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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1160 Press
~~B.P. No.~~ ~~Misc.~~

Dated 16th December 1887
~~195~~

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Further papers
Govt 1745 Home dt 19.6.89
MS. 2308 " dt. 12.7.89

16TH DECEMBER 1887, No. 1160, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue), dated 18th October 1887, No. 578.

C. A. GALTON, Esq., C.S.

Read—petition from SYED PACHA SAHIB and another, residing in Chittoor, North Arcot district, dated 5th September 1887.

ABSTRACT.—Stating that petitioners are opium farmers in the North Arcot district, complaining of smuggling in certain towns thereof of opium from Hyderabad, Bangalore, and Cuddapah, and praying for orders to the Police authorities to bring the offenders to justice.

Read—petition from PARASU RUNGA CHETTY and another, residing in Chittoor, North Arcot district, dated 5th September 1887.

ABSTRACT.—Stating that petitioners are opium farmers in almost all the taluks of the North Arcot district, complaining that opium in large extent smuggled into petitioners' farms from Hyderabad, Bangalore, and Cuddapah, and praying for the issue of orders to the Police authorities to find out the culprits and to them under the Opium Act.

Reference on the above, dated 7th September 1887.
Referred to the Collector of North Arcot for report.

(Signed) HERBERT BRADLEY,
Acting Secretary.

To the Collector of North Arcot, with two petitions in original to be returned.

Read—the following letter from W. H. GLENNY, Esq., Collector and Magistrate of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Salt, Abkári and Separate Revenue, dated Arkónam, 5th October 1887, No. 510:—

Adverting to the Board's reference (enclosures returned) on Petition Register Nos. 570 and 571 of 1887, I have the honor to submit the following report.

2. The petitioners, opium renters of the district, complain of the alleged smuggling of opium by rail from Bangalore and other places into some of the important towns of this district.

3. On receipt of a similar complaint from petitioners, Mr. MacCartie asked the Superintendent of Police for suggestions as to the best means of detecting the offence complained of, and urged upon him the advisability of putting railway station constables on the alert and recommending them of the handsome reward obtainable by the capture of smuggled opium.

4. The Superintendent of Police reports (copy of report enclosed) that he has made careful inquiry, that the alleged smuggling does seem to be carried on, and that it is difficult to make any suggestions as to the manner in which it might be checked.

5. Mr. Stevenson understands that at Bangalore opium sells at one rupee per 3 tolas; that smugglers sell in Vellore at a profit of 5 annas opium bought at that price. The price at Vellore is Rs. 2-4-0 per 3 tolas. It is suspected that the Bangalore vendors sell freely quantities in excess of the authorized 3 tolas to each purchaser.

6. I gave an endorsement to the petitioners to the effect that I had reason to believe that their complaints were not without foundation. I told them that there is nothing to be gained by notifying (as they suggested) in the District Gazette that smuggling is an offence, for by the very act of smuggling the smuggler proves that he knows the law. I pointed out that unless the petitioners can furnish our police with sufficient grounds to act upon, it is out of the question that the persons of travellers from Bangalore should be searched. I called upon the petitioners to exert themselves to assist the Bangalore authorities and our own police with good information, pointing out that no action, such as searching the persons of travellers by rail, can be taken on the strength of vague general allegations.

7. At the same time I sent a copy of the Superintendent's report to the Resident at Bangalore for consideration.

Enclosure.

From E. S. B. STEVENSON, Esq., Superintendent of Police, North Arcot, to the District Magistrate, North Arcot, dated Chittoor, 17th September 1887, No. 767.

With reference to the enclosed petition from the opium renters of Vellore taluk, I have the honor to inform you that I made careful inquiries regarding the point in question; it is very difficult to make any suggestions as to the manner in which opium smuggling in small quantities by rail can best be dealt with.

It is impossible for the men of this district to obtain reliable information from Bangalore to warrant their searching passengers by rail on their arrival at Vellore.

2. I am of opinion that the following facts show where the boot pinches the vendors of this district, and particularly those at Vellore, which place is closely connected with Bangalore on account of the native regiments at these places.

3. The license dealers at Bangalore buy opium from the authorities at 3 tolas per rupee and sell it at Rs. 1-5-0, thus making a profit of 5 annas per rupee.

