

CEYLON.

Encl. in No. 2.

Enclosure in No. 2.

(Extract.)

To the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

The Petition of the undersigned Merchants, Planters, Landowners, and other Inhabitants of Kandy, and the Central Province of the Island of Ceylon,

Humbly sheweth,

* * * * *
 That all foreign commodities are subject to double the import duty levied upon British goods; a restriction which militates against foreign nations attempting to trade here to the extent they otherwise would, and keeps away customers for the various products of the island, the staples of which are coffee, cinnamon, and cocoa-nut oil, all largely consumed on the Continent of Europe.

That in many instances foreign vessels are precluded from landing cargo at the ports of this colony, though the cargo be the produce of the country to which such vessels belong. Thus, French and Spanish vessels are prohibited from sending wines and spirits, and other unenumerated articles, the produce and manufactures of France and Spain. No such restrictions exist in the neighbouring territories of the Honourable East India Company, and they are consequently felt more severely here.

That the staple food of the labourers of the coffee, sugar, and cinnamon plantations is rice, imported chiefly from the territories of the Honourable East India Company.

This trade is restricted to vessels holding a British India register. In the opinion of your petitioners, the supply would be more abundant, and the price cheaper to the consumers, if the trade were thrown open to the vessels of all nations.

* * * * *

[Here follow 110 signatures.]
