

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th March 1871.*

No. 487. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd August 1870, No. 5,163 :—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Tinnevely, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 6th July 1870, No. 303.

I HAVE the honour to reply to Proceedings of Government, dated the 19th November 1869, No. 2,992, calling

1 Letter from Acting Head Assistant Collector, No. 69, dated 25th February 1869.	for a further report on the case of
1 Board's Procs., No. 2,006, dated 23rd March 1869.	Opium smuggling from the Tinne-
1 Govt. " " 823, " 24th " "	vely Coast, which formed the
1 Board's " " 2,117, " 31st " "	subject of correspondence as per
1 " " " 3,450, " 19th May " "	margin.
1 Govt. " " 1,586, " 4th June " "	
1 Board's " " 4,179, " 10th " "	1st.—The Government desire to
1 Govt. " " 2,074, " 17th July " "	be informed how I obtained informa-
1 Board's " " 5,486, " 27th " "	tion that Opium was being smuggled
1 Govt. " " 2,992, " 19th Nov. " "	from the coast. I beg to forward

* Dated 18th September 1868.

Acting Head Assistant at Tuticorin, on receipt of which the capture of Opium shipped at Manapad was made at Galle. It was on the strength of this report that "I stated that Opium was clandestinely shipped at night on country vessels."

2nd.—As to how smugglers are enabled to evade the Police, I herewith

† Dated 12th March 1870, No. 115.

forward copy of a letter† from the Superintendent of Police on the subject.

2. The Superintendent is of opinion, from strict inquiries made, that there are no smugglers. I think this is likely enough *now*, as the information received from Ceylon, and the immediate seizure of the smuggled goods and punishment of the Tindal of the vessel, would have the effect of putting a stop to any further attempts for the time at any rate. But as the Superintendent points out, it is quite impossible without a special agency, such as (the Coast Guard in England) to prevent a vessel clearing from Tuticorin and anchoring off an unfrequented portion of the coast and shipping Opium.

3. In order to check any connivance on the part of the Sea Customs Peons, these men have lately been changed. But the Board must be aware how exceedingly difficult it is (except on previous information as in the case of letter A. enclosed) to detect the smuggling of Opium; it is so valuable and so easily packed away among other merchandize that detection is next to impossible. The case alluded to in enclosure A. was the only case that has been brought to light within the last five years, and I am disposed to agree with the Head Assistant and the Superintendent of Police that smuggling of such a large quantity of Opium from the coast is quite exceptional, and that when it is smuggled, it is in very small quantities secreted in the bundles and baskets of coolies going across in Native craft to Ceylon.

4. From inquiries made from merchants and others, I cannot find that Opium is brought into the district from Travancore.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th March 1871.*

5. All with whom I have conversed, and I have made it my business to make extensive inquiries, assert that Opium comes from Madras, and is manufactured in Mysore.

6. I am sorry that it has not been possible to trace the persons who shipped the Opium from Manapad. I can assure the Board that the most vigilant watch is now kept at the various ports, and I have ordered the bundles and baskets of coolies to be searched occasionally.

7. The capture of so large a quantity, and the severe and prompt punishment which followed, has, I am sure, had the best effect in checking further attempts.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

A.

COLOMBO, 18th September 1868.

SIR,—With due respect, I beg leave to bring to your kind notice that the two persons named Venayagar Vaycramuttu and his brothers are in the habit of bringing Opium from India and make their trips every month; last trip they came from Tuticorin port in the vessel Gitana Gabriel Gonsola Tinceal; about 300 lbs. of Opium sold and returned back; the truth of this may be obtained from this port in the Manifest entered in the Custom of Colombo.

I remain, etc.,

(Signed) INNASIMUTTU.

N.B.—Opium has been loaded in the above vessel at Manapad.

B.

From the Acting Head Assistant Collector, to the Acting Collector of Tinnevely, dated Tuticorin, 25th February 1870, No. 69.

In reply to your docket No. 2,020, dated 11th December 1869 (enclosures returned), I have the honour to report that I have quite failed to elicit any further information regarding the alleged smuggling of Opium, and am inclined to think that the supposition that it is carried on to any extent is a myth, though possibly small quantities may occasionally be exported.

2. I have had the most careful inquiries instituted by the Sub-Magistrates of the maritime divisions in the small coast villages where such smuggling might be effected. Two of them report that they can learn nothing, and the Tuticorin Sub-Magistrate merely states that he has heard that Opium does occasionally find its way in small quantities from Travancore to Tuticorin, whence it is shipped to Ceylon. I have also spoken with two of the Sea Custom Superintendents and some others. If this smuggling takes place at all, it is the general opinion that it is done in Tuticorin, and I coincide in this view, and if this is effected, it can hardly be without the connivance of the Peons of the Customs-house. The Tuticorin Sub-Magistrate suggests that they should occasionally be transferred to the taluq. as was originally the practice; but considering that the truth of the alleged practice rests entirely upon one case, that which originated this inquiry, I do not see the necessity of taking any special measures of precautions, except issuing orders to the officers of the police to keep vigilant watch. Perhaps, the offer of a reward for detection would be of service, as to the probability of Opium being brought to Tuticorin from Travancore, your experience will enable you to express a decided opinion.

From the Superintendent of Police, Tinnevely District, to the Acting Collector of Tinnevely, dated 12th March 1870, No. 115.

In acknowledging receipt of your letter, No. 126 (enclosures herewith returned), calling on me to report how the smugglers of Opium are "enabled to evade the Police," I must own to two difficulties in replying.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th March 1871.*

2. In the first place, from a perusal of the correspondence enclosed in your letter, as also from inquiries set on foot by the Police Inspectors of the sea-board divisions, I gather that there are no smugglers.