The vendors at Vellore sell opium at Rs. 2-4-0 per 3 tolas. I am informed (I cannot positively prove it) that the dealers at Bangalore sell opium in large quantities to whoever applies to them, whereas the Act restricts a sale to 3 tolas to each individual. It may perhaps be found that the Bangalore vendors do no post their sales daily, but several days afterwards.

The vendors in Vellore and Chittoor state that if any trustworthy officer unconnected with Bangalore is sent with them, they will prove the very lax way in which large quantities of opium are sold to unlicensed persons from North Arcot, Madras, and elsewhere; they also assure me it is being sold in a most public way.

Resolution—dated 18th October 1887, No. 578.

Submitted to Government with the request that it may be ascertained what control is exercised in Mysore over the traffic in opium. Act I of 1878 does not appear to have been extended to the cantonment of Bangalore.

2. The successful detection of smuggling of opium must chiefly depend on the information supplied by the renters, but it might be advantageous to invest the officers of the Salt Department with powers under section 14 of the Act, and the Board suggest that all officers superior in rank to petty officers be authorized to act under that section.

3. The attention of all officers of the department will be drawn to the fact that, under section 15, any officer of the Salt Department has power to seize in any open place, or in transit, any opium which he has reason to believe to be liable to confiscation,

and to detain and search any person whom he has reason to believe to be guilty of any offence against the Act, and if such person has opium in his possession arrest him.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) ROBERT BRADLEY,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Collector of North Arcot.
" to all other Collectors.
" to the Assistant Commissioner of Salt and Abkari Revenue, Arcot Division.
" " Deputy Commissioner of Salt and Abkari Revenue, Central Division.
" to all other Deputy and Assistant Commissioners of Salt and Abkari Revenue.
" " Officers in charge of Circles,
with spare copies for distribution to Factories, &c.

Order—dated 16th December 1887, No. 1160, Revenue.

Separate Revenue, No. 293.
Opium.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to authorize all officers of the Salt Department superior in rank to petty officers to exercise the powers conferred on them by section 14 of the Opium Act, I of 1878.

2. Ordered that the Resident, Mysore, be requested in the Political Department with reference to paragraph 1 of the Proceedings above.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioner of Salt, Abkari and Separate Revenue.
" the Political Department.

Exd. T. D. Ryan.

55 Copies.

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Govt. of {1887} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 16th December 1887, No. 1160.

DECEMBER.

Smuggling of Opium.

Authorising all officers of the Salt Department to exercise powers under section 14 of Opium Act I of 1878, and addressing the Resident, Mysore, in the Political Department, regarding the control exercised over the opium traffic at Bangalore.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(SEPARATE REVENUE).

C. A. GALTON, Esq.

READ—the following petition from SYED PACHA SAHIB and another, residing in Chittoor, North Arcot district, dated 5th September 1887 :—

ABSTRACT.—Stating that petitioners are opium farmers in the North Arcot district, complaining of smuggling in certain towns thereof of opium from Hyderabad, Bangalore and Cuddapah, and praying for orders to the Police authorities to bring the offenders to justice.

READ—the following petition from PARASURUNGAYYA CHETTY and another, residing in Chittoor, North Arcot district, dated 10th September 1887 :—

ABSTRACT.—Stating that petitioners are opium farmers in almost all the taluks of the North Arcot district, complaining that opium is being to a large extent smuggled into petitioners' farms from Hyderabad, Bangalore and Cuddapah, and praying for the issue of orders to the Police authorities to find out the culprits and punish them under the Opium Act.

Reference on the above, dated 27th September 1887.

Referred to the Collector of North Arcot for report.

(Signed) HERBERT BRADLEY,
Acting Secretary.

To the Collector of North Arcot, with two petitions, in original, to be returned.

READ—the following letter from W. H. GLENNY, Esq., Collector and Magistrate of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Salt, Abkári and Separate Revenue, dated Arkónam, 11th October 1887, No. 510 :—

Adverting to the Board's reference (enclosures returned) on Petition Register Nos. 570 and 571 of 1887, I have the honor to submit the following report.

2. The petitioners, opium renters of this district, complain of the alleged smuggling of opium by rail from Bangalore and other places into some of the important towns of this district.

