

Revenue (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1984

DATED

3rd June
99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording B. P. submg. to Govt., 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
March 1899.

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REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1899.

Board of Revenue

(Separate Revenue),

MADRAS.

Current No. 3428.

Printed May 20th.

Recd 27th do -

Regd 29th do -

Proceedings, No. 109, 13th May 1899.

Order mis No. 1984 d/3rd June 99

Recorded.
[Signature]

MAY.

78/6
1-6-99
KD
2-6-99

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 March 1899.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(SEPARATE REVENUE).

RESOLUTION—No. 109, dated 13th May 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 and up to the month of March 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 141,722 proof gallons or about 15.3 per cent., of which, however, about 2,500 gallons will be covered by the consumption in the Nilgiris, the return for which has not yet been received. The following explanations are offered by Collectors for the local variations. None has been offered for the increase in Bellary.

3. *Ganjām and Kistna*.—The decrease is attributed to an increase in the selling price of arrack. The rise in price in Ganjām is reported to be due to the fact that the town shops of Chatrapur, Gopalpur and Berhampur were in the hands of a single renter. That in Kistna is attributed to the high prices charged by the renters of which no explanation is given. In Kistna, further causes of decrease are said to be an increasing demand for toddy, cheapness of grain and absence of large works.

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 the great fall in the indigo trade; cheapness of grain (in which wages are paid); scarcity of money; the difficulty in obtaining loans on account of the vague dangers of the *Vikari* year; collection of kists for back faslis; depression of the weaving trade owing to plague in Bombay and resort to other intoxicants.

6. *Anantapur*.—The decrease is attributed to the plague scare; the fear of various calamities predicted for the *Vikari* year and the consequent cessation of trade.

7. *Kurnool*.—The decrease is reported to be due to cheapness of grain, a decrease in the cultivation of indigo and a fall in the demand for labour; larger consumption of toddy and the opening of a smaller number of shops.

8. *Madras Town Circle*.—The decrease is attributed to the unfavourable character of the season, high prices of food-grains and absence of large works. The closure of a large number of tanneries in the Saidapet taluk is also reported to have affected consumption.

9. *Chingleput*.—The decrease is reported to be due to an enhancement in the selling price of arrack; the postponement of several festivals on account of plague; the completion of work on the East Coast Railway works and the absence of petty construction and repair works and stoppage of manufacture at the salt factories during the last season. It is also ascribed to the poverty of the drinking population.

10. *North Arcot*.—The decrease is attributed to 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); a considerable reduction in the passenger traffic at the railway stations and slackness in trade owing to the prevalence of plague and high prices of food-grains.

11. *South Arcot*.—The decrease is attributed to an increase in the issue price of arrack (from As. 5 to As. 7 per gallon of 30° under-proof in 1897-98 to As. 10-6 in 1898-99) brought about by the amalgamation of the two firms referred to above; the poverty of the drinking classes and people resorting to the cheaper liquor sold in the adjoining French territory.

12. *Tanjore*.—The decrease is reported to be due to an increase in the selling price of arrack and to an impoverished condition of the consumers brought about by bad years and the high price of food-grains.

13. *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.

14. *Madura*.—The decrease is attributed to people resorting more to toddy than to arrack. It is also due to an increase in the selling price of arrack brought about chiefly by the amalgamation of the two rival firms already referred to and by combination among shopkeepers in the Madura Town.

15. *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 Muham-madan communities.

16. *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 to an increase in the selling price of arrack. It is also attributed to plague restrictions having interfered with the usual 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.

17. *Malabar*.—In the Wynaad 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 tavernkeepers. 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.

18. The variations in the other tracts call for no remarks.

FOREIGN SPIRITS.

19. The total quantity of locally-made foreign spirits issued up to the month under review amounted to 11,647 proof gallons against 15,193 in 1897-98, thus showing a decrease of 3,551 proof gallons or about 23.3 per cent.

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

21. *Madras Town Circle*.—The increase is attributed to the sale of Malabar arrack in taverns.

22. *Ganjām*.—The decrease is reported to be due to an increased resort to imported foreign liquor.

23. *Trichinopoly*.—The decrease in the quantity of raisin wine issued is due to fluctuations in the requirements of the Madura Catholic Mission.

