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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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ОБЪЯВЛЕНИЕ

Date
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was hoped that arrangements might be made for testing the quality of the beer, and a reduction of the duty was contemplated; but the difficulty of carrying out any satisfactory testing arrangements caused the idea to be relinquished. Having regard, however, to the desirability of giving full opportunities for ascertaining the possibility of brewing good beer on the Hills, His Grace is willing to encourage the experiment by authorising a reduction of the duty to one anna per gallon, being the equivalent of that levied on imported beer and the rate formerly charged. The percentage of alcohol should not, however, exceed the average in imported beer, and His Grace is disposed to think that the present limit should be altered to six and-a-half per cent., the retail license duty being kept at a moderate figure.

5. His Grace the Governor in Council will be glad to learn the Board's views on the both these points and how they consider effect can best be given to the suggestions which commend themselves to Government.

6. The existing forms of license* should secure the manufacture being fairly conducted, if inspections of the breweries and beer-shops are regularly made and attention paid to the quality of the malt and to the proportions in which the ingredients are received and used. The accuracy of the brewers' returns should be tested by actual experiment.

7. The Board will also consider and report whether the amount of hops might not be more conveniently fixed with reference to the malt than as at present, at 3 lbs. per hogshead of beer, and also whether arrangements cannot be easily made for uniformly testing the alcoholic strength of all malt liquor before it leaves the breweries.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Secretary to Government.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 16th February 1878, No. 247, Revenue Department.

Read the following paper:—

Petition from Messrs. C. BILL and Co., Brewers and Maltsters and Successors to Mr. SAMUEL HONEYWELL, late Proprietor of Castle Brewery, Glen Arven, near Coonoor, Nilgiris, dated 15th December 1877.

ABSTRACT.—Bring to notice that hitherto the sales of the beer produced at their manufactory have been almost wholly restricted to the Nilgiris, because the advertisements issued by Collectors of districts in the plains inviting tenders for the purchase of abkari farms did not formerly admit of licenses for the sale of country-manufactured beer being issued by such Collectors; that, upon representation, the Government in its Proceedings, Revenue Department, dated 4th June 1873, Nos. 29 and 30, altered the form of advertisement, and in October following published the rulings herein set forth.

Solicit that petitioners may be allowed free trade by the vend of their manufacture in the plains, and that Collectors of districts may be instructed accordingly.

REFERRED to the Board of Revenue who will consider and report whether there is any reason for placing restrictions on the number of shops for the sale of Europe or country beer in districts.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Secretary to Government.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 3rd June 1878, No. 831, Revenue Department.

Read the following paper:—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th April 1878, No. 1,083.

Read the following letters:—

Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 5th February 1878, No. 176, Revenue Department.

ABSTRACT.—*Manufacture and Sale of Country-brewed Beer.*—Passing orders on Mr. Honeywell's petition relating to the —; and requesting the views of the Board of Revenue on the points specified.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 16th February 1878, No. 247, Revenue Department:—

ABSTRACT.—*Beer Shops.*—Requesting the Board of Revenue to report, with reference to Mr. Bill's petition, whether there is any reason for placing restrictions on the number of — in the districts.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Petition.

In the first of the foregoing orders the Government express the opinion that the rules which at present regulate the manufacture and sale of country-brewed beer are too restrictive; and, looking to the desirability of encouraging the manufacture, if wholesome beer of fair quality can be brewed on the Hills, they call for the Board's views on the following points and for report as to the manner in which effect can best be given to the desire of Government to promote the enterprise:—

1st.—As to the necessity for the prohibition against the use of malt other than barley malt.

2nd.—As to the desirability of reducing the duty from 4 Annas to 1 Anna a gallon coupled, however, with the condition that the alcoholic strength of the liquor shall not exceed the average in imported beer, say $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the retail license duty being kept at a moderate figure.

3rd.—Whether the amount of hops might not be more conveniently fixed with reference to the malt than, as at present, at 3 lbs. per hogshead of beer.

4th.—Whether arrangements cannot easily be made for uniformly testing the alcoholic strength of all malt liquor before it leaves the breweries.

2. In the second order the Board are directed to report whether there is any reason for placing restrictions on the number of shops for the sale of Europe or country beer in districts.

