Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 826

Dated 29th September 1897.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Arrack supply, South Canara.

Approving, with remarks, the Board's action in ordering the supply of 2,500 gallons of country spirits for one Negapatam for the exercise tracts in the district of South Canara on account of the refusal of the Mangalore distillers to take up the contracts for the supply for 1897-98.

BACK PAPERS.

Date.	No.	Subject.	Date.	No.	Enclosures.	Date.

C 8732/97

FURTHER PAPERS.

Date.	No.	Subject.	Date.	No.	Enclosures.	Date.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Separate Revenue),

MADRAS.

Printed September 13th.

Proceedings, No. 380, 6th September 1897.

SEPTEMBER.

Passing orders on letters from the Collector of South Canara and the Deputy Commissioner, Southern Division, regarding the refusal of the Mangalore distillers to take up the contract of the supply of country spirits in the excise tracts of the district for the lease 1897–98, and calling on the Collector to submit a scheme for working the excise area under the direct management of Government.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(SEPARATE REVENUE).

READ—again Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue), Mis. No. 3652, dated 23rd August 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Requesting the Vizagapatam distillers to send 2,500 gallons of 30° overproof arrack to Mangalore as soon as possible and the Assistant Commissioner, Calicut Sub-division, to instruct the Inspector, Mangalore Circle, to make arrangements for receiving and storing the liquor in a suitable building.

READ—letter from the Collector of South Canara, dated 9th August 1897, V. Ref. on C. No. 632-Abk.

ABSTRACT.—Informing that the excise renters signify withdrawal from their acceptance of the contract for 1897–98, and requesting instructions whether the acceptance of the contract should be attempted to be enforced or whether the excise area should be temporarily restricted to the Mangalore town area,' the Mulki, Pavanji and Tanemangalore still areas being reconstituted.

READ—letter from the Collector of South Canara, dated 9th August 1897, VI. Ref. on C. No. 632-Abk.

ABSTRACT.—Enclosing, for Board's information, a copy of excise renters' petition, dated 5th August 1897, signifying their withdrawal from the acceptance of excise contract for 1897–98, and stating that they have been informed that they are bound to accept it for the reasons stated.

READ—letter from the Collector of South Canara, dated 9th August 1897, II. Ref. on C. No. 714-Abk.

ABSTRACT.—Forwarding a list showing the reports against the excise renters for breaches of conditions of license and recommending, for Board's consideration, the proposal of Assistant Commissioner, Calicut Sub-division, for the conversion of certain vend depôts into excise depôts.

READ—letter from the Deputy Commissioner of Salt, Abkári and Customs Departments, Southern Division, dated 16th August 1897, No. C. 117.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting for perusal and return letter from the Assistant Commissioner, Calicut Sub-division, submitting a report on the inadequacy of stock of arrack in the several vend depôts in the Excise area of South Canara.

READ—letter from the Acting Collector of South Canara, dated 29th August 1897, III. Ref. on G.B.R. No. 401.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting remarks on the petition to Board of Messrs. Albuquerque and Sons about the excise distillery contract for 1897–98.

RESOLUTION—No. 380, dated 6th September 1897.

The foregoing papers relate to the disposal of the contract for manufacturing and supplying country spirits in the excise tracts of the South Canara district for the lease commencing from the 1st October next.

2. On receipt of G.O., No. 373, Revenue, dated 22nd May 1897, approving the proposals submitted in Board's Proceedings, No. 158, dated 15th April 1897, the Collector addressed the excise contractors, Mangalore, on the 27th May 1897, intimating the increase in the rate of tree-tax, the consequent increase in the differential

duty on jaggery arrack and the issue price of spirits supplied to shopkeepers, and asked them whether they wished to have their contract extended to the end of September 1898 on these terms. The contractors replied on the 31st idem that they were willing to accept an extension of their lease provided that they were allowed to work the distillery under the existing arrangements and that the rates of differential duty were not enhanced. Subsequently, however, on a further reference from the Collector they accepted the terms approved of by Government, unconditionally. This was on the 12th June. The offer was accepted and they were informed that license would be issued to them on their executing the necessary engagement.

