2-12-12

CONFIDENTIAL.

Revenue (1894) Department.

G.O., No. 1327-1328

Confidential No. 643 A

DATED 3 April 1894

[Despatch Abstract.]

Re. the Hon'ble Mr. Crole's evidence before the Hemp Drugs Commission.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Confidential

Revenue Board Office
(Land Revenue)
20th March 1894

From

The Honorable W. C. S. Crole
Offg: First Member, Board of Revenue.

To

The Honorable W. E. Gibson
Offg: Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.

Sir,

In reply to G.O. of 19th March 1894, No. 1164 Mis:, I have the honor to state that, although it was read over to me, no proof of the evidence given by me be=fore the Hemp Drugs Commission was ever forwarded to me for revision or ap=proval. I have never seen any copy of my evidence, except in garbled versions in the daily prints. I regret therefore that I am not in a position to give Government the ipsissima verba of what I did say

In regard to Para: 61 of the report on Vernacular Newspapers for the fortnight ending February 15th 1894, it certainly bears a fugitive resemblance to the views which I hold, and which I ex=pressed. The Commission had suggested that I should agree to the total prohibition of the cultivation of the hemp plant, and had indicated the Salt and Abkari Police as a suitable machinery for carrying out its suppression. I protested against the private

private premises of every ryot in the country being placed at the mercy of domi=ciliary visits on the part of the men of a force, whom it was almost impossible adequately to supervise in the execution of their existing duties. The hemp plant it must be remembered, is to be found as a single shrub in a large number of back-yards in many districts of the Madras Presidency. To ensure its total suppression, without the most revolting oppression, would entail a charge for the supervision of reliable officers which would be prohibitive. I told the Commission that the question had been gone into by me, and that the financial feasibility of even bringing the cultivation of the drug under control had been, for the present, abandoned. I pointed out to the Commission that, with men recruited and paid as the Salt and Abkari Police are, false charges would be easy, and that sys=tematic black mail would be levied. In this connection I mentioned that even in Malabar, in spite of all our super=vision, accusations were constant and widespread to the effect that false charges were trumped up by the force, the means adopted being the admix=ture of fermented toddy with the contents of sweet toddy pots. I never said that I believed or disbelieved these charges, but I mentioned their existence as a warning against tra=velling further on the same lines unless enormous additional expenditure on reliable supervision were to form part of the scheme.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your obedient servant

C. S. [illegible]
acting first member
Board of Revenue, L.R.

C/ied & expd. Lwl

1894
Confidential

From
The Hon'ble W. C. P. Cole
Offg: 1st Member, Bd. of
Revenue, L.R.

To
The Hon'ble W. E. Gibson
Secretary to Govt. R. D.

Current Number 2204

Dated 20th March 1894.

Hon. Mr. H. H. Bliss.
H.E. the Governor.
Hon. Mr. J. Cross.

Mr. Cole's views being as stated, it was his duty to have pressed them on Govt. in his former capacity as Comr. of S. & A.R. – He may have done so – I have no means of knowing.

BL
28/3/94

Mr. Crole says that complaints were numerous – but that he did not admit that they were true.
This is very different to the version given by the paper – who makes him say that it was the custom of the S. & A. officers to trump up cases. If he had said this in his evidence, it would certainly look as if he had omitted to inform Govt. but as it does not appear that he did, I do not see that anything can be done. Cannot we get the evidence printed by the Commissioners? We are only groping in the dark now. L
29 Mar

Replying to G. O. requesting a report on Para 61 of the report on vernacular Newspapers for Govt. night ending 15th Feby 1894.

Draft letter to the Secretary Hemp Drugs Commission and ask if he can send us copies of the evidence taken in Madras.

L.H. 2/4.

C. No. 2204. of 1894.

Confidential.

G.O. No. L. 1327 dd 3rd April 1894

Ordered that the following letter be despatched to the Secretary to the Indian Hemp Drugs Commission.

L.H. 3/4.

To. L. 1328

The Secretary to the Indian Hemp Drugs Commission,

hesp 5/4/94

Sir,

I am directed to request that a copy of the evidence taken in Madras by the Commission may be forwarded to this Govt. if possible.

R.V.S. 2/4.

L.H. 3/5

F.C. No. 3615/94.

Ex No. 2204. of 1894.

DISPOSED OF BY GOVT ORDER
Mis. No. 132
Date 3rd April 94

Letter to the Secretary to the Indian Famine Charity Commission

Dp 3/4

9

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