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REPORT  
OF THE  
FOREIGN LIQUOR COMMITTEE,  
1908-09.

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**REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**FOREIGN LIQUOR COMMITTEE,**  
**1908-09.**

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No. 2256 of 1909.

From

A. C. LOGAN, ESQUIRE, I. C. S.,  
Commissioner of A'bkári and Chairman of the Committee  
on Cheap Foreign Liquor

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,  
Revenue Department.

*Bombay, 7th April 1909.*

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith the report of the Foreign Liquor Committee, appointed by Government Resolution No. 11847, dated the 20th November 1908, together with a minute of dissent on certain points by Dr. A. Powell.

2. The Committee sat on 9 occasions between the 21st December 1908 and the 23rd March 1909, and examined 27 witnesses, official and non-official.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

A. C. LOGAN,  
Commissioner of A'bkári and  
Chairman of the Committee.

## APPENDIX No. 1

*Wholesale and retail prices of brands.*

	Per dozen.			Per retail.		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
Brandy, John Exshaw's No. 1	44	4	0	4	2	0
" " " No. 2	28	8	0	2	14	0
" James Hennessy & Co., 3 stars	44	4	0	4	2	0
" " " " 2 "	42	4	0	3	14	0
" " " " 1 "	37	4	0	3	8	0
" Cutler, Palmer & Co., 3 "	39	4	0	3	12	0
" Beshive	27	8	0	2	12	0
" A. Marret & Co., 3 stars	23	8	0	2	6	0
" Pinet Castillion & Co., 3 stars	28	0	0	2	12	0
" J. Dennis Henry Moni	29	8	0	2	14	0
" George Alfred	20	12	0	2	2	0
" Commandon	23	0	0	2	6	0
" F. Dessendier & Co.	22	0	0	2	4	0
" F. H. Browns Camel, 3 Stars	21	0	0	2	2	0
" Fine Pale	15	8	0	1	12	0
Whisky, Napier Johnston	31	0	0	3	0	0
" Cutler Palmer, flat bottle, special blend	26	0	0	2	10	0
" Phipson, V. O. B.	28	0	0	2	12	0
" Lawson's Liquor Whisky Decanters	42	0	0	4	0	0
" Kidd & Shadbold	32	0	0	3	2	0
" Carlton 11 years old	34	0	0	3	4	0
" Buchanan's Black & White	31	8	0	3	2	0
" Huntly blend	22	12	0	2	6	0
" Haig & Haig 3 Stars Scotch Whisky	26	8	0	2	10	0
" John Haig & Co. Whisky	28	8	0	2	12	0
" Canadian Club, 10 years old	31	0	0	3	0	0
" Phipson Delmore	34	0	0	3	4	0
Rum Bombay bottled rum, 15 U.P.	15	0	0	1	10	0
Old Tom, Boor and Sons, 15 U.P.	21	4	0	2	4	0
Barnard's Old Tom, 15 U.P.	19	0	0	2	0	0

Sixth day, Thursday, January 28th, 1909.

No. 20.

*Evidence of Mr. Jehangir Cowaji Mukadam, Shopkeeper, Dhulia.*

Examined by the Chairman.—

Q.—Do you sell foreign liquor in Dhulia?

A.—Yes. I sell it retail. I sell retail-off in bottles for consumption off the premises. I have the right to sell for use on the premises. There is a clause in my license to the effect that I can sell to respectable persons for consumption on the premises.

Q.—How do you sell chiefly—in bottles or for consumption in the shop?

A.—In bottles and pints. Very few people come to drink in the shop. About 5 or 6 come daily to drink on the premises.

Q.—What sort of people are they?

A.—Respectable people, mostly Hindus. Mahomedans don't drink. Some of the people who come to drink in the shop are Hindus of high class.

Q.—Have you got a private room for them?

A.—Yes, but not quite private. There is a separate room in the shop.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Do they come in by the main entrance?

A.—Yes. Even the respectable Hindus come in by the main entrance.

Chairman.—When they sit to drink they cannot be seen by other people?

A.—No. They sit behind a partition where they cannot be seen from the road. These people drink whisky or brandy. They take Fine Pale Brandy. They don't mix it with water. They drink it neat. Only 2 per cent. dilute the spirit with soda water: all others drink it neat. I have been carrying on this shop for 4 years. The sale of spirits is increasing. The sale of the inferior qualities is increasing. I import my liquor from Bombay from Messrs. Umrigar and Baria. I import all in bottles. Most of the liquor I import from them is bottled by themselves; some part of it is Europe-bottled. It is shown on the labels as "Bottled by Umrigar" or "Bottled by Baria."

Q.—Why do you get some liquor bottled in Europe and some in Bombay? Do your customers distinguish between the two things?

A.—Some people ask for the stuff bottled in Europe. The liquor bottled in Europe is more expensive. A quart of European bottled liquor costs from Rs. 2-12-0 to Rs. 3.

Dr. Dadachanji.—How do you sell a bottle of Exshaw No. 2?

A.—At Rs. 2-12-0 per bottle.

Chairman.—Do you get any German spirit bottled in Europe?

