

(1) Number of pages 36.

(2) Date of repair 11. 8-82

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	523.	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	26. 2. 1828	197.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Bombay 15th February 1873.

G. A. Galton Esq^r

Actg. Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras

Sir,

As you are now within a few months of the termination of Messrs. Minchin Bros^{rs} lease of the Abkari of this district, and future arrangements will shortly be under the consideration of Government, we beg permission to be allowed to offer the following remarks on the past and future of the subject.

2. In their proceedings N^o 423 of the 25th February 1874 the Board fixed the minimum Revenue to be expected from the Abkari of the whole district at Rs 150,000/-.

In the 3 years of our first lease the average Revenue realized including the portion of Jeypore under Govt. management, amounted to Rs. only 150,859-12-8 per Annum. Since then Toddy has been separated from Arack and we are therefore without information as to the actual Revenue obtained under this head, and from Jeypore outside of our Farm, but we believe we are right in placing the two items in round Numbers at Rs 33,000/- from Toddy and Rs 35,000/- from Jeypore. Taking these figures as correct, the following have been the actual results during our current lease.

Fasli 1285.

2. 27/2
 F. 1285. Duty on Arrack ————— R. 44,384 - 11 - 0
 Actual payments % Vippah ————— 56,356 - 7 - 0
 Against guaranteed Revenue Rs. 93,600/ 100,740 - 11 - 0
 Add as above ————— 68,000 - 0 - 0
 Total Revenue for the Fusli R. 168,740 - 11 - 0

F. 1286. Duty on Arrack ————— R. 39,497 - 15 - 3
 Actual payments % Vippah ————— 54,102 - 0 - 9
 Govt. share of outstandings in Vippah ————— 7,249 - 6 - 11
 Against guaranteed Revenue Rs. 93,600/ 100,849 - 6 - 11
 Add as above ————— 68,000 - 0 - 0
 Total Revenue ————— 168,849 - 6 - 11

F. 1287. In next 6 months. Duty on Arrack R. 15,262 - 4 - 7
 Payments % Vippah ————— 30,663 - 3 - 6
 In next 6 months.
 Probable Duty on Arrack 20,000 - 0 - 0
 30% of Outstandings in Vippah Forms 30,618 - 4 - 2
 96,543 - 12 - 3
 Add as above ————— 68,000 - 0 - 0
 Total Revenue ————— R. 164,543 - 12 - 3

These figures will show that the Revenue has not suffered under the arrangement which has been made with us.
 3. The last two years have however been of exceptional severity. Though the district has been spared the actual famine which has devastated the South, prices of food grains and of all produce have advanced enormously exerting a wholly unanticipated pressure upon us in two ways - diminished consumption on one side and

and increased Cost on the other. So that our operations in Arrack have proved a direct loss to us.

The calculated Cost of spirit at the beginning of our Current lease was R¹. 0-3 per Gallon. Statement N^o 4 for £. 1286 which we have submitted to the Board. Shows an advance in that year to R¹. 1-7-2 and in our returns for the Current Fiscal, we shall have to show a further advance to R¹. 1-9-8 per Gallon. These figures will satisfy the Board that our loss is not fictitious and the following statement will further show what the decrease has been in Consumption.

Gross Arrack Sales		
A.D. 1875	1876.	1877.
<u>R¹ 36,112-11-3.</u>	<u>R¹ 73,749-10-4</u>	<u>R¹ 77,256-11-2.</u>

Thus, through falling off in Consumption from the effects of famine, our sales have actually decreased since 1875 by R¹ 7363-0-11 in 1876, and R¹ 8356-0-1 in 1877. These figures will not exactly tally with ^{those} in the Statements N^o 4 submitted to the Board, but in those all expenditure including deficiencies and difference between the Serr and Gallon, has necessarily to be brought into the Account. whereas the figures we have given above represent actual Sales only.

At the same time the Crop of Nippah flowers has also failed, and the excessive dearth of all other grains to which the people are accustomed to resort at such times for the manufacture of spirit has so impoverished

impoverished the Sub. Renters, that to force them to pay
their Rents in the fixed payments could only end in
driving them to bankruptcy and ruin.

We therefore unavoidably find ourselves in the
lease drawing to a close and the following heavy balance
of rent outstanding -

% Fust 1285. N^o 4,223 - 15 - 6

— " — 1286 — " 13,342 - 15 - 3

— " — 1287 — " 28,000 — — —

N^o 37,566 - 14 - 9

We feel it due to Ourselves to bring forward these figures
in order to show how exceptionally hard the burden has
been which we have had to bear and we for the same
reason, beg respectfully to remind the Board that while
under the Old farming system - it would have been
impossible for any Renter, to have kept his engagement,
in such a Season, without permission except to his ruin -
the Revenue has not suffered, but, though at no little
inconvenience to ourselves, has been paid ^{with} punctuality.

These considerations should, we respectfully submit,
be taken fairly into Account in criticising the general
results of past arrangements with us.

