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Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1287

DATED 29th March 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording B.P. submitting to Govt
with remarks, the statement of country agents and
of locally-made foreign agents in the several
circles of the Madras Presidency in and up to
the month of January 1897.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
C no 2353499							

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1899.

Board of Revenue

(Separate Revenue),

MADRAS.

Printed March th.

Rec'd } 15/3.
Reg'd }

Proceedings, No. 48, 7th March 1899.



Order no. 1287729¹⁵ March 99.

Recorded.

The falling off is serious.
What control has Govt over
the maximum prices to be
charged?

MARCH.

MA 20.3.99.

Note

Except in Bellary and Belgaum, there is a fall in the consumption
as compared with last year. The explanation generally given is that the
season was unfavourable for at least a part of the season, and that the prices of food grains
were high. It is only in three districts—North Arcot, South Arcot and Salem—that the foreign

Submitting to Government, with remarks, the statement of consumption of country spirits
and of locally-made foreign spirits in the several excise tracts of the Madras Presidency in and
up to the month of December 1898.

is made to the amalgamation of the Nelli Kuppam and Panipettai distilleries. The price of
country spirits was high in other districts also—Madras, Chingleput, Tanjore,
Madurai and Coimbatore.

KD

17-3-99

c no 10/14. Sent 26/3/99.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(SEPARATE REVENUE).

Resolution—No. 48, dated 7th March 1899.

The Board begs to submit to Government, with the following remarks, a statement showing the consumption of country spirits and of locally-made foreign spirits in the several excise tracts of the Madras Presidency in and up to the month of December 1898.

Country spirits.

2. Compared with the corresponding period of last year, there has been, in the excise tracts of the Presidency, a net decrease in consumption of 104,906 proof gallons or about 14·8 per cent. up to the month. This serious fall follows one of 54,283 proof gallons in the previous year as compared with 1896-97. Nine months of the lease being now passed, the Board proposes to examine its alleged causes in detail and see how far they justify it.

3. *Ganjam.*—The decrease in the district amounts to 2,210 proof gallons or about 5 per cent. on last year's figures and is attributed to high prices of food-grains. It is most noticeable in the town shops of Chatrapur, Gopalpur and Berhampur which are reported to be practically in the hands of a single renter and is due to a rise of 7, 50 and 50 per cent., respectively, in the retail selling price of arrack. The Collector is requested to take steps to prevent all these shops being confirmed in the name of a single renter again.

The district as a whole shows an increase of 17 in the number of shops opened notwithstanding a decrease of 16 in the number sanctioned.

4. *Vizagapatam.*—The decrease amounts to only 1 per cent. (868 proof gallons). The falling off is greatest in the Vizagapatam town and the Sáluru taluk. In the latter it is attributed to the unfavourable character of the season. In the former there was an increase of 14 per cent. in the price of liquor per gallon of 30° under-proof as compared with last year. There were similar rises of price in other places. Out of 27 sanctioned shops, only 13 are reported to have been opened in the Párvatipuram taluk which gives one shop to 8,398 people and an area of 30 square miles. The Collector will be requested to explain why the renter has not been made to open more shops and to see that the next year's renter does so.

5. *Kistna.*—The total quantity consumed up to the month is 46,818 proof gallons against 53,487 in 1897-98, resulting in a decrease of 6,669 proof gallons or 12 per cent. The decrease is noticeable everywhere except in the Gudiváda, Bandur and Ténali taluks. The chief reasons are (1) the completion of certain large public works, (2) the continued high prices of food-grains till recently, (3) the high prices charged by the renters and shopkeepers for liquor, (4) the late opening of amani depots in the Palnad and Narasaraopet taluks, (5) the prevalence of plague in Bombay which has affected the weaving trade in the Bápátla taluk and (6) an increasing demand for toddy in preference to arrack. In the Bandur taluk, the Tiruvur division and the Narasaraopet khandam 69, 24 and 12, respectively, of the sanctioned shops have not been opened and in the case of the Tiruvur division, this failure is assigned by the Collector himself as the cause of the fall in consumption. The Collector is

requested to explain why condition 13 of the renters' license has not been enforced.

