to extra charges it will probably suffice to say that while they would be more appreciable as regards cargo imported by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's Steamers they would be very immaterial—as a rule—in the case of exported cargo.

. In the case of imports the extra charge for transmitting cargo from Garden Reach would be about 2 annas per package of piece goods, which ordinarily constitute the bulk of cargo imported by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's Steamers, and upon smaller

miscellaneous packages the charge would be proportionately less.

In the case of exports the ordinary charges for shipping cargo would probably not be greatly exceeded and in many instances not at all, because the expense incurred in sending cargo to Garden Reach by water would not, as a rule, be more than in sending it to vessels lying in Prinsep's Ghât or Esplanade moorings.

The grounds on which the Peninsular and Oriental Company rest their objections to the proposed action of the Commissioners are not stated in this reference, nor would their disclosure be material to the point which the Commissioners submit, for on the broad question whether the Company's Steamers should or should not be amenable to the ordinary regulations of the Port, the Committee are of opinion that, where all circumstances are alike, there should be no exemption from a general rule, and that all vessels should be impartially dealt with. In this respect therefore the Committee endorse the view expressed by the Commissioners.

Proposed transfer of Government Jetties and Granes at Balooghat to the Port Commissioners.

The inconvenience which attends the present system of landing Government stores at Balooghât and the expense incurred for the hire of moorings there reserved for the use of Government, occasioned a reference to the Port Commissioners as to whether they would take over the jetties and cranes belong-

ing to the Ordnance and Commissariat Departments, and thus enable the Government to dispense with the establishment entertained for working them, and generally to economise their arrangements in connection with the receipt of Government stores.

The Commissioners were willing to undertake that duty on certain conditions; and on the submission of the matter for an expression of their opinion your Committee stated that, in their judgment, the extension of the Commissioners' operations would be attended with advantage.

Government of Bengal to Chamber of Commerce.

Calcutta, 20th December 1873.

In forwarding the enclosed copy of a letter, and of its enclosures from the Commissioners for making improvements in the Port of Calcutta, I am directed to

say that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will feel much obliged by your favoring him with an expression of your opinion regarding the conditions on which they are prepared to take over the existing jettics and cranes belonging to the Ordnance and Commissariat Departments at Balooghiat, as was recommended in panagraph 8 of the Report of the Committee appointed to enquire into the question of mooring charges, and the inconvenience of the present system of landing Government stores. A copy of the Report of the Committee is also enclosed.

No. 4428, dated Calcutta, the 29th November 1873.

From W. D. Bruce, Esq., Vice-Chairman to the Port Trust Commissioners, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department.

The Commissioners have had under consideration your letter No. 1620, dated the 29th April last, with which was forwarded the report of the Committee appointed to enquire into the question of mooring charges and the inconvenience of the present system of landing Government stores. The Commissioners were requested to consider the proposal made in paragraph 8 of the Committee's report, in which it was recommended that Government should ascertain whether the Commissioners would be willing to take over the Commissariat jetty at Balooghât, Government reserving the right of priority of use of the jetty at special rates; and the Commissioners were asked to submit to Government their views in regard to the proposed transfer. A copy of a note upon the subject submitted to the Commissioners at their last meeting, and adopted by them, is sent herewith, together with a conv of the plan alluded to in the note.

The following are the conditions upon which the Commissioners are prepared to take over and work the jetty:—

- (1.) The Commissioners to take over the jetty and transway, as it stands, for a lump sum of Rs. 50,000, reserving to Government the right of priority of use upon the rates specified in the following conditions:—
- (2.) The Commissariat Department to pay four annas per hogshead on all beer landed at the jetty and stored in

the Government godowns, and two annas per hogshead on all beer sent to the jetty-head for shipment.

- (3.) The Commissariat, Ordnance, and Public Works Departments to pay one rupee per ton for all goods landed or shipped at the jetty, and which they take delivery of direct from the jetty-head.
- (4.) That on all Government goods landed by the Commissioners and stored on the premises, to be reserved for the use of the Commissioners, the usual charges shall be paid.
- (5.) The river frontage from Prinsep's Ghât to Tolly's Nullah to be made over to the Commissioners for the construction of a wharf for the convenience of country and cargo boats, Government reserving the right to land and ship Government stores over the proposed wharf free of charge.
- (6.) That the section of the bank colored red on the plan, and marked "Port Commissioners' premises," be made over to the Commissioners for use as a wharf in connection with the ictty.

Upon the foregoing conditions the Commissioners will be prepared to take over and work the present jetty plaeing upon it a steam crane with rake of jib sufficient to plumb the hatchway of a vessel, and finding all the necessary establishment for the working of the jetty and crane.

In communicating this resolution to Government, the Commissioners desire it to be distinctly understood that, unless the construction of the wharf is sanctioned, they will not be prepared to undertake the transfer of the jetty, the working of which alone will propably involve a loss. It will only be by providing accommodation for the boat traffic and by realising the dues payable in respect of such accommodation that the Commissioners will be in a position to work the jetty for Government at the rates abovementioned.

The making up of the wharf at this place is also a necessity on account of the tendency of the river to silt up; and in the interests of Government, and the public generally, it is most desirable that the bank should be well kent and all deposits removed at once.

Note.

At the 91st meeting of the Commissioners, the letter from Government of Bengal forwarding the report of the Committee appointed to enquire into the question of mooring charges and inconvenience of the present system of landing Government stores was considered with reference to the request made "that Commissioners would be so good as to consider the proposal contained in paragraph 8 of the report, and favor. His Honor with an expression of their views on the subject."

Paragraph 8 runs as follows :-

"Looking, however, to the fact that the Commissariat jetty at Balooghat requires to be extended considerably, and to be repaired and furnished with better appliances than it has, and also looking to the fact that the ordnance jetty is only adapted to land goods from boats, it appears to us that it might be worth the consideration of Govern-

ment to ascertain if the Port Commissioners would be willing to take over at a valuation the existing jetties and cranes, and provide suitable appliances in this part of the river, and if so, on what terms ; for Government should, in consideration of furnishing a site and the land, reserve the right of priority of use at special rates to be fixed between itself and the Port Commissioners. Some such arrangement as this would enable Government to dispense with any establishment that may be now kept up for the working of the Commissariat and Ordnance cranes, as well as cost of building, extension or maintenance of the jetties. Another advantage would be that this would give the Port Commissioners a more direct authority over vessels with Government stores. If the jetties at Balooghat were under their own control, the masters of such vessels could not under the Act take any exception to the moorings."

On this the following resolution was passed :-

Resolved—"That the Vice-Chairman be requested to draw up a note on the subject, taking into consideration the question of inland wharf requirement between Prinsep's Ghat and Tolly's Nullah, and to prepare an estimate of the probable financial results of the scheme.

I immediately communicated with the Executive Commissariat Officer to ascertain, 1st, the probable quantity of stores to be landed, and 2nd, the rates they would be willing to pay the Commissioners. In reply the Deputy Commissariat jetty be made over at a valuation to be hereafter fixed to the Port Commissioners to be worked by them with suitable appliances, and with the right of

priority of use reserved to this Department, subject to the sanction of Government, the Department would pay the Port Commissioners three annas for landing and delivering each hogshead of malt liquor into the Commissariat godown. The usual number of hogsheads annually is Rs. 40,000."

"A proportionate rate, say six" pie a maund would be paid for other goods.

"This is equivalent to 14 annas per ton, but I understand no objection will be taken to 1 rupce per ton, at which rate I have estimated. In addition to the beer mentioned in this letter there would be a considerable quantity of other stores landed and shipped for both

the Commissariat and Ordnance Departments, and possibly a small quantity for the Department Public Works.

I have also considered the question of an inland vessel's wharf between Prinsep's Ghat and Tolly's Nullah. A wharf on this site is very much required both for the proper conservancy of the port, and the convenience of the traffic. At present a large quantity of material is landed here by the Department Public Works and the Justices. A great many native boats with rice for Kidderpore and the southern suburbs of the town also discharge immediately north of the Commissariat jetty. Since I first commenced to make enquiries with reference to the construction of a wharf on this site, I have received several offers from natives to farm it with the view of levying a toll on the rice boats, the last and highest being Rs. 1,000 per annum. In my estimate I have taken the probable receipts at Rs. 500 per month, which I think will be quite safe, as in addition to the boats that discharge there now (there are constantly from 30 to 40 boats discharging and selling rice and grains

at this wharf) we will have all the boats from the ghats south of Tolly's Nullah which ought to be closed when the new wharf is opened.

In considering the financial aspect of the project, I will estimate—

1st.—The cost of taking over the property as it at present stands.

2nd .- Additions necessary for working jetty and wharf.

3rd.—Cost of constructing a road and inland vessels' wharf between Tolly's Nullah and Prinsep's Ghat.

1st.—The jetty as at present constructed with the small crane cost Government about Rs. 60,000. This includes tramway into Commissariat godown and a small steam crane for loading boats. During the heavy bores in March last the jetty was injured by the British Indian Steam Navigation Company's steamer Scotia, and to repair this damage will cost about Rs. 5,000. For depreciation allow, say, Rs. 5,000 more, and the value of the city as it now stands may be taken at about Rs. 50,000.

The jetty-head, as at present constructed, is only 45 feet long, sufficient to work one hatch; but it would not be wise to spend any money in lengthening it at present. If taken over it could at first be worked by lengthening the mooring so as to allow of a vessel being hauled alread or astern till the required hatch was brought under the crane. If considered advisable, it can be lengthened at any time hereafter.

2nd.—The additions necessary for the proper working of the jetty may be estimated at—

New steam crane with sufficient rake of jib Rs.
to plumb the hatch of a vessel ... 6,000
Enclosure and alteration of tramway ... 10,000

Total 16,000

3rd—Inland wharf between Prinsep's Ghât and Tolly's Nullah.—The length of the wharf will be about 2,700 feet. It will be constructed on the same plan as the upper wharf, with a road 60 feet broad and a slope of five to one. In the estimate no allowance is made for pitching, as this could not be done till the bank had time to consolidate.

In making up the wharf and road the work to be done would be very similar to what we have had to do at the mint front, and which has cost about Rs. 30 per foot. Taking this rate the total cost will be—

2,500 feet at Rs. 30=Rs. 75,000.

The plan's shows the general arrangement proposed.

Between the wharf road and the present form of the Department, Public Works, Commissariat, and Ordnance Departments and the Justices. All landing north of Prinsep's Ghât should then be prohibited, and the bank from Baboo Ghât to Prinsep's Ghât kept quite clear and froe from all obstructions.

The total cost to the Commissioner may then be taken at.—

		Rs.
1st.—For jetty, say	 	5,000
2nd.—Crane, &c.	 	16,000
3rd.—Inland wharf	 •••	75,000
	Total	1.41.000

This represents an expenditure in interest and sinking fund of Rs. $6{,}107 \times 1{,}41{=}Rs. 8{,}610.$

The probable return will be as follows :---

On landing 40,000 hogsheads, at 3 annas cach	Rs. 7,500
Other Government stores, estimated by Jetty Superintendents at about 150 tons per month, at Re. 1	1,800
Shipping Government stores, estimated by Commissariat Department at 250 tons per month, at Re. 1	3,000
From inland vessels' wharf at Rs. 500 per month $000000000000000000000000000000000000$	6,000
Total	18,300

In addition to this a large portion of the beer estimated by the Commissariat Department at 35,000 hogsheads per annum would be re-shipped into boats, and allowance

might be made for this quantity at say two	annas per
hogshead:—	Rs.
35,000 hogsheads, 2 annas each	4,375
Making the total	22,675

The rate of three annas per hogshead is very low. The jetty rate is about six annas; and although in the case of Commissariat beer the Commissioners have not to find accommodation, still the distance of the godown to which the beer has to be taken is very considerable, and as the Commissioners will have to store it in the godown, I don't think four annas would be considered a heavy rate. For shipping the charge might be two annas.

If four annas is allowed, the above estimated receipts will be increased by Rs. 2,500 per annum.

Against this we have, first, the interest on debt, which, as shown, will be Rs. 8,610; second, establishment for working jetty, say—

Rs. Rs.

Engine-driver		.80	
Stoker		12	
Cooly		8	
		100 =	1,200
1 Officer in charge	of wharf and		
Jetty		100	
1 Tallyman		50	
		150 =	1,800

2 Sircars on inland vessels' w	harf,		
at Rs. 15 each		30	
1 Cashier		50	
i "		- 30	
4 Chuprasies, at Rs. 7 each		28	
2 Sweepers, at Rs. 6 each		12	
		150 ==	1,800
Annual repair of jetty, crane,	and		
wharf	•••		2,000
Working expenses, say Rs. 150) per		
month	• • •		1,800
			8,600
Add interest and sinking fund			8,610
			17,210
			17,010
Estimated probable receipts			22,675
Probable balance			5,465

It therefore appears that after making full allowance for all charges there is every probability of the scheme paying its way; and such being the case, I am of opinion that if Government will make over the frontage between Prinsep's Ghât and Tolly's Nullah, and allow the Commissioners to construct an inland vessels' wharf, as shown on the plan, it would be to the interest of the Commissioners to take over the jetty and bank,

to work the jetty on the same plan as the other jetties, and to construct a wharf for the convenience of country bods. But if the frontage is not to be made over, I would not recommend the Commissioners to take over the jetty. It would just pay its expenses, and we might have a good deal of trouble with it.

A wharf on this site is, however, very much required for the conservancy of the port. It has frequently been brought to the notice of the Commissioners that there is a great tendency to shoal just in front of this bank, and unless this is checked, the jetty will give a lot of trouble, and in all probability become absolutely useless.

I would therefore recommend that the Commissioners take over the jetty and tramway, as it stands, for a lump sum of Rs. 50,000 on the following conditions:—

1st.—That the bank from Prinsep's Ghât to Tolly's Nullah is made over to the Commissioners for the construction of an inland vessels wharf, Government reserving the right of landing all Government stores free of charge as in the case of stores landed at the Mint frontage.

2nd.—That the portion of the bank colored red on the plan is made over to the Commissioners for the accommodation of general cargoes.

3rd.—That the Commissariat Department pay four annas per hogshead on all beer landed at the jetty and stored in their godown, and two annas per hogshead on all beer sent to the jetty-head for shipment, 4th—That the Commissariat, Ordnanec, and Public Works Departments pay 1 rupee per ton for all goods landed or shipped over the jetty, and which they take delivery of direct.

5th.—That on all Government goods landed by the Commissioners and stored by the Commissioners the usual charges be paid.

Dated Calcutta, the 15th April 1873.

From—J. A. CRAWFORD, Esq., c. s., President of Committee.

To—The Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department,

I have the honor to forward herewith the report of the Committee appointed (under letter No. 1085 of the 10th ultime, from the Officiating Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the General Department) to inquire into the question of mooring charges and the inconvenience of the present system of landing Government stores.

Dated Calcutta, the (?) April 1873.

From—J. A. Crawford, Esq., c. s., President of Committee; Colone W. C. Russfll, Deputy. Inspector-General of Ordanae; Colonel G. S. Macdean, Deputy Commissary-General; Colonel H. A. Taylor, Excentive Commissarial Officer; W. D. Bruce, Esq., Vice-Chairman, of the Port Commissioners; T. A. Arcar, Esq., Port Commissioner.

To-The Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

In conformity with the instructions conveyed to us, we have considered in Committee the two questions of mooring charges and the inconvenience attending the present system of landing Government stores, and have now the honor to submit our report thereupon. First .--With regard to the mooring charges for the moorings reserved for the use of the Commissariat and Ordnance Departments. The charge under this head is made for reserving all the year round three sets of moorings for the use of vessels bringing stores for the two abovenamed departments. These moorings being reserved for the use of these two departments, no use can be made of them by the Port Commissioners; and whilst so reserved, Government, for whose convenience the reservation is made, is, similarly to other parties who reserve particular moorings, liable to the Port Commissioners for the hire charged (Rs. 140 a month) for each set of moorings.

2. There is, however, no necessity for reserving these moorings, provided that when vessels with Malt liquor for the Commissariat Department, or vessels, the bulk of whose cargo is for the Ordnance Department, arrive, they are placed in the moorings off the Government jetty at Balooghât, or are placed in moorings as near as possible to that position.

We have ascertained that there will be no practical difficulty in carying out the above provise, and such being the case, there is no need for Government to incur the liability to the charge for moorings reserved for the exclusive use of the two departments.

- 3. With regard to the second question, of the inconvenience to the departments of the present system of landing Government stores, we have to observe that, as regards the Commissariat Department, there is a most decided objection on the part of the department, to the landing of Malt liquor from vessels lying at the Port Commissioners' jetties, and in our opinion the objection is valid.
- 4. The inconveniences complained of are due to the following causes:—
 - (1) Malt liquor discharged into boats from a vessel lying at the Port Commissoners' jettics is subject to the risk of water-carriage for nearly two miles, and should it be discharged at an hour when the tide is not favorable for the boat to proceed down to Balooghat there is the further risk from the length of time it is exposed to the effects of the weather until the tide turns.
 - (2) Casks stowed in boats are more or less subject to straining and consequent leakage, the amount of straining being increased by the length of time they remain in the boats.
 - (3) There is also the further objection to the delay which must occur in holding a survey, and the risk of probable loss to Government from such delay arising out of the greater distance the easks have to be conveyed, as compared with their being landed at or close to Balooghât.

- (4) Added to this, there is the risk of the repudiation of his liability by the brewer or his agents on the spot, should it appear there had been delay in transit and that the casks had not been taken away direct from the vessel at time of discharge.
- (5) Further, there is the greater expense incurred by the longer distance travelled over and the cost of demurrage for the boats.
- 5. On the other hand, if the casks were landed by the Port Commissioners tackle and put on the jetty head, there would be the landing charges as per fixed schedule to pay and the cost of loading, in addition to the cost of removal by cart for the same distance as by water, together with the exposure to the sun in course of removal, and equal risk from inability to hold survey, and possible repudiation of contract by browers.
- 6. If, however, the casks are landed from vessels into boats at or near Balooghât, the removal by boat is short and the casks have but little exposure. If landed on to the Commissariat jetty they have simply to be rolled into the godown at Balooghât and stacked for survey.
- 7. As regards the Ordnance Department, on the grounds of expense there is the same objection to the landing of its stores at the Port Commissioners' jetties. It should, however, be noted that Ordnance stores, and, as a rule, Commissariat stores other than malt liquor, incur no risk from exposure, and that vessels lying at the jetties may discharge such stores over side into beats

without using the jetty appliances, and in such cases the departments concerned do not incur the landing charges payable for the use of the jetties. Ordnance and Commissariat stores of this class are usually sent out in small quantities mixed up with other general cargo; and, as it would put the vessel and the general body of consignees to great inconvenience, trouble, and expense if, for the convenience of the Commissariat or Ordnance Departments, the vessel were sent to Balooghât to discharge Government stores before going to the jetties to discharge the general cargo, we are of opinion that in such cases Government ought not to press for the vessel to be sent to the moorings at Hastings. Ships bringing malt liquor, which usually comes in large quantities, should, we consider, be sent to the moorings off the Commissariat premises on arrival, if the master of the vessel reports the malt liquor to be top cargo or after discharging her general cargo if the beer is stowed in the lower hold; the cost of moying the vessel in the latter case being borne by the Commissariat Department.

8. Looking, however, to the fact that the Commissuriat jetty at Balooghât requires to be extended considerably and to be repaired and furnished with better appliances than it has, and also looking to the fact that the Ordnance jetty is only adapted to land goods from boats, it appears to us that it might be worth the consideration of Government to ascertain if the Port Commissioners would be willing to take over at a valuation the existing jetties and cranes, and provide suitable appliances in this part of the river, and, if so, on what terms; for Government should, in consideration of furnishing a site and the land, reserve the right of priority of use at

special rates to be fixed between itself and the Port Commissioners. Some such arrangement as this would enable Government to dispense with any establishment, that may be now kept up for the working of the Commissariat and Ordnance cranes, as well as cost of building, extension, or maintenance of the jetties.

Another advantage would be that this would give the Port Commissioners a more direct authority over vessels with Government stores. If the jettles at Balooghât were under their control, the masters of such vessels could not under the Act take any exception to the moorings.

Chamber of Commerce to Government of Bengal,

Calcutta, 10th January 1874.

The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce desire me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 4495 of the 20th ultimo and its enclosures, and to state in reply that the arrangements under which the Port Commissioners are conditionally prepared to relieve the Government of the jetties and cranes at Balooghât are likely to be attended with useful results to all interests concerned. Of course the Committee do not express any opinion on the financial conditions submitted by the Commissioners; their reply is necessarily limited to the advantages which the traffic of the port would derive from an extension of the Commissioners' operations and to the more efficient discharge of any business with

which the Ordnance and Commissariat Departments might be connected.

The Committee would, however, submit that it should be optional with vessels—and steam ships especially—part-ly loaded with Government stores and partly with general eargo—to discharge general eargo first at any available town jetty, and Government stores afterwards at the Balooghhit jetty: because Government stores are generally stowed under other eargo, the landing of which at the more distant jetty would be attended with unnecessary inconvenience and expense to merchants.

After the discharge of her general cargo the vessel could be removed to the Balooghât jetty to land Government stores, and might remain there until she was ready to leave the port or required to make room for another vessel.

JUTE WAREHOUSES.

