M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1987	Press Mis.
184 185	
Dated 14 — 10 — 1861.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 14th October 1861.

No. 184. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th April 1861, No. 1,806 :—

Read the following letter from E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated 11th February 1861, No. 24.

SIR,

1. With reference to Government Order, 7th December 1860, No. 2,329, on the Hill Ábkári, I beg to report for information of the Board and Government, that I took an opportunity, on lately visiting the Hills, of making such checks as are legal and practicable, to prevent abuse and evil from the Ábkári on the Neilgherries.

2. I have, with the European Inspector of Police there, Mr. Callagan, visited all the shops, closed and *sealed* all back doors and windows (of which, however, there were in reality few), and am in treaty with the Contractor (for a compensation for his remaining five months) to close two shops. The liquor, especially Beer and Ginger-wine, was *tasted* by myself and the European Constables; not of course formally or officially (as they probably would not drug the Collector, or the Police Constables), but privately and without warning. All vendors have been cautioned "that the Ábkári Regulations will be strictly enforced, and at the next sale in June, I shall reduce, if Government desire, half the shops, and shall introduce a strict provision against all sales on "credit", (though I cannot discover that such practice much prevails).

Impet and Hill at Coonoor, Wellington, and Ootacamund.

Though of course it will lower the rent.

3. On the further sale of *Beer* and *Ginger-wine*, I feel a difficulty. Government are misinformed in supposing country Beer is not much drunk by the poorer native classes, especially coolies; there is a large consumption of it, as much as $1\frac{1}{2}$ Hogshead in one month, in one shop; natives are adopting it as they have done coffee, potatoes, and other European articles, and so long as *wholesome* and undrugged, I think it is far better than fiery Arrack. A poor, fagged, shivering cooly finds support and warmth in a glass of this Beer. Against its ABUSE, if *found drugged*, and against its evil effect, *drunkenness*, I would act (through the Police) with *rigour* and *activity*; and this would be, I think, quite sufficient. I cannot and do not think that either Mr. James or Mr. Honeywell, the only two makers (Europeans) would adulterate it; the native vendors of course may, and *they* are the parties to be watched and searched, which is now *freely done*, and *none object* or *resist*. The two Europeans, Mr. James and Honeywell, offer "free entrance at all "hours night or day by the Police to their premises," and court examination of their liquor and materials.

See Mr. James' Memorandum enclosed.

4. They offered to affirm solemnly that the Ginger-wine is simply *ginger*, sugar, raisins, and water. The Beer, barley and hop with some jaggery.

5. I have reason, on full inquiry, to believe this to be strictly true. As regards Ginger-wine, I am in difficulty; all that I have yet tried or seen from Mr. James' manufacture is *wholesome* and *pure*; not so strong as that *on sale* by the shops here, English made. I bought a bottle of Mr. Dawson's for special trial; *all* Home-made wine, even Ginger-beer has fermentation and *some* spirit. The Sudder still rule that it requires no license. Mr. James has appealed to Government, and sent me a copy;* and my own opinion is that so long as Mr. James makes and sells *bonâ-fide* honest Ginger-wine, it is both legal and wholesome; and in so far as it supersedes arrack-drinking, which it does (as the renter offered Mr. James 300 Rupees to cease making it), it is harmless and admissible, and that it will be sufficient, and indeed alone legal, to come down rigorously on all detected *adulterations* or *counterfeits*; but I request Government final orders on these two points, Beer and Ginger-wine. My own inquiry leads me to think the Ootacamund memorial has MUCH overrated the evil of drinking supposed to exist in Ootacamund, as well as in Ginger-wine and

* Enclosed.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 14th October 1861.

Beer. The statistics of three months' cases of "drunkenness," compared with the population, are really light. I suspect the returns of "Wellington" (the Europeans) would show much heavier if examined. Copy of license is enclosed. Mr. James has been on the Hills since 1820, and is thoroughly respectable. His Ginger-wine cannot honestly be called a "spirituous liquor" any more than that of Messrs. Dawson, Framjee, &c. All the lower classes of respectable Europeans (including the Police Inspector) use it in their own houses, as cheap and wholesome. I inspected *every* shop with Inspector Callagan, Serjeant Hallock, and the Tahsíldár. Mr. Inspector Callagan (who is one of Mr. Robinson's best men, and is familiar with large bazars at Arcot, Vellore, &c.) gives it as his clear and decided opinion "that there is *less* drinking at Ootacamund, for its *size*, than at either of the former large places." The European Catholic Priest of Ootacamund gives the same testimony with others.

Only twenty three cases in all fined by the Sub-Magistrate and detected by the Police; every drunken man being taken up and fined heavily. Some as high as 4 and 8 Rupees each.

---

1. The Board observe that as regards Ginger-wine, Government, in paragraph 10 of their Order dated 7th December last, Revenue Department, No. 2,329, directed their Pleader to bring the Circular of the Foujdaree Ádálat permitting its sale, &c., without license under re-consideration by that Court. The Board have not yet learnt the result of this reference.