A.—No. It is only the better kinds of European spirits that I get bottled from Europe. The cheap spirits are all bottled in Bombay.

Q.—What class of persons mostly buy your bottles?

A.—Sonars. The lower and middle class people chiefly buy bottles from my shop. The higher castes don't come to my shop. Their servants come.

Q.—In these four years have you noticed that any people that used to drink country spirit are now drinking foreign spirit?

A.—I cannot say.

Q.—What is your license fee?

A.—Rs. 465. Four years ago it was Rs. 150. When the rate was raised my fee became Rs. 550. Last year it was Rs. 550, but after seeing my account sales they reduced it to Rs. 465. I consider my present fee too high. I am not the only shopkeeper in Dhulia. There is another foreign liquor shopkeeper there.

Q.—In consequence of your fee had you to raise the prices of your liquors?

A.—I raised 2 annas per bottle.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Then you got compensation for your high fee?

A.—I have lost the compensation on account of the competition. On account of competition there is not much profit. As there is another shop in the neighbourhood competition cannot allow us to raise our prices. I cannot raise my prices by more than 2 annas because of the competition from another shopkeeper. The other shopkeeper pays Rs. 240 as his fee. I cannot say that he pays this small sum because he does a smaller business than I do.

Q.—Do you say he keeps false accounts?

A.—No.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—Do you think people keep false accounts in order to cheat the Abkári people?

A.—It is possible.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Do you sell port wine?

A.—I sell about two bottles of port per month. That is not bottled by Mr. Baria. It is bottled by Messrs. Phipson and Company. I sell some port wine of good quality which is not bottled in Bombay.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—You say in your written statement that some country liquor is made from "goor" and dates?

A.—I have heard so.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Is it worse than toddy and mhowra spirit?

A.—Yes. It is "akro," "karak" (strong, ardent).

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—You say cheap essences are injurious. What do you mean?

A.—Considering the price of the liquor they must be injurious. I am speaking of foreign liquor.

*Dr. Powell.*—Have you knowledge of any essences?

A.—Yes, they come to Bombay.

*Chairman.*—Do essences come to Bombay?

A.—Yes. I have heard they come to Bombay.

*Chairman.*—Do you believe that?

A.—I cannot say. I have heard that essences are imported in Bombay. I am not certain about it.

Q.—Have you heard it from such a source that it leads you to believe that they are used in Bombay?

A.—I made enquiries and I heard that some Bombay people import them and mix them with spirit.

Q.—This Fine Pale Brandy that comes here is supposed to be dilute spirit coloured with burnt sugar; has it got any essence in it?

A.—May be; because it has got the smell of essences; it has got good flavour ("vas").

Q.—Do you drink it?

A.—No. I don't drink it, but people who drink it find it gives good taste. I have tasted it and found there is good flavour in it.

*Mr. Procter.*—Is the taste different from that of burnt sugar?

A.—It is a better taste than that of burnt sugar. I think burnt sugar gives colour to the liquor, but there is something else in the taste that shows that something has been put in the liquor that gives it a distinct flavour.

*Dr. Powell.*—Do you think good flavour is injurious? You say they are importing essences; are these essences injurious to health?

A.—If they are real essences they are not injurious; if they are cheap essences they are injurious. The very cheapness of the spirit leads to the

suspicion that the essences are unwholesome. Essences used for cheap spirits are unwholesome. I have heard about essences.

*Chairman.*—Have you heard what essences are made use of?

A.—I have heard they use brandy essence. I don't know its composition. It is used in the manufacture of Fine Pale Brandy.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—You say in your statement that people drink spirit of whatever quality provided it is English liquor?

A.—Yes. On holidays and when they make more money they treat their friends with "Viláyati daru" (European liquor) rather than with country liquor, because it is "karak" (strong) and they drink it neat, undiluted. It is stronger and more ardent than country spirit. That is why they drink it.

*Chairman.*—You say the sale of these spirits is increasing gradually; does that affect the sale of country liquor?

A.—No.

Q.—Is there a great difference in the prices of foreign liquor and country liquor in Dhulia?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Is foreign liquor much dearer?

A.—The cheapest bottle of country liquor bottle costs 11 annas 8 pies, and the cheapest bottle of foreign spirit costs Rs. 1-10-0.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—You say false accounts are kept about sales. What do you mean by false accounts?

A.—I say shopkeepers' accounts should be checked with railway receipts and invoices. The sales they report should be checked by the railway receipts for the consignments.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—One man may drink weak country liquor and another weak foreign liquor; which is most injurious?

A.—I cannot say whether the evil effects of cheap foreign liquor are worse than those of country liquor. The evil effects depend upon the quantity the man imbibes.

I don't know if there is any other adulteration in the cheap foreign liquor besides the essences. Cheap essences are injurious. I don't know if they add sour claret to port.

*Chairman.*—Do superior liquors come in short-sized bottles like the cheap ones?

A.—Yes. There is a difference of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  or  $1\frac{1}{3}$  drams in the sizes of bottles of superior brands.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—Do you think that on the labels the mode of manufacture should be mentioned in the vernacular of the district in which the spirit is sold?

