

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	458	Press Mis.
Dated	1-4-	18 59.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 1st April 1859.

No. 135. Read the following letter from CECIL BEADON, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George; dated Fort William, the 18th March 1859, No. 519.

SIR,

I am directed by the Governor General in Council to forward copy of a letter addressed this day to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, and to request the attention of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to the subject of it, with a view to the increase of the Excise duty on Spirits and Ganjah throughout India as far as may be practicable.

From CECIL BEADON, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India; to A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal; dated Council Chamber, the 18th March 1859, No. 566.

SIR,

In connexion with my letters noted in the margin, and with reference to the provisions of Act No. VII. of 1859, I am directed by the Governor General in Council to request that the Honorable the Lieutenant Governor will take into his consideration the practicability of increasing the Excise duty on country spirits as well as on spirits distilled in Bengal after the European method, with a view to bring these articles under a taxation equal according to strength to that imposed by the new tariff on spirits imported by sea.

2. His Excellency in Council is led to believe that a considerable increase of revenue may be expected from this source wherever the distillation of spirits is carried on under the surveillance of Government officers. This is the case in respect to all spirits distilled after the European fashion, and also in respect to native spirits manufactured in Sudder Distilleries.

3. Where the Abkaree of a district is let in farm to the highest bidder, or where licensed liquor shops are established on the same principle by the more direct Agency of Government officers the distillation being carried on almost if not entirely without surveillance, and the farmer or shopkeeper realising the highest price he can obtain by the sale of liquor and paying the Government a share of the profits, it is probable that no great increase of revenue is to be obtained, though even in the latter case it should be the object of the Excise officers to tax existing consumption as highly as possible rather than to encourage consumption by licensing numerous shops at low rates of daily tax, and reducing the price of liquor by the competition of licensed vendors.

4. But it is undoubtedly practicable by care and attention to extend the system of Sudder Distilleries to many populous localities into which it has not yet been introduced if not universally, and thereby to prevent the manufacture of spirits except under Excise surveillance and to bring under full taxation all that is consumed. This is a subject which demands the attention of the Government on moral as well as fiscal grounds, and I am desired to request that the Lieutenant Governor in consultation with the proper authorities will consider and determine what alteration of this kind can be adopted so as to tax as highly as possible the consumption of spirits everywhere and obviate the charge which is now constantly brought against the Abkarree administration of endeavouring to increase the revenue rather by forcing the consumption of liquor at low rates of duty, than by imposing the highest possible rates consistent with the due prevention of illicit dealings.

5. His Excellency in Council also desires to be informed whether an increase in the Excise on Ganjah is practicable. No one can question the propriety of fixing the highest duty on this drug that can be imposed without driving the people to the use of more deleterious articles.

No. 136. ORDER THEREON, No. 458; dated 1st April 1859.

Ordered to be referred to the Board of Revenue for early report.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

Encl. for Secy to Govt of India
A. 519

Respectfully from
Cecil Beadon Esq.
Secretary to the Govt. of India

To
J. Pycroft Esq.
Chief Secretary to the Govt of
Fort St George

Dated Fort William the 18th March 1859.

Home/Secy
Sep: Rev:

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor General
in Council to forward copy of a letter addressed
this day to the Secretary to the Government
of Bengal and to request the attention of
the Right Honble the Governor in Council
to the subject of it, with a view to the
increase of the Excise duty on Spirits and
Ganjah throughout India as far as may
be practicable.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Cecil Beadon

Secy. to the Govt. of India

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Dr.

ordered to be referred
to the House of Rep. in

Mr

very respectfully

W

This is a subject on which the
supreme court is entitled to our
cordial cooperation. W. 1 April 1859

W. 1 Copy to the State of New York. 1859
at New York

Revenue 1859 Sept^r
Cous 1900 April

No 543

From the Secretary to
the Govt of Lincoln

Dated 18th

Oct 30th March 1859

1. Encls

From Dr. to do do do 7400
1859 E. A. 1855
17 Oct - 1409

Calling the attention
of the Govt to the subject
of the increase of the
excise duty on spirits &
Gauging the same and
from Dec 20th May 1859, C.D.
985: Cons. 1859

210458 1st April 1859

Wt. one only

From the Secretary to
the Govt of Lincoln 1859
17 Oct - 1409

No 1054136