We are aware that our management has been
made the subject of severe official Condemnation -
but while referring the Board to their former Com-
mendation of us as recorded in their Proceedings

N^o 254

27/5

N^o 254 of 9th February 1874 we would ask whether it is likely that during a year, when our attention has been kept at full stretch by official "inquiries" our management would at such a time fall from good to worse than bad -

Having been called on, on only one occasion to answer such charges, we are in hopes the Board has been satisfied that we have been the subjects of misrepresentation, but there is one matter of such vital importance and involving so many issues that we believe the Board will expect us to refer to it -

From the correspondence attached, we learned, to our consternation, that the Board was under the impression that we allow no Commission to our Shop-keepers. We trust our letter was duly communicated to them, for if the belief is still entertained, the falling off in our Sales & consequent diminution in Duty, will be attributed naturally to such mismanagement rather than to its true Cause -

The minimum allowance to our Shop-keepers is 4 Annas per gallon of liquor sold - in ~~only~~ places where the sales are very low, we allow as much as 8 Annas - and in other pay fixed wages - If the Number of Shops is below that which has been sanctioned, it has been entirely due to diminished consumption and to Sales being too small to support more -

5. We beg leave now to offer the following remarks
on.

on the future.

The task allotted to us in the Nijpalah Taluk was while drawing out the Farms for 3 years in such a way as to ensure the maximum Revenue for the time being, to take advantage of our position to introduce excised spirit with a view to gradually closing the scattered stills and establishing the excise system.

Our efforts in this direction have been so far successful that we now consider the whole of Parvatipore Taluk with the exception of Narraimpatam Mootah and a few neighbouring small Mootahs as ripe for the excise - as also the Singapoor Mootah of Rayaghadra.

It will be impossible however to bring any settled system into force in Jeypore unless the whole Taluk is worked in one way - at present one half is under Govt. Amami with no interference whatever in the Old farming system - the other half is under us and subjected to some pressure for the introduction of excised spirit.

As the pioneers of the new system into these tracts, we beg to submit the following proposals for the Board's consideration.

The Board appears to be very desirous of either introducing the excise system pure and simple or a modification of it in the abolition of the scattered stills. We ask that the whole of Jeypore may be given to us and as soon as fruitful seasons and a good Nijpalah Crop will permit of it, our Firm at Aika engages to do its utmost

to manufacture spirit at Aka from the Kippiah flower,
and all the principal grains that are now employed
by Natives for the purpose, and to supply it under the
licensing system as we now do Arrack.

Until such precise arrangements can be perfected,
or if we fail to manufacture sufficient spirit at Aka - we
will establish or group together Native stills in several spots
and from them supply the deficiency, but we must also ask
not to be required to guarantee a fixed Revenue until the
experiment has had a fair trial.

If our price and one system is fixed throughout
Jyppore and the Police give reasonable assistance in
suppressing illicit traffic, the experiment may confi-
dently be expected to prove successful.

It is currently and authentically reported, however,
though nothing has, as yet, been officially stated to us on
the subject that the Board has submitted a proposal to
Govt. confining Taluks only to spirit, and portioning
out the remainder of the district into Farms - the whole
to be disposed of by tender and given to the highest bidder.

In the belief that this report is correct, we take the
liberty with all deference, to ask the Board's attention
to the following remarks.

We have been now for six years working the Affairs
of this district and until the current year, our management
and our efforts have received unqualified Commendation
both from the Collectors of the district and the Board - and

we have all long buoyed ourselves up, under much encouragement with the belief that ~~by~~ driving the thin end of the wedge into the old system, we ^{were} ~~are~~ preparing the way for an extension of our own operations when the right time came for establishing the new.

If we have not been as successful latterly as was expected or hoped, it is our misfortune not our fault as we have already explained through the diversity of the seasons - but in view of the great difficulties we have had to overcome and especially the loss we have experienced the last two years - we beg most respectfully to submit, and believe the Board will willingly recognize the fact, that we have a peculiar claim on their consideration - in any new arrangements that may be contemplated.

In our leniency towards our Sub. Renters in the matter of their arrears, we have of course been actuated by a sense of the injury we should be doing to our future interests by acting otherwise, and it can hardly be lost sight of that if we found ourselves out of the field with ~~our~~ arrears of £40,000 due to us - our first efforts would be directed to recovering this sum, and in the peculiar constitution of Native customs, the entire class to which any other Renter must necessarily look to work his lease would be in our hands.

We beg permission in conclusion to make one more proposal and that is with regard to Toddy -

We intend to say that in the Southern Districts great advantage has resulted financially from the separation

separation of Toddy and Arrack. But it cannot be said that this has been the case in the while in taking away from us all control over the Toddy shops. The only real check that existed upon its selling price has been removed.

The system now officially permitted of boiling Toddy has converted it from a harmless beverage into a highly intoxicating liquor, and has thus brought it into more direct competition with the excise.

