M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

(1) Number of Pages 6

(2) Date of repair 28.2.68

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	840	Press / Mis.
Dated	23.6.1876	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 239. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th May 1876, No. 1,415 :—

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Palmanair, 8th May 1876, No. 206,

I HAVE the honor to report that, in the early part of last year, I had reason to believe that the toddy-renters had established many shops all over the district far in excess of the authorized number, and I caused inquiries to be set on foot. I could obtain, however, no information from the Police on the subject, and the toddy-renters, when I referred to them, were, of course, loud in their protestations of innocence. They declared that the shops they had then opened were very insufficient, and presented to me a list of 409 places in which they proposed to open additional shops, for which they asked me to grant them licenses. I declined to do this as I had already issued to them licenses for 953 shops, which was 100 in excess of the number sanctioned during former leases.

2. As the lease drew towards its close, I became convinced that unlicensed shops were in existence in many places; and as, in spite of my requisition, the Police did not furnish me with any information, I determined to depute Vencata Subbiah, then Tahsildar of Chittoor and now Acting Tahsildar of Arcot, specially on that duty, which, I am glad to say, he performed most efficiently and with great zeal and intelligence.

3. He succeeded in discovering that no less than 28 unlicensed shops had been fraudulently opened in the taluq of Chittoor alone by the sub-renter, Arunachella Mudali, and liquor sold therein for a length of time. Arunachella Mudali was then prosecuted before me by Vencata Subbiah, and I convicted and fined him in the sum of Rupees 2,000 on that charge. The offender paid the fine at once without any demur, and at the same time stated that he had no intention of appealing against my sentence. This clearly shows what enormous profits he must have made by his illicit trade in toddy, and how cheaply he considered that he had got off.

4. My suspicions having been, at the same time, directed towards the sub-renter of the Wallajah Taluq, I detailed Vencata Subbiah thither with authority to take possession of the accounts and books belonging to that man; but, before the Tahsildar could arrive at the spot, the sub-renter, Iyasami Mudali, having heard of the result of the trial of Arunachella Mudali, succeeded in making away with or destroying every paper that could in any way throw light on the manner in which he had worked his lease. The information I have received affords me every reason to believe that many illicit shops were opened by him and also by he late Chittoor sub-renter in the Chendragherry Taluq. But, in the absence of he accounts, it would now be very difficult indeed to prove each case of fraud.

5. I beg now to draw the attention of the Board to my remarks in paragraphs 9 and 13 of my abkári administration report for Fasli 1284 embodied in Board's Proceedings, dated 22nd September last, No. 2,657. Illicit dealers in toddy, of course, sell it very much under the ordinary price, and members of the poorer class, as is but natural, eagerly avail themselves of the opportunity for getting their liquor cheap. The large falling off in the arrack revenue is,

therefore, I believe, chiefly due to systematic and continued malpractices on the part of the late toddy-renters.

6. It is impossible that this state of things could have gone on so openly without the knowledge of the Police, and their entire failure to render even the smallest assistance in detecting and bringing to trial the frauds of the Chittoor sub-renter shows very clearly, in my opinion, that the local police officials were acting in collusion with the sub-renter, it can hardly be supposed, from disinterested motives. The 28 unlicensed shops in the Chittoor Taluq were kept open for many months, and that the parties who vended liquor therein had no licenses at all and were only acting under the orders of the sub-renter was a matter capable of easy discovery. When, therefore, the police, although their attention has been specially directed to the subject by me, failed to give the very slightest information as required, I think I am not misjudging them when I believe they were aware of, but, for private reasons of their own, did not wish to bring, the frauds to light, and I am the more strengthened in this opinion when I call to mind the fact that it was the abkári renters' people, and not the Police, who detected and brought before me for trial the two instances (both of them in the Chittoor Taluq) in which illicit stills had been erected and arrack was being illegally sold.

7. It is very possible that in other districts where there has been a heavy falling off in the arrack revenue the same sort of fraud may now be practised by the toddy sub-renters, and on this point it might be well to institute careful inquiries.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. This report shows that illicit sale of toddy prevailed last year to a great extent in Chittoor, and was only detected by the deputation of a special officer by the Collector. The Collector complains that he received neither information nor aid on this point from the Police, who certainly ought to have known of the existence of so many unlicensed shops. It is possible that special inquiries may reveal similar practices in Salem and Coimbatore, and the Collectors are requested to take steps to ascertain whether there is any reason to suppose such to be the case.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 240. ORDER THEREON, 23rd June 1876, No. 840.

Separate Revenue, No. 29.
Abkari.

RECORDED. These Proceedings will be communicated to the Judicial Department for the necessary orders being issued to the Inspector-General of Police.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Judicial Department.

Hxd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of {1876} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated June, 23rd.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 23rd June 1876, No. 840.

JUNE.

Nos. 239-240.

Illicit sale of Toddy in the North Arcot District.—Recording Proceedings of the Board of Revenue regarding the —; and ordering these Proceedings to be communicated to the Judicial Department for the issue of the necessary orders to the Inspector-General of Police.

