1407/6

M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

(1) Number of Pages 12

(2) Date of repair 22. 1. 1968.

(3) Initials of the Referencer 24.4.68

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1407 Press
~~B.P. No.~~ ~~Mis.~~

Dated 24. 9. 1875 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 214. Read the following letter from J. A. BOURDILLON, Esq., Officiating Under-Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, (Separate Revenue—Abkari,) to A. MACGREGOR, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated Simla, 31st August 1875, No. 3,088 :—

I AM directed by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council to invite the attention of the Government of Madras to the Indian Tariff Act, No. XVI. of 1875, Section 11.

2. By this Act the duty on spirit imported by sea into British India has been fixed at Rs. 4 the imperial gallon, to be increased in proportion as the strength of the spirit exceeds London proof.

3. In the preamble of Section 11, the principle is asserted that the duty of excise on spirit distilled in British India should bear a due proportion to the Customs duty on spirit imported into British India; and, by the section itself, power is given to the Government to fix the duty of excise on spirit distilled in India at any rate not exceeding the rate fixed by the Act for imported spirit.

4. The Governor-General in Council is aware that, in many parts of India, duty is not levied upon spirit according to its strength, the revenue being raised by a system of contracts with farmers; and that, even when the distillation of spirit is subject to a fixed duty of excise, the revenue is often supplemented by a lease of the right of sale in particular shops or tracts, or by the imposition of a license on the same.

5. On the other hand, when a duty of excise is levied upon spirit distilled in India according to strength, the system varies according to the character of the spirit and the circumstances of the locality. In some large towns and at some large distilleries the duty is graduated exactly according to the alcoholic strength of the spirit. At other places, an estimate is made of the ordinary strength of the spirit produced by one or more distillations, and the duty is roughly assessed accordingly. Elsewhere, again, the duty is fixed upon the materials used for distillation.

6. The system of a minimum duty to be increased, if the strength of the spirit exceeds London proof, which is found suitable for spirit imported by sea, is believed not to be in force anywhere in regard to spirit distilled in India. Such a duty is, obviously, very much heavier than a duty at the same rate (but without any minimum) graduated according to the alcoholic strength of the spirit.

7. I am directed to request that the Government of Madras will take the subject of the excise duty on spirits into their early consideration, and (wherever local circumstances and the mode of assessing the excise duty will admit) report what measures they would recommend for bringing that duty up to a rate as nearly as possible equivalent to that now fixed for the customs duty on imported spirit.

8. I am to add that, if the present duty on spirit has been in any measure fixed in relation to the duty on drugs or fermented liquors, it will be right to consider whether any addition to the spirit duty should not involve a proportionate addition to the duty on drugs and fermented liquors.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
24th September 1875.

No. 215. ORDER THEREON, 24th September 1875, No. 1,407.

Separate Revenue, No. 14.
Abkari.

REFERRED to the Board of Revenue for early consideration and report.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. MACGREGOR,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of [1875] Madras.

REVENUE.

The BOARD of REVENUE.

Dated September 24th.

Read.

G. O., 24th September 1875, No. 1,407.

SEPTEMBER

Nos. 214-215.

Some duty on Spirits.—Referring to the Board of Revenue for early consideration and report letter from the Government of India on the subject of—

Original.

1407/5

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1407/3

No. 3531.

From Govt. of India

Dated 31st August 1875.

FOR ORDERS.

Must be referred to the Board of Revenue for comment and to [illegible] it to furnish their report.

[illegible]

JM

22/9

...of

...as.

...1875.

...vernor

...dras

...ia has

...s the

...uty of

...o the

...itself,

...led in

...rit.

... India,

...raised

...on of

...ented

...sition

...tilled

...aracter of

...e spirit, and the circumstances of the locality. In some large towns, and at ...me large distilleries, the duty is graduated exactly according to the alcoholic ...rength of the spirit. At other places, an estimate is made of the ordinary ...rength of the spirit produced by one or more distillations, and the duty is ...ughly assessed accordingly. Elsewhere, again, the duty is fixed upon the ...aterials used for distillation.

6. The system of a minimum duty to be increased if the strength of the ...irit exceeds London proof, which is found suitable for spirit imported by sea, ... believed not to be in force anywhere, in regard to spirit distilled in India. ...ch a duty is, obviously, very much heavier than a duty at the same rate ...ut without any minimum) graduated according to the alcoholic strength of ...e spirit.