The rigorous enforcement of the Act under which Jute warehouses are licensed has been attended with much embarrassing inconvenience to some owners of such premises in the suburbs of the City, and the following representations to the Suburban and Howrah Municipalities will inform members of the grounds on which they endeavoured to obtain a relaxation of the Act. The former authority has shown every desire to see the pressure of the regulations lessened in instances where it might be reasonably permitted, and the Pre-

sidency Commissioner has also expressed himself in favor of removing unnecessary restrictions; but the decision of the Government of Bengal, while dealing differentially with old and new warehouses, gives no present relief to the latter class, which will remain subject to existing restrictions until the municipal laws are brought under legislative revision.

From Chamber of Commerce to the Vice-Chairman of the Municipal Commissioners for the Suburbs of Calcutta.

Calcutta, 17th November 1873.

Under the provisions of the Jute Warehouse and Firebrigade Act, No. II. of 1872, it is within the discretion of the Commissioners to grant licenses for premises for the preparation, storage or serewage of jute, jute-rejections, jute-cuttings, or cotton, provided certain conditions and restrictions are complied with.

The precautionary measures which the Act directsare unquestionably most proper for the material object of its introduction; and the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce would view with regret any departurefrom those conditions and restrictions which might defeat the purpose of the Act.

But it has been pointed out to them that balers of jute find it impossible to keep within the limits prescribed by Clause 1 Section 7; and that the process of

drying jute, which frequently reaches Calcutta in a very damp state, cannot be effectually conducted unless the material is sufficiently exposed to sun and air; and that the operation cannot be satisfactorily performed within the covered limits of a licensed warehouse. It follows therefore that if care be not taken to dry the jute thoroughly the fibre will gradually generate the elements of spontaneous combustion, and thus tend to create the very danger against which the Act is intended to provide.

The Committee are informed that in taking risks on premises containing loose jute or cotton the local Fire Insurance Offices only stipulate that none of it shall be left out at night, and that it shall be removed and stored after it has been dried; and it is suggested that the Commissioners may with safety relax the condition as regards drying in the open air during the day since it would not only render the operation more complete but largely lessen the risk of danger.

In the town of Calcutta where such danger is obviously greater the Act does not appear to be so rigorously enforced as it is in the suburbs where the risk is far less, and the Committee believe that their application does not involve any unreasonable abatement of its provisions.

From Vice-Chairman of the Municipal Commissioners for the Suburbs of Calcutta to Chamber of Commerce.

Alipore, 24th November 1873.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 17th November having reference to certain

restrictions imposed on the owners of jute-serews and warehouses by Act II of 1872 (B. C.)

While personally I am quite of opinion that clause I, Section 7, if rigorously enforced, must operate harshly and impose a very serious obstacle to trade, and that it probably might cause the very danger which the Act was framed to avert, I am afraid that the Commissioners have no power to depart from the law, but must administer it as they find it, and that unless the Legislature can be induced to modify the clause in question, they would not be justified in allowing it to become a dead letter.

I may however mention that having for some time given the subject my consideration, and having discussed the matter with several gentlemen interested in the jute trade, it has been my intention to bring the matter before the Commissioners at a meeting in order that the question might be fully considered and that if the meeting coincided with me in considering such a representation necessary, that the question might be urged upon the Government of Bengal.

I shall therefore lay the matter before the Commissioners at their next General Meeting, and will also place your letter before them and I have no doubt that the opinion of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce will have great weight, both with the Commissioners and with the Government.

From Chamber of Commerce to the Chairman of the Municipality, Howrah.

Calcutta, 5th December 1873.

I am desired by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to place in your hands the accompanying copy of a representation submitted by them to the Commissioners for the suburbs of Calentia relative to the operation of the Jute Warchouse Act; and in requesting your attention to the point which the Committee have specially urged in that communication they trust it will be in your power also to permit such relaxation of the law as will enable the owners of screwhouses within the limits of your authority to conduct their business under a less rigorous application of the Act especially in such localities as in your judgment may be considered entitled to the relief applied for.

From Secretary of the Howrah Municipality to Chamber of Commerce.

Howrah, 13th December 1873.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant to the address of the Chairman, enclosing a copy of the representation, made by you to the Suburban Municipality asking them to relax certain provisions of the Jute Warehouse Act, and asking this Municipality to do the same.

2. In reply, I am to inform you that the Chairman would suggest that your representation be made to the

Legislative authorities, or to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor as the chief of the executive. If the Chairman receives instructions from any official superiors, that he may exercise any discretion in applying the particular provision of the Jute Warehouse Act, he will of course do so. Otherwise he thinks he would not be justified in doing so.

No. 26 M. M.

From Commissioner of the Presidency Division to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Judicial Department.

Calcutta, January 28th, 1874.

In continuation of my letter No. 17 M. M., dated November 6th 1873, I have the honor to submit herewith copies of a letter No. 17, dated January 8th 1874, and its enclosures from the Chairman of the Municipal Commissioners for the suburbs of Calcutta on the subject of Section 7 of the Jute and Fire Brigade Act II of 1872 B. C.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor will observe that the Section only applies to new jute warehouses to be established and not to houses that were used as jute warehouses before the passing of the Act. Under the concluding portion of Section 6 of the Act (and Section 10) a discretion is left to the Muncipal Commissioners as to which of the conditions in Section 7, other than the payment of an annual fee, shall be applied to the old warehouses, and as I am not quite certain from the

enclosed papers that this point is remembered, I will request the attention of the Chairman to it.

As regards new warehouses I think there is much in what is said in regard to the drying of jute, and I would modify the provisions in Clause I so far as to allow of jute being dried in the open air in the day time, i. e. between sun rise and sun set, in an enclosure surrounded by walls or masonry buildings, though it should not be allowed on the roofs of houses or in places open to the street or road.

- 4. In regard to the roofs (Clause 1 again) I would allow the ordinary solid beam roofs. I see no more danger from such beams than from wooden shutters to windows or from wooden doors.
- 5. The question of artificial light prohibited in Clause 3 is a more difficult one to deal with, but considering the undoubted danger of introducing such lights I would only allow the use of such lamps as can be completely closed and they should be so closed on penalty of forfeiting the license before they are brought into the building. It might perhaps be difficult or at least very expensive to give eneugh light with such lamps, but I do not think it would be safe to allow gas or any other exposed artificial light.
- 6. In my former letter I represented that the real effect of the Act has been the imposition of an export duty on jute, and recommended the revision of the scale of fees whenever the Municipal Acts are reconsidered. In the matters now brought to notice 1 am similarly in favor of removing every restriction on business connected

with the jute trade that can be removed consistently with a due regard of the main object for which the Act was passed, and if these concessions are granted I believe the attainment of that object will not be interfered with.

No. 11 M. M.

From Commissioner's Office, Presidency Division.

Calcutta, January 28th 1874.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, Bengal Chamber of Commerce, for information with reference to his letter to the Vice-Chairman of the Municipal Commissioners for the suburbs of Calcutta, dated November 17th 1874.

No. 24F. B.

From the Vice-Chairman of the Municipal Commissioners for the suburbs of Calcutta to Chamber of Commerce.

Alipore, 27th March 1874.

With reference to your letter dated 17th November 1873, and my reply thereto No. 15 F., dated 24th November last, I have now the honor to forward for the information of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce copy of letter No. 362 dated 12th February 1874, from the Offg. Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal, from which you will perceive that His Honor the Lieut-

enant-Governor of Bengal has declined to amend the existing Act for the regulation of jute warehouses.

I regret very much that the recommendations of the Municipal Commissioners supported by the Commissioner of the Presidency Division have not been complied with, but as such is the case, the Committee will see that the Commissioners have no option but to enforce the law as it stands and their Inspector will be instructed accordingly.

I may however state that I shall be ready to bring before the Commissioners and support any further representations of the Chamber on the subject and to press the same on the attention of Government.

I have no doubt the Chamber, as the direct representative of the Commercial interests involved, will take the necessary action in the matter.

No. 362.

From Offy-Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal to the Commissioner of the Presidency Division.

Calcutta, 12th February 1874.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 26 M. M. dated 28th ultimo with enclosures, and in reply to say that the Lieutenant-Governor agrees in the views expressed in paragraph 2 of your letter that the obligations under Clauses 1 to 7 of Section 7 of Act II of 1872 do not necessarily apply to the jute ware houses which existed at the time the Act came into operation; and that the Commissioners of the Suburban Municipality can exercise their discretion as regards such warehouses.

2. With reference to your recommendation to relax the obligations complained of in reference to new warehouses, I am to state that as this question does not seem to the Lieutenant-Governor to press for immediate legislation it will be considered when the consolidation of the Municipal laws comes before the Legislative Council.

REVISION OF THE CUSTOMS TARIFF.

The Committee are unable to report any movement in this matter, as no reply has been received to their representation of 20th August last; probably the Government have not had leisure to enter into a full consideration of the subject owing to other pressing claims on their attention; but the Committee will not fail to avail themselves of the first favorable opportunity to reopen the subject.

In the meanwhile they place on record a memorial from the Manchester Chamber of Commerce to Her Majesty's Government relative to the duties levied on manufactured cotton goods imported into British India with the view to their abolition.

From Manchester Chamber of Commerce to Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

Manchester, 29th January 1874.

I beg to hand you, for the information of your Chamber, the annexed copy of Memorial on the Import Duties into India on Cotton Yarn and Goods, which has been addressed to the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE, the First Lord of the Treasury, and to the Duke of Argyll, Secretary of State for India.

To the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M. P., &c. &c. &c., First Lord of Her Majesty's Treasury "The Memorial of the Directors of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, by their Chairman,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH-

"That the Cotton Manufacture of the United Kingdom, in regard to the vast capital invested and the great number of people dependent on it for subsistence, is probably the largest trade carried on, and any legislation which unnaturally interferes with its prosperity is worthy the serious consideration of Government:—

"That a very large portion of this great commerce is transacted with British India, and a great part of our mercantile marine is constantly employed in it;—

"That a fiscal duty of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on yarn, and 5 per cent. on cloth, is now levied in India on the importation of British Cotton Manufactures, assessed on tariff rates fixed many years ago, when values ruled much higher than they do now, so that the duties thus levied actually

amount to about 4 per cent. on the present prices of yarns in India, and nearly 6 per cent. on cloth, and constitute a positive tax of at least 10 per cent. on the capital invested in Cotton Factories employed in manufacturing for India:—

"That the tax is now found to be absolutely prohibitory to the trade in yarn and cloth of the coarse and low-priced sorts, and your Memorialists are informed that it is proposed to import Egyptian and American raw cotton into India (no duty being charged thereon), to manufacture the finer yarn and cloth, which will thus compete with goods received from England on which duty is levied;—

"That a protected trade in Cotton Manufacture is now consequently springing up in British India, and an unsound commerce is being fostered in that country which will, somer or later, cause embarrassment and distress to the native capitalists and workmen [---

"That the levying of such duties, when their effect is to afford protection to one portion of Her Majesty's subjects in India to the disadvantage of another portion in England, with whom they are brought into competition in trade, is inconsistent with the commercial policy of this country, and subversive of the soundest principles of political economy and free trade;—

"That just in proportion as the protective duty stimulates the erection of Cotton Factories in India, it defeats the primary object of the tax as a source of revenue, by encouraging the production of Goods in India to the exclusion of British Manufactures, on which alone the impost is levied;— "That the inevitable tendency of any trade nursed and fostered by protection is to divort capital and labour from the natural channels into which they would otherwise be more beneficially turned;—

"That the said duties are increasing the cost to the native population—or at least to the poorest of the people of their articles of elething, and thereby interfering with the health, comfort, and general well-being of the Queen's Indian subjects.

"Your Memorialists therefore pray, that having regard to the reasons set forth above, an early consideration may be given to the subject of the duties now levied on Yarms an I Manufactured Goods on import into India, with a view to their abolition.

"And your Memorialists will ever pray."

From Bengal Chamber of Commerce to Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

Calcutta, 13th March 1874.

The Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce desire me to acknowledge the receipt of your circular letter of 29th January annexing, for their information, copy of a memorial presented by the Manchester Chamber to Her Majesty's Gevernment relative to the abolition of Customs duties on Cotton yarn and manufactures imported into British India.

Proposed reduction of holidays at the annual Doorga Pooja Festival.

In attention to the instructions conveyed to your Committee by a resolution of the Chamber at the last General Meeting, the following representation was submitted, on 6th January, to the Government of Bengal, with reference to the holidays observed on the occasion of the Hindoo Festival of Doorga Pooja.

No reply has yet been received.

Chamber of Commerce to Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, 6th January 1874.

The extreme inconvenience to which the traffic of the port is exposed by interruption to business caused by the Doorga Pooja holidays has been long felt by the commercial public; remonstrances against the system have been frequently made to the Chamber, and the subject was prominently brought to notice a few days since with a request that the Government should be addressed in the hope of some plan being adopted by which the grievance complained of might be redressed.

I am accordingly desired to submit the matter for the consideration of the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor.

The question of curtailing the numerous holidays, 38 in number, to which the natives had been long accustomed. came before the Chamber in 1860, and after a lengthened correspondence and the appointment of a special Commission to consider and report upon the matter the Governor General in Council issued a Notification—No. 64 of 15th April 1862—limiting the number of close holidays during the year to 27, of which 12 were taken up by the Doorga Pooja vacation.

With regard to the days sanctioned by Government for the Doorga Pooja holidays it is right to state that the Commission of 1860 recommended that immediately following the four days observance of that occasion a general holiday of ton days longer should be allowed by Government to all classes—making the whole holiday extend over 14 days: and that the long vacation at that period is therefore attributable less to the time actually required for the celebration of the Hindoo festival than to the extension of time which all classes obtained for general relaxation.

In 1867, 2 other holidays were added by order of Government in consequence of a representation by the native community that they were essential to the performance of their religious ceremonies; but the Chamber was opposed to that extension on the ground of those two special days having been advisedly omitted, when the revision took place in 1860, as not being indispensable to such purposes.

There has been no change since in respect of these public holidays; but there has been a material change in the circumstances of the trade of Calcutta which, it is submitted, calls for protection at the hands of Government against the serious disability under which that trade lies during the enforced observance of the Doorga Pooja holidays.

The Committee of the Chamber desire to assure the Lieutenant-Governor that neither on the part of themselves nor of the European Merchants of Calcutta is there the slightest wish to deprive their native fellow citizens of a single day which may be devoted to religious requirements, and the continued toleration of the long vacantion arising out of the Doorga Pooja holidays testifies to their desire not to unduly restrict the leisure which the Hindoo community consider essential to the performance of ceremonial rites at that annual festival.

While the intervention of an occasional holiday is a matter of no material moment, the suspension of business for an entire fortnight is a most serious interference with the operations of merchants, and its consequences are so exceedingly mischievous that all interests thereby affected appeal to the authority of Government for the introduction of arrangements which shall admit of the ordinary traffic of the port being conducted with the least degree of obstruction and inconvenience.

The practical results of such a compulsory cessation of work can scarcely be detailed; but broadly speaking the import and export trade is at a stand still, the tonnage of the port suffers to the extent which loss of time involves, and the detention of steam vessels especially is attended with expenses which add materially to the heavy cost incurred in maintaining them.

The partial opening of the Custom House for 2 or 3

days immediately after the holidays is a considerate concession on the part of the Collector to shippers of cargo—to whom that privilege is limited—who gladly avail themselves of the opportunity of completing their engagements, and vessels whose loading may have been far advanced can manage to get away: but ships and steamers arriving on the eve of the holidays and the consigness of their cargoes are powerless to move. To them the Custom House is absolutely closed, and the facilities and conveniences ordinarily afforded by the jetty arrangements of the Port Commissioners are consequently unavailable.

The Commissioners do indeed permit vessels moored at their jetties to discharge, but consignees of such discharged cargo cannot obtain delivery in the absence of Customs passes, and the loss and inconvenience importers suffer by their inability to get possession of their consignments are aggravated by the increased delay caused by the block of business and confusion and difficulty which accompany the resumption of business.

The Committee do not venture to suggest any measure that shall in any way deprive the native community of the right to set apart a certain season for the ceremonies of their religion; and although they believe it is not impossible to arrange for the continuance of public and private business by a relay of labor, at mutually convenient intervals, secured by extra remuneration, they do not advocate a system of work dependent on partial service available by inducements inconsistent with a declared necessity for the cessation of work and attendance on ordinary official duties.

At the same time the Committee cannot ignore the claims of commercial interests or the sacrifices involved in the suspension of business during the long period of the Doorga Pooja vacation: and while on the one hand they acknowledge the right of the native community to holidays essential to their avowed purposes, it is their duty, on the other hand, to recognise the requirements of trade and to endeavour to remove embarrassing hindrances and impediments in its way.

In the judgment of the Committee that twofold object can be obtained by curtailing the holidays on the occasion of the Doorga Pooja festival to the number absolutely required for its observance. In former times four days only were devoted to that ceremonial, and it is presumed that number still suffices: and allowing ample time for distant journeying by rail (an advantage limited in 1860 to a trip to Rajmahal—some 200 miles from Calcutta) it appears to the Committee that one week would be a liberal allotment of time.

No class privilege would be abrogated by such limited duration of holiday leisure, and the grievance now complained of by the mercantile community would be redressed by the reduction of an enforced period of inactivity to an unavoidable minimum.

The Chamber's Tonnage Schedule, as regards measurement of Jute, Cotton, &c.

This vexed question has been so thoroughly discussed during the last six months that it is unnecessary for the Committee to enter into any expression of opinion on its merits. At the Special General Meeting of the Chamber held on the 21st February last it was resolved that the further consideration of the scheme recommended by the Special Committee be postponed for four months; that time will expire on 21st of next month, when it is to be hoped some arrangement will be adopted to the satisfaction of all interests.

The proceedings of the Chamber and of the Special Committees will be found in the following pages.

To the Chairman and Members of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta.

GENTLEMEN.

The undersigned shipowners of the Port of London engaged in the Calcutta Trade forward for your consideration the accompanying statement of proceedings of a public meeting, held on the 21st November, respecting your late alteration in the tonnage schedule, as it affects the measurement of cotton and jute at the serewluouses.

We are of opinion that you will reconsider your late resolution, and acquiesce in the unanimous desire expressed at the meeting, and amend the system of measuring jute and cotton for shipment, which at present is most unfair and injurious to shipowners, and calls for immediate redress.

We are, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servants,

George L. Munro, Chairman of the General Shipowners' Society. Anthony George Robinson, Deputy Chairman. Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, Per Alexr. Bethune, Secretary. Merchant Shipping Company, Limited, Per Alfred Wallen, Secretary. Henry Green. John Allan and Sons. Gilmour, Rankine, Strang and Co. George Marshall and Sons. Thomas and Wm. Smith. W. H. Tindall. Montgomerie and Greenhorne. Houlder Brothers and Co. Gosman and Smith. Devitt and Moore. Park Brothers. Shaw, Maxton and Co. George L. Munro and Co. Alex. Howden and Co.

Temperleys, Carter and Darke.

John Lidgett and Sons. Shaw, Saville and Co.

George Duncan and Co. Thomas Skinner and Co. Gellatly, Hankey, Sewell and Co. Chas. M. Norwood. Tatham and Co. Henry Ellis and Sons. John Holman and Sons. Thos. B. Walker. Haviside and Co. Livingston, Briggs and Co. Jas. Shepherd and Co. Thos. Bilby and Co. Thos. Wilson, Sons and Co. Liston, Young and Co. Donald, Currie and Co. Pro James P. Corry and Co., Belfast, Mills and Milne. Stephens and Grellier. Smith, Bilborough and Co. Scrutton Campbell. Galbraith, Stringer, Pembroke and Co. John James Holdsworth. John Wills and Son. Robert L. Hunter. Adamson, Ronaldson and Co. Watts, Milburn and Co. Glover Brothers. J. and R. Grant. Thos. Stephens and Son. McDiarmid, Greenshields and Co.

London. December 1873.

At a meeting of shipowners engaged in the Calcutta Trade, sheld on the 21st November 1873, at the Offices of the General Shipowners Society, London, to take into consideration the recent alteration in the tomage schedule of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, whereby it has been made compulsory to take the measurement of cotton and jute at the serew-houses, &c.—

GEORGE LAWSON MUNRO, Esq., in the Chair.

The Chairman having explained the objects of the meeting, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

Moved by C. M. Norwood, Esq., M. P. Seconded by George Marshall, Jun., Esq.

"That in order to carry out the views of shipowners
"as to the fair measurement of jute, cotton, and similarly
"packed goods, this meeting resolves to instruct their
"Agents at Calcutta not to accept any such freight mea"sured at the scrowhouses, but that the measurements
"be taken by qualified measurers (choson by both parties),
"either alongside, or on the ship's deck, or at some one
"convenient central spot; and that the above system
"should take effect on and from 1st February 1874."
Second Resolution—

Moved by George Duncan, Esq. Seconded by W. H. Tindall, Esq.

"That this meeting resolves that they will require
"their Agents in Calcutta to again bring this matter
"before the Chamber of Commerce and support the
"shipowners in carrying out the above resolution; and
"that these resolution; be submitted to the several ship-

"owners in London engaged in the trade for their ap"proval and signature."

GEORGE L. MUNRO.

Chairman.

At a meeting of shipowners engaged in the Calcutta Trude, held on the 26th November 1873, at the Offices of the Liverpool Shipowners' Association, to take into consideration the tonnage schedule of the Chamber of Commerce—

James Macdonald, Eso., in the Chair.

