PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).

Resolution—dated 30th July 1897, No. 539.

In view of recent orders about reducing wages and numbers on relief works, the Famine Commissioner thinks it right to inform Government of the condition of the people as ascertained in his recent inspections.

2. These inspections were made in company with the Sanitary Commissioner, who will report more fully to Government. Of the coolies—some 9,500 in number—inspected at Adóni, a very large proportion were in bad condition. There were 70 emaciated babies on the work and six in the kitchen at Adóni. Scurvy was present in a considerable number of cases. At Kurnool the condition of the coolies was even worse. The number seen was about 10,000. Setting aside old persons, to whom objection might be taken that their condition might be bad in any season, there were fully 1,000 persons in bad condition present. About 70 emaciated famine babies were on the work, and more were seen in the town, and scurvy was very prevalent. The Sanitary Commissioner will give fuller particulars. The Famine Commissioner fears that the steps being taken to restrict relief are premature, and may lead to mortality. It is certain that, even on the wages previously given, the people have markedly fallen off in health.

3. The attention of the Famine Commissioner had already been given to the extent of gratuitous relief in Kurnool, and specially in the Ramallakot taluk, and in his present tour, was specially directed to this matter. The condition of Ramallakot was not properly reported to the Collector. Mr. Mullaly had pronounced it out of danger, and the Taluk and Divisional officers either purposely or through ignorance or incompetency, did not keep the Collector properly informed. The result has been that sufficient works were not opened in this taluk, and gratuitous relief on a large scale has become necessary. Government has drawn the attention of the Collector to this matter, and the Famine Commissioner had already done so. The Collector promised to refer to it specially in his next fortnightly report. For the present, it may be sufficient to note that the prices and numbers on relief in July 1897 are practically identical with the prices and numbers on relief in May 1877. The difference is that in 1877 a third of the population died: no mortality has taken place *as yet* in 1897, but, if too stringent measures are enforced, it is to be feared that mortality will follow.

4. Attention was specially given to the hill villages in Dhone firka. Dhone Subba Rao Garu, a well-known and benevolent land-owner there, has been trying for some time to call attention to this tract. The Famine Commissioner forwarded two of his applications to the Collector for disposal, but the Collector had been misled by his subordinates. In the tract specially inspected by the Famine Commissioner and Sanitary Commissioner near Kocheru, it was found that the crops of 1896–97 had been something like one anna. The karnam estimated them at one anna, and Dhone Subba Row Garu confirms this. In the report submitted by the karnam, he had to enter the crops as "one to four annas", as there was no other column. The Revenue Inspector, to be on the safe side, put them down as between 4 and 8 annas; the Tahsildar, who does not seem to have made any genuine inspection, put them down as 8 to 12 annas. The result is that these ryots have got no remission. They had not enough even to recoup their cultivation expenses, much less feed their families and pay the kist. They have had to borrow for this purpose. Their applications for loans have received no notice, though dating from 1896. The Tahsildar declares that he has "disposed of them", *i.e.*, rejected them, but no endorsement has been received, and the fresh applications also are unnoticed. The ryots' houses were searched and no food-supplies were found. Their cooking pots showed nauseous blackish balls of greasy leaves, which the women and children eat with greadiness during the inspection. It was with reference to this tract that the Famine Commissioner telegraphed to Government asking for permission to open the Kocheru-Pyapalli Road as a relief work. He would have had no hesitation in sanctioning this himself, had not Government prohibited the opening of fresh relief works without its permission. Already 450 coolies have migrated from this valley to distant works, but the remainder, for one reason or another, cannot go, and must have some work nearer their homes. The Famine Commissioner regrets to say that the recent sowings in their villages are not likely to yield more than about two anna crops. It would be better if the ryots were to plough up and resow their lands, but they are evidently too poor to do so.

The Collector will go specially into this matter, for the conduct of the Tahsildar and the Deputy Collector requires the closest sifting. These officers seem to have imbibed Mr. Mullaly's views, and the ryots suffer in consequence.