3. Before giving an opinion on the several points referred to them, the Board will offer a few remarks on the question of encouraging the manufacture and sale of country-brewed beer generally. After much inquiry and correspondence extending over seven years, the Government finally declared that it was proved beyond all question that the so-called country beer as then manufactured and sold both on the Hills and plains must often in its effects be extremely injurious and did not merit an encouragement. It was resolved that the excise should be maintained at 4 Annas a gallon, that beer should only be brewed from barley malt, hops and sugar, and that the alcoholic strength should be limited to 8 per cent. It must have been known at the time that this decision was not a very encouraging one to brewers of country beer, but it was felt that the article produced, as far as could be ascertained by general investigation and careful analyses, was not deserving of any particular encouragement.

G. O., dated 9th December 1875, No. 1,786.

and that under the circumstances it did not seem probable that a wholesome, sound beverage was likely to be put into the market at a reasonable cost, even if the duty were reduced considerably.

4. Assuming that the public taste and convenience would be served by giving particular facilities for bringing country beer into the local markets, it is incumbent on Government to be careful that its abkari revenue is guarded by all reasonable means; for the extensive consumption of country beer, if the rate of excise be unduly lowered, would probably affect the abkari revenue very materially. An excise of 4 Annas a gallon on beer at an alcoholic strength of 8 per cent. is equivalent to a duty of Rupees 1-1-6 per gallon at 30° under proof, whilst the rates of duty on arrack at that strength under the next leases will range from Rupees 1-8-0 to Rupees 2-13-0 per gallon at the same strength; and it must be borne in mind that, although the power to grant licenses for the sale and manufacture of beer was expressly reserved in the notices setting forth the conditions on which the contracts were offered for competition, no intimation was given of any change of policy likely to stimulate the sale of that liquor and prejudice the interests of monopolists. The contractors, whose offers have been accepted, will therefore have good ground for complaint if restrictions are suddenly removed to such an extent as to affect their interests seriously. The brewers, of course, urge that they encourage the cultivation of barley and that their operations conduce to the public benefit in various ways, but it is possible to pay too dearly for such advantages as the encouragement of their trade would secure, and it is necessary to guard against the danger of attaching too great weight to the specious and interested arguments adduced in favor of the enterprise. As already stated, the analyses and investigations show that the beer likely to be provided is not a beverage the consumption of which, in the interests of the public, the Government are called upon to foster in any way.

5. The Board will now advert to the several points on which their views have been requested. The first is a technical question on which the Board have not sufficient information to enable them to offer a confident opinion. They do not know, however, that there is sufficient ground for insisting on the use of barley malt exclusively; barley is most commonly used, and malt prepared from that grain is, they believe, the best; but if wholesome malt from other grain is prepared and can be used for the production of good, sound beer they do not think its use should be interdicted.

6. As regards the second point, the Board are decidedly of opinion, for the reasons given in paragraphs 3 and 4, that the duty should not be reduced; but they think that no further limitation on the strength need be imposed: 8 per cent. is said to be necessary to admit of the liquor keeping good, and they would not reduce the percentage. The retail license fee, Rupees 15 per shop per annum, is not excessive.

7. As to the third point, the Board do not know how the amount of hops to be used could be more conveniently fixed with reference to the malt than at present. When the Board were called upon by G. O., dated 9th December 1875, No. 1,786, to consider what arrangements could best secure the manufacture of a sound and wholesome beverage, inquiry was made, but the subject being one on which but little information was available, the Board were obliged to call upon the brewers themselves to state the proportions in which they proposed to use the materials required for brewing, and Mr. Honeywell's demand, which appeared moderate, was complied with. In his statement the proportion of hops was given in pounds per hogshead. If the brewers now suggest an unobjectionable and more convenient standard, it can be adopted.

