

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1274

Press
Mis.

134-135

Dated 10 - 6 - 1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th June 1862.

No. 131. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th May 1862,
No. 3,424 :—

Read the following letter from D. F. CARMICHAEL, Esq., Acting Collector of Vizagapatam,
to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George,
dated Vizagapatam, 17th May 1862, No. 405.

SIR,

1. The general prevalence of drunkenness amongst the Military Pensioners at this station has been frequently before me, and the General Officer and the Chaplain have more than once begged my attention to it.

2. It appears that about eight or nine months ago an order was received, declaring Pensioners ineligible to the long standing privilege of getting liquor from the Veteran Company's Canteen. The poor fellows applied in a body to Mr. Fane, who, very good naturedly, but, as I surmise, very illegally, undertook to set up a separate Grog shop on their account, so that each man might receive his two drams of rum a day.

3. Now, for a Distiller to sell rum otherwise than to a Government Officer empowered to purchase the same on account of the public service, or to Abkarry renters for retail sale, is a highly penal offence, particularly in the case where the liquor reaches any European Sailor or Soldier (*Vide* Sections II and III, Act XXXII of 1845); nevertheless, at the Collector's request, Mr. John Young, a partner in the house of Arbuthnot & Co. and Manager of that Firm's great Sugar Factory up here, promptly agreed to let a man named "David," a Native Christian, who keeps a Punch House in the Fort, have sixty gallons a month for the consumption, by retail, of these old Soldiers. The correspondence* I enclose.

4. The consequences are the general drunkenness and intemperance I have referred to, and which are more particularly described in the depositions (herewith submitted) of two respectable householders who live in the neighbourhood. As the shop was opened by the authority of one Collector, I apprehend it would be inexpedient for another to close it; I therefore submit the case for orders. Beyond sending for the man "David" and severely admonishing him, I do not see my way to any punishment under the Abkarry Laws. He is not the District renter, nor does he hold under him. And this brings me to say, that this separate arrangement between Mr. John Young, "David" and my predecessor is, further, resulting in a considerable loss of revenue.

5. I have another point to refer. There is no correspondence to be found, but the Sarish-tadár informs me that Mr. Fane told Mr. John Young that he was at liberty to sell rum to the numerous Europeans (chiefly Pensioners) employed in his Sugar Factory. This, too, I apprehend is irregular.

6. I admit that it is hard that Pensioned European Soldiers should have no respectable place where to get a dram of spirits, and that, in arranging with "David," Mr. Fane acted on his view of what was best. I believe however that the arrangement is unauthorized, and most certainly "David" is not strong enough for the post. The best remedy would be to restore to the Pensioners the privileges of the Canteen, which include the privilege of being looked after. If the Board could get the Military authorities to do this, it would be a very great boon. Drink in moderation the men must have, and they should be able to procure it, like the Effectives, in a decent, orderly, well regulated place. News rooms, Libraries, Chaplains and Missionaries might then have some influence on their conduct. Of their present squalor, wretchedness and misery, no words of mine could afford any adequate description.

1. Ordered that the above letter with its enclosures be submitted to Government, with the Board's strong recommendation, that if possible the former system of allowing the European Pensioners to obtain liquor from the Canteen of the European Veterans be re-established, and the disgraceful state of things described by Mr. Carmichael be thus remedied.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th June 1862.*

2. The existing arrangement is as illegal as it is objectionable, and although the illegality could be removed by arranging with the Abkarry renter to license the man David as his sub-renter, so that the sale of rum by Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. should be to the renter's representative, still it is evident that the liquor shopkeeper in question is incapable of maintaining order, and Mr. Carmichael should at once stop his sales which, as at present carried on, are unlicensed and illegal under Clause 9, Section VI and Section IX, Regulation I of 1820. It is not likely that the renter will be able to find any properly qualified person to whom to sub-rent a shop for the supply of liquor to European Pensioners, and in mercy to these old servants of the State the Board trust that it may be found possible to restore the former system.

3. The sale of rum by Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. to the workmen in their Factory is clearly illegal and penal, which Mr. Carmichael should at once notify to Mr. Young.

4. Under Act 32 of 1845, spirits manufactured in India by the European process can be sold only to the Officers of Government for the public service, or to the Abkarry renter for retail in his limits, and under Regulation I of 1820 the sale of country manufactured spirits in Districts that have been farmed out, can be carried on by the Farmer and his sub-renters only.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, Secretary.

No. 135.

ORDER THEREON, 10th June 1862, No. 1,274.

1. The Government approve of the Board's orders, and must express their great dissatisfaction with Mr. Fane for his illegal and ill-judged proceedings in this matter. They are unable to admit the goodness of his motives as any excuse for his conduct, seeing that he allowed the privilege, illegally conceded by him, to be so grossly abused.

2. The proposal to restore to the Pensioners the privilege of obtaining liquor from the Canteen will be disposed of in the Military Department. The Acting Collector will strictly enforce the Abkarry Laws in future.

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

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Fort St. George

10th June 1862

L.R.S.

Memo to The Board of Revenue

7th Military Department
with 2 Encl^{rs}
Dist^o 10

Rev = 1862 Nepalth
No. of Govt for June.
1532.

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

No. of the Mily. 8th
2/18 July for Case 2086.

Dated 27th

Decr. 27

Re. 28th.

C. 2. 2. 2.

N^o 3424.

May 1862.

Comm^d with the remarks
a letter from the Collector of
Tizagapatam & recommending
that if possible the former
system of allowing the
European pensioners to
obtain liquor from the
Canteen of the European
Veterans be re-established.

N^o 1274-10th June

W. H. Tharor

N^o 1274-135-

31 May 25th June