Gudiváda taluk—
Gudiváda town.
Nuzvid taluk—
Kapileswarapuram khandam.
Manikonda khandam.
Bandur taluk—
Srikakulam khandam.
Vadlamana do.
Kaza do.

It is observed that though shops have been shown as having been opened in the marginally-noted tracts, no consumption in them has been reported. The Jaggayapeta depot is reported to have been temporarily closed, but no cause is given. Two Tahsildars give no explanations of the decreases in their taluks; a third ascribes that in his to "the fluctuations

in the renter's indents for liquor." The matter seems to need more personal attention in the Kistna district. The average selling price for the district shows an increase of about 11 per cent.

6. *Nellore.*—The decrease amounts to 20 per cent. (6,333 proof gallons). The fall in consumption is general and is attributed to the unfavourable character of the season. Out of 464 shops sanctioned for the district, only 386 have been opened. The Collector is requested to see that a larger number of shops are opened next year, especially in the Atmakúru, Udayagiri and Kanigiri taluks, where the shops now reported to be working give results as noted

	Sq. miles per shop.	Population per shop.
Atmakúru ...	36	5,619
Udayagiri ...	40	4,772
Kanigiri ...	63	8,201

in the margin. There is also a slight decrease in the number of wholesale depots licensed. The increase of As. 2 in the selling price of arrack per gallon of 30° under-proof has not been accounted

for. The Collector's attention is called to it.

7. *Cuddapah.*—The total quantity consumed up to December 1898 is 18,705 proof gallons against 29,177 in 1897-98 and 26,626 in the year previous. The decrease is noticeable in all the taluks except in Siddhavattam, in spite of an increase in the number of wholesale depots licensed (58 against 50 in the previous year), and is stated to be due to the unfavourable character of the season till recently. The Board is not satisfied with the sufficiency of this reason. The large increase in the selling price of arrack per gallon of 30° under-proof needs special explanation by the Collector, who is requested to give his personal attention to the matter.

8. *Anantapur.*—The total quantity consumed up to December 1898 is 9,253 proof gallons against 10,668 in 1897-98, resulting in a decrease of 1,415 proof gallons or 13 per cent. The decrease is noticeable almost throughout the district and is attributed to the plague scare. In the Tadpatri taluk 27 shops have remained closed, while in the Madakasira taluk more than half the number of sanctioned shops have not been opened. The latter taluk dovetails into Mysore territory and, unless prompt steps are taken to see that a major portion of the sanctioned shops is opened, Mysore arrack is likely to be smuggled into the taluk. The number of wholesale depots licensed shows an increase of 4.

9. *Bellary.*—The consumption in the district up to December shows an increase of 3,701 proof gallons or 13 per cent. over that of last year and 6,585 proof gallons or 20 per cent. over that of the year previous. The continuing increase has not been satisfactorily explained, and the contrast between this district and the adjacent ones of Anantapur and Cuddapah needs the attention of the Collectors of the latter districts. The increase incurs in spite of a slight increase in the selling price of arrack which also has not been explained by the Collector.

10. *Kurnool.*—There is a decrease of 2,176 proof gallons up to the month when compared with the corresponding period of last year and an increase of 1,715 proof gallons when compared with the year previous. The decrease is general throughout the district except in the Markapur and Nandyal taluks and is attributed to the following causes: (1) the labourers' wages being paid in the shape of grain, which is cheaper than in the previous year, and their purchasing power being decreased in consequence; (2) a decrease in the cultivation of indigo and a fall in the demand for labour and (3) larger consumption of toddy which is stated to be more plentiful owing to timely

rains this year. The increase in the Markapur taluk is reported to be due to all the 17 sanctioned shops being opened. The number of shops opened in the taluks of Ramallakot, Nandikotkur and Nandyal appears insufficient to meet the requirements of the people. Three additional depots have been licensed during the year.