5. The Famine Commissioner regrets to say that the summer sowings throughout the tract between Dhone and Kurnool are generally poor. They may be somewhat better near Veldurti, but much of the lands will not yield more than 4 anna crops. The cholam has come up very unequally, large patches in the fields, often as much as half, having failed to come up at all. The taluk will require the most tender treatment, and the Commissioner considers that the Collector should reconsider his recommendations as to dry remissions in this taluk. The kists of fasli 1896–97 have not yet been collected in full, and the ryots should get the tardy benefit of concessions, which, had their Revenue officers been awake, should have been granted already.

6. The Famine Commissioner touches on the condition of the workers at Adóni and Kurnool only lightly, as the Sanitary Commissioner will go into the matter fully; but he respectfully submits to Government that the time has not come for severe reduction of relief. The matter of the reduced wage is one which must be discussed more fully elsewhere. All that the Famine Commissioner can urge at present is that, under the wage hitherto given, the coolies have barely kept health, or have seriously deteriorated. The general adoption of the C and D wages is bound to lead to disaster in this Presidency, if persevered in for any length of time.

7. The famine babies above referred to will all die. What the vital statistics will show is doubtful, as the machinery for recording them seems to be disorganised, *e.g.*, the statistics of Kurnool town show a death-rate of 10 per mille. According to this, the average age of the inhabitants of Kurnool must be '90.Q.E.A. The Collectors of all districts should issue special orders to stimulate accuracy of registration.

(True Extract.)

Famine Secretary.

To the Collector of Kurnool.
" Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. Md. Pahilvan.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Opium Passport

Memorandum of the outturn of Two Half chests Opium taken from 4 Whole or 8 Half Chests brought to the scales under Indore Pass No P 325.

	No	outturn of each Half Chest		outturn of each Whole Chest		
	1	2		3		
	2	70	2 ·			
	5	70	4 ·	140	6 ·	
Contents of one Chest, net weight		—		140	6 ·	
Average per one Chest				140	6 ·	
Allowed to export in 4 Chests at 140 1/4 lbs per Chest.				561		
Average contents of 4 Chests set to the Scale				561	8 ·	
Deficiency made good in No				·	·	
Excess withdrawn from No 5				·	8 ·	

Edmund Hallett
Assistant Secretary

Pd
Seat
1867

Malwa Opium Agency
Provincial Export
Passport No P. 325 of 1896-97
For 4 Chests of opium
Packages 8 Half-chests; Nil Bags.
Marks of Packages Opium Agency. Sudoor; Numbered from 1 to 8 inclusive,
and marked Gross Weight Lbs, in English throughout all packages.

No	Gross weight Lbs
1	2
1	111
2	105
3	106
4	109
5	105
6	112
7	106
8	114

Malwa Opium Agency
Sudoor
27th May 1897.

Examined and despatched from the Government opium godown on the 27th May 1897
(Sd) L. H. Forbes. Lieut.
Deputy Opium Agent in Malwa
R.C.

To

The Deputy Commissioner of Salt,
Abkari & Customs Department
Central division
Madras

Opium

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE
MADRAS

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Separate Revenue.)

Dated 10th June 1897.

Mis No. 2483

Resolution.

The Board begs to address Government on the system of opium weighing which obtains in Sudoor.

2. This system is described in a letter from the Deputy opium Agent in Malwa, embodied in Government order. No. 1158, dated 25th March 1880 and is, briefly, as follows:-

Opium is exported to Madras in bags weighing or supposed to weigh 70 lbs each. Each bag however, is not weighed separately; for the quantity of opium brought to scale in one day is said to preclude that being done. Only a percentage, therefor, of each consignment is weighed. This percentage is fixed by regular tables, but in practice it amounts to ten per cent of each consignment. This quant

quantity subject to a minimum of two half-chests, is weighed, the bags being chosen at hazard and an average is struck for the whole consignment. Opium in excess of an average of lbs 140 per chest or 70 lbs per half chest is withdrawn. On the other hand if there is a deficiency the merchants are allowed to make it good. The following illustration of how this is done has been given by the Deputy Agent: Suppose a merchant brings 200 half chests to be weighed. They are numbered from 1 to 200. Ten per cent of the chests are taken to the Scales, and these are (say) Nos 121 to 140. Their proper weight should be 1400 lbs But on weighing them it is found that they weigh 1410 lbs. It is then assumed that the total consignment is 100 lbs overweight, and to remedy this, 100 lbs are deducted from the last two chests. No 140 is therefore empty and No 139 Contains

Contains only 40 lbs. The consignment is packed up, the gross weight of each half chest, or bag, entered in the passport and the 200 half-chests are then passed for export.