3. It now appears that, owing to the repeated failure of the contractors to maintain the prescribed minimum stock of 1,000 proof gallons at the distillery and 15 days' supply at the depôts, frequent complaints of short supply and consequent loss have been made by the local shopkeepers during the currency of the present lease. These failures appear to have arisen partly from the destruction of the distillery by fire in November last and partly from the financial embarrassments of the contractors. In consequence of these complaints the Collector wrote to them on the 20th January 1897 asking them to report what arrangements they were making to maintain their stock during the monsoon. They did not reply to this letter till the 5th July, or long after the monsoon had burst. Warnings to them having failed to bring about any improvement, they were fined by the Collector on nine different occasions to the extent of Rs. 230, but without effect. The Assistant Commissioner at length brought to light such a serious state of short supply at the distillery and the depôts that the Collector called upon them to bring up their stock to the minimum limit before the 3rd August, and on their failing to do so they were required to show cause why they should not be fined Rs. 50 for each of the defaults reported against them. They were duly heard and, after certain complaints against the departmental officers had been found groundless, the Collector imposed on them a cumulative fine of Rs. 1,050 for their failure to maintain the prescribed minimum stock at the Ferringhipet depôt, condoning, at the same time, a long series of similar defaults at other depôts and at the distillery itself. Upon this they wrote to the Collector on the 5th August 1897 requesting him to inform the Board that they had withdrawn from the acceptance of the contract for the next lease on account of the treatment received by them and that they would accept it only after orders were passed on the representation of their grievances which they were making to the Board. They telegraphed to the Board also to the same effect.

4. The Collector, Mr. Welsh, however, informed the contractors that they were bound by their letter of the 12th June 1897 expressing their willingness to accept the contract, and telegraphed to the Board proposing that they should either be forced to accept it, or the excise system should be confined to the Mangalore town area, the renting system being reverted to in the rest of the tracts if 2,500 gallons could not be obtained by the middle of September from outside the district. As specific performance of a contract can only be enforced by a civil court the idea of compelling the contractors to accept the new contract was out of the question, and the retrograde step of reducing the size of the excise area proposed by the Collector was equally so. The only alternative left to the Board under the circumstances was to make immediate arrangements for securing an adequate supply of spirits for the next lease from elsewhere, and the first question to be decided was what kind of spirits should be supplied. Toddy-arrack has, until of late, been customarily consumed in the excise tracts of South Canara, but during the current lease the contractors had made use of the option allowed them of distilling from jaggery instead of from toddy, to the exclusion of toddy spirits and, although the jaggery arrack manufactured at their distillery was reported to be unpopular, the prejudice against it is apparently not so great as to largely affect its consumption. There was therefore no immediate necessity for a reversion to toddy-arrack, and as the information which the Board has so far received from the Abkari Deputy Commissioner on the suitability of toddy wash for the production of potable spirits is most unsatisfactory, it considered that it would be best not to revert to it in the excise areas until further experiments had shown whether its consumption should not be discouraged in every possible way. The Board has therefore resolved to supply for the present jaggery spirits from the Vizagapatam

distillery. It selected Vizagapatam as there is no risk of spirits distilled from molasses being supplied thence. There is a strong prejudice in most parts of the Presidency against spirits produced from molasses. This is not an imaginary fault but is due to the comparative absence of flavour in such arrack, when compared with that made from jaggery, and the Board considers that it is very desirable that the imported arrack should compare as favourably as possible with that produced locally. The distillers at Vizagapatam have therefore been requested to supply 2,500 gallons of 30° over-proof spirit at 15 annas 6 pies per gallon of 30° under-proof delivered at Mangalore; about 1,300 gallons of this quantity have already been despatched from Vizagapatam and the balance will, as ordered, be sent by them so as to reach Mangalore by the 1st October next. Instructions have been issued to the Assistant Commissioner, Calicut, the Deputy Commissioner, and the Collector to arrange for the storage of the consignment and for gauging and proving it on arrival.