3. On receipt of a similar complaint from the petitioners, Mr. MacCartie asked the Superintendent of Police for suggestions as to the best means of detecting the offence complained of, and urged upon him the advisability of putting railway station constables on the alert and recommending them of the handsome reward obtainable by the capture of smuggled opium.

4. The Superintendent of Police reports (copy of report enclosed) that he has made careful inquiry, that the alleged smuggling does seem to be carried on, and that it is difficult to make any suggestions as to the manner in which it might be checked.

5. Mr. Stevenson understands that at Bangalore opium sells at one rupee per 3 tolas; that smugglers sell in Vellore at a profit of 5 annas, opium bought at that price. The price at Vellore is Rs. 2-4-0 per 3 tolas. It is suspected that the Bangalore vendors sell freely quantities in excess of the authorized 3 tolas to each purchaser.

6. I gave an endorsement to the petitioners to the effect that I had reason to believe that their complaints were not without foundation. I told them that there is nothing to be gained by notifying (as they suggested) in the District Gazette that smuggling is an offence, for by the very act of smuggling the smuggler proves that he knows the law. I pointed out that unless the petitioners can furnish our Police with sufficient grounds to act upon, it is out of the question that the persons of travellers from Bangalore should be searched. I called upon the petitioners to exert themselves to assist the Bangalore authorities and our own Police with good information, pointing out that no action, such as searching the persons of travellers by rail, can be taken on the strength of vague general allegations.

7. At the same time I sent a copy of the Superintendent's report to the Resident at Bangalore for consideration.

Enclosure No. 1.

From E. S. B. Stevenson, Esq., Superintendent of Police, North Arcot, to the District Magistrate, North Arcot, dated Chittoor, 17th September 1887, No. 767.

With reference to the enclosed petition from the opium renters of Vellore taluk, I have the honor to inform you that I made careful inquiries regarding the point in question; it is very difficult to make any suggestions as to the manner in which opium smuggling in small quantities by rail can best be dealt with.

It is impossible for the men of this district to obtain reliable information from Bangalore to warrant their searching passengers by rail on their arrival at Vellore.

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The vendors in Vellore and Chittoor state that if any trustworthy officer unconnected with Bangalore is sent with them they will prove the very lax way in which large quantities of opium is sold to unlicensed persons from North Arcot, Madras and elsewhere; they also assure me it is being sold in a most public way.

Resolution—dated 18th October 1887, No. 578.

Submitted to Government with the request that it may be ascertained what control is exercised in Mysore over the traffic in opium. Act I of 1878 does not appear to have been extended to the cantonment of Bangalore.

2. The successful detection of smuggling of opium must chiefly depend on the information supplied by the renters, but it might be advantageous to invest the officers of the Salt Department with powers under section 14, of the Act, and the Board suggest that all officers superior in rank to petty officers be authorized to act under that section.

3. The attention of all officers of the Department will be drawn to the fact that, under section 15, any officer of the Salt Department has power to seize in any open place, or in transit, any opium which he has reason to believe to be liable to confiscation,

and to detain and search any person whom he has reason to believe to be guilty of any offence against the Act, and if such person has opium in his possession arrest him.

(True Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Collector of North Arcot.
" to all other Collectors.
" to the Assistant Commissioner of Salt and Abkári Revenue, Arcot Division.
" " Deputy Commissioner of Salt and Abkári Revenue, Central Division.
" to all other Deputy and Assistant Commissioners of Salt and Abkári Revenue.
" " Officers in charge of Circles,
with spare copies for distribution to Factories, &c.

Exd. J. Henricus.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1887.

Board of Revenue

(Separate Revenue)

MADRAS.

No. 9410

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Printed November th.

Proceedings, 18th October 1887, No. 578.

Submitting to Government, with remarks, letters from the Collector of North Arcot reporting on the complaints made by the opium renters of his district regarding the *smuggling of opium* from Hyderabad, Bangalore and Cuddapah; and drawing the attention of the officers of the Salt and Abkári Department to the powers possessed by them under section 15 of the Opium Act (I of 1878) to search and arrest persons guilty of any offence against the Act, and to seize in open places, or in transit, any opium which they may believe to be liable to confiscation.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.