8. On the fourth point the Board have already explained the difficulties; the constituents of the beer can be ascertained only by chemical analysis, and the alcoholic strength cannot be proved directly by the hydrometer but must be obtained by distillation and test of the distillate. It seems

Paragraph 2, Proceedings recorded in G.O., dated 24th June 1875, No. 958.
Paragraph 4, Proceedings recorded in G.O., dated 5th December 1875, No. 1,786.

to the Board simply impossible, save at a quite incommensurate expense, to provide for efficient testing. No one but a professional could inspect the quality of the malt, hops, &c., used and test the strength to any real purpose; nominal inspections may, of course, be made by the Commissioner or his Assistant, but the inspection can hardly be more than a matter of form as far as check on the materials used and strength of the liquor is concerned. The process of chemical analysis requires a skilled operator and involves much time and labor. The Commissioner of the Nilgiris will, however, report what check upon the operations of the brewers has been exercised, whether the inspections directed in Board's Proceedings, dated 5th July 1876, No. 1,714, have been regularly made, and how they have been conducted; whether accounts are regularly submitted by the brewers and carefully scrutinized; and what steps are taken to ensure that no shops without the Board's sanction are open. The Board are not disposed to recommend any relaxation of this restriction.

The number of shops for the sale of country-brewed beer open in Fasli 1286 was as shown below:—

Districts.	WHOLESALE.		RETAIL.		TOTAL.	
	No.	Fee.	No.	Fee.	No.	Fee.
Nilgiris	1	25	21	315	22	340
Coimbatore	1	25	3	45	4	70
Malabar	1	25	26	390	28	440
Total ...	2	50	26	390	28	440

There were two breweries on the Hills belonging to Mr. Honeywell and Mr. Freud,
(Signed) U. A. GALLON,
Acting Secretary.

When forwarding Mr. Honeywell's petition the Government expressed their desire to encourage the manufacture of wholesome beer, but the Board, being of opinion that the production of such an article is improbable, are generally averse to any modification of the existing regulations which they admit to be restrictive.

2. The Government have given full consideration to the Board's view and to the reasons which led to the present restrictions, but cannot doubt that the local production of sound beer is an enterprise to be encouraged, and that the rules, so far as they operate in the opposite direction, should be modified.

3. In the operations of brewing, which were formerly quite uncontrolled, the use of materials other than hops, barley, malt, and sugar in certain fixed proportions is now disallowed, but in future the employment of malt properly prepared from any grain will be permitted. The former of whom has transferred his business to Messrs. Escoph and Son. The quantity of beer excised during the last three faslis was as follows:—

Fasli.	Gallons.	Duty.
1284	94,530	5,908
1285	79,773	19,943
1286	51,191	12,798

The falling off in 1285 is attributed to the increase of duty, and the further decrease in 1286 to the famine. The Board have no information regarding the brewers' receipts and disbursements.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed)

C. G. MASTER,
Secretary to Government.

take the analysis whenever specimens of beer are sent to him. The Board are unable to issue any more definite instructions in the matter, and as it is evident that there is practically no means of enforcing the condition on which alone the concession has been granted, they resolve to request a clearer expression of the intention of Government. As regards the maintenance of the present standard of 8 per cent. the Board see no fresh reason to recommend it; they have already explained that the reason why the restriction as to alcoholic strength formerly in force was relaxed was the complaint of the brewers that the beer would not keep at a lower strength—vide G.O., 9th April 1872, No. 578.

5. With reference to paragraph 6, the Board would respectfully observe that their argument appears to have been misunderstood. It was never open to Government to make any arrangements they pleased in regard to the manufacture of country beer before the new contracts were concluded; all that the Board advanced was that "although the power to grant licenses for the sale and manufacture of beer was expressly reserved in the notices setting forth the conditions on which the contracts were offered for competition, no intimation was given of any change of policy likely to stimulate the sale of that liquor and prejudice the interests of the monopolists; and that, therefore, the contractors whose offers have been accepted, will have good ground for complaint if restrictions are suddenly removed to such an extent as to affect their interests seriously." The brewers themselves seem to have anticipated difficulty in the way of the grant of the concessions now ordered after the conclusion of the new contracts, and the Board apprehend that the course decided upon will give rise to serious complications.

Vide Petition No. 707.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

U. 218.

ORDER IN COUNCIL, 20th July 1878, No. 1,110.

Separate Revenue, No. 23.

Abkari.

The Government consider this reference to have been unnecessary. In paragraph 1 of G.O., 5th February 1878, No. 176, the Board were told that the Government desired to encourage the manufacture of beer on the Hills.