5. While the foregoing arrangements were being made, Mr. Nicholson, who had succeeded Mr. Welsh, telegraphed asking the Board to suspend action pending the receipt of a report on the matter. It then appeared that Messrs. Albuquerque & Sons, wished to withdraw their letter and go on with the contract as originally arranged. Their previous action had, however, forced the Board to take the preliminary steps towards a change which it intended to propose in the following year and as the contractors had shown themselves unworthy of consideration, it did not consider it advisable to recede.

The Board will not decide finally not to allow Messrs. Albuquerque & Sons, to have the contract for the coming year until the Abkári Deputy Commissioner has gone into the subject of the manufacture of toddy arrack on the spot and reported on their distillery and its plant. This he will do as soon as the termination of the monsoon permits. Meanwhile the local officers will make careful enquiries as to how the arrack supplied from Vizagapatam meets the taste of consumers as compared with that made by the contractors and a quantity which it is understood the latter are importing from Ranipettai. Should Mr. Bennett's report be favourable to toddy arrack, the Board may allow the contractors to re-commence its manufacture, but the terms of their contract will need revision. Under the arrangement of supply from Vizagapatam, Government will receive Rs. 2-6-2 per gallon, proof, against Rs. 2-2-3 per gallon under the proposed contract.

6. The Collector is requested to submit at a very early date a scheme for working the supply of this spirit under amani in the excise tracts of the district. The Board considers that a system of licensing wholesale vend depôts, the depôt-keepers being paid by commission on each gallon sold by them, subject to a monthly minimum rate of pay, would work well.

7. A copy of these Proceedings will be submitted to Government for information and for approval of the Board's action referred to in paragraph 4 above.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) N. S. BRODIE,
Ag. Secretary.

(True Copy.) [illegible]

Assistant Secretary.

To the Collector of South Canara.
" Deputy Commissioner, Southern Division.
" Assistant Commissioner, Calicut Sub-division.
" Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Inspector, Mangalore Circle.

Rd. W. D'Moss.

326

C. No 8150

The Hon: Sir Henry Blake K.C.M.G. Governor.

In G.O. No 373 dated 22.5.97 the Government sanctioned the Board's recommendation to renew Messrs Albuquerque and Sons' Contract for the supply of the excise tracts of the South Canara district for the ensuing lease provided they agreed to undertake it subject to

(1) the enhancement of the tree tax which is to be raised from 12 as per Cocoanut and Palmyra and R 1-8 for Areca to 1 R and 2 Rs respectively; and

(2) the enhancement of the differential rate of duty on jaggery arrack from 6 as to 8 as per gallon of 30° U.P.

2. It would appear that Messrs Albuquerque and Sons at first rejected but subsequently on the 12th June last expressed their willingness to undertake the supply on the above conditions. On the

@ for half year
# for whole year.

5

5th August however they wrote to say that they withdrew from the acceptance of the contract owing to the treatment received by them from the officers. The treatment referred to related to their having been fined owing to their failure to maintain minimum stocks at their distillery and depots.

3. The Collector is of opinion that they should be forced to accept the contract or that the excise system should be confined to the Manpahar Town area, the renting system being reverted to in the rest of the East. As the former can be done only by the victim's suit of a suit in a Civil Court and as the latter would be a retrograde step, the Board has sanctioned, as the only alternative, the system of supply of jaggery wash under Govt. management. For this purpose the distilleries at Vizagapatam have been asked to supply 2500 gallons of 20° U.P. liquor at 15 annas per gallon of 20° U.P.

Please see what the U.S. says in para 4 about this.

[illegible]

delivered at Manpahar and the Collector of Lower Canara has been called upon to submit a scheme for the supply of this spirit to the excise shops. From para 6 of the Board's Proc it would appear that the Board contemplates a system of licensing wholesale vends depots the depot keepers being paid by Commission on each gallon sold by them subject to a monthly minimum rate of pay.

4. The question for consideration is whether the Board's action may be approved. Government management is itself objectionable and when combined with the supply of jaggery spirit to a population accustomed to toddy arrack it is thought that the scheme would afford room for complaint. Attention is invited to para 12 of the (now Sir Henry) Rhodes letter in G.O. No 652 of 13 Aug from which it will be seen that the H. Dr. was receptive

such an arrangement.