3. Secondly, if smugglers do carry on an illicit trade in Opium, the Police on the sea-board are not strong enough to check it.

4. With regard to the first difficulty, each Inspector has made careful inquiries at all the places mentioned in your letter, No. 376, to the Board, and at various other places along the coast, and reports that there is nothing to lead to the supposition that illicit trade in Opium is carried on.

5. In one place alone, Coilpatam, it was rumoured that a Mussalman dealt in Opium, but this rumour when sifted has no foundation.

The man in question is watched.

6. Further, with regard to the difficulty, the Police would have in dealing with this illicit trade if it existed, I have to remind you that at only two of the sea-ports of this coast is a Police station located. In these two places, Tuticorin and Coolasegarapatam, each Police Officer has his work cut out for him.

7. The remaining sea-ports are visited each day, or once in two days, by a Beat Constable from the nearest station, and whose daily visit is not prolonged for more than an hour.

8. In either case, the Police station-house officers or Inspectors are ready to act at once on information conveyed to them by the Sea Custom authorities. But I cannot learn that the officers, who have the best opportunities of acquiring information on these subjects, have ever communicated any information to the Police, or requested their assistance in any way. I lay particular stress on this, because I conceive that a small body of Police, with many and multifarious duties to perform, can best act as a preventive force under the orders, or at least in close co-operation with the department more especially connected with the Customs.

9. The Acting Sea Custom Superintendent of Coilpatam, with whom I have just been conversing, tells me that his duties are confined to the port alone, and that he knows nothing of vessels anchoring on the coast between the ports. Probably, if Opium is smuggled at all, those concerned will ship it on the lonely and unfrequented ports of the coast between the sea-ports, and it seems worthy of your notice that no steps are, or have been, taken to provide against this contingency.

10. For instance, between Coilpatam and Tuticorin ports is a coast of twenty-one or more miles; what is to prevent a vessel that has got its clearance from Tuticorin stopping by preconcerted arrangement at any part of this coast and shipping Opium?

11. I notice that the Head Assistant Collector suggests that the Police be ordered to keep a vigilant watch. To keep a vigilant watch on a coast that stretches for 150 miles will require a large number of men.

12. In conclusion, I beg to suggest that it is advisable to intimate to the Sea Custom Superintendents that it is their duty to require the assistance of the Police, and to put them in possession of all information on the subject.

It shall be my care to see that such requisition is readily complied with, and all information promptly acted on.

SUBMITTED to Government, with reference to paragraph 2 of their Order, dated 19th November 1869, No. 2,992, Revenue Department.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th March 1871.*

488. ORDER THEREON, 30th March 1871, No. 594.

Separate Revenue, No. 21.

Customs.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

the Board of Revenue.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT SAINT GEORGE,
30th March 1871.

No. 489.

No. 595.

To

SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Separate Revenue, No. 22.

Customs.

G. O., 19th November 1869, No. 2,992.
Do. 30th March 1871, No. 594.

SIR,—Referring to Mr. Under-Secretary Batten's letter, dated 29th June 1869, No. 1,554, I am directed to forward the marginally noted papers relating to the case of Opium smuggling from the Tinnevely Coast.

2. The Acting Collector was of opinion that the seizure of the Opium and the punishment of the offender had to a great extent checked the practice.

3. This Government do not share the Acting Collector's opinion that Opium is largely introduced into the Presidency from Mysore. On reference to the Administration Report of that province for 1868-69, they observe that the poppy is only cultivated in one division, and "to a very small extent."

4. A further communication on the general subject will reach you.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

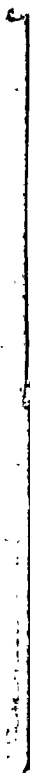
(Signed)

W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

1817



36

14. Letter No. 23 of Rev. Secy to Mr. Secy

No 2439
Revenue 1870. Separate
Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 3RD AUGUST 1870, No. 5,163.

Received 9th August 1870 Encl.
15

AUGUST.
No. 5,163.

Opium smuggling—from Tinnevely Coast,—
Collector's further report relative to, submitted
to Government.

W-5914
D. M. T. L. 20000

30th March 1871

No 187-188
8.6.18
C. 20000

4. Copy sent to Mr. Secy

Revenue Department.
30th March 1871
W-595

To
The Secretary to the Govt of India
Financial Department

Sir,

Referring to Mr. Under
Secretary, Batten's letter dated
29th June 1869, No 1554, I am
directed to forward the marginally
noted papers relating to the
case of Opium Smuggling
from the Tinnevely Coast.

2. The Ag Collector
was of opinion that the
seizure of the Opium &
the punishment of the
offender had to a great
extent checked the practice.

3. This Government do
not

G. O. 19th November 1869 No 2992.
Do August 1870 No 5914

46

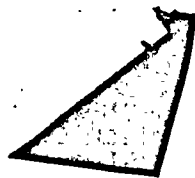
46

not share the Ag Collectors
opinion that Opium is largely
introduced into the Presidency
from Mysore. On reference
to the Administration report
of that Province for 1868-69,
they observe that the poppy
is only cultivated in one division
and to a very small extent.

A further communication

Subject

reach you shortly.

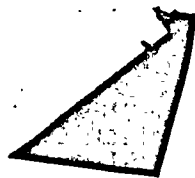


not share the Ag Collectors
opinion that Opium is largely
introduced into the Presidency
from Mysore. On reference
to the Administration report
of that Province for 1868-69,
they observe that the poppy
is only cultivated in one division
and to a very small extent.

A further communication

Subject

reach you shortly.



Wm. J. Smith
Opium Smuggling

56
Lent

Deafened
Lent