

Revenue (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1778

DATED 16th May 99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording B. P. (Septes). Submitting to Govt. with
remarks, the statement of consumption of
country spirits and locals - made foreign spirits
in the several Excise units of the Madras Presidency
in & up to the month of February 1899.

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REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1899.

Board of Revenue

(Separate Revenue),

MADRAS.

Current No. 2911

Printed April th.

*Recd 2nd May
Regist 3rd May*

Proceedings, No. 93, 21st April 1899.

*G.O. no. 1778 of 10th May 1899
At 15.5.99*

Recorded.

APRIL.

Note

The decrease in consumption still continues.

*P.P.K. AR
3.5.99 9.5.99*

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 February 1899.

14/3/5 at 17799

C. 17/5

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(SEPARATE REVENUE).

RESOLUTION—No. 93, dated 21st April 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 February 1899.

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 129,178 proof gallons or about 15 per cent. up to the month. The following explanations are offered by Collectors for the local variations. None has been offered for the increase in Bellary and the Nilgiris.

3. *Ganjām, Kistna and Tanjore.*—The decrease is attributed to an increase in the selling price of arrack. The rise in the price in Ganjām is reported to be due to the fact that the town shops of Chatrapur, Gopālpur and Berhampur are practically in the hands of a single renter. Further reasons given are, in Kistna, absence of large works, an increasing demand for toddy and the fall in the price of grain in which the labouring classes receive their wages; and in Tanjore the impoverished condition of the consumers brought about by bad years and the high price of food-grains.

4. *Nellore.*—The decrease is ascribed to the unfavourable character of the season and an increase in the selling price of arrack.

5. *Cuddapah.*—The decrease is reported to be due to (1) the great fall in the indigo trade; (2) cheapness of grain; (3) scarcity of money; (4) the difficulty in obtaining loans on account of the vague dangers of the *Vikari* year; (5) collection of kists for back faslies; and (6) depression of the weaving trade owing to plague in Bombay.

6. *Anantapur.*—The decrease is attributed to the plague scare.

7. *Kurnool.*—The decrease is reported to be due to (1) labourers' wages being paid in the shape of grain which is cheaper than in the previous year and to 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.

8. *Madras Town Circle.*—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.

9. *Chingleput.*—The decrease is reported to be due mainly to the vicissitudes of the season. This explanation cannot be accepted as the season conditions have been normal for more than six months past. It is also attributed to (1) an enhancement in the selling price of arrack; (2) postponement or prohibition of several festivals on account of plague; (3) completion of railway works; and (4) the non-execution of petty construction and repair works and stoppage of manufacture at the salt factories during the last season.

10. *North Arcot.*—The decrease is attributed to (1) an increase in the selling price of arrack brought about by the amalgamation of the two rival firms now trading under the name of the East India Distilleries and Sugar Factories (Limited); (2) the opening of a smaller number of wholesale depots than in the previous year; (3) a considerable reduction in the passenger traffic at the several railway stations and slackness in trade owing to the prevalence of plague; and (4) departure of persons to outside parts in search of work.

11. *South Arcot.*—The decrease is attributed to (1) an increase in the issue price of arrack (namely, As. 10-6 against As. 5 to As. 7 per gallon of 30° under-proof

in 1897-98) brought about by the amalgamation of the two firms referred to above; (2) the adverse state of the season in the early part of the year; (3) the poverty of the drinking classes; and (4) people resorting to the cheaper liquor sold in the adjoining French territory.

12. *Trichinopoly.*—The decrease is ascribed to the high selling price of food-grains at the beginning of the lease, the comparative cheapness of toddy, and the closure of some shops for want of bids.

13. *Madura.*—The decrease is attributed to people resorting more to toddy than to arrack. The Board does not accept this explanation.

14. *Salem.*—The decrease is reported to be due to the unfavourable character of the season and to a temperance movement set on foot by the weaving and Muhammadan communities.

15. *South Canara.*—The decrease is reported to be due to the indebtedness of the drinking classes brought about by the high prices of food-grains and fall in the demand for labour in coffee plantations and an increase in the selling price of arrack. It is also attributed to plague restrictions having interfered with the usual large gatherings of persons at the annual Hindu jatras. Plague in Mysore is also reported to have lessened the usual up-country passenger and goods traffic with detriment to consumption. Illicit distillation and consumption of toddy and foreign liquors in preference to arrack are also reported to be probable causes. Enquiries are being made into the former allegation.

16. *Malabar.*—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.

17. The variations in the other districts call for no remarks.

FOREIGN SPIRITS.

