M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-34

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1261 Press ~~Mis.~~

291 292

Dated 09-7-1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 19*th July* 1864.

No. 291. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th July 1864.
Read the following letter from G. S. FORBES, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Rumbah, 21st June 1864, No. 124:—

SIR,

1. In reference to Government Order No. 979 of 8th instant, on Board's Proceedings, dated 14th ultimo, No. 92, expressing concurrence in the Board's view, and observing that it is not obligatory on the Collector to grant tracts of land containing Toddy palms on puttah, I beg to observe that the acquisition of puttah rights over such tracts is not a prospective contingency, but has long since taken place. I have already pointed out in a postcript to my letter of the 12th ultimo, No. 95, that such lands could not originally have been intended under the term private gardens.

2. Before the new Bill becomes law I would beg the attention of the Board to a further illustration of the objections raised in my letter to Sections 4 and 5 of the Draft. Supposing the competition for the farm to lie between Native capitalists and a European merchant owning a distillery, it is clear that the former party will be so far hampered by the proposed double system, as to destroy all freedom of competition. It is well known that Rum distilled on the European method will command the market, so that if the farm is knocked down to the Native competitor, the subsequent issue of a license to the owner of the distillery to sell Rum in a few of the largest towns of a District will compel the holder of the farm to work his contract at an enormous loss, and in effect no Native merchant would compete for the farm with such a contingency before him; neither would it be possible as the Board suppose, in inviting tenders to express "exactly what the lease or license (to be competed for) conveys." For if the lease falls to the owner of a distillery it follows of necessity that there will be no license taken out by others, whereas under the other contingency there most probably would be such a license issued.

3. In the sale which has just occurred the owner of the distillery was out-bid owing to a violent competition between two Native rivals, who are on terms of great mutual jealousy and acrimony. Should a license now be issued to Mr. Minchin (the late holder of the farm) to sell Rum in Ganjam, Berhampore and Aska, the renter would be ruined, and it may be added that had the existing law permitted such an arrangement the farm must have fallen to Mr. Minchin on his own terms.

4. As regards the power to suspend the right of private manufacture of Toddy or Spirits there will be, imprimis, difficulty in establishing a case for withdrawing the liberty in any particular locality, either the suspension must apply to individual cases of detection or else many must suffer for the delinquency of one or a few. In effect it will be found extremely difficult to work the monopoly effectually except under stringent rules of universal application.

5. I have only to add that as regards Cocoanut palms my suggestion is not to compel owners to allow Toddy to be drawn, but simply either to enter into terms with the renter or abstain from tapping the trees at all. I never contemplated debarring owners from using the fruits, leaves, or timber of the trees.

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1. The Board observe that the Abkarry Bill in question was passed by the Local Legislature on 25th June 1864. Mr. Forbes' letter will, however, be submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board further observe that it rests mainly with the Collector to remove his own objection in great measure by declining to license the retail sale of country Rum by any party other than the Abkarry renter when he sees good reason to believe that the renter would be unfairly dealt with by the issue of such license. It is of course not contemplated to allow any *unexcised* country spirits to come into the market except through the Abkarry farmer. So that the position of country Rum will not be so superior as the Collector seems to think.

3. The Board admit the difficulty of detecting or preventing the abuse of the privilege of free domestic consumption, but do not see that it need be greater in Ganjam than elsewhere, where the privilege has not hitherto been denied, and yet the revenue has steadily improved.

No. 292. ORDER THEREON, 19th July 1864, No. 1,261.

Separate Revenue, No. 47.
Abkarry.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Legislative Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Rec'd 1804 Duplicate
Pro: of Govt for July.
No 1789

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Dated 9th
Dep. 9
Rec'd 11 July 1804.

No 10

Submitting with remarks
letter from the Collector of
Ganjam on the subject of
granting tracts of land con-
taining Coldy Salaries on
Pattah.

No. 1261

RECORDED.

To Sec. Dept 12th July

Pro. 8 Aug. Do No 92-93

No. 291-292

July 1804