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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	308.	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	15. 6. 1962	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th June 1875.*

No. 103. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd June 1875, No. 1,489:—

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 13th May 1875, No. 722, Revenue Department:—

ABSTRACT.—*Horne and Thornthwaite's Glass Hydrometers.*—Referring to Revenue Board for remarks letter from the Government of India calling for further report with respect to the Indent for —.

With reference to the suggestion that a trial should be made of Gay-Lussac's alcoholometers, the Board observe that Dr. Macnamara's memorandum has already been before them, and they reported that the instruments would, from the system of graduation, be quite unsuitable for use by the gaugers in the Mofussil.

Fide papers recorded in G. O., 14th Feb. 1873, No. 181.

2. As stated in their Proceedings, 4th February 1875, No. 264, the Board have since obtained a few of these instruments, and are confirmed in their opinion. The price alone would be sufficient to exclude them from consideration for the present purpose.

3. As the Board have already explained, the Horne and Thornthwaite's hydrometers are required, not for testing liquor for the purpose of excise for which an instrument of great delicacy is required, but for checking the strength of liquor sold in the shops, so as to guard against dilution and to secure that the requirements of the law and of the licences as to minimum price may be substantially complied with. What is wanted is an instrument which, besides being so cheap that the shopkeepers may fairly be required to pay the price for it, shall be capable of being used without tubes and by un instructed persons, and shall indicate the strength sufficiently clearly to enable a judgment to be formed as to the good faith of the shopkeeper, and the propriety of enforcing the penalties provided for malpractices.

4. The Board also explained that the cost will be recovered; and in these circumstances the Government of India need not hesitate to sanction the indent. The supply is necessary in order that a very important part of the recent improvements of system may be carried out.

5. The Board regard the suggestion to introduce a system of taxing the materials for distillation as quite impracticable, besides being a decided retrogression from the present excise system; and they feel some surprise at being called upon to discuss it. They much doubt whether a given quantity of Mohwa flowers will invariably yield the same quantity of absolute alcohol; and are certain that the system could not be applied to the distillation of jaggery and acacia bark, the materials most ordinarily in use. The quantity of alcohol obtained from a given quantity of these materials varies not only with the saccharine quality of the jaggery, but with weather and temperature, and with the skill of the distiller in preparing his wort and regulating the fermentation. The Board much prefer a direct test by hydrometer of the quantity of alcohol actually contained in the liquor produced; and entertain no fear of failure such as seems to have been experienced in Bengal and the Central Provinces. The gaugers employed in the

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th June 1875.*

distilleries in excise districts are specially trained men, and have to deal, not with ignorant petty distillers, but with men who carry on large operations on the European system, and who would at once expose inefficiency in the gaugers if such existed to their prejudice. The accounts of sales and strengths of liquor actually brought into consumption are a necessary complement of the system, but cannot be fully brought into force until the indent under discussion is complied with; and the Board beg that Government will impress on the Government of India the importance of forwarding it to England without delay.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

(True Copy.)

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

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
COIMBATUR,
15th June 1875.

No. 908.

No. 104

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Separate Revenue, No. 10.

Abkari.

SIR,—With reference to your Under-Secretary's letter, dated 22nd April 1875, No. 109, forwarding Dr. Macnamara's memorandum recommending the use of

either Sykes's Hydrometer or Gay-Lussac's Alcoholmeter, and pointing out that a system of taxing spirits in proportion to the materials used is preferable to that by which the strength of spirits has to be ascertained, I am directed to forward copy of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd June 1875, No. 1,480, from which it will be seen that the hydrometer and alcoholmeter above referred to have both been examined by them, and found unsuitable for use by gaugers in the districts.

2. Adverting to paragraph 3 of his letter under reply, I am to state that this Government agree with the Board of Revenue that the system proposed is quite impracticable here, and to request that the Indent submitted with letter, dated 2nd March 1875, No. 332, may be passed and forwarded to England without delay.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

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

Encl. P. N. Bantam.

Encl. W. H. Bantam.

January 1876

Government of East India Company

Date: 1st Feb 1876	No. 301
Received	18 square inches
P. No.	1876
S. No.	1876

See also on 17/1/76

...
...
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...
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See papers
recorded in
G.O. 15 February
1875, 1876

Revenue Department
N^o 103. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 2nd June 1875

Read & proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, dated 16th May 1875, N^o 22, referring to Revenue Board for survey letter from the Government of Andhra calling for further report with respect to the instrument for Beane and Thommawick's Glass Hydrometers.

With reference to the suggestion that a trial should be made of long series of Alchometers, the Board observe that Mr. Macnamara's memorandum has already been before them and they reported that the instruments were from the system of graduation be quite unsuitable for use by

It is stated in their proceedings 5th Feb. 1875, 1876, the Board have since obtained

obtained a pair of these instruments, and are confirmed in their opinion. The price alone would be sufficient to exclude them from consideration for the present purpose.

3. As the Board have already explained, the Horne and Harmon's hydrometers are required, not for testing liquors for the purpose of assay for which an instrument of great delicacy is required, but for checking the strength of liquor sold in the shops, so as to guard against dilution and to secure that the requirements of the laws and of the license as to minimum price may be substantially complied with, what is wanted is an instrument, which, besides being so cheap that the shopkeepers may hardly be required to pay the price for it, shall be capable of being used without tables and by unskilled persons, and shall indicate

indicate the strength sufficiently closely to enable a judgment to be formed as to the good faith of the shopkeeper, and the propriety of enforcing the penalties provided for malpractices.

4. The Board also explained that cost will be recovered; and in these circumstances the Government of India need not hesitate to sanction the indent. The supply is necessary in order that a very important part of the recent improvement of system may be carried out.

5. The Board regard the suggestion to introduce a system of taxing the materials for distillation as quite impracticable besides being a decidedly retrogressive from the present excise system, and they feel some surprise at being called upon to discuss it. They much doubt whether a given quantity of Mohwa flowers will

will invariably give the same quantity of
absolute alcohol and are certain that
the system could not be applied to the
distillation of jaggery and acacia bark
the materials most ordinarily in use. The
quantity of alcohol obtained from a
given quantity of these materials varies
not only with the saccharine quality
of the jaggery but with weather and
temperature, and with the skill of the
distiller in preparing his wort and regulating
the fermentation. He found much pre-
judice in direct test. A hydrometer of the
quantity of alcohol actually contained
in the liquor produced, and entertain no
fear of failure such as seems to have
been experienced in Bengal and the Cen-
tral Provinces. The gauges employed in the
distilleries

distilleries in excise districts are specially
trained men, and have to deal, not with
ignorant petty distillers, but with men
who carry on large operations on the
European system and who would at
once expose inefficiency in the gaugers
if such existed to their prejudice. The
accounts of sales and strengths of liquor
actually brought into consumption are a
necessary complement of the system in
— but cannot be fully
brought into force until the matter
under discussion is complied with; and the
Board beg that Government will impress
on the Government of India the im-
portance of forwarding it to England
without delay.

(True Extract)

W. H. H.

Acting Secretary

The Secretary to Government

Department

W. H. H.

them & found unsuitable for
use by famper in the District.

On receiving Kopara's letter
return under reply, I am to
state that the Government
agree with the Board of P.E.
that the system proposed is
quite impracticable ^{to carry} to
execute but the subject
submitted with letter
of 2^d March 1875 No 352 may
be passed & prepared (by hand)
without delay.