No. 1,415.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 30th May 1876.

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Palmanair, 8th May 1876, No. 206:—

I HAVE the honor to report that, in the early part of last year, I had reason to believe that the toddy-renters had established many shops all over the district far in excess of the authorized number, and I caused inquiries to be set on foot. I could obtain, however, no information from the Police on the subject, and the toddy-renters, when I referred to them, were, of course, loud in their protestations of innocence. They declared that the shops they had then opened were very insufficient, and presented to me a list of 409 places in which they proposed to open additional shops, for which they asked me to grant them licenses. I declined to do this as I had already issued to them licenses for 953 shops, which was 100 in excess of the number sanctioned during former leases.

2. As the lease drew towards its close, I became convinced that unlicensed shops were in existence in many places; and as, in spite of my requisition, the Police did not furnish me with any information, I determined to depute Vencata Subbiah, then Tahsildar of Chittoor and now Acting Tahsildar of Arcot, specially on that duty, which, I am glad to say, he performed most efficiently and with great zeal and intelligence.

3. He succeeded in discovering that no less than 28 unlicensed shops had been fraudulently opened in the taluq of Chittoor alone by the sub-renter, Arunachella Mudali, and liquor sold therein for a length of time. Arunachella Mudali was then prosecuted before me by Vencata Subbiah, and I convicted and fined him in the sum of Rupees 2,000 on that charge. The offender paid the fine at once without any demur, and at the same time stated that he had no intention of appealing against my sentence. This clearly shows what enormous profits he must have made by his illicit trade in toddy, and how cheaply he considered that he had got off.

4. My suspicions having been, at the same time, directed towards the sub-renter of the Wallajah Taluq, I detailed Vencata Subbiah thither with authority to take possession of the accounts and books belonging to that man; but, before the Tahsildar could arrive at the spot, the sub-renter, Iyasami Mudali, having heard of the result of the trial of Arunachella Mudali, succeeded in making away with or destroying every paper that could in any way throw light on the manner in which he had worked his lease. The information I have received affords me every reason to believe that many illicit shops were opened by him and also by the late Chittoor sub-renter in the Chendragherry Taluq. But, in the absence of the accounts, it would now be very difficult indeed to prove each case of fraud.

5. I beg now to draw the attention of the Board to my remarks in paragraphs 9 and 13 of my abkári administration report for Fasli 1284 embodied in Board's Proceedings, dated 22nd September last, No. 2,657. Illicit dealers in toddy, of course, sell it very much under the ordinary price, and members of the poorer class, as is but natural, eagerly avail themselves of the opportunity for getting their liquor cheap. The large falling off in the arrack revenue is, therefore, I believe, chiefly due to systematic and continued malpractices on the part of the late toddy-renters.

6. It is impossible that this state of things could have gone on so openly without the knowledge of the Police, and their entire failure to render even the smallest assistance in detecting and bringing to trial the frauds of the Chittoor sub-renter shows very clearly, in my opinion, that the local police officials were acting in collusion with the sub-renter, it can hardly be supposed, from disinterested motives. The 28 unlicensed shops in the Chittoor Taluq were kept open for many months, and that the parties who vended liquor therein had no licenses at all and were only acting under the orders of the sub-renter was a matter capable of easy discovery. When, therefore, the police, although their attention has been specially directed to the subject by me, failed to give the very slightest information as required, I think I am not misjudging them when I believe they were aware of, but, for private reasons of their own, did not wish to bring, the frauds to light, and I am the more strengthened in this opinion when I call to mind the fact that it was the abkári renters' people, and not the Police, who detected and brought before me for trial the two instances (both of them in the Chittoor Taluq) in which illicit stills had been erected and arrack was being illegally sold.

7. It is very possible that in other districts where there has been a heavy falling off in the arrack revenue the same sort of fraud may now be practised by the toddy sub-renters, and on this point it might be well to institute careful inquiries.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. This report shows that illicit sale of toddy prevailed last year to a great extent in Chittoor, and was only detected by the deputation of a special officer by the Collector. The Collector complains that he received neither information nor aid on this point from the Police, who certainly ought to have known of the existence of so many unlicensed shops. It is possible that special inquiries may reveal similar practices in Salem and Coimbatore, and the Collectors are requested to take steps to ascertain whether there is any reason to suppose such to be the case.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
,, the Collector of Salem.
,, the Collector of Coimbatore.

Copy to the Collector of North Arcot.

Exp. J. W. Fischer.

Recorded. These proceedings will be communicated to the Judicial Department for the necessary orders being issued to the Inspector General of Police. 22 Jan. 1876

Revenue 1876.

Board of Revenue, MADRAS.

Proceedings, 30th May 1876, No. 1,415.

Encl.

Received 10 June 76

MAY.

No. 1,415.

Abkári.—Submitting to Government report of Collector of North Arcot that illicit sale of toddy prevailed in his district last year, and requesting Collectors of Salem and Coimbatore to take steps to ascertain whether there is any reason to suppose such to be the case in their districts.