11. *Madras Town Circle*.—The consumption up to the month has fallen by 8,088 proof gallons or 16 per cent. when compared with the corresponding period of last year. The decrease is attributed to the unfavourable character of the season, high prices of staple grains and absence of large works. The closure of a large number of tanneries in the Saidapet taluk since the beginning of the current official year is also reported to have affected consumption. The increase of As. 4-10 in the selling price of spirits per gallon of 30° under-proof has not been explained. With only 9 wholesale depots licensed in the circle against 14 in 1897-98, the arrangements for the distribution of liquor cannot be considered to have been adequate and the Board is not satisfied that the decrease in consumption is not traceable partly at least to this cause and to the rise in price.

12. *Chingleput*.—The decrease in the district, viz., 7,603 proof gallons or about 34 per cent. is very heavy. It is reported to be due mainly to the vicissitudes of the season. In the Tiruvallūr taluk, it is attributed to the enhancement in the price of arrack owing to the abolition of a wholesale depot and to some of the shopkeepers purchasing liquor from the Veyasarpady distillery and to the postponement of several festivals; in the Ponnéri taluk to the completion of railway works, and to the non-execution of potty construction and repair works and stoppage of manufacture at the salt factories during the last season and in the Chingleput taluk to the last mentioned cause. In the Madurantakam taluk, the decrease is attributed to the emigration of a number of people to Natal, Ceylon and other places and to the preference shown for toddy. This explanation does not read very convincingly. In 1897-98 all the sanctioned shops were opened and 25 wholesale depots were licensed, while in the current year five shops remain closed and licenses for only 21 depots are reported to have been issued. The rise in the selling price of arrack from Rs. 5-4-0 to Rs. 5-14-7 per gallon of 30° under-proof in the Ponnéri taluk has not been explained. The point needs the Collector's attention.

13. *North Arcot*.—There is a decrease of 12,332 proof gallons or 25 per cent. up to the month. It is common to the whole district except the Punganuru and Kangundi divisions and is attributed to the enhancement of the selling price of arrack owing to the amalgamation of the two rival firms trading under the name of the East India Distilleries and Sugar Factories (Limited) and to the opening of a smaller number of wholesale vend depots than in the previous year, namely, 51 against 63. That it is the rise in the price of arrack above referred to that has affected consumption becomes more certain from the fact that the Kangundi division where the selling price is reported to be less than in the previous year shows an increase of 518 proof gallons. All but three of the sanctioned number of shops have been opened.

14. *South Arcot*.—The consumption up to the month under review amounts to 38,015 proof-gallons against 53,098 in 1897-98 and 50,915 in the year previous, showing a decrease of 28 and 25 per cent., respectively. The decrease is noticeable chiefly in the taluks of Cuddalore, Tindivanam, Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Vriddhachalam and Chidambaram and is mainly attributed to the absence of competition owing to the amalgamation of the firms referred to in the foregoing paragraph and the consequent rise in the selling price of spirits issued to shopkeepers. It is also ascribed partly to the adverse state of the season in the early part of the year. The number of wholesale depots licensed shows a decrease of five. One hundred and twenty-three of the sanctioned shops have not been opened; out of these 91 are in the frontier taluks. The Collector's attention is drawn to this matter. The renters of farms bordering the Pondicherry frontier must be made to keep the frontier shops open.

15. *Tanjore*.—The consumption up to the month shows a decrease of 4,799 proof gallons or about 18 per cent., and is attributed to an increase in the selling price of arrack and to the impoverished condition of the consumers. The rise in the price of arrack has not been explained. The Collector reports that special enquiries are being

made into the causes of the decrease in consumption and that the result will be communicated shortly. The report promised is awaited. Only 14 wholesale depots have been licensed against 24 in the corresponding period of last year. More depots certainly seem called for to secure an adequate distribution of liquor. In the Kumbakonam taluk where the decrease in consumption is most marked—37 per cent.—19 of the sanctioned shops have not been opened.