Mutatis mutandis the same method is pursued when a deficiency is discovered in the weight of the chests chosen for weighment, the exporter being allowed to distribute the additional opium amongst the chests as he may find convenient. It is understood that this system is still in force

3. The Board in commenting at the time on this system remarked that, if there was deficiency of opium in the total consignment, Government would be the gainer. If there was an excess it would be, pro tanto a loser. It must however be remembered that the exporter has control over the accuracy of the contents of each chest and is not likely to perpetrate mistakes which would be to his disadvantage.

4 under rule XVIII of the opium Rules, which regulates the procedure to be adopted for checking consignments on arrival at the destination, the packages must be examined, and if their number is complete and they do not appear to have been tampered with, and if they are found to be not less nor more in weight than the full weight specified in the pass (allowances at fixed rates being made for drygge or humidity), the consignee is allowed to take them away. — Otherwise they should be detained pending the orders of the Collector. This is the only check now exercised over imports of opium into this Presidency and the Board considers it to be an altogether insufficient one so long as the system described above prevails at Sudore. It has under contemplation the preparation of rules for much more

effective

effective control over the movements of opium inside this Presidency but so long as the advices from Sudore contain only approximate information as to the quantity of opium despatched it is difficult to see how matters can be much improved It therefore begs to suggest that the Government of India be moved to order that all consignments intended for Madras be weighed completely instead of only an average being struck on the contents of 10 per cent of the chests.

A copy of the entries with regard to weight in a pass is enclosed for the information of Government.

(True Extract)

Commandant
Assistant Secretary

To
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
(with a statement)

Post 15-6-97

G.O. No 684-85
9-8-97.

The Hon. Sir Henry Bliss K.C.I.E.

His: No. 2483 dated 10th: June 1897.

I do not understand the Govt: officially: The system at Indore is a matter between the Govt and the merchant: According to the rules the merchant must bring the opium with the Indore chits to the Collr: who opens the chest & writes the contents Then the weight of opium in every chest imported is known by actual weighment of a certain number

Considering the great length of time which necessarily takes place between shipment at Indore on arrival at destination, & that during the whole of that time the

C. No. 5197.

G. O.

Ordered that the following letter be despatched to the Deputy Opium Agent, Indore.

To

The Deputy Opium Agent, Indore.

Sir,

I am directed to forward a copy of the marginally noted Proceedings of the Board of Revenue and to state that His Excellency in Council agrees with the Board in considering that the present practice of weighing the contents of only a percentage of the chests of opium does not admit of the consignments being checked satisfactorily on arrival in this Presidency. The Board has now in view the preparation of rules for much more effective control over the movements of opium inside this Presidency than is now exercised but such rules are not likely to have any effect unless the advices from Indore contain precise information as to the exact quantity of opium despatched ~~to this Presidency~~ from. I am accordingly to request that, unless there is insuperable objection to such a course being adopted, all consignments intended for Madras may be weighed, instead of the weight being calculated from the ascertained weight of the contents of only ten per cent of the chests.

P.J.O

Note. The system of weighment in force was fully explained by the Deputy Opium Agent in Malwa in his letter No. 109 dated 19th March 1880 and the Revenue Board which was requested by Government to offer its remarks thereupon stated " It would probably, however, be found impossible with transactions of such magnitude to examine a larger proportion of each con-signment and as the number of chests covered by each pass granted for exportation to this Presidency will usually be small, the risk of loss is diminished under the rule that at least two half chests must be weighed under the rule. If excess should prove of frequent occurrence the remedy will be an increase of the proportion examined".