2. Mr. Roberts' case has now been separately settled, and the Board's Proceedings on it were not before Government when the papers disposed of in the order under reference were under consideration.

3. The Government fully recognize the difficulties connected with testing beer for alcoholic strength, but do not understand that these will be any greater than heretofore or than they are in England and elsewhere. At present it is the duty of the Commissioner of the Nilgiris to inspect the breweries periodically, and all Collectors are required to send occasionally to Madras for analysis specimens of the country-made beer ordinarily offered for sale in their districts. These measures will have to be adopted as long as any restriction is placed on alcoholic strength, and it does not appear why any additional steps should be taken because it is proposed to reduce the excise duty if the brewers are willing to manufacture beer of a reduced spirituous strength.

4. The Chemical Examiner will undertake analyses of beer whenever it may seem expedient to the Board that they should be made.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Secretary to Government.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 and 2.—Petitions.

The foregoing papers relating to the conditions on which the manufacture and sale of country-brewed beer will in future be allowed will now be communicated to all Collectors and the Commissioner of the Nilgiris for information and guidance.

2. As regards manufacture, the alterations in the terms at present in force are that in future the use of malt properly prepared from any grain will be permitted, and that an excise duty of one anna a gallon only will be levied when the alcoholic strength of the liquor does not exceed 6 per cent. As regards sale, Collectors are henceforth at liberty to grant licenses for the sale of country-brewed beer at their discretion without reference to the Board, levying the same fees as at present, viz., Rupees 25 for a wholesale and Rupees 15 for a retail license. Brewing will not be allowed except on the Nilgiri Hills; the Board's previous sanction for the grant of a license to brew must still be obtained, and the alcoholic strength of the liquor must in no case exceed 8 per cent.

3. The only check on the brewers will be periodical inspection of the breweries and analysis of the beer offered for sale. In their Proceedings, dated 5th July 1876, No. 1,714, the Board directed that the Commissioner of the Nilgiris or his Assistant should at least once in every two months visit the breweries without previous notice and satisfy themselves that the conditions of the licenses are strictly conformed to, and as these orders have hitherto not been attended to, they have recently directed and the submission of half-yearly reports of Proceedings, dated 13th July 1878, No. 1,933. Inspections made and results. Attention must be particularly directed to the nature of the malt used, and samples of the beer intended for issue at the lower rate of duty must be obtained from the brewers and sent for analysis, as no other means of testing the alcoholic strength are available. Samples of the country-brewed beer offered for sale both on the Hills and on the plains must also be procured from time to time and sent to Madras for analysis.

4. These changes necessitate the alteration of the forms of licenses embodied in Board's Proceedings, dated 5th July 1876, No. 1,714. The following amendments should be made:—

In Form H for the words "in consideration of the payment of an excise duty of four annas per Imperial gallon" read "in consideration of the payment of an excise duty of one anna or four annas per Imperial gallon on all beer issued from the distillery according as the alcoholic strength thereof does not exceed 6 per cent. or is above that limit."

In the 3rd condition for "any ingredients other than barley malt or preparations of it, sugar and hops" read "any ingredients other than properly prepared malt or preparations of it, sugar and hops."

In the sale Licenses I and K, Condition 2, omit the words "from barley malt or preparations of it, sugar and hops only."

In paragraph 2, Standing Order No. IV of 1876 omit the words "under the Board's orders" and for "licenses in the same form" read "licenses in the form specially prescribed for the purpose."

5. The petitioners will be referred to the Commissioner of the Nilgiris.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To all Collectors.

.. the Commissioner of the Nilgiris.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Endorsement to Petitioners.

Exd. G. Freeman.

Revenue Receipt
Rs 3600
1878.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

To

ALL COLLECTORS,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated 3rd August 1878.

Printed 9th

Reed.

15 August 1878

Proclamations, 3rd August 1878, No. 2,159.

AUGUST.
No. 2,159.

Country-brewed Beer.—Communicating to all Collectors and Commissioner of Nilgiris Proceed-
ings of Government relating to the conditions
on which the manufacture and sale of — will
in future be allowed.

Rs 8000

Recorded

1000 August 1878