18. The total quantity of locally-made foreign spirits issued up to the month under review amounted to 11,094 proof gallons against 14,158 in 1897-98, thus showing a decrease of 3,064 proof gallons or about 21·6 per cent.

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

20. *Madras Town Circle.*—The increase is reported to be due to the sale of Malabar arrack in taverns in lieu of Colombo arrack, the first being locally-made and the latter imported.

21. *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.

22. *The Nilgiris.*—The decrease is due to the fact that locally-made foreign liquor is going out of favour.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

C. G. TODHUNTER,
Acting Secretary.

(True Copy.)

[Signature]
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.

APPENDIX.

COMPARATIVE Statement of consumption of spirits in the several Excise tracts of the Madras Presidency in and up to the month of February 1899.

Districts.		COUNTRY SPIRITS IN GALLONS.					LOCALLY-MADE FOREIGN SPIRITS.	
		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. Ganjām	1897-98..	10	1,568	5,540	3,322	46,703	43	296
	1898-99..	..	1,166	4,462	2,601	43,230	16	212
2. Vizagapatam	1897-98..	9	6,389	630	4,732	56,784	..	..
	1898-99..	26	5,139	650	3,878	54,526	..	..
3. Kistna (Excise tracts)	1897-98..	800	6,762	550	5,594	66,518	..	..
	1898-99..	710	3,912	25	3,316	54,922	..	..
4. Nellore	1897-98..	..	3,874	..	2,712	37,485	..	22
	1898-99..	..	2,673	..	1,871	29,329	..	..
5. Cuddapah	1897-98..	2,021	1,326	..	2,545	34,766	..	53
	1898-99..	1,152	701	..	1,412	21,883	11	269
6. Anantapur	1897-98..	524	753	..	947	12,724	7	129
	1898-99..	390	452	..	628	10,673	..	147
7. Bellary	1897-98..	329	2,792	..	2,218	32,914	25	313
	1898-99..	361	3,468	..	2,716	37,283	..	104
8. Kurnool	1897-98..	1,707	207	..	1,511	10,680	5	99
	1898-99..	1,097	203	..	1,019	16,411	..	111
9. Madras Town Circle. { Madras town, including the outside shops.	1897-98..	..	4,419	..	3,093	44,894	79	2,828
	1898-99..	..	4,718	..	3,303	41,318		
	1897-98..	..	1,824	..	927	12,641		
	1898-99..	..	1,024	..	717	8,048		
	1897-98..	..	2,836	..	1,985	27,202	..	..
10. Chingleput	1898-99..	..	2,155	..	1,509	18,640	..	47
	1897-98..	187	5,493	..	3,995	60,097	7	115
11. North Arcot	1898-99..	380	4,370	..	3,363	45,747	4	127
	1897-98..	..	8,912	..	6,239	67,040	..	..
12. South Arcot	1898-99..	154	5,471	..	3,953	47,768	1	21
	1897-98..	3	3,410	..	2,389	31,042	..	..
13. Tanjore	1898-99..	1	2,630	..	1,842	25,252	..	..
	1897-98..	70	4,035	..	2,880	35,892	88	1,000
14. Trichinopoly	1898-99..	..	3,724	..	2,607	33,424	134	496
	1897-98..	..	4,751	..	3,326	39,640	..	24
15. Madura	1898-99..	..	3,948	..	2,764	33,141	8	57
	1897-98..	..	2,613	..	1,829	25,346	..	..
16. Tinnevely	1898-99..	..	2,717	..	1,902	24,170	1	2
	1897-98..	3,420	1,302	..	3,647	47,617	18	381
17. Coimbatore	1898-99..	2,992	1,103	..	3,166	45,541	17	340
	1897-98..	42	2,546	..	1,816	24,764	792	8,869
18. The Nilgiris	1898-99..	20	3,297	..	2,324	28,300	179	4,433
	1897-98..	1	5,894	..	4,127	55,065	..	..
19. Salem	1898-99..	24	4,882	..	3,437	44,447	7	144
	1897-98..	..	3,130	..	2,191	32,043	..	..
20. South Canara (Excise tracts)	1898-99..	..	2,713	..	1,899	23,720	..	..
	1897-98..	598	..	..	478	5,804	..	..
21. Malabar .. { Wynaad taluk	1898-99..	600	..	..	480	5,379	..	29
	1897-98..	892	4,169	720	3,920	41,995	..	26
	1898-99..	836	4,284	525	3,878	† 36,326	..	..
Total	1897-98..	10,613	78,505	7,440	66,423	* 858,656	1,064	14,158
	1898-99..	8,743	64,750	5,662	54,585	729,478	514	11,094

* Revised figure.

† Includes 363 gallons of jaggery arrack.

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