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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 984	Press Mis.
Dated 2-7-1884.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

3RD SEPTEMBER 1884, No. 984, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—again G.O., dated 22nd May 1884, No. 666.

Read—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th August 1884, No. 271:—

Read—the following letter from W. C. HOLMES, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector in charge, South Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 9th July 1884, No. 333:—

As directed in paragraph 2 of G.O., dated 22nd May last, No. 666, Revenue, I have the honor to state that the Acting Sub-Collector, in his letter (copy enclosed), reports that orders have been issued to allow salt and liquor conveyed under French passes from one French village to another through intervening British territory to pass through out-gates after the passes are countersigned by the constable in charge of the gate.

ENCLOSURE

Letter from W. C. HOLMES, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, South Arcot, to the Collector of South Arcot, dated Tindivanam, 2nd July 1884, No. 89.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your footnote No. 1349, dated 31st May 1884, to G.O., No. 666, dated 22nd May 1884, calling for information as to the procedure followed with regard to liquor and salt when conveyed under cover of French passes from French territory to outlying French villages through English territory.

2. Since the receipt of your footnote, G.O., No. 601, dated 6th May 1884, communicated with your footnote No. 1358, dated 2nd June 1884, has been received, and, as directed in your footnote, orders have been issued to Customs officers to allow salt and liquor covered by French passes to pass through out-gates after the pass has been countersigned by the constable in charge of the gate. With reference to the procedure which has now been introduced, I beg to suggest that the Superintendent of Police be asked to arrange that all out-gate constables should be men who can read and write, and that they should be directed to keep a register showing the quantity of the salt and liquor passed through the gate and the village to which the goods are consigned.

3. Mr. Weld introduced the same procedure for a short time in November 1881. He informed you of his having done so in his letter No. 91, dated 19th November 1883; but he cancelled his orders on the receipt of your docket No. 2343, dated 26th November 1883.

But, except for that short period in November 1881, and except for the short period Board's Proceedings, No. 833, dated 16th April 1875 was in force, previous to the introduction of the new rule, for many years past—apparently from the year 1845, when the notification under Sections 10 and 12 of Act VI of 1844 was published—the practice was to require dutiable goods to be brought to a Sayer station, where the French pass would be countersigned by the Superintendent and the goods registered, after which the goods could be taken through the out-gates.

4. The Mandalapet Sayer Superintendent, in his letter No. 55, dated 25th June 1884, enclosed, reports that he has been asked to allow goods to pass across the frontier without taking them either to the Superintendent's station or to an out-gate.

In my opinion, persons who do this render their goods liable to confiscation under Section 12 of Act VI of 1844. I beg to be informed if it is proposed to allow goods to be transported in this manner. It would be legal for Customs officers to seize goods and only to seize them in case the pass-holder is found to be liable. It would be well at first simply to turn back the goods and inform the French authorities of what it is proposed to do, so that persons to whom passes are issued might be warned. It has also come to my notice that the French passes are in French and English, partly printed and partly manuscript. I think it would be well to ask the French authorities to give passes in Tamil, so that the constables could examine them.

Resolution—dated 4th August 1884, No 2671.

Submitted for the information of Government, with reference to G.O., dated 22nd May 1884, No. 666.

2. The Board presume that action has been taken on the Sub-Collector's suggestion that the Superintendent of Police should be addressed with a view to posting, for duty as guards at the out-gates, constables who can read and write. Liquor or salt entering the British territory at places other than the out-gates, and without obtaining the counter-signature of British constables to the French passes, are liable to confiscation; and the Board request that the French Government may be addressed with a view to entering a note in their passes, which should be in Tamil, pointing out the necessity for taking the liquor or salt covered by it to the out-gates for the counter-signature of British officers. The Board agree with the Sub-Collector in considering that, at the outset, the penalty of confiscation need not be strictly enforced against persons who offend against the rule prescribed, through ignorance.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department
,, the Collector of South Arcot.

Copy to the Commissioner of Salt Revenue.

ORDER—dated 3rd September 1884, No. 984, Revenue.

Separate Revenue, No. 229.

Salt and Abkari.

The substance of the Acting Sub-Collector's letter printed in the second of the papers read above, will be communicated to His Excellency the Governor of French Settlements in the Political Department,

in reply to his letter, dated 14th May last, No. 18, with an expression of the hope of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, that the inconvenience complained of with respect to salt covered by French to French passes has ceased.

2. It will be pointed out to His Excellency that in order to prevent smuggling, it is essential that liquor and salt in transit from one French village to another should cross the frontier either at a Sayer station or at one of the subsidiary gates, in view to the French pass being examined and countersigned by the English preventive officers on duty, and that passes not so countersigned, will not protect the commodities in British territory. To prevent any inconvenience arising from ignorance of this requirement, the French Government will be requested to add to the ordinary form of pass a Tamil note for the information of the bearer, intimating that it will not give protection in British limits unless countersigned as indicated above.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary to Government.

To the Political Department.
,, the Board of Revenue.

Exd. W. H. French.

50 Copies.

Govt. of (1884) Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 3rd September 1884, No. 934.

SEPTEMBER.

Salt and Liquor conveyed under
French Passes

from one French village to another through intervening British territory.—The substance of the letter from the Acting Sub-Collector, South Arcot, reporting that orders have been issued to allow — to pass through out-gates after the passes are countersigned by the constable in charge of the gate, ordered to be communicated to His Excellency the Governor of the French Settlements at Pondicherry in the Political Department, with remarks.