

- (1) Number of Pages.....2
(2) Date of repair.....28-10-68
(3) Initials of the Referencer.....

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

2660

Press
Mis.

Dated

21-12-1895 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 3,258.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 30th November 1875.

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 17th November 1875, No. 56, Legislative Department:—

ABSTRACT.—*Indian Opium Bill*.—The translation of this Bill with Statement of Objects and Reasons ordered to be published in the *Fort Saint George Gazette*, and the Board of Revenue requested to submit their opinions on the Bill.

THE Bill of the Government of India provides fully for restricting the trade and transport of opium, and, until rules are framed under it, the Act will be absolutely repressive. It, however, says nothing as to other intoxicating drugs and preparations, of which all descriptions were affected by the Madras Bill.

2. A local Act for the regulation of traffic in such drugs will therefore still be necessary, unless the Government of India can be induced to enlarge the scope of their Bill, and to give a general power to local Governments to frame rules for this purpose similar to that proposed to be given as regards opium. The Board think that they should be requested to do this, but are not aware how far it would affect laws on the subject already in force in other provinces.

3. Nearly all the matters provided for in the Madras Bill would properly form the subject of rules to be framed under the Government of India Act. Such are those connected with licenses (Sections 1, 3—11, 15); with cultivation and exceptions from the operation of the Act (Sections 18—20); with contravention of licenses and adulteration (Sections 12—16, 21); with the disposal of confiscated goods, fines and penalties, and rewards; with appeals and farming the duties levied (Sections 37, 40—50). But the Board are of opinion that the provisions of the Madras Bill, which give special powers to officers of different classes in view to the detection and prosecution of offenders under the Act (Sections 22—31), and impose penalties on officers guilty of abuse of power (Sections 32—36), ought to find place in the Act itself. They are very necessary provisions, but relate to matters which should not be left to the discretion of the executive Government. No such regulations could be issued under the powers conferred by the Government of India Bill in its present shape, and they should either be embodied in the Act or express powers taken to issue them, or similar rules.

(A true Extract.)

H. H. H.

Acting Secretary.

To the Chief Secretary to Government, Legislative Department.
Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

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D. 23 Nov. 195 Nov. 24 57

No 4765

Revenue 1875. Dec 17

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 30TH NOVEMBER, 1875, No. 3,258

Copy to Dec 17

Encl.

Received.

11 Dec 75

NOVEMBER.

No. 3,258.

The Indian Opium Bill.—Submitting to
Government, Board's views with reference to
No 2460

subject
21 Dec 75

21 Dec 75