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

(True Extract.)

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

(True Copy.)

C. G. TODHUNTER,
Assistant Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

" all Collectors.

" the Deputy Commissioner, Central Division.

Copy to other Deputy Commissioners.

" all Assistant Commissioners.

" 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 March 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. Ganjám	1897-98.. ..	1,352	3,805	2,468	49,171	57	353
	1898-99.. ..	1,156	4,483	2,602	45,832	25	237
2. Vizagapatam	1897-98.. ..	4,855	241	3,499	60,282	..	..
	1898-99.. ..	4,644	556	3,473	57,999	..	..
3. Kistna (Excise tracts)	1897-98.. ..	755	7,267	400	6,851	..	..
	1898-99.. ..	580	3,593	40	2,995	..	..
4. Nellore	1897-98.. ..	..	3,898	..	2,729	..	22
	1898-99.. ..	..	2,552	..	1,787	..	..
5. Cuddapah	1897-98.. ..	2,333	1,253	..	2,744	7	60
	1898-99.. ..	1,481	913	..	1,824	14	283
6. Anantapur	1897-98.. ..	561	833	..	1,032	7	136
	1898-99.. ..	337	520	..	634	4	151
7. Bellary	1897-98.. ..	375	2,865	..	2,305	34	347
	1898-99.. ..	287	3,593	..	2,745	15	119
8. Kurnool	1897-98.. ..	1,824	237	..	1,625	5	104
	1898-99.. ..	1,224	216	..	1,130	18	129
9. Madras Town Circle. { Madras town, including the outside shops.	1897-98.. ..	..	4,379	..	3,065	..	..
	1898-99.. ..	..	4,794	..	3,356	172	3,000
	1897-98.. ..	..	983	..	688	141	4,643
	1898-99.. ..	..	964	..	675	..	..
10. Chingleput	1897-98.. ..	..	2,484	..	1,738	..	..
	1898-99.. ..	..	1,625	..	1,137	..	47
11. North Arcot	1897-98.. ..	224	4,967	..	3,656	7	122
	1898-99.. ..	452	3,635	..	2,906	..	127
12. South Arcot	1897-98.. ..	8	7,688	..	5,888	6	6
	1898-99.. ..	104	5,069	..	3,631	..	21
13. Tanjore	1897-98.. ..	2	3,310	..	2,319	..	..
	1898-99.. ..	..	2,883	..	2,018	..	..
14. Trichinopoly	1897-98.. ..	67	3,854	..	2,751	98	1,098
	1898-99.. ..	..	3,626	..	2,538	..	496
15. Madura	1897-98.. ..	..	4,091	..	2,864	..	24
	1898-99.. ..	..	3,963	..	2,774	..	57
16. Tinnevely	1897-98.. ..	..	2,118	..	1,483	..	..
	1898-99.. ..	..	2,217	..	1,552	..	2
17. Coimbatore	1897-98.. ..	3,539	1,252	..	3,708	33	414
	1898-99.. ..	2,778	913	..	2,862	21	361
18. The Nilgiris	1897-98.. ..	58	2,725	..	1,954	614	9,483
	1898-99.. ..	†	†	..	†	315	4,805
19. Salem	1897-98.. ..	16	6,295	..	4,406	..	..
	1898-99.. ..	..	4,652	..	3,269	..	144
20. South Canara (Excise tracts)	1897-98.. ..	..	3,585	..	2,510	..	..
	1898-99.. ..	..	3,522	..	2,465	..	..
21. Malabar .. { Wynaad taluk	1897-98.. ..	791	..	..	633	..	..
	1898-99.. ..	803	..	..	642	..	29
	1897-98.. ..	907	4,332	680	4,034	..	..
	1898-99.. ..	802	4,853	435	4,213	..	26
Total ..	1897-98..	11,446	74,626	5,136	63,450	922,171	1,040
	1898-99..	8,864	59,903	5,514	51,228	780,449	553

* Revised figure.

† Includes 508 gallons of jaggery arrack.

‡ The statement from the Collector has not been received.

§ Represents the figure up to February 1899.

Exd. C. M. Thumboosawmy.

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