(1) Number of pages 1 Sheet

(2) Date of repair 23.8.82

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No:	113	Press. / Mis.
Dated	11.1.1878	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Archives I—10,006—19-4-79.

No. 2,043.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 3rd May 1877.

Read the following letter from W. LOGAN, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Manarghaut, 29th March 1877, No. 78-A.

REFERRING to the Board's Proceedings, No. 672, dated 17th February last, regarding the proposed rules for working the Opium Act in this Presidency, I have the honor to submit, for the Board's consideration, that it would be difficult to say who are "recognised medical practitioners and chemists." (See Rule 8.)

2. In this district there are numerous small native shops for the sale of medicinal drugs, and the shop-keepers are generally medical practitioners after the native style. I feel sure that if they were exempted from taking out a license, the rules on that point would be a dead letter in this district.

3. I trust I may also be permitted to record a respectful protest against the Board's proposal to farm out the vend of opium. This district at present enjoys immunity from the disastrous results known to follow on indulgence in opium, but I am not prepared to say what might not happen if the sale of it were entrusted to a man whose *direct interest* it would be to push his sales and enlarge the consumption of the drug. Such a farmer would have an *organised agency* at his command to carry out his purposes, whereas if men were only licensed singly to sell the drug, there would be no *organised agency* at work spreading a taste for it and its preparations.

SUBMITTED to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 17th February 1877, No. 672.

2. The Collector's objection to the exemption of medical practitioners and chemists from the operation of the rules in respect of opium used for the compounding of medicines is well founded; the Board thought that it would be a hardship to require such persons to take out and pay for a license, but as such exemptions are likely to lead to an evasion of the rules, it seems preferable to allow no concession of the kind. The Excise Act of 1871 apparently makes no provision for exempting chemists from the operation of the restrictions as to the vend of opium.

3. As regards the objection to farming the revenue, the Board pointed out that the Bill introduced into the Local Legislative Council, which embodied the provisions of the Excise Act in this respect, had been taken as the basis of the draft rules, and that the object was to prevent illicit sales and control the vendors, whom it would be difficult to deal with, in the absence of some organised agency. The evils of the system were not overlooked, but as the provisions relating to farming are merely permissive, and could not be applied in any district without the Collector's full concurrence, there seemed to be no objection to the discretionary power conferred on the Board. The system appears to be in force in Bengal and Bombay, and it would be well to make inquiries regarding its working.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to Collector of Malabar.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

Revenue Department
No 2545

1877.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 3rd MAY 1877, No. 2,043.

Dupd 7/5/77

Encl.

Received 18th May 1877

No 113 - 11 January 1878

MAY.

No. 2,043.

Opium Act.—Submitting to Government, with remarks, letter from Collector of Malabar expressing opinion on the working of — in the district.

Ordered that a copy of this & the
Report & Memorandum on the subject be
forwarded to the Board of
Revenue

11 Jan 78

Read to