It was ununimously resolved, on the motion of James Beazley Esq., seconded by F. A. Clint, Esq.:—

That, in order to carry out the views of shipowners, as to the fair measurement of jute, cotton, and similarly packed goods, this meeting resolves to instruct their Agents at Calcutta, not to accept any such freight measured at the screwhouses, but that the measurements be taken by qualified measurers (chosen by both parties,) either alongside or on ship's deck, or at some one convenient central spot, and that the above system should take effect on and from 1st February 1874.

And on the motion of Robert Rankin, Esq., seconded by Peter Stuart, Esq.:—

. That this meeting resolves that they will require their Agents in Calcutta to again bring this matter before the Chamber of Commerce, and support the shipowners in carrying out the above resolution, and that these resolutions be submitted to the several shipowners in Liver-

pool, engaged in the trade, for their approval and signature.

> Jas. Macdonald, Chairman, Liverpool Shipowners' Association.

> For British and Eastern Shipping Co., Limited, Jas. Macdonald, Managing Director.

> For the British Shipowners' Co., Limited, W. T. Banks, Secretary.

James Beazley. Rankin, Gilmour and Co.

Nelson and Co. Henry Fernie and Sons.

Nicholson and McGill

Moran, Galloway and Co.

C. S. Lemon and Co.

Ismay, Imrie and Co.

Mackinnon, Frew and Co. James Malcolm.

Stuart and Douglas.

Thomas Royden and Sons.

Richard Nicholson and Sons.

Williamson, Milligan and Co.

Allan Brothers and Co.

And. E. Byrne and Co.

John S. De Wolf and Co.

C. W. Kellock and Co.

Donald Kennedy and Co. S. R. Graves and Sons.

Willis and Co.

Brooke and Worthington.

Jas. Poole and Co.

L. H. Macintyre and Co.

Geo. Warren and Co. Evre, Evans and Co.

McDiarmid, Greenshields and Co. Lamport and Holt.

Shallcross and Higham.

Hargrove, Ferguson and Jackson.

H. N. Hughes and Nephew.

C. T. Bowring and Co.

Leech, Harrison and Forwood.

Clint and Co.

Wm. Killey and Co.

C. G. Cowie, Son and Co.

Francis Boult and Co.

G. H. Fletcher and Co.

Jos. Heap and Sons. Geo. Smith and Sons.

James and Alex. Allen.

John H. Watt.

Aitken, Lilburn and Co.

J. and R. Young and Co.

Thomas Skinner and Co. Watson Brothers.

Allan C. Gow and Co.

J. and A. Roxburgh.

James P. Corry and Co., of Belfast, by authority Robert Rankin.

Of Glasgow.

Stoddart Bros.

W. and R. Wright

R. Alexander.

Thos, and Jas, Harrison.

Farnworth and Jardine.

Balfour, Williamson and Co.

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

Held on Saturday the 24th January 1874.

The Hon'ble H. H. SUTHERLAND, President, in the Chair.

The Chairman addressed the meeting as follows:—
Gentlemen,—As you are aware from the circulars that
have been issued, and from the advertisement which has
just been published, this meeting is convened in compliance with a requisition addressed to the Committee by
fine members of the Chamber. I will read the requisition:—

"Messrs. the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

Gentlemen,—We hereby request you, under Rule 17 of the Regulations of the Chamber, to convene a special general meeting for the consideration of the resolutions adopted at the meetings of the shipowners in London and Liverpool, with a view to the alteration of the present tonnage-schedule.—We are, Gentlemen, your obedient Servants, Turner, Morrison and Co, Macknight, Anderson and Co, Schoene, Kilburn and Co, Peel, Jacob and Co, Crooke, Rome and Co,—Calcutta, January 16, 1874."

I need not enter into the vexed question that will form the subject of your consideration to-day. The history of what has taken place here in regard to the revision of the tonnage-schedule of the port is well-known to you. Before, however, I call upon the gentle-

men who signed the requisition to state their views, as they doubtless are prepared to do, I would say, on behalf of your Committee, that we had anticipated the present action in the matter, and at our last meeting decided to issue to the members the copies of communications received by the Chamber from shipowners of London and Liverpool. We only received the official communications two days before our last Committee meeting. We took prompt action, and in this we only paid the deference justly due to the influential names appended to the London and Liverpool letters. The reference for the opinion of members by circular now takes the shape of this general meeting in consequence of the requisition, and I would now call upon any member of the five firms to lay their views before the Chamber.

Mr. Temple Wilcox thereupon rose to propose the following resolution :—

"That in accordance with the resolutions of shipowners in Londan and Liverpool, neusurements of jue, cotton, and similarly packed goods, be taken by qualified measurers, to be appointed by the Chamber of Commerce, either alongside, or on the ship's deck, or a some one convenient central spot, and that the above system should take effect on and from the 1st May next."

Mr. W. R. Brown seconded the resolution.

Mr. J. F. Rutherfoord spoke of the difficulty and inconvenience of measuring jute, cotton, and similarly packed goods either on deck or alongside, and thought that the question should be referred to the Committee. He accordingly proposed the following amendment:—

"That the following scheme be considered by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, with power to add to their number for this special occasion, for report to a general nacting as early as possible:—

"That the Port Commissioners be requested to appoint sworn measurers, and distribute them through the port in the manner following:—

Cossipore, from the northern limit of the port

to the Circular Canal		·	One
Circular Canal to Aheercetol	lah Ghat	``	One
Upper Strand Bank Wharf			Onc
Lower Strand Bank Wharf			Onc
Howrah side of port	4		One
Jetty enclosure when ready			_

- "The above subject to modifications at the discretion of the said Commissioners.
- "That in dry weather all measurements be taken on the wharf preparatory to the cargo being loaded into boats or over a jetty in the Port Commissioners' enclosure.
- "That in wet weather the chief executive officer of the Port Commissioners may order measurement at such European press-houses only as are on the river side,
- "That the Port Commissioners levy a charge of Rs. 2 per 100 bales from each ship going to sea with jute or cotton or similarly packed articles.
- "That the measurers' figures be final. The chief executive of the Port Commissioners to be the sole referee in case of unsatisfactory measurement".

Mr. Rutherfoord went on to say that the question was, who should pay for the measurement? He thought that as it would manifestly be to the advantage of shipowners it was right that they should bear the expense, which was very small, Rs. 2, per 100 bales. He concluded by moving that the whole matter be referred to the Committee.

Mr. Bullen Smith seconded the amendment. He said that measurement alongside of ships was impracticable in a port like this, and that measurement in some central spot was equally impracticable, considering the vast area over which their measurement operations extended. Generally speaking, he would object to the resolution. Referring then to the proposal of appointing the Port Commissioners as referees in case of unsatisfactory measurement, he thought that this was a good system, and would give general satisfaction, as that body would hold the scales equally between shipowners and ship agents. As regards the fee, he thought that shipowners should bear it, and said that it was very small considering the great advantage they would reap.

Mr. Murray supported the amendment.

The Chairman here read both the amendment and the resolution, and put them to the vote in the usual order. The amendment was carried by a large majority.

Mr. Bullen Smith, with the leave of the President, drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that the proposed system had given the greatest satisfaction in Bombay where it had been in force for the last three years.

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Held on Saturday, the 21st February 1874.

The Hon'ble H. H. Sutherland, President, in the Chair.

A special general meeting of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce was held on Saturday last at the rooms of the Chamber for the purpose of submitting the proceelings of the Special Committee regarding the measurement-scheme proposed at the meeting of the 24th ultimo. A large number of gentlemen were present.

The Hon'ble H. H. Sutherland, President, asked the meeting whether they wished the report to be read, or whether the same should be taken as read, as it had been duly circulated. The sense of the meeting being that the report should be read, the President called upon the Secretary to read the same.

Mr. Wood thereupon read the proceedings, which ran as follows:—

Proceedings of a Special Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce held on Saturday, the 31st January 1874.

The following members were present:—

The Hon'ble H. H. Sutherland, President, in the chair:

F. G. Eldridge, Esq., the Hon'ble B. D. Colvin, Messrs. T. A. Apear, T. A. Vlasto, F. Eisenlohr, W. Duncan, J. F. Rutherfoord, H. Rhodius, T. Willcox, T. L. Watson, G. M. Sturthers, H. S. Cox; and Mr. Duff Bruce, Vice-Chairman of the Port Commissioners, attended at the Committee's invitation.

Before entering into a discussion of the subject for the consideration of which the meeting had assembled, the Chairman submitted a letter from Messrs. F. W. Heilgers and Co., who suggested the advisability of amending the Tonnage Schedule as far as the weight of bales of cotton, jute, &c., is concerned,—300lb. being no longer the standard weight in use in the Pork.

The meeting was of opinion that the question raised by Messrs. F. W. Heilgers and Co., was beyond their power to consider, and that it was not competent to entertain it: but it was pointed out by some of the Committee that the reference was made under a misapprehension of the tonnage schedule, which, in a foot note, merely explains that jute, &c., are packed in bales varying from 300lb, to 400lb.

Mr. Rutherfoord's scheme of measurement having been generally discussed, the following resolutions were submitted:—

Proposed by Mr. Vlasto, Seconded by the Hon'ble Mr. Colvin,

1.—That in terms of the first part of Mr. Rutherfoord's proposal the Port Commissioners be requested to appoint sworn measurers and distribute them through the Port as may be hereafter determined.

Carried unanimously.

Proposed by Mr. Rutherfoord, Seconded by Mr. Eldridge,

2.—That in dry weather all measurements be taken on the wharf preparatory to the cargo being loaded into boats or over a jetty in the Port Commissioners' enclosure.

Amendment.
Proposed by Mr. Willcox,

Seconded by Mr. Duncan,

That mensurement be taken alongside the ship or on deck.

The original resolution was carried by a majority.
Proposed by Mr. Rutherfoord,
Seconded by Mr. Eisenlohr,

3.—That in wet weather the Port Commissioners may order measurement at such steam or hydraulic press-houses as then may determine.

Carried by a majority.

Proposed by Mr. Eldridge,
Seconded by Mr. Eisenlohr,

4.—That such allowance as may be decided by a Sub-Committee to be appointed shall be made to the ship in excess of the actual measurement taken at any screen house.

The resolution was negatived. Proposed by Mr. Rutherfoord, Seconded by Mr. Vlasto,

5.—That the Port Commissioners levy from each ship going to sea with jute or cotton or similarly packed articles such to large per 100 bales as may hereafter be found necessary to over the expense.

Resolution carried by a majority.

Proposed by the Hon'ble Mr. Colvin, Seconded by Mr. Eldridge,

6.—That the Port Commissioners be requested to draw up such rules as may be necessary for carrying out the system of measurement by sworn measurers, and to submit the same to the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce for consideration.

Carried by a Majority.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE HELD ON SATURDAY, THE 7TH FEBRUARY 1874.

The following members were present:—

The Hon'ble H. H. Sutherland, President, in the chair:

Messis, F. G. Eldridge, J. R. Bullen Smith, T. A. Apear, T. A. Vlasto, F. Eisenlohr, W. Duncan, J. F. Rutherfoord, H. Rhodius, T. Willcox, T. L. Watson, and G. M. Struthers.

The minutes of proceedings of last meeting as above recorded were read and confirmed.

Mr. Temple Willox submitted the following letter, and proposed that it be recorded as a part of the proceedings of this meeting.

Mr. T. A. Apear seconded the proposition, which was carried unanimously.

Calcutta, 4th February 1874.

H. W. J. WOOD, Esq.,

Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

DEAR SIR,

Referring to the copy of the proceedings of the Special Meeting held on \$1st ulkino, enclosed in yours of yesterday, I shall be obliged by your placing on record my opinion, as expressed at that meeting "that as the resolutions carried contain no guarantee that the bales which will be measured by the sworm measurer will be sent to the ship or that the present system of "dunniy" bales will be remedied, shippowers will not consent to be taxed for the support of a scheme from which they will derive no benefit.

Yours faithfully,

TEMPLE WILLCOX.

Mr. J. F. Rutherfoord then proposed, and Mr. J. R. Bullen Smith seconded.

That the following resolution be adopted as a reply to the foregoing letter, and accepted as the opinion of this meeting for embodiment in the Committee's report.

Carried by a majority.

Dummy Bales are of two sorts.

1st. Those of light weight and thus compressed into very small bulk,

2nd. Those of proper weight, but through extra labor

and care compressed into greater density than the remainder of the parcel intended for shipment.

These dummy bales have been the natural offspring, at dishausst captain servers, of the measurement rules hitherto in force, which provided that the representatives of the ship and of the serves should each select an equal number of bales for measurement, the average of the two selections being taken to express the actual measurement of the shipment. When measurement has been taken elsewhere than on the wharf the templation to dishauset serveurs not to part with their dummy bales has often been found insuperable, and the dummiss did daty as representing the screwer's selection wore than once.

In the measurement scheme passed by the Committee the eworn measurer alone will select bales for measurement: there will be no pitting of big bales against little bales by the representatives of different interests; and all bales will be measured at the wharf, except in wet weather at such steam or Hydraulic Press Houses whose well earned reputation for honesty the Port Commissioners may confide in. Gunny Cloth has been measured of the Borneo (Bernagore) Co.'s Mills since their trade commenced. Have dummy bales been heard of there? Have any bales measured there not been shipped? For the Jute season of 1874 there will be in operation in Calcutta 62 Hydraulic presses, of which 24 are of Watson's and not less than 22 are of Nasmyth's Patent. Dummy bales in connection with these presses are an absurdity, for they can compress fibre ordinarily to a density exceeding that of Linsced, and the Commissioners, with the police of the Port under their control. may be trusted to prevent the substitution at the wharf of other bales for those once measured,

Although for facility of collection, and because it would be unfair to tax Hydraulic Presses which do not err in the natier of slack bales, it is proposed to levy the measurement tax on shipowners, the tax will eventually fall on the consumer of the ram material, for Jule is a monepoly of Calcutta, and with the large choice of other cargo here, embracing Linseed, Lides, Tea and other case goods, the shipowner can regulate the freight on Jute minus the measurement fee to the equivalent of the freight on other articles not subject to such fees.

Proposed by Mr. F. G. Eldridge, Seconded by Mr. J. R. Bullen Smith,

That in the opinion of the majority of this Committee the scheme which they herewith recommend to the members of the Chamber is the fairest to shipponers, shippers and owners of screw houses that can be adopted, and at the same time prove feasible in actual practice.

Carried by a majority.

CALCUTTA,

H. W. I. WOOD,

9th February 1874.

Secretary.

The President, in submitting the report, said that the Special Committee thought it right to lay before the Chamber simply the record of what took place at their two meetings, without inserting in the report any remarks of their own. It would be seen that at the first meeting five resolutions were passed, but unfortunately only one of these, the first, was unanimous. The others

were only carried after a vote by a majority. At the second meeting the same differences of opinion prevailed, and the two resolutions then adopted were, as before, arrived at by a majority of votes. He might state that the majority was a very decided majority, and further informed the meeting that efforts were made both at the Special Committee meetings and subsequently to bring together the shipping and shipowning interests. These efforts hitherto have not been successful. He was sure they should all be very glad if a satisfactory arrangement could be brought about to-day. He would say, however, for himself-and the opinion was shared by many others-that no equitable or permanent settlement of the measurement question could be effected by passing resolutions in the face of a dissenting minority -resolutions which, he submitted, the Chamber would be powerless to enforce. He need not remind the meeting, in connection with this very subject, that one of their past decisions was a dead letter, and he thought the Chamber should be most careful to avoid attempting to pass laws and regulations that it could not carry into practice. In saying this, he did not wish to be understood as favouring the views of the minority in the Special Committee: these, in his humble opinion, were impracticable. He should have thought rather that Mr. Rutherfoord's resolutions presented a fair basis for a settlement. This opinion, however, was not shared by all; the minority dissented, and, as he understood. protested against their adoption; and they had to remember, besides, that there are in Calcutta influential ship-agents and shippers who are not members of the Chamber, and in regard to one of these he had authority to state to the meeting that Messrs. Gladstone, Wyllic

and Co. are willing, as things stand at present, to fall its with any arrangement embracing—

- 1. Measurement at the wharf.
- 2. By sworn measurers.
- 3. Half cost of measurement to ship, half to shippers.

He should be very glad if such a settlement could be made, but failing it, he would venture to recommend to the meeting that the question stand as it is, unsatisfactory in some respects though the position be, rather than press a change which would not be acceptable to all, and would not be generally adopted.

Mr. Temple Willcox proposed "that measurement be taken alongside or on the deck of the ship by sworn measurers," and moved that the following remarks be placed on the records of the Chamber: "Referring to the twelve gentlemen-exclusive of the President, who, I believe, is interested neither in ships nor screws-of whom the Committee was composed, and whose report, carried by a majority at the meeting has now been placed before you, I wish to point out the preponderance of 'press' interest which existed thereat. Messrs. Rutherfoord, Watson, Vlasto, Eisenlohr, Struthers, Cox, and Rhodius, are all largely connected with screws, mostly worked by Nasmyth's or Watson's Patents. The Hon'ble Mr. Colvin's firm has, or very recently had, presses of their own. Mr. Eldridge is a large shipper of jute and jute-butts to America, and whose interests are consequently indirectly affected by the measurement question. And

there remain only Messrs. Apear, Duncan, and myself. who are not so interested. Is it therefore to be wondered at that each resolution contained in the Committee's report was carried, and the only proposition, No. 4, being in the ship's favour, negatived, by a majority? With regard to that portion of Mr. Rutherfoord's resolution recorded at the second meeting of the Committee, which runs as follows: 'Dummy bales in connection with these presses are an absurdity, for they can compress fibre ordinarily to a density exceeding that of linseed, and the Commissioners, with the police of the port under their control. may be trusted to prevent the substitution at the wharf of other bales for those once measured.'-I cannot acknowledge that he has made out a case. For these reasons ;-the hydraulic presses can turn out bales by extra care and pressure, measuring 45 feet and under, and in damp weather, owing to the peculiar nature of the jute, similar bales can be produced without the aid of any excess strain. This I can illustrate by the following result, experienced recently at one of the presses during the late heavy rains at the beginning of this month. A pressure equal to 450 tons on the bale was only necessary. whereas in the dry cold weather one equal to 1,300 tons was requisite, thus showing that in a moist atmosphere about one-third of the power only is expedient as compared with the dry season. In each of the above instances the same quality of article was pressed, and the bales produced were of equal size, say 1 foot 8 inches in depth; they were jute-cuttings. Another fact I wish to place before you is, that although the hydraulic presses are owned by European Firms or Companies, it is usual to have, and I believe they all adopt the plan of having, native contractors, who supply the ropes and workmen,

and have to guarantee the measurement. Now, if the press, when working, is not run up to the proper point, there is a great saving of time to these contractors, and they can consequently turn out a larger number of bales during the day; and another inducement for them to press in this way is, that weaker lashings suffice, thus conducing largely to their profit. I am told, upon the best authority, that in this manner the contractors can realize one anna per bale out of the lashings, and about twenty bales per day, extra, from each press. Thus a good fund is provided for dispensing baksish. In another part of his resolution Mr. Rutherfoord says: "When measurement has been taken elsewhere than on the wharf, the temptation to dishonest screwers not to part with their "dummy" bales has often been found insuperable, and the "dummies" did duty as representing the screwer's selection more than once. Now, considering that sofirm and brick-like are the bales that have undergone hydraulic pressure on a damp day, that some of them will not expand or change shape even if the ropes are taken off, is it so very absurd to suppose that these native contractors do not arrange to retain a number of these bales for the purpose of measurement? I have been told that not only is it not absurd, but that the system is in actual practice; as Mr Rutherfoord admits of the hand-pressed 'dummies,' so do the hydraulic ones do duty more than once. These are facts that I have stated, and it is possible that the 'majority' who carried No. 3 resolution were not acquainted with the malpractices of employés in press-houses. Mr. Rutherfoord's assertion that the bales measured at the wharf will not be substituted is a very slender one, but perhaps the less said of the police of the port the better. I cannot agree with his remarks

either as regard the ease with which the shipowner can regulate his freight, for very often there is no other cargo offering but jute for sailing vessels, and at other times to attempt to regulate the rate of freight of jute by that of other goods would entail a delay of months to the ship. The foregoing remarks have treated of hydraulic screwed bales only, as the system employed at the hand-presses is too well known to need any allusion. I do not consider that the proposition from the Committee, which is now before you, contains any improvement on the present system of measurement, for no plan is suggested for removing the obnoxious dummy even on the wharves. for some of the ghâts at which jute is shipped are not large enough to hold 50 bales, but, on the contrary, a premium is attempted for a continuation of the present system by ruling that measurement shall be taken at certain screws in wet weather. The desire to saddle shipowners with the expenses entailed by such a scheme as has now been proposed is, I think, preposterous, and against which, as a ship-agent, I strongly protest. As the only certain means of ensuring justice to all parties, I have therefore again to propose ' that measurement to taken alongside or on the deck of the ship by sworn measurers."

Mr. T. A. Apear seconded the above resolution.

