

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 174	Press ~~Mis.~~
357.358	
Dated	31-1-1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
31st January 1865.*

No. 357. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department:—

Sanctioning the reduction proposed by the }
Commissary General in the price of Alcohol } (Here enter 20th January 1865, No. 239.)
distilled by the Commissariat Department.

No. 358. ORDER THEREON, 31st January 1865, No. 174.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Military Department, No. 239.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

From the Acting Controller of Military Accounts, Fort Saint George, 2nd December 1864, E; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

From Comsy. Genl., No. 690, dated 31st Oct. 1864.

Do. No. 786, dated 21st Nov. „

I have the honor to submit for the orders of Government, correspondence as per margin, suggesting a reduction of the price of Alcohol distilled in the Commissariat Department.

2. The stock of Alcohol now in Store for sale amounts to 13,129 Gallons. The monthly sales amount to 200 Gallons.

3. This slow consumption is attributed to the much lower rates at which purer Alcohol may be obtained from England, and the Commissary General computes, that rates nearly approaching the cost of Alcohol landed from Europe may be safely adopted in the sale of the Alcohol in Store at a profit to Government.

4. Alcohol is now distilled from Batavia Arrack and Rum, the latter being the most costly. The expense of producing Alcohol from the former being Rupees 1-5-1 per Gallon, from the latter Rupees 2-9, giving a mean of Rupees 1-10-1. The Commissary General proposes to fix Rupees 2 per Gallon as the price of 43° O. P. Alcohol, leaving a profit of Annas 5 and 11 Pies on the Gallon. To meet the requirements of the market, it is also proposed to distil Alcohol at 63° O. P., at a cost of Rupees 2-9 per Gallon, to be sold at Rupees 3. This is in excess of the price paid on Alcohol at the same standard received from England, but a smaller rate would hardly be remunerative.

5. The proposition of the Commissary General offers a prospect of a sale for the large quantity on hand, for which no ready demand can be expected at present prices. Government may, therefore, be disposed to concur with his suggestion.

6. It is observed that the period has expired to which the Committee limited the period of distilling liquor—Proceedings of Government, No. 2828, 16th August 1864. The Commissary General does not report the period necessary to carry out his views.

From the Commissary General, Madras, 31st October 1864, No. 690; to the Controller of Military Accounts, Fort Saint George.

I have the honor to inform you, that the Stock of Alcohol now in the Commissariat Godowns amounts to gallons 13,129, but that the present consumption does not exceed gallons 200 per month.

2. On enquiry, I find that many Government Establishments such as the Museum and Medical College import Alcohol from England, giving as their reason for so doing, that it is cheaper than that supplied by this Department, and the high price now charged probably decreases its use also among Cabinet-makers.

3. In former years, it was the custom only to distil so much Alcohol as would be conveniently disposed of, but now that it has been determined to convert the whole of the Batavia Arrack into Alcohol, the same establishment works far more economically, and hence a reduction might safely be made in the price now charged.

4. The price in England of methylated Alcohol 63° O. P. is only three shillings, (or 4, when landed in Madras,) per gallon, whereas for Alcohol 60° O. P. (3 degrees weaker) we are charging 5½ Rupees or 11 shillings.

5. I append Statements of the actual cost of making Alcohol 43° O. P. from Rum and Batavia Arrack, which have been checked in the Examiner's Office, and as the quantity of Rum is to that

of the Batavia as 1 to 3, I propose to equalize the prices in the same proportion, this would then give Rupees 1-10-1 per gallon as the cost price of 43° O. P., and 2-9-0 as the cost of 60° O. P."

6. They would therefore yield a considerable profit to Government even if sold at 2 Rupees and 3 Rupees per gallon respectively.

STATEMENT of actual cost of distilling Alcohol 43° O. P. from *Batavia Arrack*.

	RS.	A.	P.
400 Gallons Batavia Arrack, 10-3 O. P. equal to 588 gallons of 25 W. P. at Annas 10-6 per gallon, yield 305 gallons of 43° O. P.	385	14	0
1,600 lbs. Firewood at 5 Rupees per 1000 lbs.	8	0	0
30 Coolies at Annas 3-2 per diem.	5	15	0
12 lbs. Flour at Anna 1½ per lb.	1	2	0
3 Gunny Bags.	0	4	0
Total Rupees.	401	3	0

Which, divided by the yield 305 gallons, give Rupees 1-5-1 as the price per gallon.

STATEMENT of actual cost of distilling Alcohol 43° O. P. from *Rum*.

