M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue—**DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1974 Press Mis.

19-20

Dated 3-11-=1918 63

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 19. Read the following letter from Colonel T. McGOUN, Controller of Military Finance, to Colonel H. MARSHALL, Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Fort Saint George, 16th October 1863, F:—

SIR,

Letter from the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated 23rd September 1863, No. 2,574, with an enclosure.

1. It is proposed in the documents which accompanied your docket 1st October 1863, that Rupees 405 should be expended in "constructing Stills in the Alcohol Distillery attached to the Commissary General's Office," and Government has requested full information and report on the subject.

2. The present would appear a favorable opportunity for taking into consideration the whole question of the retention of the Distillery in the hands of the Commissariat Department.

3. The Distillery of Alcohol is a Government Monopoly, and has formed part of the Establishment of the Commissariat for many years past, how long I am unable to discover; but it is obviously the remains of bye-gone days, and its continuance is altogther unsuited to the present times, and to the present constitution of the Department; but independent of this consideration, the manufactory is a source of unnecessary expense to the Government; while it is highly undesirable that so inflammable a material should be manufactured in the midst or in the vicinity of the Commissariat Stores, with the imminent risk of heavy loss from fire.

4. On the 28th August last, I called upon the Examiner Commissariat Accounts for a full financial report on the "Government distillation of Alcohol by the Commissariat."

No. 1,472, 7th October 1863, with six enclosures.

5. Dr. Mudge the Medical Examiner (who was acting for Major Gillilan while on privilege leave) has met the requisition in an exhaustive report, which I have the honor herewith to forward.

6. The following general results have been arrived at by him, viz:—

First.—That the cost of the Establishment for four years

1859-60.
1860-61.
1861-62.
1862-63.

was Rupees 5,976-9-0.

Second.—That the quantity of Alcohol manufactured during the same period was Gallons 8,577, at a value, exclusive of Establishment, of Rupees 30,113.

Third.—That the quantity supplied to Government Departments during the same period was Gallons 5,968-33, of the value of Rupees 27,107-13-8.

Fourth.—That the quantity supplied to private parties during the four years was Gallons 3,359-20, of the value of Rupees 11,231.

Fifth.—That the quantity in store on the 30th April 1863 was Gallons 132, at the value of Rupees 578-7-2.

7. The general result shows a positive loss to Government, as will be seen from the concluding sentence of the 2nd paragraph of Dr. Mudge's communication.

8. But it is alleged that, as there is a large quantity of Batavia Arrack and Bengal Rum, in store, which the European Troops will not use, it is more economical to convert the spirits into Alcohol than to allow them to remain in store unused, and so perhaps it might be if the quantity was small and the manufactory remunerative; but neither is the case: Dr. Mudge, in the 3rd paragraph of his letter, calculates the Batavia Arrack alone as being equal to seven years consumption; a fact which renders any further discussion on the subject unnecessary.

9. If the quality of the Batavia Arrack and the Bengal Rum, was originally good, it will have greatly improved by being kept so long, and although not approved of by the Troops in this Presidency, there is no reason to suppose that they would not meet with a ready sale, either in the local market or elsewhere, and realize remunerative prices; the longer they are kept the greater will be the loss from wastage and from storage.

10. I fully concur, therefore, in the suggestions of Dr. Mudge, as conveyed in the 3rd paragraph of his letter under notice.

11. It will be seen from the correspondence attached to Dr. Mudge's letter that, the wants of the Public Departments in this Presidency can be readily supplied from the drivate Distilleries in Calcutta, and to any extent and at cheaper rates than they can be obtained from the Government Stores: while it is inexpedient that Government should interpose directly or indirectly, in the manufactory or the supply of articles to private individuals for private consumption.

12. I would submit, therefore, for the consideration of Government, that the manufacture of Alcohol by the Commissariat Department be discontinued; that the necessary supplies for Public Departments be obtained from the private Distilleries in Calcutta, and that the stock of Batavia Arrack, and Bengal Rum in store, here, be immediately disposed of to the best advantage.

13. The discrepancy in the quantity of Batavia Arrack, as pointed out in Dr. Mudge's Memorandum, will be immediately enquired into; and if necesssary, reported on hereafter.

14. Under the above view of the general question, it is unnecessary to offer any remarks on the proposed construction of Stills, as I consider that, under any circumstances, the Distillery should not be allowed to remain where it is, and for the reasons already assigned.

Referred to the Revenue Department with Public Works Docket 25th September 1863.

(Signed) H. MARSHALL, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

Fort Saint George,
28th October 1863.

No. 20.

ORDER THEREON, 3rd November 1863, No. 1,974.

Revenue G. O. 25th June 1844, No. 607.
Do. 29th Nov. 1847, „ 1,294.
Do. 6th July 1848, „ 720.
Do. 8th Aug. „ „ 849.
Do. 25th Jan. 1849, „ 92.

Referred to the Board of Revenue who are requested, with reference to the papers marginally noted, to report whether there is any necessity now for distilling Alcohol for the public.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenu

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Re-Ration Revenue Dept

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Under date the 22nd Ultimo

Referred to the Revenue Department

Read the Letter from the Collector of Chingleput
dated 3rd Instant

Resolved that the Collector be informed that
the Board approve of the Measures adopted by him
for the Destruction of the Stills in the Illicit Distilleries
in the Chingleput District

(Signed) [illegible]
Secy to the Board of Revenue

Copy forwarded to the Revenue Department
for information and necessary Orders

By Order of the Board of Revenue
[illegible]
Secy

Read Letter from the Board of Revenue dated 22nd Ultimo
Proceedings thereon
Letter from the Collector of Chingleput dated 3rd Instant
Proceedings thereon

Resolved that the Destruction of the Stills in the Illicit Distilleries in the Chingleput District be approved

By Order of the Board of Revenue
[illegible]
Secy

Read

Revenue 1863 Dpstt.
Pro: of Govt for Nov.

No: 1974.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dy 3d November 1863.

Pro Judiciary Dy 11 Decr
163 C No 3117.

Pro: No 135 of Rec: 18th Nov 63
C No 2800 - In Pro. 2 Dec -
No: 2189.

Letter from the Commr.
Genl recommending the
abolition of the Alcohol
Distillery attached to this
Office referred to the Board
of Revenue for report.

No 19 & 20