Mr. Eldridge said:—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—It was not my intention to have taken part in the dobte on the question before us to-day, but, after the extraordinary nature of the remarks just read by Mr. Willcox, I feel compelled to reply to the attack which he has made upon some of the members of the Special Committee, including myself. It is true that I am a large ship-

per of jute and butts, but I am also a ship agent, and may add I have no interest whatever in any press-house in Calcutta, and I believe a large majority of you who are here to-day, as well as the members of the Chamber generally, occupy the same independent and disinterested position. We buy our jute with measurement guaranteed; calculate our cost accordingly, and if the measurement is in excess it is nothing to us. Mr. Willcox refers to a resolution offered by me, and seconded by Mr. Eisenlohr (I think it is No. 4 in the report), and would give you the impression that it was not carried owing to the bias which he intimates influenced the gentleman to whom he particularly refers; whereas not only did he vote against it, but also Messrs. Apcar and Duncan, I believe; had they given it their support, it would have been carried. I regret that I am compelled to differ from our Hon'ble President in his suggestion that this meeting should take no action on the report of the Special Committee owing to the want of unanimity which prevails amongst the members with reference to the scheme proposed. The owners of ships, in their request to the Chamber that some action be taken to remedy existing evils in measuring cargo, suggested two plans-one being that the goods be measured alongside or on board-ship, and the other that they be measured at some central place on the river-bank. To all of you who are so thoroughly conversant with the difficulties which would accrue from attemping to carry out the first proposition, I need hardly say that it would be almost impossible to meet their views on account of detention, demurrage, &c , and I am sure you will all agree that it would be equally impossible to select any central spot for measurement. The Select Committee have therefore proposed to, virtually, meet the views of

the shipowners by having sworn measurers at different points on the bank of the river, but these gentlemen who seem disposed to constitute themselves champions of the shipowners go further, and will accept nothing but measurement alongside; thus asking more than the parties whom they claim to represent. Now, gentlemen, I think we are bound in justice to curselves as Calcutta merchants to show that we are willing and anxious to do all that is fair and right to remedy existing evils, so far as may be practicable; and I feel that we should therefore adopt the Special Committee's report and let the shipowners see whence the opposition comes. If they approve of the stand taken by some of their representatives, we can then decline to take any further steps in the matter, and let the present state of affairs remain as they are.

Mr. Willoox said that Mr. Eldridge must be labouring under a mistake when he stated that he (Mr. Willoox) did not vote for No. 4 resolution, for he distinctly did so, as did also, he believed, Mr. Duncan. As regards Mr. Eldridge not being interested in the measurement question, Mr. Willcox thought that if the contractor from whom Mr. Eldridge bought his jute were to increase his price to meet any excess measurement, which he would doubtless do if correct measurements were taken and given, Mr. Eldridge would then soon find out that he was interested.

Mr. Bullen Smith said that his opinions on this measurement question were well known, and he rose chiefly to express his general concurrence in the excellent remarks which had fallen from his friend, Mr. Eldridge. He confessed that he had, even up to the time of entering

the room, been rather inclined to the opinion that is might be better not to press Mr. Rutherfoord's scheme in face of the strong opposition entertained towards it by some members, and which might result in its becoming an inoperative resolution, which was always to be deprecated. The remarks of the Vice-President had, however, altered his view, and he now thought with him that there would be a certain decided benefit in seconding the adoption of the Committee's report. It would show to those at home that although the last alterations in the tonnageschedule had been carried by a large majority, there was, on the part of that majority, willingness to reopen the question, meet shipowners half-way, and endeavour to arrive at some reasonable adjustment. Mr. Bullen Smith earnestly urged upon the members present the importance of looking upon the present and other kindred matters which came before them as a Chamber in a broad and liberal spirit, with reference not so much to individual feelings and interests, as to what would be fair and equitable to the trade generally, and also feasible and workable under existing conditions of the port. He deprecated this being made so much a matter of sides, ship-agents versus shippers, as was displayed in the paper, which Mr. Willcox had just read. To not a few present the matter probably applied, as it did to himself, from both points of view. The shipper of measurement goods to-day might be the consignee of a ship to-morrow; and in this spirit he would fain see the subject considered, rather than as a benefit to be gained by one party at a certain loss to another. To him, as to the Vice-President, it appeared that the representative of the shipping interest, if he might so speak of Mr. Willcox, was going rather beyond his brief, demanding even

more than his clients had asked or were disposed to be content with. He (Mr. Bullen Smith) fully hoped that to not a few shipowners the scheme recommended by the Committee would appear a decided change for the better; indeed, he felt sure that it would be accepted by some as a fair and equitable arrangement, if put properly before them, and accompanied by the necessary explanations as to what was possible in this port for the present. Shippers of produce were, no doubt, content with the practice as it now stood, and he thought it was to their credit that they had come forward when invited to reconsider the subject. He (the speaker) was by no means the advocate of shippers-they were quite able to defend themselves; but as a member of the Chamber he might perhaps ask Mr. Willcox how such a matter as. this was ever to be satisfactorily settled if there was to be nothing of give and take? Without such, he could see no prospect of settlement, and it appeared that if Mr. Willcox had made up his mind to yield no single point, to insist on his whole demand or nothing, he could scarcely be surprised if the body of shippers fell back upon their existing position, and declined all further discussion with a view to change. Before sitting down, Mr. Bullen Smith said he must express the regret and surprise with which he had listened to Mr. Willcox's remarks as to the constitution of the official Committee by which Mr. Rutherfoord's scheme was considered, involving as these remarks seemed to do a censure on the Committee of the Chamber which he thought quite undeserved. This matter had been referred to the Committee for consideration and report, with special power to add to their number for this purpose; they had selected members whose services they considered would be

useful and advantageous, and it was a poor compliment to be told that they had confined, or nearly so, their selection to those whose opinions they knew all tended in one direction. It was hardly fair either that members not belonging to the Chamber's Committee should, after giving time and trouble for a special object, come here, and be roundly told that they were all biassed, and that their consideration, so called, had been practically the mere record of a foregone conclusion. Such expressions were not calculated to promote the harmonious working of the Chamber, and he much regretted they had been made.

Mr. Willeox explained that he did not intend to make any insinuations, but had Mr. Bullen Smith been present at the first meeting of the Committee, he would have seen the animus which had been displayed. He also said that the remarks he had made were called for to rebut any wrong impression which Mr. Rutherfoord's statement might convey to the minds of the people at home. He rather believed that as the majority of the members of the Special Committee were largely interested in the question they were naturally prejudiced against his remarks.

Mr. Rutherfoord said:—Although I have no objection to Mr. Willcox's written address being published in the newspapers. I consider that it should not be placed on the records of this Chamber, for after a little time people who have forgotten, or are ignorant of, the circumstances, may conclude from the very presence of the imputations on the record that some grounds for them actually existed. Insimuations can be made with as much

force against one party as the other, but I shall make none. As regards the press, not yet in operation, in which I have an interest, its situation is such that the bulk of our bales will be sent by tramway to the jetty inclosure, there to be measured and shipped over jetties. The insinuations against me on this head therefore fall harmlessly. It would have been easy for me to have proposed a scheme of measurement altogether to the advantage of my press, and in strict accordance with the expressed views of shipowners; but such a scheme would have proved inoperative, owing to the remoteness of Cossipore and Howrah.

Mr. Rutherfood moved the following amendment: "That Mr. Willeon's address be not placed on the records of the Chamber, as it contains grave insimuations against several members of the Chamber."

Mr. Eldridge seconded the amendment.

The President trusted that Mr. Rutherfoord would see his way to withdraw the amendment just proposed. While he regretted the remarks that had fallen from Mr. Willeox, and concurred in the grave and judicious rebuke adminstered by Mr. Bullen Smith, he could not suppose it was the wish of members to stifle discussion, and he felt that Mr. Willeox was entitled to use his undoubted right of free speech in a general meeting, and to have his remarks recorded as part of the proceedings.

After a slight conversational discussion, Mr. Rutherfoord agreed to withdraw his amendment, and proposed another, which ran as follows: "That the meeting desires to record its disapprobation of the tone of Mr. Willear's address, containing as it does serious insinuations against the members of the Special Committee."

Mr. Eldridge seconded the amendment.

The President here put Mr. Willcox's resolution to the meeting. The resolution was lost. The substituted amendment was then put to the meeting and carried.

Mr. Murray proposed the following resolution: "That the proceedings of the Special Committee be received; and the resolutions passed by the majority thereof be adopted,"

Mr. Bullen Smith seconded the resolution on the understanding and with the condition that the scheme was not to be immediately carried out.

Mr. Vlasto thought that they should not adopt a resolution which did not admit of its being carried out.

The President concurred with the remarks expressed by the last speaker, and asked the members to pause before they passed the resolution.

Mr. Morgan proposed the following resolution: "That the present meeting adopts the scheme of the Special Committee as being the most feasible which can be arranged in fuirness to skipowner and shipper, but, having regard to the opposition of the agents of shipowners, the further consideration of the scheme be postpowed for four months."

Mr. Struthers seconded the resolution.

Mr. Murray withdrew his resolution.

The President in proposing the following as an amend-

ment,—"That the adoption of the report be defored in consequence of the great divergence of spinion upon the subject, and the consequent difficulty of carrying out the proposed scheme,"—said he would not have opposed Mr. Morgan's motion, but for its confirmation of the Special Committee's resolution, placing the whole expense of the proposed measurement scheme on shipowners. An equal division between ship and shipper seemed to him much fairer; but as that was not acceptable to the meeting, he should prefer leaving the question ontirely open.

The Hon'ble Mr. Colvin seconded the amendment, which was lost. Mr. Morgan's resolution was put and carried by a large majority.

The meeting then dispersed.

H. W. I. WOOD.

Secretary.

From the Chairman of the Shipowners' Association, Liverpool, to Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

Liverpool, 11th March 1874.

Tonnage Schedule.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letters of the 16th and 29th January, and of the copy of proceedings at the meeting of your Chamber beld on the 24th of the same month.

The proceedings of your Chamber will be laid before this Association and your promised communication rela-

tive to the further action of the Chamber on the subject will be awaited with interest.

In the meantime allow me to express regret that the resolutions passed by this Association and the General Shipowners' Society of London were not adopted by your Chamber.

TRADE WITH YARKAND.

The Mission to Yarkand referred to in the Chamber's last Report has been conducted with the greatest success; and the result is evidenced by the Treaty which has been recently concluded between the Ameer of Kashgar and Yarkand and the British Government. As the Treaty is contained within a small compass, and for convenience of reference, your Committee have recorded it in extense.

The Committee regard the accomplishment of the Mission's main object as a matter of congratulation and as reflecting the greatest credit on the Envoy and all who have had part in the work: and they trust it may lead to results of the highest political interest to the State and of encouragement to the extension of British commerce into the remote provinces which the Treaty opens out to its enterprise.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

Notification.—Political.

Fort William, 17th April 1874.

No. 896 P.—The following Commercial Treaty, concluded with His Highness the Ameer of Kashgar and Yarkand is published for general information:—

Treaty between the British Government and His High-NESS THE AMEER MAHOMED YAKOOB KHAN, Ruler of the territory of Kashgar and Yarkand, his heirs and successors executed on the one part by Thomas Doug-LAS FORSYTH, C. B., in virtue of full powers conferred on him in that behalf by His EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HON'BLE THOMAS GEORGE BARING BARON NORTH-BROOK of Stratton and a Baronet, Member of the Privy Council of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, Grand Master of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, Vicerov and Governor General of India in Council, and on the other part by SYUD MAHOMED KHAN TOORAH, Member of the 1st Class of the Order of Medjedie, &c., in virtue of full powers conferred on him by His Highness.

Whereas it is deemed desirable to confirm and strengthen the good understanding which now subsists between the high contracting parties, and to promote commercial intercourse between their respective subjects, the following Articles have been agreed upon:—

ARTICLE I.

The high contracting parties engage that the subjects of each shall be at liberty to enter, reside in, trade with

and pass with 'their merchandize and property into and through all parts of the dominions of the other, and shall enjoy in such dominions all the privileges and advantages with respect to commerce, protection, or otherwise, which are or may be accorded to the subjects of such dominions, or to the subjects or citizens of the most favored nation.

ARTICLE II.

Merchants of whatever nationality shall be at liberty to pass from the territories of the one contracting party to the territories of the other with their merchandize and property at all times and by any route they please; no restriction shall be placed by either contracting party upon such freedom of transit unless for urgent political reasons to be previously communicated to the other; and such restriction shall be withdrawn as soon as the necessity for it is over.

ARTICLE III.

European British subjects entering the dominions of His Highness the Ameer for purposes of trade or othervise must be provided with passports cortifying to their nationality. Unless provided with such passports they shall not be deemed entitled to the benefit of this Treaty.

ARTICLE IV.

On goods imported into British India from territories of His Highness the Ameer by any route over the Himalayan passes which lie to the south of His Highness' dominions, the British Government engages to levy no import duties. On goods imported from India into the

territories of His Highness the Ameer no import duty exceeding 2½ per cent. ad valorem shall be levied. Goods imported as above into the dominions of the contracting parties may, subject only to such excise regulations and duties and to such municipal or town regulations and duties as may be applicable to such classes of goods generally, be freely sold by wholesale or retail and transported from one place to another within British India and within the dominions of His Highmess the Ameer respectively.

ARTICLE V.

Merchandize imported from India into the territories of His Highness the Ameer will not be opened for examination till arrival at the place of consignment. If any disputes should arise as to the value of such goods the Customs Officer or other Officer acting on the part of His Highness the Ameer shall be entitled to demand part of the goods at the rate of one in forty in lieu of the payment of duty. If the aforesaid Officer should object to levy the duty by taking a portion of the goods, or if the goods should not admit of being so divided, then the point in dispute shall be referred to two competent persons, one chosen by the aforesaid Officer and the other by the importer, and a valuation of the goods shall be made, and if the referees shall differ in opinion they shall appoint an arbitrator whose decision shall be final, and the duty shall be levied according to the value thus established.

ARTICLE VI.

The British Government shall be at liberty to appoint a Representative at the Court of His Highness the Ameer and to appoint Commercial Agents subordinateto him in any towns or places considered suitable within:
His Highness' territories. His Highness the Anneer
shall be at liberty to appoint a Representative with:
the Viceroy and Governor General of India, and to
station Commercial Agents at any places in British
India considered suitable. Such Representatives shall
be entitled to the rank and privileges accorded to Ambassadors by the law of nations, and the Agents shall
be entitled to the privileges of Consuls of the most
favored nation.

ARTICLE VII.

British subjects shall be at liberty to purchase, sell, or hire land or houses or depôts for merchandize in the dominions of His Highness the Ameer, and the houses, depôts, or other premises of British subjects shall not be forcibly entered or searched without the consent of the occupier, unless with the cognizance of the British Representative or Agent and in presence of a person deputed by him.

ARTICLE VIII.

The following arrangements are agreed to for the decision of civil suits and criminal cases within the territories of His Highness the Ameer in which British subjects are concerned:—

(a)—Civil suits in which both plaintiff and defendant are British subjects, and criminal cases in which both prosecutor and accused are British subjects, or in which the accused is a European British subject mentioned in the 3rd Article of this Treaty, shall be tried by the British Representative or one of his Agents in the presence of an Agent appointed by His Highness the Ameer;

- (b.)—Civil suits in which one party is a subject of His Highness the Ameer and the other party a British subject, shall be tried by the Courts of His Highness in the presence of the British Representative or one of his Agents, or of a person appointed in that behalf by such Representative or Agent;
- (c)—Criminal cases in which either prosecutor or accused is a subject of His Highness the Ameer shall, except as above otherwise provided, be tried by the Courts of His Highness in presence of the British Representative or of one of his Agents, or of a person deputed by the British Representative or by one of his Agents;
- (d)—Except as above otherwise provided, civil and criminal cases in which one party is a British subject, and the other the subject of a foreign power, shall, if either of the parties is a Mahomedan, be tried in the Courts of His Highness; if neither party is a Mahomedan, the case may, with consent of the parties, be tried by the British Representative or one of his Agents: in the absence of such consent by the Courts of His Highness.
- (c)—In any case disposed of by the Courts of His Highness the Ameer to which a British subject is party, it shall be competent to the British Representative, if he considers that justice has not been done, to represent the matter to His Highness the Ameer, who may cause the case to be retried in some other Court in the presence of the British Representative or of one of his Agents,

or of a person appointed in that behalf by such Representative or Agent.

ARTICLE IX.

The rights and privileges enjoyed within the dominious of His Highness the Ameer by British subjects under this Treaty shall extend to the subjects of all Princes and States in India in alliance with Her Majesty the Queen; and if, with respect to any such Prince or State, any other provisions relating to this Treaty or to other matters should be considered desirable, they shall be negotiated through the British Government.

ARTICLE X.

Every affidavit and other legal document filed or deposited in any Court established in the respective dominions of the high contracting parties, or in the Court of the Joint Commissioners in Ladakh, may be proved by an authenticated copy, purporting either to be sealed with the seal of the Court to which the original document belongs, or in the event of such Court having no seal, to be signed by the Judge or by one of the Judges of the said Court.

ARTICLE XI.

When a British subject dies in the territory of His Highness the Amer, his movable and immovable property situate therein shall be vested in his heir, executor, administrator, or other representative in interest or (in the absence of such representative) in the Representative of the British Government in the aforesaid territory. The person in whom such charge shall be so vested shall satisfy the claims outstanding against the deceased, and

shall hold the surplus (if any) for distribution among those interested. The above provisions *mutatis mutandis* shall apply to the subjects of His Highness the Ameer who may die in British India.

ARTICLE XII.

If a British subject residing in the territories of His Highness the Ameer becomes unable to pay his debts, or fails to pay any debt, within a reasonable time after being ordered to do so by any Court of Justice, the creditors of such insolvent shall be paid out of his goods and effects; but the British Representative shall not refuse his good offices, if needs be, to ascertain if the insolvent has not left in India disposable property which might serve to satisfy the said creditors. The friendly stipulations in the present Article shall be reciprocally observed with regard to His Highness' subjects, who trade in India under the protection of the laws.

This Treaty having this day been executed in duplicate and confirmed by His Highness the Ameer, one copy shall, for the present, be left in the possession of His Highness, and the other, after confirmation by the Viceroy and Governor General of India, shall be delivered to His Highness within twelve months in exchange for the copy now retained by His Highness.

Signed and scaled at Kashgar on the second day of February in the year of our Lord 1874, corresponding with the fifteenth day of Zilhijj 1290 Hijri.

(Sd.) T. Douglas Forsyth,

Envoy and Plenipolentiary.

Proposed extension of the Telegraph to Bassein and thence to Diamond Island.

The following letter conveys the decision of Government regarding the Chamber's proposal to establish a postal service between Bassein and Diamond Island for the purpose of enabling vessels calling at the latter place for orders to communicate with Bassein, and ultimately with Rangoon by telegraph, the construction of which between those places has been sanctioned.

The postal service was suggested because the Government of India was unable to extend the line of telegraph from Bassein to the Island, and your Committee regret they have been unsuccessful in obtaining that concession.

From Government of India to Chamber of Commerce.

Calcutta, 20th December 1873.

In reply to your letter dated 4th September 1873, I am directed to state for the information of the Chamber, that there do not appear to the Governor General in Council to be sufficient reasons to justify the establishment of a postal line between Bassein and Diamond Island. The monthly cost of such a line would be about Rs. 400, and as ships do not touch at Diamond Island during more than half the year, and as the line would be used only by ships, there is no prospect of a correspondence in any

degree proportionate to the cost which the proposed line would involve.

Unsatisfactory working of the Telegraph Line between Calcutta and Rangoon.

The following letter will inform members that the Committee have not been unmindful of the condition of telegraphic service with Rangoon, which is manifestly capable of much improvement as regards the time occupied in transmission of messages; and it is to be hoped that the representation to Government will result in communication with Burmah being materially accelerated.

From Chamber of Commerce to Government of India.

Calcutta, 2nd March 1874.

The attention of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce has been drawn to the unsatisfactory working of the Telegraph Line between Calcutta and Rangoon, and to the fact that during the past month the maximum time occupied in transit of messages—according to the figures published in the Telegraph Gazette—averaged nearly 20 hours; and although reasons are given for the retarded communication, such as pressure of work, interruption on parts of the line, &c., the Committee venture to represent that, at a time like the present when the rapid transmission of messages is of the greatest moment to business between the centres of commerce in India and Burmath, the speedy and regular working of the Tele-

graph line demands the closest attention and most careful supervision. Operations on an extensive scale in the staple produce of Burmah, and financial arrangements connected therewith, may be prejudicially affected by a tardy and imperfect communication; indeed serious results have already been realised in consequence.

The business relations between Calcutta and Rangoon and the subordinate ports of Burmah are of sufficient magnitude to require the promptest and most efficient aid from the Telegraph Department, and while the active and energetic administration of that branch of the public service has secured an almost perfect organisation throughout the immense area of British India it is a matter of regret and disappointment that the communication with the adjoining Province of Burmah should remain with such abundant room for improvement.

Telegraph Rules respecting the acceptance of Messages composed of compound words.

The Committee have been in correspondence with the Government of India regarding an order issued by the Telegraph Department which introduced Webster's Dictionary as the standard for determining whether ordinary English words employed in messages should be charged for as single or compound words. The result of that order was that in numberless instances words ordinarily spelt as single were held to be compound, simply because, according to Webster, the introduction of a hyphen subdivided a word into two or

more syllables; and the cost of messages containing words so dealt with was obviously largely enhanced.