opium is freed from off. control, I do not consider that much security is afforded by the seals - Seizure time & opportunity easily imitated. The matter is, however, of comparatively small importance in regard to the opium sent to Madras. The important question is in regard to opium sent to Bombay for export or despatch for local consumption. Salt is taxed at Rs 2 per maund 80 lbs (about) - It would be, we might not each package separately & also check weigh a suitable percentage of all packages before removal - Surely we require that as careful weighment in the case of opium which is taxed about 160 times more highly - Weighment in four seers or one seer is insufficient for the protection of the revenue. All packages are now brought to the Indore opium godowns & there weighed separately, the weights being known given to seer lbs only. What is wanted is that the opium should be brought to the godowns before it is packed & be there weighed and packed under the supervision of subordinates, whose work could be checked by a cask weighment made by a superior officer as in the case of salt - The weights should of course be known to seers. Any expenditure would be more than might be necessitated by a change of system & be recovered from increase in addl. Revenue. This only to address the Opium people at Indore. Letter addressed India/ Govt. to Bombay & others.

Read C. No. 5197.

G.O. No. 6840 of 9th Aug: 1897.

Ordered that the following letter be despatched to the Government of India.

To the Bd of Revenue, S.R. Dep. 27-8-97 4D/V No. 685.

To

The Secy. to the Govt. of India, Dept. of Finance & Commerce.

Sir,

I am directed to forward a copy of the marginally noted Proceedings of the Board of Revenue and to state that His Excellency in Council agrees with the Board in considering that the present practice of weighing the contents of only a small percentage of the chests of opium does not admit of the weights of the packages being carefully satisfactorily on arrival in this Presidency with the weights supposed to be despatched from Indore. The Board has in view the preparation of rules for much more effective control over the movements of opium inside this Presidency than is now exercised, but such rules are not likely to have due effect unless the advices from Indore contain precise information as to the exact quantity of opium despatched

Print Dft 5/7/97

The Hon: Sir Henry Bliss K.C.I.E. Sep: Rev: No 73.

H.E. the Governor

Issue 11/8/97

B.C. dtd. 27-8-97

Sep: Rev: No. 74 dtd. 18.8.97

His No. 2483 dated 10th June 1897.

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therefrom. No doubt, under the rules the merchants are required to bring the opium to the Collector with the Indore seals intact; but considering the great length of time which necessarily elapses between weighment at Indore and arrival at destination and that during the whole of that time the opium is freed from official control, this Government does not consider that much security is afforded by the seals, which, given time and opportunity, can be imitated without difficulty.

2. The system which prevails at Indore seems to be that instead of proopening each chest or bag and weighwil ing its actual contents a percentage exa only of ~~the~~ half chests which form ~~the~~ a consignment is weighed. This percentage is fixed by a regular table, but the principle involved is to weigh 10 per cent of the whole and on the actual out-turn of the contents of these chests to fix the weight of the consignment. All the chests to be exported are brought to the godown and 10 per cent are selected ~~at~~ hap hazard. The contents of these chests are accurately weighed and an average struck, it being understood that opium in excess of an average of 140 lbs. per chest or 70 lbs. per half chest is withdrawn and not allowed to be despatched with the consignment, while the merchants are allowed to make good any deficiency which the average struck on the chests may ~~give them~~ disclose.

3. The system is, I am to opinion of His Excellency the Governor in Council quite insufficient for the protection of the revenue. ~~In this Presidency~~ In regard to salt, which is taxed at about half anna a lb., each package is weighed separately and a considerable percentage of all packages is check~~ed~~ weighed before removal. In the case of opium, therefore, which is taxed about 160 times more highly than salt, His Excellency in Council considers that ~~it~~ it should be brought to the godowns before it is packed and be there weighed and packed under the supervision of subordinates whose work would be check by ~~a check~~ subsequent test weighments made by a superior officer as in the case of salt. The weights ascertained should also be given to ounces. ~~Any~~ expenditure on additional establishments ~~that~~ which may be necessitated by a change of system will be more than recouped by additional revenue.

4. ~~Since it is necessary for the due administration of the Madras Opium Revenue and since it will without doubt lead to largely increase revenue~~, I am therefore to submit for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General in Council ~~in Council~~ that the revision of the arrangements for the issue of opium ~~may soon~~ should be taken up, and an improved and more accurate system of despatch be introduced. The matter, His Excellency the Governor in Council is aware ~~conscious~~, is of comparatively small importance as respects this Presi-

(His Excellency the Governor in Council is partially certain, though it is another thing to receive positive proof, that the

-dency since the quantity of opium sent to Madras is small, but it is of very great importance in regard to the much larger quantity of opium sent to Bombay for export and also for local consumption.