16. *Trichinopoly*.—The consumption up to the month under review amounts to 27,483 proof gallons against 29,458 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 1,975 proof gallons or about 7 per cent. The decrease is noticeable throughout the district except in the Trichinopoly taluk and is attributed to the high selling price of food-grains, the comparative cheapness of toddy which is resorted to more extensively, to the unfavourable character of the season at the beginning of the lease and to the closure of some shops for want of bids. Only 21 wholesale depots have been licensed against 27 in the previous year.

17. *Madura*.—The net decrease in the district amounts to 5,672 proof gallons or about 17 per cent. It is reported to be due partly to a smaller number of shops having been opened than in the previous year and partly to the people resorting more to toddy than to arrack. In the Madura taluk which shows a heavy decrease of 3,924 proof gallons or about 69 per cent. of the net decrease in the district, only 19 shops are reported to have been opened in the month against 48 sold and 53 sanctioned. The Collector is requested to report the special circumstances under which so many sold shops have remained closed. The increase in the selling price of arrack, namely, Rs. 6-1-0 against Rs. 5-11-2 per gallon of 30° under-proof in the previous year has not been explained by the Collector.

18. *Tinnevely*.—The consumption up to the month amounts to 19,613 proof gallons against 20,728 in the corresponding period of last year and 17,835 in the year previous, resulting in a decrease of 1,110 proof gallons or about 5 per cent. and an increase of 9 per cent., respectively. The Collector reports that enquiries are being made as regards the decrease in consumption. Only 26 wholesale depots have been licensed against 33 in the previous year, but all but four of the sanctioned shops have been opened.

19. *Coimbatore*.—There is a decrease of about 1,059 proof gallons or about 3 per cent. as compared with 1897-98 and an increase of 4,571 proof gallons or about 13 per cent. as compared with the year previous. The decrease is noticeable chiefly in the taluks of Coimbatore, Palladam and Satyamangalam and is attributed to cheapness of toddy. The Board does not consider the explanation satisfactory. The decrease is probably in part at any rate due to the rise in the selling price of arrack from Rupees 6-0-2 per gallon of 30° under-proof in 1897-98 to Rs. 6-3-6 in the current year which has not been explained by the Collector. There is an increase in the numbers of shops opened and wholesale depots licensed.

20. *The Nilgiris*.—The consumption in the district amounts to 23,563 proof gallons against 20,952 in 1897-98 and 22,234 in the year previous. The increase is ascribed to an increase in the temporary population, the steady decrease in the sale of foreign liquor owing to the closure of two foreign liquor taverns and to the fact that country-made foreign liquor is going out of favour.

21. *Salem*.—The decrease up to the month under review amounts to 9,181 proof-gallons or about 20 per cent. as compared with last year. It is noticeable throughout the district except in the Tiruchengodu and Krishnagiri taluks and is attributed to the unfavourable character of the season till the month of August last, to a temperance movement set on foot by the weaving and Muhammadan communities, to an increase in the selling price of arrack, which is explained by the Collector as due to absence of competition owing to the amalgamation of the two rival firms referred to above, and to the depression of the weaving trade in consequence of the prevalence of plague in Bangalore. The people who have hitherto been accustomed to Rānipettai arrack are further reported to dislike the Nellikuppam arrack warehoused and blended at Erode which is now supplied to them and are stated to be taking to toddy and intoxicating drugs instead. The numbers of shops opened and wholesale depots licensed are 456 and 43 against 495 and 50, respectively, in the previous year.

22. *South Canara*.—The consumption up to the month under review amounts to 19,650 proof gallons against 27,513 last year, and last year was bad enough. The decrease of 7,863 proof gallons is reported to be due to the indebtedness of the poorer classes owing to the high price of food-grains and to the depression of trade which is stated to have crippled the resources of the working classes. The Collector is making further enquiries into the causes of the decrease in consumption and he thinks that the above causes may possibly have operated in bringing about some illicit distillation. The attention of the departmental officers concerned is called to the matter. Only 389 shops have been opened out of 505 sanctioned for the district. The Collector is requested to go carefully into this decrease and arrange for shops being opened wherever there is a demand. To prevent licit supply is only opening the way to illicit.