As regards the payment of vendors by commission, it is respectfully submitted that such a system would be looked upon as encouraging the spread of drunkenness seeing that vendors will naturally have an interest in forcing up consumption.

In these circumstances it is thought that the commission system should not be allowed and that if the system of Govt management is to be sanctioned, Govt might undertake the supply by appointing vendors on fixed pay or by employing departmental officers to work the depots as is now done in portions of the Patuakhali district of the Tanjore Dt.

5. It would appear from para 6 of the B.P. that Messrs Albuquerque and Sons have since written to say that they will undertake the contract. The Board state

WR 24/9/19

that as the contractors have shown themselves unworthy of consideration it does not seem advisable to recede but that the final decision of the question will be deferred until the Assistant Deputy Commissioner has reported on their distillery and plant. Seeing that the lease commences from 1st October the question is not likely to be settled before the beginning of the lease.

It seems better that the Govt. Dist. not fix up stills but that in first passing a rule (since toddy arack is objectionable) or toddy arack from localities in which they might encourage Dist. Brick. It will not matter much for a short time whether the vendors are found on Commission or not. Growth of toddy arack is to be faced on the people otherwise we have prosperity.

There is however this alternative of allowing Messrs Albuquerque & Co on with their contract. They distilling is very much better

and the Sanction is withheld if they are to be allowed to Come in afresh they will have to be Compelled to improve their plant: The Attorney Genl: is to report on this point.

Any way I submit there is nothing for it at present but to approve the Bd's suggestion and if necessary later steps afterwards to improve this Distillery.

11/25/97.

Yes. We are in a difficult position. Inasmuch as the best we can do is to recommend that the Bd might be asked to consider the question of fresh arrangements they may have to make in time (if possible) before the present arrangements have to be carried out. Meanwhile the Distillery is closed & cannot supply today. Board say it could supply today Spirit from Sodawater or Lemonade. It might also be suggested that the Comr. should visit the District to consider the matter on the spot with the Collr.

BW
25/9/97

Sept 26.
29-9-97

in time & should Comr. be requested to consider them before they

C. No 8150

Sub. Dep. No 8th

G.O. No 8268/ 29th Sept. 1897.

The Board's action reported in the above read above is approved with the following remarks:-

(i) All fresh arrangements which will have to be made should be reported ~~to Govt~~ before they are actually carried out:

(ii) It should be explained why it has not been found possible to supply the District with today spirit from Sodawater or Lemonade:

(iii) It would perhaps be desirable for the Commissioner to visit the district himself and consider the matter upon the spot with the Collector.

29-9-97

AK. draft from orders
29/9/97

The Sec. of Revenue (Mr. Reeve)
Bds. 16-10-97.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. } *Spare copies*

G.O No. 826, 29th September 1897.

SEPTEMBER.

Arrack supply, South Canara.

Approving, with remarks, the Board's action in ordering the supply of 2,500 gallons of country spirits from Vizagapatam for the excise tracts in the district of South Canara on account of the refusal of the Mangalore distillers to take up the contract of the supply for 1897–98.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue), No. 380, dated 6th September 1897 :—

Read—again Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue), Mis. No. 3652, dated 23rd August 1897.

Abstract.—Requesting the Vizagapatam distillers to send 2,500 gallons of 30° overproof arrack to Mangalore as soon as possible and the Assistant Commissioner, Calicut Sub-division, to instruct the Inspector, Mangalore Circle, to make arrangements for receiving and storing the liquor in a suitable building.

