

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	543A	<u>Press</u> ~~Mis.~~
198A. 198B.		
Dated	14 - 3 - 1865.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th March 1865.*

No. 198 A. Read the following letter from Mr. J. J. CORBETT, Abkarry Contractor of North Arcot, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated North Arcot, 8th March 1865:—

SIR,

1. I had the honor to address you in February 1864, with reference to the supplying of Spirits of Wine to the Chemists and Druggists and Trade of Madras. I believe His Excellency Sir William Denison not approving of the system the Government had of selling Alcohol, through the Commissariat Department, to the public, ordered its discontinuance from the beginning of 1864. Representations being made that this measure had put the purchasers to great inconvenience, the sale was extended for six months longer. My application in February 1864 bore reference to the above, that we had the Spirits of Wine in any quantity to supply the requirements at Madras. The extension of six months, I believe, expired in August last, and as there appeared a very large stock of Alcohol in store, it was resolved to reduce the price to the low rate of 2 Rupees per gallon to effect speedy sale, till the whole was disposed of.

2. My object in now troubling you with this letter, is in reference to the above, although the low rate of 2 Rupees a gallon holds out very great inducement, still the consumption being limited and the stock in hand very heavy, it will take a considerable time before the whole is sold.

3. I beg respectfully to submit, and trust I shall not be considered presumptive, in stating that this measure of Government inflicts a hardship on Distillers, and causes a great loss to Government.

4. From the experience of sixteen years as Abkarry Contractor and Distiller of Spirits in the European method, I venture to suggest that if all the present stock of Alcohol was handed over to the Madras Collector, and a stop put to the sale by the Commissariat to the public it will confer a great boon on us, inasmuch as Chemists and Druggists and others will have to take their spirits from our Distilleries, and the Excise duty of 3 Rupees per gallon, ratably increased for over proof Spirits, will yield $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 Rupees per gallon revenue to Government, and the Alcohol so transferred to the Madras Collector could be used in the Madras Abkarry. It may be urged that such spirit will not answer to supply the place of the country Putta Arrack now manufactured and sold. Each gallon of Alcohol 43 over proof, reduced by water to the strength of country Arrack, would give considerably above 2 gallons, taking the cost of producing that same quantity of Arrack and adding to it the heavy per-centage in keeping in store such strong spirits, by dryage and evaporation, would bring it up fully to 2 Rupees for the 2 gallons, or a trifle more or less; thus while the spirits is sold for 43 over proof in one department of Government at 2 Rupees per gallon, in the other department as much is laid out in producing spirits for the Abkarry; the difference in quality from the Alcohol to the Putta Arrack is, the former is a pure spirit, and the other has only the addition of the Valum bark in its manufacture; as it is essential that Arrack should always have the bark, this object could be met by a portion of the manufactured country Arrack being mixed with the spirits, and it will then become as good as any Arrack sold in the market. I venture respectfully to submit the above from my knowledge in the Abkarry line, and the practice that commonly prevails among us, in converting spirits as above into Arrack.

5. The reduced price of 2 Rupees per gallon for such strong spirit invades the Abkarry Rules, as consumers can get the spirits so much cheaper at the Commissariat Godowns, directly or indirectly, which they will rather do than pay dearer for it in the Licensed Arrack shops—it holds out a premium for procuring cheap spirits.

6. Under all these circumstances, if His Excellency would be graciously pleased to stop the sale of Alcohol, the same 2 Rupees' price can be obtained through the Abkarry; the trouble of making such a quantity of Arrack saved; the premium held for obtaining cheap spirits will be checked; Government will obtain a certain revenue in Excise duty, and last, though not

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least, we Distillers in the country, who have invested largely in the business, will have this new opening for our enterprize.

7. I beg you will excuse the liberty I have taken in troubling you with this letter; and may I solicit your kind support in laying this before His Excellency Sir William Denison for his kind and most favorable consideration.

No. 198 B.

ORDER THEREON, 14th March 1865, No. 543a.

Separate Revenue, No. 13.

Abkarry.

Referred to the Board of Revenue for report in communication with the Commissary General.

(True Extract)

(Signed) J. GROSE,

Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Military Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

very apology.

*I have the honor to be,
Sir,*

*Your most Obedient and
humble servant,*

*J. J. Corbett,
Abkarree Contractor
of North Arcot*

Feb 27 1864 No. 29-30
20-269-290

Revenue 1865
No. of Jan 1865
12-1865

From
Messrs. S. S. Ford & Co.
Contractors
of Fort Mifflin
No. 28-30
Received 10-3-1865

22-5123-28.

Referred to the Board of
Revenue for report in communication
with the Comptroller General.

For amount of
requesting the first to stop the
sale of the stock at the Com-
mission and to return -

John W. G. G. G.
14-3-1865
Board of Revenue No. 20-1865
Building Department

1864-1865.

1864-1865.

With an order
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