23. *Malabar*.—The consumption up to the month has fallen by 6,310 proof gallons or about 16 per cent. In the Wynad taluk, the decrease is attributed to the unfavourable character of the season for the first four months of the year, the cessation of cooly immigration from Mysore owing to plague and the extended sale of colombo arrack by tavern-keepers. In the other excise tracts of the district it is ascribed to the fact that cholera which accounted for a large consumption last year is no longer prevalent and to the preference shown for toddy because of its comparative cheapness. But the last mentioned reason does not appear to be correct as the toddy revenue is also falling off. The number of shops opened in the Chirakkal and Ponnani taluks is 53 and 66 against 62 and 83, respectively, in the previous year and cannot be considered sufficient to meet the requirements of the people. Only 22 wholesale depots have been licensed against 26 in the previous year.

FOREIGN SPIRITS.

24. The total quantity of locally-made foreign spirits issued up to the month under review amounted to 10,032 proof gallons against 12,005 in 1897-98, thus showing a decrease of 1,973 proof gallons or about 16·4 per cent.

25. The increase in Cuddapah and the decrease in Bellary have not been explained by the Collectors concerned.

26. *Madras Town Circle*.—The increase is due to the sale of Malabar arrack in taverns in lieu of colombo arrack, the first being locally-made and therefore included in this return and the latter not so.

27. *Ganjum*.—The decrease is attributed to the use of imported foreign liquor obtained from Madras and other places in lieu of locally-made imitations.

28. *Trichinopoly*.—The decrease in the quantity of raisin wine issued up to the month under review is due to fluctuations in the requirements of the Madura Catholic Mission.

29. *The Nilgiris*.—The decrease is due to the causes mentioned in paragraph 20 *supra*.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. TODHUNTER,
Acting Secretary.

(True Copy.)

Assistant Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ all Collectors.

„ the Deputy Commissioner, Central Division.

Copy to other Deputy Commissioners.

„ to all Assistant Commissioners.

„ to the Inspector, Madras Town Circle.

Exd. Md. Pahlwan.

APPENDIX.

COMPARATIVE statement of Consumption of Spirits in the several Excise tracts of the Madras Presidency in and up to the month of December 1898.