Further, the absence of rain, which has so detrimentally affected excise sales, has been an unmitigated advantage to the Toddy Renters in allowing them to continue drawing it during the whole of the Month when it would have been stopped had there been a monsoon.

The result of all this has been unwounded profit to the Toddy Renters, with no corresponding benefit to Govt. while on the other hand, loss has been inflicted on the excise by the competition with it of the intoxicating Agent Toddy has become.

We have given the matter much consideration and believe matters can be worked in such a way that the Revenue shall obtain its full share in any abnormal advantage which, such seasons as the last, gives.

The proposal we have the honor to submit is the Toddy be in future excised just as Arrack is. To do this it will be only necessary to provide that it be all brought to one central depot, daily, measured and excised. Experienced Natives whom we have consulted, believe

that

that though it may be a difficult matter to organize at first in the Taluk generally there will be no difficulty whatever in the 3 principal Towns of Vizagapatnam Bantli-patnam and Vizianagaram, and that its adoption will be of such manifest advantage to the Revenue that they consider it well worth trying.

If the Board will permit us to introduce the attached in the 3 Towns named we will not say it shall receive our careful attention.

With every apology for thus intruding ourselves on the attention of the Board.

We have the honor to be

Sir

Your most Obedient Servants.

Minchin & Co

Agents for the Abhari Runters of Vizagapatnam

Revenue Department

No. 16779

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 26th
November 1877.

Read letter from the Collector of Vizagapatam dated
27th October 1877 No. 1179

Dram measures of uniform size & 48 to the Cal-
con should be introduced at once throughout the district.
Half dram measure may be issued if necessary; and the
price, when half pie rates appear, must be brought to the
next highest full pie.

2. It is not surprising that Messrs. Minchin should
find difficulty in keeping shops open, seeing that they
allow no commission to the shop-keepers, who are thus
driven to short measure and illicit practices.

(True Extract)

(sd) H. E. Stokes.

Secretary.

True Copy.

Forwarded to Messrs. Minchin & Co with reference to
their letter No. 225 of October 24th 1877. and they are re-
quested to take the necessary measures to carry the Board's
orders into effect at once.

Vizagapatam.

December 5th 1877

(sd) H. Goodrich
Assty. Collector

Bimlipatam, 7th December 1877.
H. St. A. Goodrich Esq.
Acting Collector.
Vizagapatam

Sir,

In acknowledging receipt of the Extract from Board's Proceedings No: 1679 of the 26th November last forwarded to us from your office in the 5th inst we have the honor to say that we are promptly taking the necessary steps for carrying out the Board's wishes with regard to the dram measure.

But we are very much surprised at the error the Board has fallen into in the second para, and we at a loss to understand what can have given rise to the impression that we allow no commission to our shop-keepers - without such remuneration how can shops be worked at all? From the first we have paid them by commission instead of fixed pay, as the only way to give them an active interest in the success of their shops though when a shop is first started & the receipts are too small to be remunerative, we allow wages until the sales have sufficiently increased.

With the exception of a few of the more recently opened shops & one or two in which the sales are at any time insufficient or uncertain for Commission, the whole of our shop-keepers are paid by a commission on their sales.

We

We have the honor to request that a copy of this letter
may be forwarded to the Board of Revenue for their
information & to draw their attention to our statement No. 4
for B. 1286 in which the amount paid as "commission to
sellers" in that Busli is shown to have been Rs. 5,494. 3. 3 -
We have the honor to be,

Sir,
Your most obedt. Servts.
(50) Amichur & Co.

3/12
 Rumbulpatam 15th February 1872

To
 His Honorable G. F. Carmichael,
 Chief Secretary to Government
 Madras.

Sir,
 It must it will not be thought in any way
 disrespectful to the Board of Revenue if we take
 the liberty to send to you direct the enclosed copy of
 a letter we have addressed to the Board, on the
 subject of the Abkari of this district but as we
 understand the settlement of the New Leases will
 shortly be, if they are not already, under Consider-
 ation we feel there is no time to be lost in laying
 our letter before Government.

Trusting this reason will be found sufficient
 and praying that our letter may
 receive your consideration.

We have the honor to be
 Sir
 Your Most Obedient Servants
 Minchin & Co

Agents for the Abkari Renters of Nagapattinam

Recd. 15 Feb 1872
 1075

2/12

March 1/1914

525
16

26 May 1878 No 80-90

29-10-1878

Revenue 10th Department
No 492. v
From

Messrs. Minchin & Co
Bimulipatam

Dated 15th February 1878
Rec^d 21

With Order
No. 26 July 1878. 4523
Forwarding a copy

of their letter to the Board
of Revenue on the subject
of the Abkari of the
Vizagapatam District
for consideration in
connection with the
Settlement of the new
Leases.

C22² July 1878 Res/psd

Reminders 26 July 1878

Loggish
C22

80523

REVENUE DEPARTMENT
No. 492
Messrs. Minchin & Co Bimulipatam
Dated 15 February 1878
FOR ORDERS
Loggish
W. R. M.