In Cons., 10th December 1860, No. 6,443.

2. As regards Beer shops, the Government directed that all the small shops should be put down; not merely because the liquor was thought to be little used by Natives, but also because the licenses appeard to be used as a cover for selling other liquors. They also desired that Mr. James' license should be withdrawn.

3. It now appears that a Mr. Honeywell also makes Beer; that the article manufactured is good and wholesome, and that it is much used by Natives, to the reduction, as may be inferred, of the consumption of spirits. Under these circumstances, the Board think it not unlikely that Government may consent to withdraw their prohibition, and to allow a reasonable number of respectable shops to be licensed for its sale; the manufacture and sale being subject to proper Police regulations and precautions.

4. Mr. James appears to have appealed direct to Government regarding the revocation of his license, and the Board need not touch on that point.

5. The Collector will stringently enforce the Ábkári Law, and make full use of the newly organized Police in preventing abuses.

He will address the Board regarding the next lease in sufficient time to admit of the subject being carefully considered.

6. Resolved that a copy of these Proceedings be submitted to Government, and their orders solicited on paragraph 3.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM, *Secretary.*

No. 185. ORDER THEREON, 14th October 1861, No. 1,984.

1. The Government have not yet learnt the result of the reference which the Magistrate of Coimbatore was instructed by G. O., No. 1,473, dated 24th July 1861, to make to the Foujdaree Ádálat through the Session Judge of that District, for a reconsideration of the ruling contained in their Proceedings of the 25th August 1861.

2. The Board are informed that the Government have no objection to a reasonable number of respectable shops being allowed for the sale of Beer; the manufacture and sale of it being subject to proper Police Regulations and precautions.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To

The Honorable

The Governor in Council

Fort St. George

The Memorial of Samuel James

Wine Merchant in Ootacamund.

Humbly Sheweth,

That in some printed copies of the "Proceedings of Government (in Consultation -, 16th August 1860, No 4,042) forwarded to this place, and now published in the Ootacamund "Eclectic" for January 1st/61 there are Statements reflecting in a highly injurious manner on the character and respectability of your Memorialist, and on data not only utterly at variance with facts, but also quite contrary to the evidence recorded in two public courts of Ootacamund, in connexion with the Suit referred to in para 13 of the Proceedings.

Your Memorialist would most respectfully solicit your Excellency's attention to some observations on what is said in para 13 of the above mentioned Proceedings. This para 13 states "A Mr. James, however, also manufactures and sells a liquor which he terms "Ginger Wine" but which in reality is highly spirituous" and further on this para says "But the enclosed sentence of the Sub-Judge passed under Clause 9, Sections 6 and 15, Reg. I of 1820, will, it is hoped, deter him and his agents from selling what is really a spirituous liquor, under the designation of "Ginger Wine"

Your Memorialist begs here to observe that, on the prosecution of the Bazaar Wine Venders being decided on, his premises were visited, under a Search-Warrant, by the Inspector of Police, the prosecutor, and samples of all his wines were taken away. These wines were examined by Dr. Stewart and pronounced to be quite unobjectionable on the score of alcoholic strength; and even the Bazaar Ginger Wine, which was carefully

analysed by him, was found not to exceed, in alcoholic strength, the Port and Sherry sold in all shops throughout the territory under your Excellency's Government, without License. Your Memorialist begs to submit a copy of Dr. Stewart's Report which was given to the Sub. Judge.

Moreover, it was shown in the evidence given both before the Sub-Judge, and the Assistant. Magistrate; that the defendants in the Suit referred to in this para 13, had purchased the Ginger Wine on cash payment, and had conveyed it away in open Kegs, and consequently could not be, as this para intimates, your Memorialist's "Agents", but were selling on their own responsibility.

Para 13 of the "Order" in the "Proceedings" states that "All the small beer Shops ought to be put down. Beer is not a liquor which natives consume, and the licenses appear to be used as a cloak for selling strong drink".

Your Memorialist respectfully submits that he cites this para to show how little reliance can be placed on the information, connected with this subject, which has been forwarded to your Honorable Government. For, if the beer were converted into a "strong drink" by mixing spirits with it, at the price for which it is sold it would not remunerate the manufacturer; and if it were adulterated with drugs, this abuse is easy of detection, and is punishable by the Abkarry Laws. Moreover the assertion in this para. that natives do not consume it is quite erroneous, as it can be easily shown that they consume it to a considerable extent and that many have abandoned the use of Arrack for it.