Districts.		COUNTRY SPIRITS IN GALLONS.					LOCALLY-MADE FOREIGN SPIRITS IN PROOF-GALLONS.	
		In the month.				Total up to the month (proof).	In the month.	Up to the month.
		20° under-proof.	30° under-proof.	60° under-proof.	Total (proof).			
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Ganjam	1897-98 ..	11	2,186	6,650	4,412	38,086	4	235
	1898-99 ..	0	1,692	6,496	3,718	36,976	21	161
2. Vizagapatam	1897-98 ..	72	6,946	844	5,267	46,102	..	..
	1898-99 ..	30	6,702	858	5,059	45,234	..	..
3. Kistna (Excise tracts)	1897-98 ..	965	6,418	650	5,620	53,487	..	..
	1898-99 ..	824	5,274	175	4,421	46,616	..	..
4. Nellore	1897-98 ..	..	4,616	..	3,231	31,001	7	22
	1898-99 ..	..	3,470	..	2,429	24,668	..	..
5. Cuddapah	1897-98 ..	2,459	1,399	..	2,947	29,177	..	..
	1898-99 ..	1,273	1,196	..	1,666	18,706	..	..
6. Anantapur	1897-98 ..	633	1,023	..	1,223	10,668	21	108
	1898-99 ..	434	681	..	824	9,263	..	..
7. Bellary	1897-98 ..	500	3,104	..	2,783	28,199	30	263
	1898-99 ..	383	4,651	..	3,492	31,900	..	..
8. Kurnool	1897-98 ..	1,699	474	..	1,691	16,148	5	84
	1898-99 ..	1,278	244	..	1,194	14,272	17	111
9. Madras Town Circle. { Madras Town, including the outside shops. 1897-98 ..	1897-98 ..	..	5,738	..	4,017	37,497	..	..
	1898-99 ..	..	5,218	..	3,653	33,883	177	2,483
	1897-98 ..	..	1,628	..	1,138	10,495	93	4,201
	1898-99 ..	..	796	..	596	6,021	..	..
10. Chingleput	1897-98 ..	..	(a) 3,054	..	(a) 2,138	(a) 22,043	..	..
	1898-99 ..	..	1,996	..	1,397	14,440	..	..
11. North Arcot	1897-98 ..	186	6,486	..	4,689	49,814	..	..
	1898-99 ..	497	4,392	..	3,473	37,462	14	119
12. South Arcot	1897-98 ..	..	7,005	3	4,996	53,098	..	..
	1898-99 ..	205	5,215	..	3,614	38,018	..	..
13. Tanjore	1897-98 ..	4	3,692	..	2,587	26,729	..	..
	1898-99 ..	1	2,904	..	2,034	20,930	..	..
14. Trichinopoly	1897-98 ..	64	4,855	..	3,441	29,458	100	621
	1898-99 ..	74	4,383	..	3,128	27,463	..	..
15. Madura	1897-98 ..	..	6,226	..	3,668	32,648	..	..
	1898-99 ..	..	3,553	..	2,697	26,576	..	..
16. Tinnevely	1897-98 ..	..	3,829	..	2,689	26,728	..	..
	1898-99 ..	..	3,196	..	2,236	19,619	..	..
17. Coimbatore	1897-98 ..	4,139	1,709	..	4,597	39,492	30	326
	1898-99 ..	3,598	1,260	..	3,763	38,433	36	224
18. The Nilgiris	1897-98 ..	62	2,813	..	2,011	20,352	794	7,478
	1898-99 ..	10	3,620	..	2,472	23,563	216	4,033
19. Salem	1897-98 ..	25	6,300	..	4,472	(a) 45,838	..	..
	1898-99 ..	27	5,216	..	3,672	36,667	11	123
20. South Canara (Excise tracts)	1897-98 ..	..	3,806	..	2,706	27,513	..	..
	1898-99 ..	..	3,063	..	2,144	19,650	..	..
21. Malabar { Wynad taluk 1897-98 ..	1897-98 ..	900	..	..	722	4,856	..	..
	1898-99 ..	900	..	..	720	4,258	..	..
	1897-98 ..	808	4,052	492	3,769	34,253	..	..
	1898-99 ..	612	3,708	344	3,361	(b) 28,640	..	..
Total	1897-98 ..	12,610	87,076	8,648	74,499	707,481	1,177	12,005
	1898-99 ..	10,363	73,385	7,873	62,101	602,576	499	10,032

(a) Revised figure.

(b) Includes 162 gallons of jaggery arrack.

Hri's remarks on B.P. (SR)
BC-48 d. 7-3-99 (COR. 1881 of 99)

"The falling off
"is serious. What control
"has Govt. over the
"maximum prices to be
"charged".

(Initd) ATA
20/3/99

To Secretary.

Maximum
prices are fixed for the
issue of liquor from
distilleries, warehouses,
and wholesale depots,
but not for sale in
retail shops.
The abkari committee
of 1884 stated that maxi-
mum prices ^{would} ~~should~~ not
be required to be im-
posed anywhere and
such prices were
accordingly abolished

It is to the retail ^{prices that} ~~prices that~~
reference is generally made in the B.P.

seen
21/3/99

para 30 of B.P.
Printed in G.P. 66 of
24-1-99
G.P. 124 d. 17-2-99.

para 10 on page 4
of G.P. 570 d. 30-4-84

para 2 on page 7
of G.P. ibid.

KD
24-3-99

HUG
29/3/99

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189

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ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

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