M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-6-34.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 368 Press ~~Mis.~~

10-11

Dated 6 3 - 19 1864

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 1st March 1864.

No. 10. Read the following Memorandum from the Adjutant General, dated Fort Saint George, 18th February 1864, No. 77.

Read the following letter from Major General W. A. McCLEVERTY, Commanding Centre Division, to the Adjutant General, dated Fort Saint George, 9th February 1864, No. 23. :—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to request you will submit to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief the accompanying detailed correspondence referred to in letter No. 19, dated January 27th 1864, addressed to my Brigade Major by the Commandant of Poonamallee.

2. On my late inspection of the Depôt, I endeavoured to trace the causes of drunkenness at Poonamallee prevalent amongst convalescents and invalids, and even amongst the young Soldiers arrived from England. There was no want of vigilance on the part of the Commandant (generally the only Officer there); the Canteen was properly conducted and closed at the hours enjoined in General Orders, and recourse has been had to frequent Courts Martial, still there is the offence to a serious extent. Closing the Canteen during certain hours at Poonamallee is only a prohibition to Soldiers obtaining wholesome liquors near their quarters, and inducing them to seek the abominations of drugged or adulterated Arrack from the numerous shops in the Cantonment or its close vicinity during those hours.

3. The Contractor in the Chingleput District has no less than two Arrack shops in the Military Cantonment, and two immediately outside; he may urge that he pays a large sum to Government for the privilege of having so many in a narrow circuit, but it is pretty clear that a demand of 29,000 Rupees as compensation for the removal of No. 2 in the Plan to another locality could only arise from the profits made by the sale of objectionable liquor to the Troops, and taking advantage of a vice which Government is so anxious to check. The Madras District Contractor found his profits so materially interfered with by the removal of his rival to a more convenient locality near the junction of the high roads from Madras and the Mount that he obtained permission to remove his nearer, and selected a spot immediately outside the Military Cantonment, and as near as possible to the boundary of the Chingleput District. The latter nuisance will however be removed shortly, as communicated in the letter from the Deputy Magistrate, Madras District, No. 39, dated 19th December 1863.

4. Still the other nuisance remains; the present Acting Collector has no power to abate what has really a very bad moral influence on the Soldier and is injurious to the service. Government may, however, find means to correct it or prevent its recurrence, and on these grounds I submit it for the consideration of His Excellency.

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1. The Commander-in-Chief has the honor to forward for submission to Government the within letter from the Officer Commanding Centre Division, transmitting correspondence relative to the undue proximity of certain Arrack shops (established by the Government Contractor) to the Cantonment of Poonamallee, in addition to those within the Military limits of that Station.

2. His Excellency observes that the provisions of Regulation VII of 1832* were declared applicable to Poonamallee in G. O. G. 21st August 1832, No. 191, and that the number of Arrack shops in a Cantonment and within four Miles of its Main Guard is under the control of the Officer Commanding, *vide* paragraph 37 G. O. G. 30th October 1819.

* For Military Bazaar Stations.

3. Sir Hope Grant is also aware that under G. O. C. C. 2nd April 1831, Arrack shops once established are to be considered immovable while the contract exists except in cases of repeated irregularities committed in them. But it is evident that in this instance the shops objected to, which are well within the four Miles limit, have been established in their present places without any reference whatever to the local Military authority, and His Excellency therefore trusts, that there may be no insuperable legal objection to the removal of No. 2 Shop shown in the Plan which is one of the enclosures.

4. The Commander-in-Chief is of opinion that both on account of the Troops at Poonamallee, many of them very young soldiers, as also for the sake of the old European pensioned Soldiers, the number of Arrack shops in and about the Station, should be reduced to the lowest possible number; and His Excellency would further suggest that the Civil authorities generally should invariably communicate with the Military whenever an Abkarry Contract, which embraces a Military Station within its conditions, is under disposal, so that every possible precaution may be taken to prevent the European Soldiers from procuring the highly injurious spirits distilled in this country.

By Order,
(Signed) J. M. PRIMROSE, Colonel,
Adjutant General.

Referred to the Revenue Department.

Fort Saint George,
29th February 1864.

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

To the Revenue Department with two enclosures (to be returned).

No. 11.

ORDER THEREON, 1st March 1864, No. 368.

Referred to the Board of Revenue for early and full report.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Referred to the
Revenue Depart-
ment.

H Marshall
Secy to .....

Fort St. George
29th February 1864

To
The Revenue Departt.
With 2 Enclos. (To be returned)
No. 368 29th

Referred to the
Bd. of Revu. for
early and full
report.

[illegible]

1st March 1864
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Revenue 1864

Mily. Dept.
Pro. of Govt. [illegible] 1864

No 846.

Memo: Adjt. General

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29th

Officer Commanding
Centre Division

Encs. 2.

Bd. Pro. 16 June 64 [illegible] No. 1563
No. 368 - 1st March 1864

~~Further Read Govt. Mily. Dep: dated 17 March 1864 No. 716~~

[illegible] for [illegible] correspondence [illegible] to the [illegible] Major by the Command [illegible] relative to the [illegible] & [illegible] into Cantonments of [illegible]

Received 12 February
With an order