3/7/97.

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Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 684, 9th August 1897.

AUGUST.

Opium from Indore.

Ordering that a letter be despatched to the Government of India submitting, for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor-General in council, that the revision of the arrangements for the issue of — should be taken up and an improved and more accurate system of despatch be introduced.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue), Mis. No. 2483, dated 10th June 1897 :—

Resolution—Mis. No. 2483, dated 10th June 1897.

The Board begs to address Government on the system of opium weighing which obtains in Indore.

2. This system is described in a letter from the Deputy Opium Agent in Malwa, embodied in G.O., No. 1158, dated 25th March 1880, and is, briefly, as follows :—

Opium is exported to Madras in bags weighing, or supposed to weigh, 70 lbs. each. Each bag, however, is not weighed separately; for the quantity of opium brought to scale in one day is said to preclude that being done. Only a percentage, therefore, of each consignment is weighed. This percentage is fixed by regular tables, but in practice it amounts to 10 per cent. of each consignment. This quantity, subject to a minimum of two half chests, is weighed, the bags being chosen at hazard and an average is struck for the whole consignment. Opium in excess of an average of 140 lbs. per chest or 70 lbs. per half chest is withdrawn. On the other hand, if there is a deficiency, the merchants are allowed to make it good. The following illustration of how this is done has been given by the Deputy Agent :—Suppose a merchant brings 200 half chests to be weighed. They are numbered from 1 to 200. Ten per cent. of the chests are taken to the scales, and these are (say) Nos. 121 to 140. Their proper weight should be 1,400 lbs. But on weighing them it is found that they weigh 1,410 lbs. It is then assumed that the total consignment is 100 lbs. overweight, and, to remedy this, 100 lbs. are deducted from the last two chests. No. 140 is therefore empty and No. 139 contains only 40 lb. The consignment is packed up, the grose weight of each half chest, or bag, entered in the passport, and the 200 half chests are then passed for export.

Mutatis mutandis the same method is pursued when a deficiency is discovered in the weight of the chests chosen for weighment, the exporter being allowed to distribute the additional opium amongst the chests as he may find convenient. It is understood that this system is still in force.

3. The Board in commenting at the time on this system remarked that, if there was deficiency of opium in the total consignment, Government would be the gainer. If there was an excess it would be, *pro tanto*, a loser. It must, however, be remembered that the exporter has control over the accuracy of the contents of each chest and is not likely to perpetrate mistakes which would be to his disadvantage.

4. Under Rule XVIII of the Opium rules, which regulates the procedure to be adopted for checking consignments on arrival at the destination, the packages must be examined, and, if their number is complete and they do not appear to have been tampered with, and if they are found to be not less, nor more in weight than the full weight specified in the pass (allowances at fixed rates being made for dryage or humidity), the consignee is allowed to take them away. Otherwise they should be detained pending the orders of the Collector. This is the only check now exercised over imports of opium into this Presidency, and the Board considers it to be an altogether insufficient one so long as the system described above prevails at Indore. It has under contemplation the preparation of rules for much more effective control over the movements of opium inside this Presidency, but so long as the advices from Indore contain only approximate information as to the quantity of opium despatched, it is difficult to see how matters can be much improved. It therefore begs to suggest that the

Government of India be moved to order that all consignments intended for Madras be weighed completely instead of only an average being struck on the contents of 10 per cent. of the chests.

A copy of the entries with regard to weight in a pass is enclosed for the information of Government.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) EDMUND MILLETT,
Assistant Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department (with statement).

Enclosures.

OPIUM PASSPORT.

Memorandum of the outturn of two half chests opium taken from 4 whole or 8 half chests brought to the scales under Indore, Pass P. No. 325.

	No.	Outturn of each half chest.	Outturn of each whole chest.
	1	2	3
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
....	2	70 2 0	....
....	5	70 4 0	140 6 0
Contents of one chest, net weight	..	....	140 6 0
Average per one chest	..	....	140 6 0
Allowed to export in 4 chests at 140½ lb. per chest.	..	....	561 0 0
Average contents of 4 chests let to the scale ..	..	....	561 8 0
Deficiency made good in number	..	....	....
Excess withdrawn from No. 5	..	....	0 8 0

MALWA OPIUM AGENCY.