In conclusion your Memorialist most respectfully submits that, acting under the Government's approval of his enterprise, he has, at a great outlay, erected the necessary buildings, and procured from England and elsewhere the entire apparatus for brewing, and that for this purpose Indian Corn is being cultivated to a great extent at the foot of these Hills. He respectfully prays your Honorable Government to reconsider the order

which directs the Collector of this district to cancel his License and which by depriving him of the means of support awards that punishment for a charge resting on the loose asseverations of this place which should only be inflicted on full legal proof. Feeling confident that his character and respectability will be relieved from the imputations undeservedly cast upon it in the record of the "Proceedings of Government and in fair reliance on your Excellency's well known sympathy with European Enterprise your memorialist as in duty bound will ever pray.

Ootacamund
January 14th 1861

J. Jones

1861 Department

See a letter from the
Collector of Coimbatore
Dated 11th February 1861
No 24
Forwg Rt 950/61
Mrs Lawes
Memorial
To
The Honorable
The Governor in Council
Fort Saint George

Appealing against
the Government Re-
cordings of the 18th August
1860.

Jud No 962 8 1861
Rd 14th Oct 1861
D. P. 1984
D 184-185

True copy of a report, presented by Dr. Stewart to E. W. Bird Esq, Sub Judge of Calcutta, on some Ginger Wines, given him for Analysis, by the Court.

Quantity of Liquor in Bottle marked ++.	Actual amount of Spirit	Degrees by Cartier's Hydrometer	Specific Gravity	Quantity of Alcohol per cent	Remarks.
24 oz	8½ oz.	32	0.869	33.3 +.	In consequence of my having added a little Carbonate of Potash, after taking the Sp. Gravity of 32, the Spirit is become of greater Sp. Gr., and is now 31. (Signed) J. W. Stewart

+. According to the Tables of Gilpin and Tralles, p. of Dr. Ure's Commercial Dictionary, pronounced by the Commissioners of Excise to be admirably correct, the quantity of alcohol per cent here given must be incorrect. These tables show that Spirit, at the Sp. Gr. of 0.869, Temp 60 Fahr^t, still contain 22 per cent of water. Ergo, as 8½ oz in 24 oz is equal to 35 2/5 per of Spirit at 0.869, this quantity must be multiplied by .78 consequently we have

$35\frac{2}{5} \times .78 = 27.61$ which gives 27½ per cent as quantity of alcohol in the Bazaar Ginger Wine.

By comparing this with Dr. Ure's tables it will be seen that it does not exceed the average strength of the Sherry & Port of Commerce & is inferior to Marsala Hermitage & other wines.

Memo

Beer Sold from 1 Jany 1855
to 30 April 1857 — being
28 Months 278 Hhds the
average Sale per Month
is nearly 9 Hhds —

From 1 May 1857 to 31 Dec 1860
123 Hhds the average Sale
per Month nearly 3 Hhds —

L. Jones

Ale & Stout
Shops &c

1861 Department
Se a letter from the
Collector of Coimbatore
Dated 11th February 1861
No 24 Rs 950/61

Memorandum
of the Sale of Beer
in Bor Lance Shops

Jul Vo 962 of 1861
Jud Covr 15 July

Pt II Ct No 11
9 Ap 1984
Dt 4-18

6

Mr James, is licensed to sell
good and wholesome Beer, unadulterated,
in Pollachy and Coonoor, during
the present Fusly year 1270-

In Coonoor Shops 2
" Pollachy Do 2

4

Coimbatore
Collector's Office
31st August 1860

E. D. Norman.
Collector

H. W. Clerk

He will address the Board regarding the next lease in sufficient time to admit of the subject being carefully considered.

6. Resolved that a copy of these Proceedings be submitted to Government, and their orders solicited on paragraph 3.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary.

To J. D. Bourdillon, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to E. B. Thomas, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore.

Exd. J. Wright.

7th Dec.r /60 № 87 - 88.
24th July /61 - " 337 - 338

254-5

21-8-60

176-7

15-8-60

№ 1184 + 55

Recd 1861 Sept.br
Pro: of Govt for October
Rs 950

Pro: Bd of Revenue

Date 8th April
Recd 19th 1861
Rs 1806.

From the Coll.r of Coimbatore
of 18th Nov.r /61 Cs. 2714 in Ro.

Submitted
Boards Pro: issuing instructions
to the Collector of
Coimbatore for pro-
ceeding (absence)
civil from the Sub-
Court on the Civil
Sessions.

William Oder
№ 1984. 14th October

Recd

No 1984

The Government have n
yet learnt the result of the referen
which the Magistrate of Coimbatore
was instructed by G.O. 1473 24th July 186
to make to the Foujdaree Adalat th
the Sessions Judge of that District for a
reconsideration of the ruling contain
in their Proceedings of the 25th Augt

The Board are informed
that the Govt have no objection to a
reasonable number of respectable
Nights being allowed for the sale
of Toddy Beer, the manufacture and
sale of it being subject to proper
Police Regulations and precautio

Fort St Geo.e
14th October /61

14 Copies. Board of Revs: Pro: 15
1 " Magistrate of Coimbatore.