	RS.	A.	P.
400 Gallons Rum 26 O. P. at 2 Rupees per gallon, yield 320 Gallons Alcohol of 43° O. P.	800	0	0
1,600 lbs. Firewood at 5 Rupees per 1000 lbs.	8	0	0
30 Coolies at Annas 3-2 a day.	5	15	0
12 lbs. Flour at Annas 1½ per lb.	1	2	0
3 Gunny Bags.	0	4	0
Total Rupees.	815	5	0

Which, divided by the yield 820 gallons, give as the price per gallon 2-9-0,

3 Gallons of Alcohol at 1-5-1 = 3-15-3

1 " " 2-9-0 2 9 0

6 8 3

4

Average per gallon, Rs. 1 10 1

MADRAS, }
31st October 1864. }

(Signed) JOHN HILL, Colonel,
Commissary General.

From the Commissary General, Madras, 21st November 1864, No. 786; to the Controller of Military Accounts, Fort Saint George.

In answer to your letter No. 1012 of the 19th instant, I have the honor to inform you that the Alcohol is distilled both from Rum and from Batavia Arrack, and as the cost price of the former was 2 Rupees per gallon, whilst that of the latter was only 10½ Annas, it was necessary to find the value of the Alcohol made from each Spirit, and draw an average as shewn in the 5th paragraph of your letter above mentioned.

2. The two Statements refer therefore to the price of the Alcohol at 43° O. P. as there shewn and the manner in which the average was drawn is also given.

3. The price (*viz.*, Rupees 2-9-0) of Alcohol at 63° O. P. was obtained by a similar calculation, but was not shewn in my letter.

4. In answer to the 3rd paragraph of your letter, I beg to inform you, that the distillation of Alcohol by this Department, has latterly been continued for the purpose of disposing of a quantity of Rum and Arrack, which was not liked by the Troops, * and that, as in a few weeks more, the whole will have been converted into Alcohol, there will then be no further cause for distilling.

5. My object in recommending the reduction of price is to enable us to dispose of a very large Stock of Alcohol which has accumulated on our hands.

6. The letter No. 690, dated 31st October 1864, is returned herewith.

From the Acting Controller of Military Accounts, Fort Saint George, 13th December 1864, C; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort St. George.

I have the honor, with reference to your Memorandum of the 8th December 1864, to forward a letter from the Commissary General, from which it appears that, in consequence of three, out of the seven Stills having become unserviceable, the whole of the Batavia Arrack has not been distilled.

2. The Commissary General considered it preferable to continue the distillation of Alcohol beyond the date specified by Government, to incurring the expense of new stills, and he reports that the whole of the Batavia Arrack will be distilled before the 10th proximo.

3. I infer from the letter that the whole of the Rum has been already distilled.

From the Commissary General, Madras, 12th December 1864, No. 7621; to the Controller of Military Accounts, Fort Saint George.

In answer to your letter, * No. 1093, of the 10th instant, I have the honor to inform you that, the whole of the Batavia Arrack would have been converted into Alcohol long before the expiration of the time allowed by Government, *viz.*, the 30th November, but owing to the constant heat to which the Stills have been exposed, no less than three out of the seven were rendered quite unserviceable, so that for the last six weeks we have been working at a great disadvantage, but as the Distillery will so soon be closed, it was thought that the continuation of the process for a few weeks more would be preferable to incurring the great expense of making new Stills.

2. Should the four Stills now in use hold out long enough, the whole of the Batavia Arrack will be worked off, (notwithstanding the Christmas holidays) before the 10th January 1865.

From the Commissary General, Madras, 7th January 1865, No. 7621; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort St. George.

I have the honor to inform you that, the whole of the Rum and Batavia Arrack has been converted into Alcohol, and that the Commissariat Distillery will be closed this day.

ORDER, No. 239, 20th January 1865.

On the understanding that the measure will not entail any loss on Government, it having been already ruled that, the selling price of Alcohol shall be fixed at a rate sufficient to cover the entire cost, the Governor in Council sanctions the reduction proposed in the foregoing correspondence in the price of Alcohol distilled by the Commissariat Department.

2. It is observed that the entire stock of Rum and Batavia Arrack having been used up, the Distillery has been closed.

(True Extract.)

Shankar
Secretary to Government

To the Contr. of Mily. Accts., with 3 enclosures.
" Commissary General.
" Military Accountant.
" Examiner Pay Department.
" Examiner Commissariat Accounts.
" Revenue Department, } for information.
" Public Department, }
" Adjutant General, }
Exd. W. Regel.

W. H. P. Spencer

No. 8th March 1863

Decr 1863 ^{10/10/63}
100 of 400 for 100

Proceedings of the
Prothonotary Court in
the Military District

Decr 20th 3 Sept
Decr 26th 1863

87-239

Sanctioning the
reduction proposed by
the Commodity Board
in the price of alcohol
distilled by the Bureau
of Alcohol.

200354 1058

87-174

Communicated
to the Hon. Secy

19th

31st Dec 1863

5th Dec 1863

1st Dec 1863

100354-1058
100354-1058