Against this innovation remonstrances were at once made, and your Committee having been requested to take up the matter referred the point to Government, and the order was subsequently withdrawn.

Chamber of Commerce to Government of India.

Calcutta, 2nd March 1874.

The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce desire me to submit the following representation relative to a recent regulation issued by the Tolegraph Department, under which all compound words, which are separated by a hyphen in Webster's Dictionary, are charged for as two words.

According to that Dictionary common English words which are, and have long been, ordinarily written as single are spelt as compound words by the mere introduction of a hyphen; but the 36th article of the last International Convention specially provides that where it is not certain that any uniting of words by the sender of a message is contrary to the custom of the language in which such message is expressed the manner of his writing such words to be held as decisive for the charge or cost thereof.

The Convention thus recognises the transmission of a message expressed in words which are spelt according to

customary and familiar formation: and as the Government of India are parties to the Convention they are presumably bound by its special provisions: If, as there is reason to believe, a system of orthography opposed to the ruling of the Convention has been introduced by the Telegraph Department in India on its own responsibility, the innovation of a standard authority as to the proper way of spelling English words requires the sanction of the Convention. Under present circumstances there is the singular anomaly that while certain words are held, according to Webster, to be compound words and charged for accordingly by the Telegraph Department in India, the same words are telegraphed from London as single words.

It is also to be noticed that while common English words are thus exceptionally dealt with words in foreign languages are admitted as single, the equivalent of which in English would be liable to five times the charge at which the foreign words are transmitted. For instance the German word "Exwellundertvierunderieig," and the Italian "Ducentotrentaquattro," the equivalent of "two hundred and thirty-four" in English, are admitted as one word.

The Committee make this reference in the hope that His Excellency the Governor General in Council will be pleased to consider the action of the Telegraph Department in this respect, and to direct the repeal of the regulation as to the use of Webster's Dictionary as the standard for English words employed in telegraphic communication, and the refund of charges that have been made in consequence of its introduction. Government of India to Chamber of Commerce.

Calcutta, 13th March 1874.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 2nd current, regarding a recent regulation of the Telegraph Department, by which Webster's Dictionary is made the standard for decision as to what words are, and what are not, compound words, and in reply to inform you that the subject will be enquired into

Government of India to Chamber of Commerce.

Calcutta, 6th April 1874.

In continuation of Public Works Department No. 178T of 13th ultimo, I am directed to forward for your information copy of a letter No. 524, dated 20th March 1874, and its enclosures, from the Director General of Telegraphs on the subject of the standard fixed for delivering compound words in telegrams, and to state that the Governor General in Council believes that the more recent instructions issued by the Director General of Telegraphs will remove all unnecessary interference with messages.

From the Director General of Telegraphs in India to the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department.

Calcutta, 20th March 1874.

I have the honor to reply to your letter No. 177T. of

the 13th March, with which you forward for report a letter from the Secretary, Bengal Chamber of Commerce, on the subject of the rules respecting the acceptance of compound words in telegraph messages.

- 2. Frequent complaints having been received from other Administrations respecting the abuse of the Convention rules that had become common, of combining together syllables and words having no legitimate connection for the sole purpose of reducing the charges payable on ordinary messages; and our attention having been called to the ruling that the custom of the language is the test to be applied to such messages, Webster's Dictionary (Guinea Edition) was adopted as being the one most generally known, most easily procurable, and most likely to give general satisfaction.
- 3. The instructions" that have been issued to all offices

 "T. Code Copies of 1874.
 "Do. do. No. 3, 1874.
 "Do. do. No. 5, 1874.
 "Do. do. No. 5, 1874.
 "Example anxious this Department is to avoid any unnecessary interference, but the practice of constructing Telegraph Codes of words which are not to be found in any Dictionary, and which not unfrequently are manufactured for the occasion by those who use them, had become in-

tolerable and had led to constant reclamations from other

Administrations.

4. The Convention rules, on the subject of such messages, are clear and precise. Article 9, para. 1, defines an ordinary message to be one that offers "un sens comprehensible an l'une quelcompue des langues usitées sur les territoires des Etats contractants, ou en langue Latine."

That is to say, the messages must be intelligibly written in one of those languages; and the last paragraph of the same article defines as secret messages those "contennat des passages en langage convenu, incomprehensible pour les offices en correspondence, ou des mots ne faisant point parties des langues mentionnées au premier paragraphe."

- 5. There is nothing in the Convention or in the Proces Verbaux to warrant the assumption that the sender's manner of writing is conclusive in all cases; on the contrary, it leaves to the "Bureau d'origine" to decide, and further imposes on it the obligation of refusing all combinations which are opposed to the usage of the language in which the message is written. In cases of doubt only, is the sender's manner of writing to be accepted as guide.
- 6. The Chamber points out that words are accepted in London for transmission to India, which are on this side, refused, but the Director General of English Telegraphs, the Managing Directors of the Eastern, the Extension, and Indo-European Companies, have all complained to this Department of the admission at Indian offices of improper combinations, and have expressed their determination to do all in their power to prevent their acceptance at any of their offices.
- 7. The above explanation will, I trust, make it clear that the rule complained of, far from being an arbitrary exercise of authority on the part of this Department, is the Convention rule, that had been systematically abused, and that the necessity for a more careful observance of it was brought to our notice by other Administrations, while

the Memos, of instructions referred to in paragraph 3; will show, how anxious we are to apply the rules with the utmost regard for the interests and convenience of the public.

8. If the Chamber of Commerce were acquainted with the history of the discussions at the international conferences, they would recognize the absolute necessity of being very careful how they raise the question. It was with the utmost difficulty that sundry powerful Administrations were induced to tolerate the simple codes of ordinary words that existed in 1868-69. In those days codes consisted of such words as Heron, Albatross, Skylark, Perch, and so on. Now such words as Amberguesto, Agostonfalva, Agyparkanyzat, Agyutalpoldal, Anjlerloy, Bratastar, Calcuttadar, are largely used.

Government Telegraph Department.
Traffic Code Memo. No. 3.

Calcutta, 17th February 1874.

Page 23. Put an asterisk at the end of paras. 2 and 2a, and paste in the following at the bottom of the page as a footnote.

It is to be clearly understood that these rules have been laid down to prevent abuse, and to enable Telegraph Masters to point out their authority for refusing to pass as single words what appear to them to be unusual combinations, and are not to be so enforced as to offer obstructions to the despatch of ordinary messages. The object of the rules is that long compound words, which take much time and trouble in transmission, shall be charged extra, but all ordinary English words, which are generally written as one, must be accepted without question.

(Sd.) Albert Cappel,

Director of Traffic.

Government Telegraph Department. Traffic Code Memo. No. 5 of 1874.

Calcutta, 5th of March 1874.

The following is to be cut and pasted on page 24 of the Traffic Code as a continuation of the footnote on the preceding page.

- 2. It is thought desirable further to explain that when any doubt exists as to the proper mode of spelling an ordinary English word, the sender's manner of writing is to regulate the charge. There are numerous words which can be written equally correctly with and without a hyphen. To such the foregoing ruling applies.
- 3. Proper names of persons, places and objects and all ordinary commercial terms, descriptions of produce, &c., which are commonly written and recognised as one word are to be accepted and charged as one when so written by the sender.
- 4. It is not desired to interfere with the sender's choice of words further than to check a practice which has become general of joining together syllables and words having no legitimate connection, or introducing foreign words into English messages with the object of evading

payment of the full charge. In all such cases the rules in force are to be rigidly applied, but vexatious interference with boná fide ordinary messages is to be carefully ruarded against.

> (Sd.) ALBERT CAPPEL, Director of Traffic.

Chamber of Commerce to Government of India.

Calcutta, 10th April 1874.

The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce desire me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 222 of the 6th instant, forwarding an enclosure from the Director General of Telegraphs on the subject of their representation as to the acceptance of messages for transmission: and they instruct me to express their thanks for the action taken by His Excellency the Governor General in Council in the matter.

The Committee fully appreciate the objections raised by the Director General to the employment of combinations of unintelligible words which are calculated rather to embarrass signalling officers than to secure that accuracy in rendering messages which they doubtless endeavour to arrive at; at the same time they contend that an adherence to Webster's system of joining parts of ordinary words by hyphens would practically subject to the charge for compound words a very large portion of that voluminous work, which abounds in words so united; they therefore recommend the absolute abandonment of such a standard and the recognition of English words as ordinarily spelt and written.

The Committee further recommend that any instructions issued by the Director General in cancellation of previous orders on this head be published for general information.

Code messages under the International Telegraph Convention Regulations.

The subject matter of the preceding head of report was followed by a representation to the Director General of Telegraphs on a point of much graver importance, viz., the rejection of messages framed, as the senders believed, in accordance with the regulations of the International Telegraphic Convention adopted in July 1872, and published by the Government of India for general information.

From a perusal of the correspondence between the Committee and the Director General, members will notice that the interpretation that officer places on certain rules of the Convention relating to code-telegrams widely differs from the meaning which the Committee attaches to them. The Committee think that the correspondence will bear them out in stating that the language used by the Convention in July 1872, with reference to code-telegrams, justified parties when framing their cipher codes in using words found in several languages instead of having the messages confined, as contended by the Director General, to only one of the languages represented by the different delegates to the Convention; and that, while the senders

of such messages have, under that apprehension, framed extensive and costly codes specially adapted to their business arrangements, any abrupt interruption of a long standing practice in the use of such codes cannot but be regarded as a vexatious interference with a custom recognised for several years by the Telegraph Administrations.

The final reply to the Committee's reference has not been received, but it is understood that the ordinary course of sending messages has been reverted to.

From Chamber of Commerce to Director General of Telegraphs in India.

Calcutta, 16th March 1874.

The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce desire me to annex copy of a representation which has been submitted to them by Messrs. Schoene, Kilburn and Co, relative to the rejection of a message tendered by them, on the 2nd instant, for transmission by the Government Telegraph.

In placing this reference before you the Committee instruct me to state that, while they have no interest in the message which forms the subject of it, the circumstances under which it was held to be inadmissible are specially important to be noticed, because, in their judgment, the reasons assigned for its rejection are untenable, and because it is expedient in the interests of the commercial community that no uncertainty should exist regarding the admissibility of messages framed in accordance with the regulations of the International Telegraphic Convention

and the rules in connection therewith sanctioned by the Government of India and published for the guidance and information of the public.

The telegram presented by Messrs. Schoene, Kilburn and Co. consisted of four groups of figures and 27 words—of which 16 were ordinary English and 11 ordinary Italian—not exceeding the prescribed limit of five syllables each; the composition of the message being similar to many others previously despatched by them in the ordinary course of their business, and differing in no characteristic respect from messages received by them from Europe.

To their surprise the telegram was returned with the remark "your message is inadmissible, being both letter and figure cipher; if the groups of figures are separated the message could be accepted;" and certain of the words were stated to be cipher and consequently liable, as understood by Messrs. Scheene, Kilburn and Co., to the higher scale of charge leviable under paragraph 3 of Article 37 of the Convention.

It was subsequently explained, in reply to an enquiry why the telegram was not accepted, that, under a recent ruling, words that previously went as ordinary are now charged cipher, and that the incorporation of three successive groups of figures rendered the message inadmissible: and Messrs. Schoene, Kilburn and Co. were furnished with a copy of the ruling referred to, contained in your letter No. 2369 of 13th of last month.

In considering this matter the Committee will first refer to your above letter as the authority which held the message to be inadmissible. They would remark that the telegram quoted by you in that letter is not analogous to the one tendered by Messrs. Schoone, Killpurn and Co, as the former consisted, as the Committee believe, of words unknown in any language so far as the portion objected to is concerned, while the latter is made up of ordinary dictionary words in English and Italian.

While the Committee are no apologists for any evasion of the rules which regulate the charges for messages and desire to see them observed in their integrity, they cannot but regard the instruction communicated by you to the Superintendent of the Bombay Division as inconsistent with the spirit of the Convention with respect to the character and composition of messages, and in support of that view they point to the 9th Article of the Convention.

Referring to messages which are admissible, the 1st para. runs thus—"Mossages in plain language must offer an intelligible sense in any one of the languages used in the territories of the contracting States, or in Latin"; that is clear; but equally free from any ambiguity is the last paragraph which recognizes secret messages and defines them as follows:—"Messages containing passages written in words of preconcerted meaning, incomprehensible to the departments, or containing words not forming part of the languages mentioned in the first paragraph of the present article."

Now it seems to the Committee that these words are intended to cover messages almost identical with the rejected telegram; for not only do they not prohibit the introduction of long, unintelligible, disconnected words, unconnected with the language in which the message is

composed, but, on the contrary, they expressly permit the transmission of messages containing passages written in words of preconcerted meaning, incomprehensible to the departments: and consequently—as the Committee think—your recent instructions on this point, if applicable to Messrs. Schoene, Kilburn and Co's message, do not appear to be in harmony with the Conventional regulation. Moreover the fact that messages composed similarly to that one have been transmitted from Europe and despatched from India without challenge fortifies the Committee in their contention that your ruling is at variance with the rule of the Convention.

That being so, it follows that the message should have been held admissible under Rule VIII of the revised rules sanctioned by Government with effect from the commencement of last year. It is thus worded—"Cipher messages are those which consist either wholly or in part of groups of figures or of letters not forming words. The whole of the cipher portion must be composed either exclusively of letters of the alphabet or exclusively of Arabic figures. The body of the message may consist either wholly of cipher or partly of cipher and partly of ordinary language. The parts in cipher must be placed between parenthesis, separating them from the rest of the message."

And the rule is followed by five examples—three illustrating admissible, and two inadmissible, messages.

The first example—"(4597) (63289) (459) (181764)" appears to be identical with groups Nos. 42;104, 42;194, 43;814, in Mossrs. Schoene, Kilburn and Co.'s message; and the second example—"Send sharp (639) (2146) further shipments (154)**—also appears to the Committee to cover the case of this reference, consisting as it does partly of cipher and partly of ordinary words which though incomprehensible to the Telegraph Department had a concealed preconcerted meaning; and coming within the provision of Article 9 of the Convention it was manifestly entitled to acceptance for transmission.

In conclusion, the Committee desire to record their concurrence in the views expressed by Messrs. Schoene, Kilburn and Co., as to the serious inconveniences that may result from the introduction of rules not uniform with the regulations of the Convention and inconsistent with its spirit and purpose: they deprecate the disturbing of arrangements accepted by the public as having some degree of permanency, and which have guided the commercial section of it in framing their Telegraphic Codes for business purposes, the utility of which would be materially neutralised by modifications in the working regulations introduced without previous notice. Indeed the Committee are of opinion that any such modification unless consented to unanimously by the Telegraphic Administrations and duly notified as sanctioned by common accord would be a violation of Conventional provisions. the main object of which is to secure a uniformity of service by all the Contracting States; Articles 59 to 61, bearing on this point, are as follows :--

"Article 59.—The provisions of the present Convention are completed with regard to the detailed rules of the international service, by common working regulations agreed upon in concert by the Telegraph Administrations of the Contracting States. "These regulations come into force at the same time as the present Convention; they may, at any time, be modified by common accord by the said Administrations.

"Article 60.—The international office of the Telegraph Administrations is placed under the high authority of the Chief Administration of one of the Contracting States designated by the Conference. The cost of this office is supported by all the Administrations of the Contracting States, and its functions are defined as follows:—

"It centralizes all kinds of information relative to intermational telegraphy, prepares tariffs, draws up general statistics, studies subjects of common utility deputed to it, and edits a telegraph journal in French.

"It has the charge of distributing these documents to the Administrations of the Contracting States.

"It examines requisitions for modifications in the working regulations, and after obtaining the unanimous consent of the Administrations, duly announces the changes adopted.

"Article 61.—The present Convention will be subjected to periodical revisions, at which all the powers which have taken part in it will be represented.

"To this end, Conferences will be held successively in the capital of each of the Contracting States, between the delegates of the said States.

"The next re-union will take place in 1875, at St. Petersburg.

The Committee are also of opinion that questions as to the admissibility of messages should be referred to and decided by the Head of the Department for the sake of authoritative ruling on the subject, and that the interpretation of the rules of the Department in such cases should not be left entirely to the Assistant in charge, as appears to have been the case in this instance.

From Messrs. Schoene, Kilburn & Co. to Chamber of Commerce.

Calcutta, 5th March 1874.

We request you to bring the following to the notice of the Superintendent of the Complaint and Check Office, Telegraph Department, with a view to prevent similar occurrences in future.

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On the 2nd instant we tendered the following message for despatch to London :--

No. One to Eleven English Words.

12 Felicita.	13 Danzatore.	14 Decennale.	15 Facinoroso.
16	17	18	19
14,699	Brevita.	42,104	42,194
20	21	22	23
43,814	Each.	Borino.	Diabolico.
24	25	26	27
Alderman.	Bollitura,	Lanugine	Affable.
28	29	30	31
Livella.	Affectation	More.	Dispumato.

This telegram was returned with the remark:

"Your message is inadmissible being both letter and figure cipher, if the groups of figures were separated the message could be accepted." It further was stated on the back of the telegram "words No. 13, 14, 15, 31 "cipher," which, we are given to understand, means that the words thus numbered would be charged for at the rate of 5 letters=1 word.

Having despatched and received continually messages composed in exactly the same way of English and Italian or German words (of not more than 5 syllables) and figures without any objection on the part of the Telegraph Office, and knowing of no alteration in the Convention for Transatlantic messages, we applied for an explanation and received the following reply:—

"Under recent ruling words that previously went as ordinary are now charged cipher, and as you had 3 successive groups of figures also, I could not charge your message, and it was inadmissable by the rules. Please refer the point to-morrow for further explanation."

On asking for the further explanation referred to in the above note, we were handed the "New Rules," copy of which we annex.

The views laid down in the same are entirely different from the principles hitherto adhered to, and our opinion is that they are contrary to the International Convention, stipulating, if we are not misinformed, that words in the language of any nations joining the Convention can be used, provided the same do not exceed 5 syllables.

We therefore wish you to protest against, (1) The practice of the Government Telegraph Department, as followed in this instance, of introducing a new system of charge without giving due notice to the public. (2) The introduction of the "New Rules," above referred to, as being contrary to the International Convention for Transalantic messages:—for we hardly need point out that these rules would inconvenience the Commercial Community most scriously: (a) by considerably enhancing the at present already very high cost of Transatlantic mes-

sages (h) by rendering the telegraph codes of a great number of firms, compiled and printed at great trouble and expense, entirely useless and thereby disturbing business for a period of several months to a most serious extent.

> Government Telegraph Department. Circular Memo. No. 5 (T) of 1874.

> > Dated 13th February 1874.

Copy forwarded to the Superintendent Check Office, and to all Superintendents for information and guidance.

No. 2369 T.

From the Director General of Telegraphs in India to the Superintendent, Bombay Division.

Dated Calcutta, the 13th of February 1874.

I have the honor to request your attention to the accompanying copy of a message which, although accepted by your Bombay Office, and despatched as an ordinary one, is unquestionably "cipher," and should have been so treated. Each letter of the words between the parentesis inserted by me should, under Act 37, paragraph 3 of the Convention, have been counted, the total divided by 5, and the quotient added to the remainder of the message to determine the number of chargeable words, which in the present case should have been 57 instead of 40°

* 57 words at 2-2-0 Rs. 121 2 0
40 , , , , , , 85 0 0

Amount of undercharge Rs. 36 2 0

- 2. The privilege to send code-messages was obviously not accorded to facilitate an evasion of the tariff rules, but to enable senders, by the employment of ordinary recognised words but of concealed meaning, to secure greator secrecy for their messages. This message is certainly not "Code" within the letter or spirit of the Convention, as the words employed, if words at all, convey no sense whatever, and must have involved far more labor and much longer time to despatch than an ordinary message.
- 3. Further the permission to send telegrams in any of the languages authorised by the Convention had for object the general convenience for natives of the countries in which they are current and referred to ordinary messages, but it was never contemplated to allow persons in an English speaking country to reduce the charges proper to their messages by the arbitrary introduction into them of long unintelligible disconnected words, which have clearly no connection with the language in which the message is composed, and which are manifestly employed with the sole object of reducing the cost of the message.
- 4. The accurate transmission of mossages in which such words occur increases most injuriously the work of the Telegraph, an increase which is by no means compensated by the imposition of the cipher charge, and for which the ordinary charge is altogether inadecuate.
- 5. In this instance, as the message was accepted and despatched under a misapprehension, a refund of the underchage will not be insisted upon, but you are requested to communicate the substance of these remarks to the

senders of the message, and to take steps for making them generally known to the mercantile community of Bombay, as well as for acting upon them in the offices of your division.

COPY OF MESSAGE.

"41477 amuseable (agostonpalva agotha agriaindasi agvijaidor aguijonazo agujetaje agyaj biborla azyhiggraek akmothelen agyaminto agyparkanyazt akmafuzer ahijador agyuolalpolal aherrumbrosa sakolastaine) after this ambition America contracts cooling mostly France Friesland nothing less for Formosa easement cash book companion commutation Beeler."

No. 2439 T.

Dated 20th February 1874.

Copy forwarded to G. E. Stacey, Esq., Superintendent, Eastern Company, Bombay, with request that he will communicate its contents to his Managing Director in London and ask him to act upon them.

No. 2440 T.

Dated 20th February 1874.

