

Duplicate

Colombo 11th July 1906.

His Highness

The Sultan of The Maldives.

May it please Your Highness,

We beg to offer your Highness our respectful thanks for the privilege afforded us of trading in your dominions and ~~for~~ the possession of our store in peace and quiet.

We regret to inform your Highness that though we used every endeavour to work the business to the mutual advantage of your Highness's Subjects and ourselves, by selling the Oil at a cheap rate and granting unlimited credit to our Agent to enable him to push the sale, still the business has not been able to be worked satisfactorily. We enclose copies of our Agents Accounts, which speak for themselves, and your Highness will learn from them that we have not received one cent of the value of the Oil despatched to the Maldives equal to Rs:3000/- and that on the contrary we have to pay our Agents a further Rs:849.08 making a total loss of Rs:3849.08 on the shipment referred to in the accounts.

We think it essentially necessary to the profitable working of this business that someone having a personal interest in the same should be in charge or supervise it on the spot. If this can be arranged then we are confident that the trade can be worked to very great advantage, situated as we are to supply any quantity of Oil and at a cheap rate.-

We beg therefore to suggest the following for your Highness's consideration:-

1. Kerosene Oil is one of the absolute necessities of daily life and as such is required by every one of your subjects.
2. It is a commodity the consumption of which increases as it is brought within the reach of all, and every one wishes to have as much light as he can possibly afford.
3. As it is not possible for us to have direct supervision over the trade and work it cheaply and profitably, we would suggest for your Highness's consideration that your Government take the matter in hand and work the same to the benefit of all.
4. We would point out that the Ceylon Government are at present importing Salt from Madras and selling it with profit to themselves and benefit to the Consumers.
5. In the event of your Highness not seeing your way to fall in with the above suggestion, we shall be glad to know, if you desire to purchase the Store, possibly, for a Post Office ?.
We were given to understand ^{by} ~~that~~ Mr. Didi on his last visit here as your Highness's Ambassador, that there was a likelihood of your taking over the Store for this purpose.
Mr. Didi promised to communicate with us on his return to the Maldives, but we have not had the pleasure of hearing from him as yet. We enclose a copy of Account of what the Store cost us and shall be glad to receive your views in the matter.

We

We have advised our Agent Mr. M.S.H. Abdul Ally that we have ceased importing Oil into the Maldives and that we are in communication with you as to the disposal of the Store.

We have the honour to remain

Your Highness's

Obedient Servants

Beluega Forghie

*The original is being forwarded
through the Post office Calcutta.*