Provincial Export.

Passport No. P. 325 *of* 1896–97 *for four chests of opium.*

Packages—8 half chests, *nil* bags.

Marks of packages, Opium Agency, Indore, numbered from 1 to 8 inclusive, and marked gross weight pound in English throughout all packages—

No.	Gross weight. lb.	No.	Gross weight. lb.
1	111	5	105
2	105	6	112
3	106	7	106
4	109	8	114

Examined and despatched from the Government opium godown on the 27th May 1897.

Indore,
27th May 1897.

(Signed) L. H. FORBES, LIEUT.,
Deputy Opium Agent in Malwa.

Order—No. 684, Revenue, dated 9th August 1897.

Separate Revenue No. 73.

Ordered that the following letter be despatched to the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue).

Exd. W. D'Moss.
40 Copies.

1897.

FINANCE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

From *The Government of Fort St. George.*

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. } 1897. *Spare copies*

Letter, No. 685, 9th August 1897.

AUGUST.

SUBMITTING, for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, that the revision of the arrangements for the issue of opium from Indore should be taken up, and an improved and more accurate system of despatch be introduced.

Ted Thurnoot-

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From

The Hon'ble Mr. G. STOKES, I.C.S.,
Ag. Secretary to the Government of Madras,

To

The SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA,
Department of Finance and Commerce,

Dated Ootacamund, 9th August 1897.

Sir,

I am directed to forward a copy of the marginally-noted Proceedings of the Board of Revenue and to state that His Excellency in Council agrees with the Board in considering that the present practice of weighing the contents of only a small percentage of the chests of opium does not admit of the weights of the packages being compared satisfactorily on arrival in this Presidency with weights supposed to be despatched from Indore. The Board has in view the preparation of much more effective control over the movements of opium inside this Presidency than is now exercised, but such rules are not likely to have due effect unless the advices from Indore contain precise information as to the exact quantity of opium despatched therefrom. No doubt, under the rules the merchants are required to bring the opium to the Collector with the Indore seals intact; but considering the great length of time which necessarily elapses between weighment at Indore and arrival at destination and that during the whole of that time the opium is free from official control, this Government does not consider that much security is afforded by the seals, which, given time and opportunity, can be imitated without difficulty.

Separate Revenue No. 74.

Mis. No. 2483, dated 10th June 1897.

2. The system which prevails at Indore seems to be that instead of opening each chest or bag and weighing its actual contents a percentage only of the half chests which form a consignment is weighed. This percentage is fixed by a regular table, but the principle involved is to weigh 10 per cent. of the whole and on the actual outturn of the contents of these chests to fix the weight of the consignment. All the chests to be exported are brought to the godown and 10 per cent. are selected haphazard. The contents of these chests are accurately weighed and an average struck, it being understood that opium in excess of an average of 140 lbs. per chest or 70 lbs. per half chest is withdrawn and not allowed to be despatched with the consignment, while the merchants are allowed to make good any deficiency which the average struck on the chests may disclose.

3. The system is, I am to say, in the opinion of His Excellency the Governor in Council, quite insufficient for the protection of the revenue. In regard to salt, which is taxed at about half-anna a lb., each package is weighed separately and a considerable percentage of all packages is checkweighed before removal. In the case of opium, therefore, which is taxed about 160 times more highly than salt, His Excellency in Council considers that it should be brought to the godowns before it is packed and be there weighed and packed under the supervision of subordinates whose work would be checked by subsequent test weighments made by a superior officer as in the case of

salt. The weights ascertained should also be given to ounces. It seems practically certain, though it is a matter hardly susceptible of proof, that the expenditure on additional establishments which may be necessitated by a change of system will be more than recouped by additional revenue.

4. I am therefore to submit, for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor-eral in Council, that the revision of the arrangements for the issue of opium should ken up, and an improved and more accurate system of despatch be introduced. matter, His Excellency the Governor in Council is aware, is of comparatively mportance as respects this Presidency since the quantity of opium sent to is small, but it is of very great importance in regard to the much larger ty of opium sent to Bombay for export and also for local consumption.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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