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3. It now appears that, owing to the repeated failure of the contractors to maintain the prescribed minimum stock of 1,000 proof gallons at the distillery and 15 days' supply at the depôts, frequent complaints of short supply and consequent loss have been made by the local shopkeepers during the currency of the present lease. These failures appear to have arisen partly from the destruction of the distillery by fire in November last and partly from the financial embarrassments of the contractors. In consequence of these complaints the Collector wrote to them on the 20th January 1897 asking them to report what arrangements they were making to maintain their stock during the monsoon. They did not reply to this letter till the 5th July, or long after the monsoon had burst. Warnings to them having failed to bring about any improvement, they were fined by the Collector on nine different occasions to the extent of Rs. 230, but without effect. The Assistant Commissioner at length brought to light such a serious state of short supply at the distillery and the depôts that the Collector called upon them to bring up their stock to the minimum limit before the 3rd August, and on their failing to do so they were required to show cause why they should not be fined Rs. 50 for each of the defaults reported against them. They were duly heard and, after certain complaints against the departmental officers had been found groundless, the Collector imposed on them a cumulative fine of Rs. 1,050 for their failure to maintain the prescribed minimum stock at the Ferringhipet depôt, condoning, at the same time, a long series of similar defaults at other depôts and at the distillery itself. Upon this they wrote to the Collector on the 5th August 1897 requesting him to inform the Board that they had withdrawn from the acceptance of the contract for the next lease on account of the treatment received by them and that they would accept it only after orders were passed on the representation of their grievances which they were making to the Board. They telegraphed to the Board also to the same effect.

4. The Collector, Mr. Welsh, however, informed the contractors that they were bound by their letter of the 12th June 1897 expressing their willingness to accept the contract, and telegraphed to the Board proposing that they should either be forced to accept it, or the excise system should be confined to the Mangalore town area, the renting system being reverted to in the rest of the tracts if 2,500 gallons could not be obtained by the middle of September from outside the district. As specific performance of a contract can only be enforced by a civil court the idea of compelling the contractors to accept the new contract was out of the question, and the retrograde step of reducing the size of the excise area proposed by the Collector was equally so. The only alternative left to the Board under the circumstances was to make immediate arrangements for securing an adequate supply of spirits for the next lease from elsewhere, and the first question to be decided was what kind of spirits should be supplied. Toddy-arrack has, until of late, been customarily consumed in the excise tracts of South Canara, but during the current lease the contractors had made use of the option allowed them of distilling from jaggery instead of from toddy, to the exclusion of toddy spirits and, although the jaggery arrack manufactured at their distillery was reported to be unpopular, the prejudice against it is apparently not so great as to largely affect its consumption. There was therefore no immediate necessity for a conversion to toddy-arrack, and as the information which the Board has so far received from the Abkári Deputy Commissioner on the suitability of toddy wash for the

production of potable spirits is most unsatisfactory, it considered that it would be best not to revert to it in the excise areas until further experiments had shown whether its consumption should not be discouraged in every possible way. The Board has therefore resolved to supply for the present jaggery spirits from the Vizagapatam distillery. It selected Vizagapatam as there is no risk of spirits distilled from molasses being supplied thence. There is a strong prejudice in most parts of the Presidency against spirits produced from molasses. This is not an imaginary fault but is due to the comparative absence of flavour in such arrack, when compared with that made from jaggery, and the Board considers that it is very desirable that the imported arrack should compare as favourably as possible with that produced locally. The distillers at Vizagapatam have therefore been requested to supply 2,500 gallons of 30° over-proof spirit at 15 annas 6 pies per gallon of 30° under-proof delivered at Mangalore; about 1,300 gallons of this quantity have already been despatched from Vizagapatam and the balance will, as ordered, be sent by them so as to reach Mangalore by the 1st October next. Instructions have been issued to the Assistant Commissioner, Calicut, the Deputy Commissioner, and the Collector to arrange for the storage of the consignment and for gauging and proving it on arrival.

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7. A copy of these Proceedings will be submitted to Government for information and for approval of the Board's action referred to in paragraph 4 above.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) N. S. BRODIE,
Ag. Secretary.

To the Collector of South Canara.
" Deputy Commissioner, Southern Division.
" Assistant Commissioner, Calicut Sub-division.
" Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Inspector, Mangalore Circle.

Order—No. 826, Revenue, dated 29th September 1897.

Separate Revenue No. 84.

The Board's action reported in its Proceedings read above is approved with the following remarks:—

(i) All fresh arrangements which will have to be made should be reported in time to enable Government to consider them before they are actually carried out.

(ii) It should be reported why it has not been found possible to supply the district with toddy spirit from Gódávari or Malabar.

(iii) It would perhaps be desirable for the Commissioner to visit the district himself and consider matters on the spot with the Collector.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue).

Exd. Shaik Karim.

40 Copies.

