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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
5th July 1873.*

No. 47. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th June 1873, No. 958 :—

Read the following letter from W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 29th April 1873, No. 118 :—

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 407, of 19th March 1873, I have the honour to forward a letter (copy) from the Sub-Collector in which he says that the object of his former letter was to direct attention to the manner in which the toddy-drawers were treated by the abkari contractor.

2. For my own part I do not think that there is any particular necessity to take any steps to ameliorate the position of these toddy-drawers. We cannot fix the rates at which they are to be paid, and I know of nothing that would make me think that the abkari contractor would raise the pay of these men if he was prevented bidding beyond a certain amount.

3. I may remark that, though I agree with the Board in thinking there is no hardship in treating all toddy but that mixed with chunam as fermented, I do not think that a Magistrate would treat toddy as fermented because it was going to ferment.

ENCLOSURE No. 1

From A. J. STUART, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, dated Rajahmundry, 7th April 1873, No. 112.

In reply to your Memorandum on Board's Proceedings, No. 407, dated 19th March 1873, I have only to observe that neither your letter nor the Board's order appear to have anything

Toddy-drawers' Arzi is returned herewith. to do with the subject of my letter, which was to draw attention to the manner in which the toddy-drawer class is placed by Government at the mercy of the abkari renter, who appears to have power to extort almost what he pleases from them.

2. The only other remark I have to make is that in paragraph 5 of my letter there is a misprint: instead of "begs of the Government" read "buys of the Government."

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. S. FOSTER,
Acting Collector.

THE Board's attention has been called of late to the manner in which the consumption of toddy is repressed in order that the consumption of arrack may be increased.

2. There can be no doubt whatever but that this is so, and that it is a necessary result of the system under which the same renter monopolized the sale of arrack and toddy. For every gallon of arrack he gets a large and definite profit; for the sale of indefinite quantities of toddy he is paid indefinite sums, often levied as a poll-tax on toddy-sellers, which are very small compared with the profit on arrack.

3. Toddy is a wholesomer drink than arrack, and so plentiful that it ought to be within the means of the poorest classes. It seems, therefore, to the Board

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to behave the Government, which possesses an entire control over the abkari, to see that toddy is not excluded from the market.

4. Another point for consideration is the fact reported in more than one district, and notably in Godavery, that the arrack renters oppress the toddy-drawers and extort exorbitant amounts from them.

5. It is necessary, the Board believe, to separate the toddy and the arrack rents entirely, and they resolve to circulate the following rules to all Collectors with the request that they will report—*first*, whether the rules will work, and, *second*, whether the abkari revenue is likely to be affected by the separation, and, if so, to what extent.

Rules for renting out the monopoly of Toddy.

1. The toddy farms shall be sold taluq by taluq and for one year only.
2. No arrack renter can hold or have any interest in a toddy farm. The licenses both for arrack and toddy will contain a provision to the effect that if this rule is infringed in letter or in spirit the licenses will be forfeited.

No. 48.

ORDER THEREON, 5th July 1873, No. 695.

Separate Revenue, No. 1.
Abkari.

THE Governor in Council resolves to request the Board to submit for his orders the Collectors' replies to paragraph 5 of their Proceedings.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

The M^{rs} in virtue
of their office are
entitled to do what
they have done - viz
to state their views
I see the opinions
of Col^{rs} thereon -
They are not likely
to make any such
change in a hurry.
We must wait till
the present leases
expire - and then

The Govt observe that
the matter referred to
in the foregoing I understand
has been pointedly brought
to notice in para 6 of
Mr. Dalrymple's report on
the Salem District
recorded in G.O. dated
26 Jan^y 1873 No 81, and
They desire that no
general orders be
issued on the subject.

until the general
report called for in
that order has been
placed before you.

I hope to do this
within a month or two
of Mr. Carmichael's return
in August.

As observed by the
Board in their Prof.
recorded in the same
order no effectual re-
medy can be applied for
the defects of
the McKim system
which has been in force
since the beginning of
the beginning of this
century, until the
expiration of the
present contracts in
June, 1875.

before 75. I would I
think intimate to the
Board - that no action
is to be taken till
we have before us the
full information furnished
by Mr. Delaney.

Meaning that the Board
is not likely to take any
action without sanction
of you. I do not see
why we should do more

The reply received
to the queries asked
in para 5 of the Bd's
Proc^s should be submitted
for the order of foot
when received, and
the result of the instructions
to the Col^l of Salem
which were issued in
para 4 & 5 of their

Proceedings dated 16 Jan/23 to 56,

and the tenor of the
replies received to the
circular, referred to in
para 6 of the same
Prop., should be reported

MD.

then record their
proceedings. ~~Further~~
If anything, I wish only
to report the replies to

the queries in para 5
must be submitted to
Govt. when received

R

No. 695. 4F
Read Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 7th June 1873 to 958

The for. in Council
resolves to request the
Board to submit
In his order the
Collector's replies to
para 5 of their
Proceedings.

MD.

5 July '73

14 To the Ady Sec 11 July/73.

35/3

Govt. of Madras.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

To

Dated July 5th.

Recd.

W. B. P. 23. September 1873.

And.

G. O., 5th July 1873, No. 695.

JULY.

Nos. 47-48.

Separation of Toddy and Arrack Rents.—
Requesting to submit, for the orders of Government,
the replies of the Collectors to the Board's queries
regarding the —



87-47

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[Faint handwritten notes and signatures at the top of the page, including "The Board of Revenue" and "G. O."]