Copy forwarded to the Chief Director Indo-European Department, with request that he will communicate its contents to the Indo-European Company, and ask them to act mon them in London. From the Director General of Telegraphs in India to Chamber of Commerce.

Calcutta, the 27th of April 1874.

I am in receipt of your letter of 16th ultime relative to the refusal of this Department to accept as ordinary, a code-telegram, partly in cypher, partly in English, and partly in Italian.

- I need hardly say that I am at all times ready to
 offer any explanation in my power and to render telegraphy as easy as possible consonant with our international
 obligations and the claims of all classes.
- 3. You state with reference to this telegram that the Chamber of Commerce is of opinion that under the rules of the Rome Convention, the reasons assigned by the Calcutta Telegraph Office are untenable; you give extracts from the translation of this Convention in support of this view and deem it important that no uncertainty shall exist regarding the inadmissibility of messages.
- 4. The importance of the last cannot be too highly extelled, indeed the chief object of these international conventions is to remove doubts and difficulties, to frame rules that shall be clear to all capacities, and to fix the tariffs as low as practicable.
- 5. It is not an easy matter to frame rules to meet every possible condition and the views of unwillingly consenting representatives, but difficulties of interpretation are at once removed if the person in doubt will only reason thus. How does this apply to ordinary telegrams?

i. e. telegrams in the colloquial language of the sender. And why was this rule framed in this form? For it must be borne in mind that the rules are framed for ordinary language, and that codes are exceptions, and that many states are decidedly opposed to, and have only consented to a kind of experimental toleration of them.

The users, or, I might with greater propriety say, the abusers, of codes strive to avail themselves not of the spirit but of the uttermost license the law permits. Because the law permits the insertion of seven syllables, some codes are constructed of the longest and most ambiguous words. Because the rule says that proper names of places may be strung together, code words are compeunded of proper names. Because twenty-seven languages are admitted, two or more languages are combined in one tolegram. But the law does not permit this last.

- 7. As I observed before the professed object of these triennial conferences is to facilitate international telegraphy, and to reduce tariffs as low as practicable.
- 8. The basis hitherto assumed is a unit of twenty words in ordinary language, that is of words, which, in the twenty seven languages admitted, average from four to six letters.
- 9. Words in unusual combinations, words divided by commas as—dog's life, or divided by a hyphen, are charged for as separate words and in explanation examples are given thus—234 written in Italian, Ducentotrentaquardo is to be counted as one word, because the custom of that language permits of such a combination. 234 must be written in French, deux cent trente quatre, and

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in English two hundred thirty four, and counted in each case as four words, because the custom of these languages does not admit of these four words being amalgamated.

- 10. Now, if it were permitted to combine two or more languages in the same telegram, advantage might and would be taken of the license to avoid all such charges, and this is one reason why the telegram must be in "Pinne des langues usitées sur les territoires des Etats contractants."—One of the languages, spoken on the territoires of the parties to the Convention. The other reason is that a Signaller need not be a polyglot. He need only be responsible for one language.
- 11. It was at first ruled that each state was to declare what (one) language it considered most suited to its telegraphy, but this was afterwards enlarged to meet the cases of such countries as Switzerland, where Italian, French and German are the languages of the people according to the cantons they live in.
- 12. The law permits of the use of words of seven syllables: why? because words of seven syllables do sometimes occur, and it permits New York, Dehra Islimaci Khan, &c. to be written as single words, to place all addresses on an enuality.
- 13. It is unfortunate that the process verbeaux, the records of the debates, are not better known; a knowledge
 of them would help to remove many difficulties; to shew
 how it was proposed to limit telegraphy at first to French,
 English and German; how it was extended, how it was
 proposed to provide for difficulties in counting by supply-

ing each office with a dictionary of each language, and not least important; how hard a task the representatives of India at Vienna had to obtain toleration for code messages.

- 14. Many representatives object to secret information being telegraphed, but as it is manifestly impossible to prevent secret information being conveyed in the shape of very ordinary language, India pleaded that messages composed of strings of simple words familiar to the Signallers would not be a flagrant violation of first principles, and would at the same time prove a most valuable concession to mercantile interests.
- 15. The codes with which I was then acquainted consisted of short simple words, such as hawk, heron, albatross, pigeon, &c., easy to telegraph, and very different from many now used, constructed apparently to obtain the maximum labor at a minimum cost, and which occupy the wires four or five times as long as messages in ordinary telegraphy. They are a source of continuous reclamation and naturally cause telegraph administrations generally to repent of their unwise liberality.
- 16. Merchants will naturally protest that without the condensation accorded by code they cannot afford to use the telegraph, and that the Telegraph administrations will suffer, but the extra European correspondence is but a drop to the occan of the home correspondence of European states, who will not be much influenced by the fear of losing it. Moreover long words diminish the revenue and prevent a reduction of tariff which might otherwise be possible.

17. I was mainly instrumental in obtaining toleration for code-telegrams, but unless there be a radical reform and a return to simplicity, I can no longer support them. It is of no use appealing to the letter of the law. I have already stated that the great latitude the Convention permits of, was granted for different purposes, and if correspondents insist on availing themselves of this latitude, they will find Telegraph administrations availing themselves of the remedy provided under para. 2 of Art. 10 and Art. 21 by which this or any other class of telegram can be refused altogether at short notice without any reason being assigned. Should this happen, I fear that at the next conference codes will only be admitted at eypher charges, if at all.

18. From the foregoing I trust that the Chamber of Commerce will recognize that there are strong reasons for abolishing code telegrams, and that the public has no right whetever under the Convention to require the acceptance, at other than cypher rates, of code messages composed of words in more than one language or of fictitious or doubtful words. I am equally anxious to make it clear that this Department has in view the interest and convenience of the whole telegraphing public. The orders of which you complain were forced upon us by the systematic abuse of the privileges accorded by the Convention, an abuse that has called forth expostulations from other administrations and which will, I trust, now cease. You will also see from the annexed extract from Departmental instructions issued to all offices, that, in the hope that the rules on the subject are now sufficiently understood, the restrictions of which you complain have now been so modified as to leave no opening for future misconception or complaint.

19. We hope to obtain some valuable concessions with reference to extra European traffic at the next conference, such as a word by word tariff, the suppression of the rule insisting on the signature being signalled and shorter units, but as the existing conventions suit admirably the requirements of European telegraphy i.e., the majority of the states represented, radical changes which disturb without benefiting their arrangements, will, I fear, be strongly opposed and possibly rejected.

EXTRACT FROM DEPARTMENTAL INSTRUCTIONS

In cases where there is a doubt as to whether a compound word, written as one by the sender, is admissible as such, a reference to any standard English Dictionary will generally decide the point; if not, the sender should have the Inadmissible compounds.

benefit of the doubt, but it must be distinctly understood that combination of words which are obviously contravy to the usage of the language cannot under any circumstances be admitted as single words.

^{*} It is to be clearly undoestood that these rules have been Iaid down to precent abuse, and to enable Telegraph Insteas to point out their authority for prinsing to pass as single words what appear to them to be unusual combinations, and are not to be so enforced as to offer obstrains to the despatch of ordinary messages. The object of the units is that long compound words, which take much time and trouble in transmission, shall be charged extra, but all ordinary English words which are generally written as one, must be accepted without question.

^{2.} It is thought desirable further to explain that when any doubt exists as to the proper mode of spelling an ordinary English word, the sender's manner of writing is to regulate the charge. There are numerous words which can be written equally correctly with and without a hyphen; it oscile the foregoing rating applies.

^{3.} Proper names of persons, places and objects and all ordinary Commercial terms, descriptions of produce, &c., rehich are commonly

Examples of inadmis combinations.		e following are examples th inadmissible combination W	
Tapestrypatterns	 2	Wheatcargo	2
Steamercargo	 2	Thirtyfour	2
Counteroffer	 2	Threethousandtwohundre	1 4
Bankaction	 2	Sugarrefineries	2
Wireanswer	 2	Pigiron	2
Innerharbour	 2	Beerboxes	2
Boursecredit	 2	Tenthousand	2
Sailinsurance	 2	Dischargingday	2
Steamcoals	 2	Constsailing	2
Tuesdaymorning	 2	Hullsteamer	2

From Chamber of Commerce to Director-General of Telegraphs in India.

Calcutta, 6th May 1874.

The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce direct me to express their regret that they had not the opportunity

of discussing with you, at their meeting to-day, the subject of their letter of 16th March and your reply thereto of 27th April, as they believed that a personal conference would have been attended with some measure of success towards settling the points upon which there is a conflict of opinion between yourself and the Chamber.

The Committee accept your reply with an acknowledgment of your desire to promote the convenience of the public, to remove doubts and difficulties in the way of efficiently administering the Telegraphic service, and to secure, generally, the objects of the International Convention, and they have given all attention to your observations on the points you have laid before them, and in respect of which the views recorded by the Chamber and expressed by yourself do not, unfortunately, assimilate.

The object of this letter is not to enter into further discussion of those differences of opinion, but to urge upon your consideration the expediency of giving the public ample time to refer the points at issue for the authoritative interpretation of the International Bureau, and for the eventual remodelling of the telegraphic codes which have been framed at considerable cost and after long experience by the majority of the commercial establishments in Calcutta and adapted by their correspondents, should such remodelling be rendered absolutely necessary.

As the Committee are in almost daily receipt of very urgent remonstrances regarding your interpretation of the articles of the Convention and the effects of the orders issued by you, they trust you will afford the public the opportunity of referring the general question to the Bureau

written and recognized as one word are to be accepted and charged as one when so written by the sender.

^{4.} It is not desired to interfere with the senders' choice of words further than to check a practice, which has become general of joining together syllables and words having no legitimate connection, or introducing foreign words into English messages with the object of cruip payment of the full charge. In all such eases the rules in force are to be rigidly applied, but recutious interference with bond fide ordinary messages is to be carefully gauntied nagingt.

adapt them to any changes that may be enforced. with the view of recasting the codes now in use so as to at Berne and of communicating with their correspondents

it is only reasonable to allow time to amend them. basis of their codes. The codes may be objectionable, but dependent on regular telegraphic communication on the venience and loss to many firms whose business is greatly ations in which are resulting in the most serious incontime, to the rules in force before the 1st instant, the alternotice of any change, and for a reversion, in the mean-The precise request of the Committee is for six months

graphs do not require any special comment. The subjects referred to in the following para-

Government Estimate of the Cotton Grop of the North-Western Frevinces for 1873-74.

From the Secretary to the Board of Revenue of

No. 8 of 1874.

the N. W. P. to the Secretary to the Government

of the N. W. P.

Allahabad, 6th January 1874.

compared with the actuals of 1872-73. in the North-Western Provinces for the year 1873-74 as cotton and the estimated yield of the crop for each District detailed statement showing the estimated area under I am directed by the Board of Revenue to submit a

2nd.—The following is an abstract of the statement :--

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		Area and outfurn in Maunds of 40 Seers or 80 lbs.													
T)	1872	-73.	Ou	Hm	n	1878	3-74.	Outturn			Percentage.				
Division,	Actual	ls.	per acre.			Estir	per acre.			Increase.	Decrease				
	Acres.	Mds.	Mds.	Sr.S.	Cht.	Acres.	Mds.	Mds.	Srs.	Cht.					
Meerut Kumaon Rohileund Agra Jhansie Allahabad Benares	2,78,846 3,598 1,74,800 4,36,431 76,670 2,74,247 21,524	2,178 1,04,023	1 0 0 1 0 0 0	10 24 23 14 21 17 15	3 13 6 6 13	1,71,985 2,32,238 62,689 2,46,506	2,00,755 5,699 1,17,785 1,97,817 27,939 92,285 5,256	0 0 0 0	39 27 34 17	6 1 13	38·37 13·01 	26·12 37·35 16·66 15·78 14·81			
Total	12,66,116		0	38	_	9,53,013	6,47,536	0	27	3					

3rd.—The season has been very unfavorable. The area sown with cotton in the present year is 3,13,103 acres less than the area actually under cotton in 1872-73 and the anticipated yield is 5,71,128 maunds less than the actuals of that year.

4th,-The falling off is as follows :--

- Decrease in estimated area of 1873-74 compared with actual reported area of 1872-73, 24 73 per cent.
- Decrease in estimated outturn per aere of 1873-74, compared with actual reported outturn of 1872-73, 29:38 per cent.

5th.—The decrease in area is chiefly owing to the lateness of the setting in of the rains. This is specially noted in nearly every report while the low figure of the estimate of outurn is attributed to the heaviness of the rains when they did set in.

6th.—The comparative estimated outturn of 1873-74 with that of the actuals of the eight preceding years is as follows:—

	Tbs.
1865-66	62,663,280
1866-67	85,684,920
1867-68	57,875,120
1868-69	44,137,840
1869-70	
1870-71	
1871-72	
1872-73	
1873-74	

7th.—It is useless to attempt any correction of the figures now submitted by the Collectors, but as special orders were issued before the commencement of the cold weather that Collectors and their assistants should make special enquiries during their cold weather tours of this year as to the actual outturn of cotton in their districts, the Board trust to obtain such information as shall enable them to submit more accurate estimates in future.

8th.—Meantime the present estimates may be accepted as a general indication that the cotton produce of this year will be considerably below par and not much more than half the crop of last year.

9th.—The quantity available for export will be reduced in a much larger ratio.

10th.—The reports of District officers only give bare details and none are of sufficient interest for submission to Government in original.

11th.—The statement of prices during the year at the principal marts of each District is incomplete. It will follow as soon as the returns still wanting are received.

12th.—A copy of this report will, as usual, be submitted direct to the Chamber of Commerce.

From Chamber of Commerce to the Board of Revenue, N. W. Provinces.

Calcutta, 4th February 1874.

The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce direct me to thank you for a copy of your communication No. 8 of

6th ultimo to the Government North-Western Provinces, relative to the estimated yield of the cotton crop for the year 1873-74.

	paring the actuals and estimates for the ar '72-73, the Committee notice that while
	ascertained acreage, 1,266,116
the estimated	asted favorably with the estimated eage 1,233,753
	uantity of produce was proportionately ex—the actual amount being maunds 1,218,664
	st an estimate of 1,221,123

Looking to the Board's estimates for the year 1873-74, the Committee regret to be advised of so large a falling off in the quantity of land under cultivation and in the anticipated yield of the crop as compared with the respective acreage and outturn for the previous year: the percentage of decrease in both cases is considerable, and if the Board's figures are verified by actual results there will probably be a high range of prices even with restricted exports.

MADRAS AND ANDAMAN GUMS.

From Govt. of India to Chamber of Commerce,

Calcutta, 25th March 1873.

I am directed to forward the accompanying copy of a letter from the Government of Madras, No. 199, dated 20th ultimo, together with 5lbs. of each of the 9 specimens of gums therein referred to, and to state that the Government of India will be glad to be favored with a report as to their market value.

From Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce.

20th February 1873.

With reference to your Under-Secretary's letter dated 7th November 1871, No. 558, I am directed to inform you that the Master Attendant has been instructed to forward to you by the first opportunity a box, for transmission to Eugland, containing in twelve tin cases specimens of gums collected by the Forest officials of this Presidency.

2. Enclosed is a list giving all requisite particulars in

* Dated 31st January connection with these gums; also
1873, No. 1672.

a letter* from the Inspector of
Forests, from which it will be seen that duplicate specimens are not forthcoming.

With reference to the Proceedings of Government dated 13th December 1871, No. 2100, Revenue Department, I have the honor to forward herewith specimens of gums, as per accompanying list, for transmission to England. As only a small quantity was collected by the officers of the department, duplicate specimens are not forthcoming.

List of Specimens of Gum collected by the Officers of the Forest Department of the Medrors Presidency, agreeably to G. O. No. 2100, dated 13th December 1871.

Approximate ralue per Ton or 2,240 lbs.	Rs. 300 420 420 420 420 420 150 350 150	300
Quantity that could be sup- plied yearly tron: the e Forest.	Tons. 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	
-qua Titanna Gup-	16 0 0000000 S	10 10
Vernatular Names.	Bloo (Telago), Poerse (Tanif) Bloo (Telago), Poerse (Tanif) Bloo (Telago), Poerse (Telago) Bloom of Vellal Kapay (do.) Tagy (Calago), Vellay (Telago) Tagy (Calago), Vellay (Telago), Canaro Coltri (do.) Tagy (Calago), Canaro Coltri (do.) Tagy (Calago), Canaro Coltri (do.) Tagy (Calago), All (do.) Tagy (Tanif) Tagy (T	Do. (do.) 61 , N Velam pecin (Tamil) 6 , N Do. (do.) 4 , N Kauvalen (do.) 3 , N Do. (do.) 7 , N
English Names.	H 1111111	Wood Apple Do. Babool. Do. Dhoop.
Botanical Names of the Species of Gum.	Ohtouxylon Swietenia Goncorpus latifolia Erredwickia binata Petrocarpus Marsayium Semicarpus Aunocardium Melia Azaderacha Ancais Arbidoca Ancais Arbidoca Nim 1st sort	Do., 2nd , 1st , 2nd , Vateria Indica
	H0/ 80486768	- 01 10 0
Range.	B	h Arcot

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MADRAS, 31st January 1873,

R. H. BEDDOME, Major, Inspector of Fer

Order Thereon, 20th February 1873, No. 198.

Ordered that the foregoing letter, together with the twelve tin cases and list therewith received, be forwarded to the Government of India, with reference to the letter from that Government, dated 7th November 1871, No. 558.

D. F. CARMICHAEL, Secretary to Government.

From Government of India to Chamber of Commerce.

Calcutta, dated 2nd April 1873.

I am directed to forward the accompanying specimens of gum collected at the Andaman Islands, and to request that you will be good enough to favor the Government of India with a report as to their market value.

From Government of India to Chamber of Commerce.

Simla, dated 21st October 1873.

In acknowledging with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 12th July last, on the samples of oils and resins received from British Burmah, I am directed to state that the Government of India will also be glad to be favored with a report as to the market value of the Madras and Δndaman guns, specimens of which were forwarded to you with the letters from this office No. 465, dated 25th March and No. 503 dated 2nd April last.

From Chamber of Commerce to Government of India.

Calcutta, 22nd December 1873.

In acknowledgment of your letter No. 1237 of the 21st October, I beg to state that from inquiries made regarding the samples of Madras gums, I have been unable to find values in the Calcutta market for any of them except that marked "South Canara No. 9 Dhoop," which is valued at Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 per bazar maund, and the Andaman gum which is valued at Rs. 3 to 3-4-0 per maund. The other samples are unknown in this market so far as I have been able to ascortain.

I very much regret to submit so unsatisfactory an answer to your reference and to send so late a reply to it, but I have been able to arrive to even this meagre reply with great difficulty.

RAW SILK FROM BRITISH BURMAH.

From Govt. of India to Chamber of Commerce.

Calcutta, 3rd January 1873.

I am directed to forward copy of a letter* from Con* No. 14.4., dated 6th
December 1873.

to, and to request that the Government of India may
be favored with the opinion of the Chamber as to their
marketable value.

From the Conservator of Forests, British Burmah, to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

Rangoon, the 6th December 1873.

I have the honor to forward for submission to the Chief Commissioner, two samples of raw silk prepared at Toungoo by Teen Couri Mistry, a native of India.

The interest attaching to these samples lies in the fact that they are believed to represent the first attempt made in this country towards introducing the Indian method of unwinding the silk from ecocons.

It has been offered for sale here, but apparently the Chinese and Burmese dealers are accustomed to purchase only the thick coarse silk as manufactured in Burmah, and hence they decline to buy raw silk prepared so fine and thin as the accompanying sample.

From Teen Couri's Agent I have obtained the following particulars.

The cocoons are purchased in the vicinity of Toungoo at the rate of Rs. 1-8 per viss and silk is obtained from them to the extent of 6 tickals per viss.

The only difference apparent between the Indian and Burmese methods of unwinding is that in the former more care is bestowed on the operation.

The eccoons are seaked for upwards of half an hour in hot water and kept constantly stirred with a small tamarind branch. When unwound there is full occupation for two men, one attending to the unwinding and the other to the cleaning of the silk and freeing it from coarse extraneous particles.

3. The ordinary piece of silk is found Rs, 24 to Rs. 25 per viss, but for silk of the finer description at Calcutta as high a price as Rs. 16 to Rs. 20 per seer is obtained which is equivalent to Rs. 28 and Rs. 30 per viss.

As two men on Rs. 20 per mensem can prepare 20 to 25 tickals of silk in one day, there is reason to believe that the experiment now made will give a good return.

Should this prove to be the case a considerable export trade of the finer description of raw silk may spring up and materially stimulate the cultivation of silk as well as induce more care in its preparation.

From Chamber of Commerce to Govt. of India.

Calcutta, 14th January 1874.

THE PARTY OF THE PARTY OF

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 5 of the 3rd instant, forwarding two samples of raw silk from the Conservator of Forests, British Burmah; and in reply, I beg to annex for your information copy of report upon them from Mr. S. Vaughan of Messrs. Ernsthausen and Oesterley.

To the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce.

Calcutta, 13th January 1874.

I have the pleasure to inform you that I have examined the two skeins of Burmah silk, yellow and white, and must class them with our low silks produced in Bengal and certainly not with the finer sorts of medium or good native.

