M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-94.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 411 Press ~~Mis.~~

95-96

Dated 9-3-~~19~~1864

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th March 1864.

No. 95. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th February 1864, No. 1,243 :—

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 19th February 1864, No. 302, Revenue Department.

ABSTRACT.—Referring to the Board for report a letter from Mr. Corbett, Abkarry Contractor of North Arcot, offering to supply Spirits of Wine of any strength and quantity for all Government purposes, Hospitals, Government Medical Stores, &c.

1. As the Law for this Presidency at present stands, Spirits manufactured at licensed Distilleries on the European method and not rendered unfit for human consumption, can only be sold in the country to Abkarry Renters or to Government.

2. Mr. Corbett proposes that the sale of country-made Alcohol (Spirits of Wine) shall be licensed, on payment of the duty on imported Spirits (viz., Rupees 3 per gallon rateably increased as the strength exceeds London proof), the Spirits being brought into Madras under passes from the Collectors of Districts, and bonded in the Government Warehouse, and the duty being paid once a month.

3. The Board observe that the cases of Bombay and Calcutta to which Mr. Corbett alludes are not parallel with that of Madras, as in both those Presidencies the Excise system prevails, and the Board are not certain that means exist for bonding Spirits at Madras in Government Warehouses, the separate Government Bonding Warehouse having been abolished; but on this point reference will be made to the Acting Collector of Sea Customs.

4. But otherwise, apart from the question of the requirements of the law, the Board see no objection to the proposal, which would have the effect of placing country distilled Alcohol as regards duty on the same footing as imported Spirits of Wine, leaving to the local distiller the natural advantage derivable from circumstances of place, &c.

5. The Government are aware that the Draft Abkarry Bill now before them provides means for the levy of an Excise duty on Spirits at pleasure.

6. Mr. Corbett at Palmanair, and Messrs. Binny & Co. at Aska, as the Abkarry Renters of the North Arcot and Ganjam Districts respectively, are able to bring the manufacture of their Distilleries into the market within the limit of their farms, but otherwise as the Law now stands, country Spirits can only be exported over sea, or sold to Government or to Abkarry Renters.

7. In Madras Town however there is no Abkarry Renter; and as the consumption of Spirits of Wine is limited, and the duty will be heavy, and as the number of licensed Distilleries on the European method is very small, the Board are disposed to think that locally manufactured Spirits of Wine might be brought into Madras under permit and special license and passed inwards for consumption on payment of an Excise duty equal to the Import duty on Spirits, without danger to the Abkarry revenue, or other objection.

8. The opinion of the Acting Collector of Madras will be requested on the subject.

No. 96. ORDER THEREON, 9th March 1864, No. 411.

The Government will await the receipt of the report called for by the Board in paragraph 8 of their Proceedings.

(True Extracts.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 1,243.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 26th February 1864.

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8. The opinion of the Acting Collector of Madras will be requested on the subject.

(A true Extract.)

Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to J. H. Blair, Esq., Acting Collector of Sea Customs,
" to G. Banbury, Esq., Acting Collector of Madras, } With spare copy of Order of Government.

Exd. J. Wright.

Pro 19th July 64 A 280-29

Revenue 1864. Department.
Rec. of Govt for March

No. 565.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 26th February 1864.
Read 2 March
Ans 3d.—

No. 1242.

Bro. Bd of Rev. 4th May
164 A 920

Submitting report on a letter from Mr. Corbett, Abkarry Contractor, of North Arcot offering to supply Spirits of Wine for all Government purposes, Hospitals and Government Medical Stores, &c.

Ad 4th Gr Branch
With an order.

No 595 to 596.

Ck Abkarry Ds Rs

Pr. 4th
The Govt will await the receipt of the report called for by the Board in para 8 of their proceedings

From St. George
9th March 1864.

16 Copies to the Bd of Rev Dept Abkarry Branch