M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 40	Press Mis.
74-25	
Dated 9 1 19 1863	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th January 1863.

No. 74. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department, dated 22nd December 1862, No. 4,380:—

Requesting to know from the Collector of Madras through the Revenue Department whether he requires the Arrack purchased by the Commissary General and at the price paid by that Officer. } (Vide Military Proceedings, 22nd December 1862, Nos. 467—470.)

No. 75. ORDER THEREON, 9th January 1863, No. 40.

Referred to the Collector of Madras through the Board of Revenue for early report.

(Signed.) C. G. MASTER,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter :—

From the Commissary General, Madras, 28th November 1862, *No.* 5254; *to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.*

With reference to Order of Government, No. 4016, of the 22nd November 1862, I have the honor to submit for the consideration of Government, the following explanation for the necessity for the purchase of Arrack.

2. Before making the purchase of this Arrack, I ascertained that there was available from this year's Budget at the Presidency, the sum of (60,000) sixty thousand Rupees, surplus under the head of Malt Liquor; at this time I was under the impression that this surplus could be beneficially for Government transferred to another head. I have since however been informed by the Controller of Military Finance, that I was in error, and that a surplus under one major head cannot be transferred to another.

3. The Government are perhaps not aware that up to the year 1857, this Department had been in the habit of purchasing Arrack direct from the Singalese, who were Distillers, as well as the sellers of their Arrack, and traded regularly to Madras; the same year the then Commissary General only purchased a small quantity of Arrack from these people, at the rate of 60 to 80 Rupees the Leaguer. The result of this was the traders had to return to Ceylon with many thousand gallons thrown on their hands, (the Abkarry Regulations prohibiting the sale of Arrack to any other party than Government) instead therefore of distilling Arrack as heretofore for the Department, they turned their attention to the manufacture of Oil from their trees.

4. The following year, on this Department requiring Arrack, these traders were not forthcoming, consequently European agency had to be employed, and the price rose from 60 or 80 Rupees to 220 or 30 per Leaguer, and has never since fallen under 132 Rupees per Leaguer.

5. On my return from my tour of inspection, I found a number of these Singalese traders had been waiting at Madras for some time with the [illegible] 205 Leaguers as formerly, for no Contract had been advertised this year.

6. From my former experience, I conceived it would have been detrimental to the interests of Government, to again drive these men from the market. Moreover, I felt certain their presence would exercise an influence on the future Contractor's rates. My anticipations have not been disappointed; I am glad to say the Contractor of last year has already offered to lower his rates to the same as these men, *viz.*, 120 Rupees per Leaguer, or making a saving on our authorised supply of next year, 12,000 Rupees.

7. Although I must confess I have exceeded the powers which the Government appear to have granted me in their Proceedings and Order of the 2nd September 1862, No. 3011, and in 4th and 5th paragraphs of the letter from the Controller of Military Finance, dated 17th April, yet I trust under these circumstances, the Government will be pleased to re-consider their decision, and sanction the Arrack being paid for at once, as these traders have already suffered much from their long detention.

With Report from the Controller of Military Finance, 1*st December* 1862, *A.*

ORDER, No. 4380, *22nd December* 1862.

The Governor in Council observes that, under the circumstances stated in the foregoing letter from the Commissary General, the purchase of the Arrack in question must be confirmed; but before sanctioning payment in the Military Department, the Collector of Madras will be requested, through the Revenue Department, to state whether he requires the supply and will take it at the price paid by the Commissary General.

(True Extract.)

S. Broadfoot Lt Col
Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department. *With 10 spare Copies*

Exd. T. Stubbs.

Rec: 29th Nov. 1861 No. 23-24

Rev. 1862 Oct. 4th
Rec. 7th Jan. 1863 No. 35 Leg.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt. in the Military Dept.

Dated 22d Decr.
Recd 23d " } 1862

No. 40.

Referred to the Collector of Madras through the Board of Revenue for early report.

J. A. S.

Jno. 4380

Gr. Bo. of Rev. dd 21st Janry 63
6 Cr. 200. in Gr.

Requesting to know from the Collector of Madras through the Revenue Board whether he requires the arrack purchased by the Commissary General and all the articles paid by that Officer.

First Ast. Secy
9th January 1863

11 Copies Forwarded Bd of Rev. with Bo. No. 380 Dated 9th

No. 74 & 75.

No. 40. 9th Janry

With an order