The two skeins in question are native short reel, resembling in nature to some extent our short skein Hurripaul, the white skein however is perhaps more like Gonatia than Hurripaul silk. The thread cannot be said to show careful reeling, is gouty and foul. The yellow skein is medium to coarse and the white what we term coarse size thread pretty even for such a class of silk, and possesses substance. This sort of silk, at present, is not at all in request for the European markets, Canton silks being much preferred at their present low rates; but it is suited to the requirements of the Bombay and Coast trade, who regularly consume this description of silk. For this purpose I estimate its present value at from Rs. 9 to 9-8 per factory seer. In order to adapt this silk to present European requirements much more care in reeling would be necessary both as regards size and cleanness of thread.

Good bright native Bengal silk is at the present moment worth from Rs. 13 to 14—and this description of silk shows much more care in the reeling, say from 8 to 10 coccons to produce the single thread, and is free from the foul and knib we observe in the sample under review.

S. VAUGHAN.

COTTON GROWN IN THE DEHRA DOON.

From Commissioner of Cotton and Commerce to the Chamber of Commerce.

Allahabad, 13th January 1874.

I have the honor to advise you of the despatch per Bangy Post of a sample of cotton grown by Colonel Showers in the Dehra Doon together with a memorandum by that officer on the circumstances attending the experiment.

I shall be much obliged if you will kindly favor me with a report on the quality and value of the cotton together with any further remarks which your Chamber may be inclined to make.

ROUGH MEMORANDUM ON EXPERIMENTAL COTTON CULTIVATION IN THE VALLEY OF DEHRA DOON.

Mr. Rivett-Carnac, the Cotton Commissioner in acknowledging under date the 11th December the receipt of a sample of the produce of my cotton fields having requested some details of the cultivation and results, together with further samples in larger quantity for transmission to the Chambers of Commerce, I write the following ad interim memorandum for this purpose, in anticipation of a more elaborate note which will be submitted on the conclusion of the present season's operation, the fields being still (2nd January 1874) under daily picking and the cotton stored being as yet for the greater part unginned and unvalued.

The proposed note will be illustrated with plates, lifesize, of the various insects which attack the cotton plant and a description of their forms of appearance, mode of propagation and the means which I have found effectual in arresting their ravages. Occasion will be taken to advert incidentally to the report on the experimental cultivation of cotton in the several model farms in the North-Western Provinces published in the North-Western Provinces Government Gazette of the 23rd August 1873, and remarks submitted on the comparative results exhibited in the experiments in question, and my own in view to assisting the arriving at practical conclusions in regard to the best method of cultivating within the means and resources of the native cultivator, to attain the threefold object of improving the quality and length of the staple, increasing the per acreage quantity and securing the largest margin of net profit. For the present the following brief Memorandum detailing the conditions under which my present experiments were undertaken and their progress up to date may suffice for the Cotton Commissioner's purpose in forwarding samples to the Chambers of Commerce and other parties interested.

Desiring to test the suitability of the climate of Dehra Doon for cotton, a point on which there existed considerable doubt, I applied in March last to the District authorities for a grant of land under the waste lands reclamation rules, the site indicated combining virgin soil with an upland slope affording natural drainage. Again in pursuance of my long published view that the proper method of improving the quality of cotton produced in India was to operate with the indigenous

plant, I applied about the same time to the Cotton Department for a supply of selected indigenous seed.

The grant not having been allotted however before the cotion sowing season had arrived, and was passing by (the month of June) I took up on rent 50 beegahs (a little less than 10 statute acres) of the Dehra Doon Tea Company's land lying contiguous to the canal and which the Company had sold last spring. Time for the preparation of the soil was thus extremely limited. I had it watered once, then ploughed four times with the common native plough manured with 120 cart loads, that is 12 cart loads (about 96 maunds per acre) of crude unassimilated refuse from the neighbouring town (the only sort procurable at the instant) then carefully prepared for sowing.

The Cotton Department through the officer in charge of the model farm at Nagpore stating under date 20th May, in reply to my requisition, that the farm could not supply any selected seed, I sent into the neighbouring Saharunpore district for such country seed as could be picked up so late in the season and planted it, the first field being sown on the 19th June and the last on the 20th idem. Among the former was about one beegah sown with selected seed which I had received from Mr. Bell, Manager, Dehra Doon Tea Company, the remains of a small stock sent to him by Mr. Login for trial. I may mention that on the Cotton Department failing me, I applied to Mr. Login at Umballa and to Dr. Jameison, Superintendent, Boranical Gardens Saharunpore, but was equally unsuccessful in both quarters.

The land again which I had taken up on report on account of its being under canal irrigation and of rouslah soil (a grey friable loam well suited to cotton) I found on examination to be for the greater part of inferior quality in respect of depth and admixture of hajru (shale). One piece indeed of seven beegahs was excluded altogether from the experimental plot as totally unfit for cotton and was planted with churree (a coarse jowar), of the remaining 81 acres about 3 produced merely poor stunted plant yielding only about 1 of the outturn of the better parts of the fields. The cause was apparent when I learnt what I did not know at first that the land had been cropped for years past with rice, one of the most exhausting of crops. It was curious and instructive to observe the distinct indication of the rice cultivation by the low stunted plants growing on the late saturated beds, divided by fine rows of plants marking the lines of the dividing ridge, rows (dols).

The experiment, therefore, it will be observed, has been conducted under very unfavorable conditions equally in respect of soil and unavoidably hurried preparation of the land. Still as the accompanying samples will, I venture to think, be recognized as of superior quality in comparison with the produce of indigenous seed cultivated under the ordinary native method and the outturn will be, I calculate, considerably larger, my proposed note detailing the method I have pursued and the processes of handling the plants at different stages of growth together with the economic results, may, I hope, prove of general use. For the present I will add only a word on the suitability of the climate of the Doon

for cotton culture as illustrated by the progress of my experiments.

The seed being sown as above mentioned between the 19th and 28th June germinated well and showed a row of tiny leaflets above ground in about a week. The process of chopping out to a stand will be described hereafter. The rains set in heavily on the 1st July and continued with considerable severity, but by my constant personal attention to the cultivation the plants suffered no injury but throve apace. Within two months they blossomed and in about 31 months the ground balls began to show, the upper portion of the same plants being at the same time in blossom. On the 14th October the regular picking commenced and with a day or two's interval during the first week there has not been one single day's intermission in the picking from that date to the present (1st January 1874) from a succession of daily expanding balls. The quantity opening daily has kept five fields' hands in constant work with occasional extra hands to keep down the exuberance of the flushes.

There has been no artificial irrigation except the first watering early in June to soften the soil for ploughing, although since the cessation of the rains about the middle of September not a drop of rain has fallen all through the autumn. A slight shower fell on the 17th December. In respect of this long unclouded autumns os suitable for the maturing of the balls, the climate of the Doon contrasts favorably with that of the American States where the autumnal rains spoil a great deal of

cotton. Again in the best part of the American cotton belt the first killing frost comes from 1st to 15th November, and whereas here our first frost was on the 6th December and that of a mild character which did not affect the plants injuriously. This may be attributed to the sheltered position and damp atmosphere of this valley. I will conclude this memorandum with a brief notice of my experience of the cotton worm.

On the 11th September when the plants were in blossom I observed one or two moths flittering over the fields, and passing between the rows I espied a leaf presenting the appearance which I recognised as indicating the presence of the cotton worm. On picking and examining the leaf, sure enough I found the living worm. On going then carefully over the fields I found a good many of the plants similarly attacked. Being aware from the experience of the American cotton fields that the first generation of the cotton worm which comes in such paucity and seeming insignificance as often to be unlooked becomes, if not cradicated, the parent of countless myriads in the second generation within but a fortnight's interval whose ravages are then irresistible, I lost no time in taking the necessary steps to destroy the enemy and fortunately succeeded. The worm was effectually eradicated throughout the fields. I have had no return of it in a second generation. As this is the most dangerous enemy which the cotton planter has to contend against, sometimes destroying as it does thousands of acres in two or three days without the possibility of arresting its rayages when once fully developed, I propose describing at length in my proposed note the means I adopted for its extermination on first appearance, and further submitted what I believe to be the origin of the worm in view to the discovery of some sure preventive measure against its first occurrence in cotton fields for the future. From my examination of very many damaged (kinky) balls and seeds I think I have arrived at a reasonable solution of the cause. That it is a point at present involved in obscurity may be gathered from all the published American treatises on cotton culture. Mr. Parson's opinion expressed in his interesting report under date the 15th April 1873 (one of the series above referred to) that the worm is engendered by the plants coming into flower some time before the rains cease, on the analogy of blight in England cannot, I venture to think, be sustained. From a series of scientific experiments made some years ago and which I had occasion to cite in a former paper, it was found that blight was caused by fungi in the air which, though a living substance, was so minute as only to be visible through a microscope; whereas the insects that attack the cotton plant are big enough and voracious enough to make their presence both seen and felt by ravages of inimitable destructiveness when once fully developed. The importance then to the future progress of cotton cultivation in India of discovering the origin of the cotton worm in as much as rendering possible the adoption of some certain and efficacious preventive to its recurrence, can hardly be overestimated, and to this end the second of my observations which will be submitted to the public at an early day may, I hope, in some degree conduce.

ARTH.

From Chamber of Commerce to Commissioner of Cotton and Commerce.

Calcutta, 20th January 1874.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 87 of the 13th instant forwarding a sample of cotton grown by Colonel Showers in the Dehra Doon, and in reply, to anuex for your information copy of report upon it from Mr. F. Eisenlohr of Messre Ernsthausen and Oesterley.

Report on a Sample of Cotton from Dehra Doon.

The sample of cotton from Dehra Doon does not represent cotton in the state in which cotton is generally offered to the trade.

It is picked and cleaned with extremest care, ginned and looks leaten, and I doubt, whether larger quantities of such cotton could be produced in a similar state, without enhancing the cost of the article in a high proportion to its intrinsic value.

The colour of this cotton is extremely good, the staple of very uneven length but of fair strength and rather silky. I should classify the cotton on the same scale as saw ginned Darwar and fix its value cleaned as it is at Rs. 22 per maund laid down in Calcutta. At this price it would be eagerly purchased by local consumers and might prove very useful.

F. EISENLOHR.

From Colonel Showers to Chamber of Commerce.

Dehra Doon, 5th February 1874.

Having received from Mr. Rivett-Carnac, the Cotton Commissioner, copy of your letter to his address acknowledging receipt of a sample of my cotton transmitted through his office, and in rep'y forwarding a report on the same from Mr. Eisenlohr of Messrs, Ernsthausen and Ocsterley. I beg to offer for submission to the consideration of the Chamber the following observations that occur to me with regard to his remark, while valuing the sample at 22 Rs. per maund, that the extreme care in preparation which it exhibits in respect of picking and cleaning, does not represent cotton in the state in which cotton is generally offered to the trade and further in reference to the doubt Mr. Eisenlohr expresses " whether larger quantities of such cotton could be produced in a similar state without enhancing the cost of the article in a high proportion to its intrinsic value" At the price fixed however, Rs. 22, Mr. Eisenlohr alds, "it would be eagerly purchased by local consumers."

Assuming then, as I may do, that Mr. Eisenlohn's report in the above terms has reference to the local market, I would observe that the circumstance of cotton in the same carefully prepared state as my sample not being generally offered to the trade may be accounted for by reference to the comparatively inferior manufactures of the mils as yet started in India, (so far as my knowledge and information goes.) It would not of course pay to buy carefully grown and finely prepared cotton at a necessarily

enhanced rate for the manufacture of tent cloth and the inferior articles of native wearing apparel, but having had the advantage of looking over the principal mills in Lancashire through the kindness of their proprietors, Mr. Cheethom, Sir Thomas Bazley and others, I can state that differential prices to any extent are readily given for superior qualities for the manufacture of the finer numbers of yarn varying from 3d for refuse Surats (Indian) to 2s-2d for American Sea Island and up to 3s-6d per 1b. which has been given for Queensland cotton.

I would only add, in reference to Mr. Eisenlohr's expressed doubt whether larger quantities of cotton in a similar state of preparation as mine could be produced without enhancing the cost of production in a high proportion to its intrinsic value, that the condition of cotton for the manufacture of the finest cloths constitutes an essential element on its market value. For if the minute fragments of leaf and stems which are almost unavoidably picked with the balls, be not carefully thrashed out they become hopelessly mixed with the fibres so as never to be entirely removed, and cause the small black specks that abound in the coarser varieties of Lowells and Asnaburgs of America, and in the inferior class of goods from Lancashire which perhaps may have created the impression that the latter were mildewed. With fair differential prizes corresponding to quality the producer need not fear that the extra expense bestowed on the cultivation and preparation of his cotton for the market, will not be fully recouped by the prices realized.

The value of my sample fixed by your broker at Rs. 22 per maund, being less cost of transport to Calcutta,

still higher than the highest quotations I have observed in the recent cotton circulars, is so far encouraging, more especially when taking into consideration the unfavourable conditions under which my present experimental cultivation has been carried on as detailed in the memorandum supplied by me at the Cotton Commissioner's instance and of which he will doubtless have sent you a copy together with the sample. Such produce then out of partially exhausted rice fields from common indigenous seed, may lead us to judge of what decided results may be expected from the same method of cultivation, operating on virgin soil and with selected seed.

Should the Chamber consider that any public advantage might accrue from giving publicity to this correspondence in encouraging others to try cotton growing on the same system, you are quite at liberty to publish my views.

From Chamber of Commerce to Colonel C. L. Showers, Camp Dehra Doon.

Calcutta, 5th March 1874.

The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce desire me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 5th ultimo and to thank you for the remarks you have been good enough to submit on the report furnished by them on the sample of cotton transmitted by Mr. Rivett-Carnac.

The Committee are of opinion that your efforts in the cause of cotton cultivation should not fail to be duly

recognised by Government, and that your memorandum is of sufficient importance and interest to be published in the Gazette of India.

COTTON GROWN AT THE NICOBARS.

From Govt. of India to Chamber of Commerce.

Calcutta, 4th March 1874.

I am directed to forward herewith two samples of cotton grown in the Nicobars, and to request that the Chamber will be good enough to favour the Government of India with its opinion as to their quality and market value.

From Chamber of Commerce to Govt. of India.

Calcutta, 11th March 1874.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 52 of the 4th instant forwarding two samples of cotton grown at the Nicobars, and, in reply, I beg to forward for the information of Government the annexed copy of report upon them from Mr. F. Eisenlohr of Messrs. Ernsthausen and Oesterley.

Calcutta, 11th March 1874.

I have examined the two samples of Nicobar cotton handed to me to-day, and called—

- 1. New Orleans.
- 2. Hingunghaut.

New Orleans.—Shows rather discoloured and stained of irregular staple and slightly leafy; staple weak, value about Rs. 15 per bazar maund, landed in loose condition in Calcutta.

Hingunghaut.—Slightly fresher in color, stained of good staple and fair strength, value about Rs. 16 to 16-8 per bazar maund landed in Calcutta.

NEW MEMBERS.

Mr. H. F. Wilson and Messrs. Reinhold and Co., have been admitted, by the Committee, as Members of the Chamber, subject to the usual confirmation.

MEMBERS RETIRED.

Messrs. Wills, Edmands and Co., Messrs. John Atkinson and Co., Messrs. Stokes, Coleman and Co., Messrs. Findlay, Hoyes and Co. Messrs. Peel, Jacob and Co., and Messrs. Maurice Feilmann and Co. have ceased to be Members.

FUNDS OF THE CHAMBER.

The half-yearly balance of the Funds of the Chamber amounts to Rs. 302-10-1, exclusive of Rs. 12,000 in 4 per cent. Government Securities.

B. D. COLVIN,

President.

APPENDIX.

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Statement exhibiting the Assets and Liabilities of the Bank of Bengal, Bank rates of integral and discount, the value of Government occurrities, the Estated on London and China, and attenued of Import and Expert of gains and Specie in the year 1979.

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nd .		4,23,23,207	2,00,00,071		1,52,63,523	3,47,76,007	\$9,75,000	4,25,17,468	14th July		- 1	· ***	- 1			1003 ,, 1002	int. m	1 10	. 1 10je	111 .	1.11%	232		200-
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th May.			2,57,53,732		1,57,11,744	2,76,58,000		4,14,56,011	11th Aug.		5	-	1	lith Augt.	1017 1015	1007 100E	1115 , 1112	1 10,	n 1 102	1 105.	1	2574.	i	327
O		4,33,53,661	2,42,19,500		1,56,30,016	3,33,49,622		-heckenhare	25th ,, 5th Sept.		- 4	43	٠ :	5th . 1	101} , 101}	100} ,, 100}	m , m			1 101		2201 @ 2	27	303 @ 31
a.	-,,		2,23,00,453			3,62,44,207		3,74,45,745	231		: K	1	8			166} ,, 166}	1102 ., 1102			111 ,,	1.11%]	224	l	305
d June			2,257,00,206			3,63,90,434		3,70,97,486	IOA Oct.		_	: I				1002 ,, 100}	1109 ,, 1102			1 11/2 n	1 112	224		307 7
						2,52,99,966		3,20,01,841	ont		-16		110			ecł " 1003	I 100 ., 110]			1 10}g	- 1	226		306.
. 1						2,46,66,618.		1,55,62,531	13th Nor.		- 11	2.4	20			072 1072	1102 - 111		, 1 10 ₁ 5	1 1111	- 1	221 . 22	15	306
						2,23,06,033		120,00,001	270			-1-	- (13	th Nor. 1		06] ,, 307 (6] ,, 3063	110F ., 111	1. 10	, 1 10 ₀	1 1014	1 102.	221}		205
à	2,47,57,000	177,00,000	2,41,23,275			3,22,50,150		nessens	11th Dec.	el .	71 1	10.	63 11			06] ,, 106] 06] ,, 106]	1101 m 1101		,, 1 10%	1 107.		2017	-	305
nd July.	2,41,53,003	4,70,53,634	2,47,10,136	3,00,780	1,60,22,236	9,90,21,793		4,57,22,251	180	7	9	14			1012 11			1 101	, 1 10 ₁	1 101		201	1	305
h	2,41,66,225	4,47,72,203	2,47,04,327	3,55,533	1,60,64,221	2,01,52,024	19,03,00	4,55,0,565	اسب		44	-									21			
h August.	2,41,53,033	2,95,77,070	2,76,83,310	3,63,576	1,71,22,552	202,84,000	18,56,236	1,31,42,314	Statem	nt of the	Imper	and E	export of	Bullica an	d Specie, (exc	dusive of G	vt. operation	15), vale	ed in rup	es, from 1	st Janus	ay to 31st	December	r 1873.
sk .		4,68,04,511	2,72,65,539	2,56,557	1,33,64,683	2,59,59,961	18,03,071	4,42,45,007			1		17	T	1	1	- 1		_		1.	T +	T	T
ich		4,46,73,781	2,63,66,718	2,43,707	1,73,47,600	3,00,32,165	18,50,004	4,63,64,013	Novem or	Carar Darran	r	MYCE.	CHISA	PENANO .	TE COLONIES.	Rayouses I	AUDITOR AT	SACAN .	EGTTT AND	MADRAS	BONEAT.	Cerson.	Atlones Praces,	Meerns
and Sept.		2,54,76,200	2,57,78,420	2,77,541	1,54,53,363	3,00,13,006	27,19,191	4,40,91,145			1	. 1				MOTURES!	Dotumor.	AND FEGU.	EUEs.			Ü.	1 1.4466.	10716
Kh		4,00,53,072	2,42,02,107	2,76,425 3,45,137	1,76,00,000	2,66,46,930	35,00,265	4,59,39,700			3 3								-		-	-		
ph ,			2,00,01,051	3,63,639	1,75,79,502	2,50,60,052	20,01,627	4,50,13,205	1603.					1	1.	IMP	BTS.	4.0			1		1	1
led "		3,77,53,917	2,07,09,561	3,29,178	1222440	2,0,00,00	23,00,013	4,41,21,001	January		113	22220	551,11	0 15,18	3 172,270	1 1				1	l l	1		1
- 1	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	Ş.113-F.11		2,23,110	system .		23,94,933	4,37,50,515		1	117				172,270	15,000		-	83,725	181			24,700	105,60
								-	Yelruny .	150,7	10		447,66	9 6,00	5 372,000	\$5,000		1,500	-	12,611	1,515	100,310	30,740.	1,058,00
b Ost.	2,41,56,254	2,61,23,250	2,61,44,213	4,00,018	1,23,51,250	2,63,00,372	21,31,712	4,62,79,629	March	زه	co :	_	155,40	4 . 50	10. 69,700	34,600				6,900	198,514	150.810	2,000	663,37
ith "		3,50,41,183	2,56,60,520	2,58,115	1,75,55,550	2,51,55,907	19,46,725	4,73,62,901	Areil	64,	1	i I	571.60		-	1 ' 1						ĺ .	1	100
let j	2,60,27,689	3,44,05,715	3,25,85,010	5,23,094	1,73,31,362		17,54,662	4,47,93,914		1	31.5	91,920	571,02	9,1	13,850	22,760				1,007,774	493	61,491	4,200	1,816,93
guh "	2,41,15,143	3,42,05,401	2,03,88,881	14,86,690	3,25,42,726	2710/10/216	17,72,010	4,31,01,310	May	- 1,	od .	1,000	2,014,74	5 18,0	(3,150	626,300	* <u></u>	173,647		703,635		128,810		3,871,35
4th Nev 1th	2,61,23,538	3,31,44,160	2,00,73,757	2,50,172			18,47,203	4,95,54,112	Jene		00		421,14	9 4,01		1 1							1 1	1
Hb e	2,41,26,003	2,35,55,637	מב,פו, דון,ב	2,78,600	1 .1		15,03,501	4,51,15,217		1 1	443			"	1	515,606		41,415		8,597	-	100,550	300,000	1,402,67
266	2,43,72,416	9,57,74,979	2,00,20,005	4,11,170			16,77,400	4,52,53,615	July	. 15/	200		100,85	7 2,0	200,874	100,223		75,745		100,000	2,558		150,000	2,305,51
ted Dec.	2,41,45,790	3,65,48,788	2,82,17,603	4,51,513			17,62,009	4,62,70,463	August	2,	000		102,70	·	207,000	67,000	- 1	6,100		010.000	2,000	1	14,623	1,313,37
Nb	2,42,74,574	3,53,53,000	2,71,62,542	6,51,000 4,81,111	1,,,,,,,,,,,		20,24,274	4,60,43,824	September					1		1				010,000	3,000			1.
10.	2,42,01,568	0,76,87,642	2,73,41,001	5,34,615			20,00,641	4,50,05,027	l	7	71	-	963,60	8 93,6	198,716	16,825		7,700	, i	6,007			11,000	1,267,53
tel .	2,43,25,200	4,52,54/64	2,50,61,000	4,34,131			20,41,412	4,30,40,708	October	. 10,	40	20	777,62	47	25	15,000			100	6,875		160		815,42
	2,43,53,671	3,44,27,000	2,06,04,03	5,21,262			21,80,492	4,44,01,370	Maramber	28,			223,59		2 200	1.	1,7				17	1	l i	1
oth p	2,47,05,349		2,48,81,257	221,00	- amiliahura		22,71,507	4,07,21,000	100	1 .	314			- 1		19,338				7,137	49,391		6,000	531,86
							*******	4,04,19,769	December	2,128,	600	e500	150,64	1,8	00 100,000	19,500			1	10,000	l	1		3,427,50
Oth ,.	144,444		i .	1.0	1	1 .	1		ſ												1,000,000		3,450	
									Total	2,450	+	98,000	6,67,71	11 167,0	12 1,661,383	8,640,602		200,000		10,000	1,000,000		3,410	19,593,78

Statement of the Import and Export of Sep Tonnego of the Fort of Calculta from 1st January to Set Documber 1873.

				-	AMP	0 R.7.				* .				The same		PORT.			_	_
. FOR THE BUSTIE OF	-	Dairies,		BICAY,		treat.	For	OTHER SERV.		TIL.		truer,	,Axi	MICAY.	81	Die.	ALL	OTRES	1 350	mux
<u> </u>	dhipe	Tonnego.	Ships	Teenage	Ship.	Totaly	Shipe	Toenage	Shire	Teens	Ships	Total	Skin	Tootse	Shine	-	70	PEION.	Te	TIL.
January	49	69,660	2	.0,565	٠,	-	Ι.	-							-	-	OTEN.	Tours	Shipe,	Turne
February	. 38	35,000	1 . 3	2,595		1,527	1 :	200	65	65,353	54	54,622	.2	2,285	. 5	1,000	42	6,32	101	05,004
March	31	27,850	- 3	2,440	1	1,68		ದಾ	50	45,400	. 51	50,130	- 4	4,151	. 4"	1,754	ы	6,011	115	71,290
April	29	27,273	3	3,000	١:	ten		-	13	23,552	48	53,015	. 4	2,939	, ,	4223	·ts	1,513	17	63,873
May	35	20,530	١,	1.000	1:	246	1 - 1	753	43	49,571	29	20,000		2,319	4	2,000	-		'aı	31,10
June	37	37,000		2,600		1,53			31	ei'en	32	31,571	14	4,101	3	1,05	-	-	20	27,60
July	31	20,285		1,017		4311		1,726	41	40,552	20	31,540] 2	1,529	! *	835	-	1 -	23	\$4,00
August	18	27,526				2312			1 "	47,255	24	23,231	1 2	2,055	2	1,233	-	-	25	35,62
September	40	50,521	- 1	527	1	3,965		1,011	1	12,605	55	20,813	1.3	2,016		2,03		-	1 23	34,52
Ostobor	40	62,515	,	8,140	1.	219	17	6,000	74	51,540	41	44,677	1	975			[.		1 50	50,25
Navember	23	43,990		3,317	1	453		937	47	67,113	20	23,150	١,	677	10.1	633	1			23,2
December	10	65,357		2.636		800	1	1,578	1 63	45,203	25	90,055	2	2,537	. 8	1,50		. 200		45,6
	-	-				100	<u> </u>	2/518	(3	T0,644	-65	31,491		0,429	2	100	.0	3,000	93	61,2
Total	466	5,11,791	31	22,750	47	\$1,510	31	12,703	575	5,85,526	411	4,60,177	- 21	31,749	42	1:00	2 10	1100	1	

Statement of the Import and Export of Steam Tonnage of the Port of Calcutta form 1st January to 31st December 1873.

			1	MPOR	г.										·EX	PORT.				
FOR THE MONTH OF	В	RITISH.	Au	ERIGAN.	F	RENCH.		L OTHER		ONTHLY TOTAL	P	RITISH.	A3	DERIGAN.	F	RENGII.		LL OTHER OREIGN.	M	ONTHLY POTAL.
	Str.	Tonnage.	Str.	Tonnage.	Str.	Tonnage.	Str.	Tonnage	Str.	Tonnage	Str.	Tonnage.	Str.	Tonnage.	Str.	Tonnage	. Str.	Tonnage	Str.	Tonnag
January	22	23,581	`		1	907			23	24,488	21	21,516		·	1	907		1	22	22,423
February	27	30,825			2	1,293			29	32,118	19	19,109			1	907		·	20	1
March	31	33,987			1	909			32	. 34,896	23	25,898		l	1	909	١	l	24	26,807
April	27	26,051			1	907	1	943	29	27,901	29	81,003			2	1,846			31	32,849
May	20	21,151			2	1,878			22	23,029	26	28,013			1	939	1	943	28	29,895
June	-25	26,512			1	939			26	27,451	23	25,373			. 1	939	l		24	26,312
July	24	26,312	١		1	939			25	27,251	21	21,745			1	939		[]	22	22,684
August	22	24,484							22	24,484	23	25,476			2	1,878			25	27,354
September	24	25,820			1	939	1	943	26	27,702	31	34,982			1	939			32	
October	. 26	27,886			1	939			27	28,825	21	22,782			1	939		943	23	35,921
November	26	28,476			1	939			27	29,415	20	30,227		**		939		1		24,664
December	41	41,909			1	939			42	42,848	32	35,643			1	939			30	31,166 36,582
Total	315	3,36,994	2		13	11,528	2.	1,886	330	3,50,408	298	3,21,767			14	13,020	2	1,886	314	3,36,673

TONNAGE SCHEDULE for the Port of CALCUTY, adopted at a Special General Meeting of the Bougal Chamber, of Commerc, held on the 12th February 1572, with Gene from its September 1572, except as reparts the measurement of Cotton, Heng, Jule, Jule Cattleng, Richs, Saillower, and other articles similarly packed, which, under the Chamber's Resolution of 14th June 1378 had dieflet from 14-July 1578 ha

ARTICL	ES.		Cwt. per Ton Nett.	Cubic feet per Ton.
				F
Aloes, in bags and boxes		1	20 `	
Alum, in ditto		1	20	
Aniseed, in bags			8	
Arrowroot, in cases	***	5		50
Arsenic, in bags or cases			20	
Asafoetida, in bags and bo	tes		20	
Annarel, in boxes				50
Bark, in bags			8	
Bees' Wax			20 gros	8
Barilla.			20	
Betel-nut			20	
Books				50
Borax			20	
Bran			14	
Brimstone			20	
Bullion			at ne	r cent.
Cake-lac, in bags		1	16	
Camphor, in cases				50
Campuor, in cases Cardamoms, in robins			8	
hoxes				50
Cassia, in boxes			.,,	50
			12	
,, bags Castor Seed)	15	
			8	
Chillies, (dry) in bags	•••		ıĭ	
China Root, in bags				1 50
boxes ,	***			50
Chiretta	•••		14	
Churrah	***		14	50
Cigars	***	***	8	
Cloves, in bags				50 .
,, boxes			20	
Coals				50
Cochineal			18	
Coffee, in bags				
" casks		***	16	

ARTICLE	es.		Cwt. per Ton Nett.	Cubic feet per Ton.
Coral, rough			20	
Coir, loose and unscrewed		•••	120	
Copras, or Coccanut Kerne			14	
Coriander Seed			12	
Cotton		•••		50
	•••			50
Cowries	•••		20	******
Cummin Seed Black	•••	•••	8	******
Cutch, in bags	•••		- 8	
		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	18	*******
Dates, wet	•••	•••	20	
, dry	•••	•••	16	•••••
Dholl	***	•••	20	******
Elephants' Teeth in bulk	•••	•••	20	·····
Furniture				50
Garlic and Onions	•••	•••	12	
Ginger			16	
Gram	•••		20	
Gums, in cases				50
Gunny Bags and Gunny Cle	oth			50
Gunjah				50
Hemp				50
Hides, Buffalo, or Cow, cur	ed		14	
Hoofs, Horn Shavings and	Tips		20	
Horns, Cow, Buffalo, or De-			20	
India Rubber, in bags			16	
in cases				50
Indigo"				50
Tron			20	
Jute	•••			50
Jute Cuttings	•••			50
Lac Dvo	•••			50
Lard	•••	•••	20 gro	
Linseed	•••	•••	20 gro	
Mace		•••		50
				90
Machinery Metals	•••		20	
Mathie Seed			20	
		•••	18	
Mirabolams			16	
Molasses		•••	2 puncheon	s or 4 hhds.
Mother o'Pearl, in bags			20	
,, chests			20	
Munjeet	•••	***		50
Mustard or Rape Seed		•••	20	
Niger Seed	•••		20	
Nutmegs, in cases or casks				50

ARTIC	LES.		Cwt. per	Cubic feet
			Ton Nett.	per Ton.
N. Tr ·				
Nux Vomica		•••	16	
Oats	•••		16	
Oil, in cases	•••	•••		50
", casks		•••	4 hl	
Opium			perc	hest
Paddy	•••		16	
Palmatine, in bags			16	
Peas			20	
Pepper, Long			12	
" Black			14	
Planks and Deals				50
Poppy Seed			20	
Putchuck			10	
Rags				50
Raw Silk, in bales		•••	10	
Rattans for dunnage			20	
Red Wood, ditto			20	
Rhe a	••		20	50
Rice	•••	•••	20	
Rope, in coils	•••			
" Lines and Twin			16	50
		•••		
Rum, in casks Safflower	**:	•••	2 puncheon	s or 4 hhds.
		•••		50
Sago, in cases	* ***	•••		50
Sal-amoniac, in bags	•••		20	******
, boxes	•••		20 gros	38.
Saltpetre		•••	20	
Salt		* ***	20	•••••
Sapan Wood for dunnage	***		20	•••••
Sealing Wax, in cases	***			50
Seed-lac, in cases				50
" bags			16	
Senna				50
Shells, rough, in bags			20	
Shell-lac, in cases	•••			50
bags			16	
Silk Chussum				50
,, Waste		[50
Silk Piece Goods				50
Skins		[14	
Soap, country, in cases		(50
hora			15	
" hou			20	
Stick Lac, in cases			20	50
	•••		16	
,, bags			10	

ARTICLES.			Cwt. per Ton Nett.	Cubic feet per Ton.
Sugar Tallow, in cases or casks Talc Talc Tamarinds, in cases or cast Tapioca Tea Teel Seed Timber, round Timel Tourist Turmert Wheat	ks		20 20 20 20 20 20 20 16 	50 50 40 50

- 1. Goods in Casks or Cases to be calculated gross weight when paying freight by weight; and where freight is made payable on measurement, the measurement be taken on the Custom House wharf, or other shipping wharf within a radius of 5 miles from the Custom House, except in the case of Cotton, the measurement of which shall be taken at the Screw-house.
- Measurement to be taken at largest part of the bale,—inside the lashing on one side and outside on the other.
- 3. Jute, Jute-outlings, Hemp, Cotton, Safflower and other articles similarly packed, are screwed in bales varying from 300 to 400 lbs.
- 4. The term "dead weight" shall be understood to mean the following articles:—Sugar, Saltpetre, Rice, Wheat, Gram, Dholl, Peas, Linseed, Rapeseed and all Metals.

H. W. I. WOOD,

Secretary.

SCHEDULE OF COMMISSION CHARGES,

	wised 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.
Ι.	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, Pre- cious 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 21
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 pro- perty 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 2a, per rupce. 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 $2\frac{1}{2}$,

12.	On guaranteeing Bills, Bonds, or other engagements, and on becoming security for administration of Estates, or to Government for the disbursement		
13.		21	per cent.
14.	sales	21/2	"
15.	Administrators 2 On chartering ships or engaging tonnage for constituents for vessels to proceed to outports for	21/2	,,
16.	loading	21	"
	manders of ships for cabin passengers, on the amount of passage money, whether the same shall pass through the Agent's hands or not 5	2 <u>1</u>	,,
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	ó	,,
19.	On engaging troops for a ship to Great Britain or elsewhere, on the gross amount of passage money for rank and file	21	,,
20.	On realising inward freight, inward troop, Emigrant, or Cabin passage money	2½	٠,
21.	On landing and ro-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 all stud goods as may be publicly sold	5	,,
	If Opium, Indigo, Raw Silk, or Silk Piece Goods If Treasure, Precious Stones, or Jewellery	-	,, ,,
			"

22.	On effecting Insurances, whe	ther on lives or	pro-	
	perty		½ p	er cen
23.	On settling Insurance claims	, losses, and aver	ages	
	of all classes, and on pro	curing returns of	pre-	
	mium		21	**
24.	On drawing, purchasing, selli-	ng, or negotiating	Bills	
	of Exchange		1	,,
25.	On debts or other claims wh	en a process at la	w or	
	arbitration is incurred in	claiming them	21/2	13"
	Or if recovered by such mea	ns	5	,,
26.	On Bills of Exchange return	ed dishonored	1	,,
27.	On collecting House Rent		21	**
28.	On ship's Disbursements		2½	11
29.	On realising Bottomry Bond	ls, or negotiating	any	
	loan on respondentia		21	15
30.	On granting Letters of Cred	it	1	"
31.	On sale or purchase of Gove	rnment Securities	and	
	Bank or other Joint Sto			
	exchange or transfer not	by purchase from		
	class to another	. ***	½	"
32.	On delivering up Governmen			
	or other Joint Stock Sha			**
33.	On all amounts debited and			
	(less the balance brough			
	no Commission amoun	nting to 5 per cen		
	been charged		½	."
	Brokerage when paid is	to be separately c	harged.	
		H. W. I. W	OOD;	

Secretary.

MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Agelasto A. and Co.

Apear and Co.

Lovell, H. P., Supdt., P. & O. Steam Navigation Company.

Argenti, Schilizzi and Co. Atkineon, Tilton and Co. Mackillican, J. and Co. Macallister, R. and Co. Mackinnon, Mackenzie and Co. Ashburner and Co. Anderson, Wright and Co. Balfour, J. Offy. Agent, Oriental Bank Mackenzie, Lyall and Co. Macneill and Co. Macknight, Anderson and Co. Moran, W. and Co. Corporation Balmor, Lawrie and Co Manockjee Rustomjee Barlow and Co. Morriss, E., Agent, Hong-Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. Begg, Dunlop and Co Blacker, G. M. Pearce, Macrae and Co. Borradaile, Schiller and Co. Playfair, Duncan and Co. Buskin, E. G. Petrocochino Brothers. Carlisles Nephews and Co. Chalmers, J. Manager, National Bank Prestage, F., Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway Company. of India. Cochrne, S. Manager, Agra Bank, Prawnkissen Law and Co. Ralli Brothers. Limited. Ralli and Mavrojani. Colvin, Cowie and Co. Reinhold and Co. Crooke, Rome and Co. Robert and Charriol. Cox, Henry S. Cohn Brothers and Co. Rentiers and Co. Robinson, S. H. Reid, J. M., Agent, Chartered Mercantile DeSouza, Thos. and Co. Dwarkanath Dutt and Co. Bank of India, London, and China. Ede and Hobson Renaud, A., Manager, Comptoir D'Es-compte de Paris. Ernsthausen and Oesterley. Ewing and Co. Sagrandi, J. P. Elliott, John and Co. Steel, McIntosh and Co. Ezra, E. D. I. Fergusson, J. H. and Co. Schlaepfer, Putz and Co. Schroder, Smidt and Co. Finlay, Muir and Co. Schoene, Kilburn and Co. Gisborne and Co. Sassoon, David and Co. Graf and Banziger. Shaw, D. T. and Co. Graham and Co. Thomas, J. and Co. Grindlay and Co. Turner, Morrison and Co. Gubbay, Elias S. Henderson, George and Co. Heilgers, F. W. and Co. Toulmin, L. W. and Co. Tamvaco and Co. Tambaci, Paul and Co. Hoore, Miller and Co. Ullmann, Hirschhorn and Co. Weinholt Brothers. Huber and Co.
Jardine, Skinner and Co.
Kettlewell, Builen and Co.
Kelly and Co. Wilson, H. F. Whyte, G. A., Agent, Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China. Whitney Brothers and Co. Ker, Dods and Co. Kerr, Tarruck and Co. Williamson Brothers and Co. Lamouroux and Co. Wiseman, Mitchell, Reid and Co. Delhi and Longmuir, T. Manager, Wolff, Wilman London Bank, Limited. Yule, Andrew and ('o.

MOFUSSIL MEMBERS.

Hamilton, Brown and Co .- Mircapore.

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 and duty of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce shall be to watch over and protect the general commercial interests of the Presidency of Bengal, and specially those of the port of Calcutta; to employ all means within its power for the removal of evils, the redress of grievances, and the promotion of the common good; and, with that view, to communicate with Government, public authorities, associations, and individuals; to receive references from, and to arbitrate between, parties willing to abide by the judgment and decision of the Chamber; and to form a code of practice to simplify and facilitate transaction of business.

Third.... That merchants, bankers, ship-owners, and brokers shall alone be admissible as members of the Chamber.

Fourth....That candidates for admission as members of the Chamber shall be proposed and seconded by two members, and may

made frontes for for formal the below

be elected by the Committee provisionally, such election being subject to confirmation at the next ensuing General Meeting.

Fifth......That the subscription of firms and banks shall be 16 rupees per mensem, of individual members 10 rupees per mensem, and of mofussil members 32 rupees per annum.

Sixth ... That any member of the Chamber whose subscription shall be three months in arrears shall cease to be a member, and his name shall be removed by the Committee from the list of members after one month's notice of such default.

Seventh... 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.

Eighth.... 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 by the Secretary,-numbered and bearing his signature; and no voting card shall be received for such purpose unless so authenticated. All vacancies created by the absence of the President, or Vice-President, from the Presidency for three months or by departure for Europe, or by death, shall be forthwith filled up, and the election determined by votes to be taken as above and declared by the Committee. All vacancies created as above by the absence, departure, or death of any of the Members of the Committee shall be forthwith filled up by selection by the Committee subject to approval at first ordinary general meeting thereafter.

Ninth... That parties holding powers of procuration shall, in the absence of their principals, be eligible to serve as members of the Committee.

Tenth... Two members of a firm or representatives of a bank shall not serve on the Committee at the same time.

Eleventh. That the Committee shall meet for the purpose of transacting such business as may come within the province of the Chamber at such times as may suit their

convenience, and that the record of their proceedings be open to the inspection of members, subject to such regulations as the Committee may deem expedient.

Twelfth. That all proceedings of the Committee be subject to approval or otherwise of General Meetings duly convened.

Thirteenth. That a half-yearly report of the proceedings of the Committee be prepared, printed, and circulated for information of members three days previous to the General Meeting, at which such report and proceedings of the Committee shall be submitted for approval.

Fourteenth. That the Secretary shall be elected by the Committee; such election to be subject to confirmation at the next ensuing General Meeting.

Fifteenth. That General Meetings of the Chamber shall be held at such times as the Committee may consider convenient for the despatch of business.

Sixteenth. 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.

Seventeenth. That on the requisition of any five members of the Chamber, the President, or,

in his absence, the Vice-President, or Chairman of Committee, shall call a Special General Meeting, to be held within 15 days subsequent to receipt of such requisition.

Eighteenth. That every subscribing firm or bank shall be entitled to one vote only, and that the Chairman of Committee and Chairman of General Meetings and Special General Meetings shall have a casting vote in cases of equality of votes.

Nineteenth. That parties holding powers of procuration shall, in the absence of their principals, be entitled to vote.

Twentieth. That voting by proxy shall be allowed; provided proxies are in favour of members of the Chamber.

Twenty-first. 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 members present in person or by proxy at any Special General Meeting of the Chamber convened for the consideration of such expulsion.

Twenty-second. That strangers visiting the Presidency may be admitted by the Committee as honorary members for a period not exceeding two months.

Twenty-third...That no change in the rules and regulations of the Chamber shall be made except by the votes of a majority of the members of the Chamber present in person or by proxy at a Special General Meeting to be held after previous notice of three months.

Cones and Co., No. 19, Loll Bazar.