A.—That won't make any difference to the purchasers, because they don't go by labels.

*Mr. Procter.*—What do they go by?

A.—They merely go by the names of brandy, whisky and rum.



*(Replies of Mr. Ardeshir E. Lal, shop-keeper, Nasik, to questions for witnesses.)*

To

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. LOGAN, I. C. S.,  
Commissioner of Customs, Salt, Opium and Abkari,  
Bombay.

Respected Sir,

Acknowledging receipt of your No. 7693, dated 31st December 1903, I have the honour to reply to the questions therein put forth as under :—

1. I am unable to answer this question as I am not importing spirits direct.
2. Most of the spirit is consumed in this Presidency and the Native States.
- 3 to 6. I am sorry I can't answer these questions as I have no personal experience of the method of manufacturing in Europe.
7. As far as I know rectified spirit is not used (like other wines) for drinking purposes at all in the mofussil.
8. Methylated spirit is never used for drinking purposes.
9. I am not aware personally.
10. As far as I know mofussil vendors are generally supplied by wholesale vendors in Bombay.
11. The wholesale prices of the principal brands in Bombay are as per list attached No. 1.
12. The spirits sold in the mofussil vary from 12 to 15 under proof.
13. The retail prices of the principal brands in mofussil are as per list attached No. 2.  
All the bottles are not of 8 drams.
14. The liquors are sold under many different kinds of labels which are originated by the manufacturers themselves; but I am unable to say how they are originated.
15. In the mofussil the principal brands are drunk by Europeans, Parsees and partly by educated class of natives, while the inferior brandy and rum bottled in Bombay are used by poor class of natives.
16. The consumption of inferior brandy and rum is increased in the mofussil. In my humble opinion it is increased independently. It is mostly used by illiterate class of people as medicine, especially in the case of cough, plague and cholera.
17. I do not think they are more deleterious than the country liquor.
18. I do not think that any correct description of foreign spirits should be required on the labels, but it would be better if the strength of the spirit is described on the label.
19. The present system of assessing the license fee on sales is, in my humble opinion, really a burden on poor class of people; because this extra fee of Rs. 1-8-0 per dozen bottles combined with the licensee's profits in the mofussil induces educated and well-to-do men, individually or combined, to order their liquors direct from Bombay.

I have the honour to be,  
Respected Sir,  
Your most obedient Servant,  
ARDESHIR EDULJEE LAL.

## STATEMENT No. I.

*Showing the wholesale prices, of principal brands, in Bombay.*

			Rs.	a.	p.	
Brandy, Ershaw's No. I	...	... Per one doz.	45	0	0	
		quarts.				
Do. do. No. II	...	Do. ...	29	0	0	
Do. Henessy's II	...	Do. ...	44	8	0	
Do. H. Denis Moulic	...	Do. ...	29	8	0	
Do. Pinet Castillon & Co.'s * * *	...	Do. ...	28	0	0	
Do. Bisquit Dubouchie & Co.	...	Do. ...	27	12	0	
Do. E. Cusinier's, 25 years old	...	Do. ...	29	8	0	
Do. do. 11 do.	...	Do. ...	25	8	0	
Do. A. Maret & Co.'s * * *	...	Do. ...	24	0	0	
Do. Commadon & Co.'s * * *	...	Do. ...	23	0	0	
Do. George Alfred & Co.	...	Do. ...	20	12	0	
Do. F. Dessendier & Co.'s	...	Do. ...	22	0	0	
Do. F. H. Brown's Camel	...	Do. ...	21	0	0	
Do. Fine Pale Queen label	...	Do. ...	15	8	0	} Bottled in Bombay.
Do. Sp. Hatchet & Co.'s	...	Do. ...	15	8	0	
Whisky Carlton, 11 years old	...	Do. ...	36	0	0	
Do. Cookburn & Campbell	...	Do. ...	31	0	0	
Do. John Jameson's Irish	...	Do. ...	33	0	0	
Do. Napier Johnstone	...	Do. ...	31	0	0	
Do. Kidd & Shadbolt	...	Do. ...	32	8	0	
Do. Daniel Crawford's	...	Do. ...	26	12	0	
Do. Buchanan Blend House of Commons whisky, Black and White	...	Do. ...	32	0	0	
Do. Andrew Usher's Special Reserve	...	Do. ...	27	0	0	
Do. do. Glenlivet	...	Do. ...	25	0	0	
Do. John Dewar Special Whisky	...	Do. ...	26	8	0	
Do. do. Extra Special	...	Do. ...	28	8	0	
Do. do. White Label	...	Do. ...	35	0	0	
Do. Philip's Club No. 2	...	Do. ...	37	12	0	
Do. do. V. O. B.	...	Do. ...	28	8	0	
Do. Huntley Blend	...	Do. ...	22	12	0	
Do. John Haig & Co.'s Glenlivet	...	Do. ...	28	8	0	
Do. J. & W. Hardie's Antiquary	...	Do. ...	36	0	0	
Do. John Crabbie & Co.'s	...	Do. ...	21	0	0	
Gin, J. & J. Noilet Square	...	Do. ...	29	0	0	
Do. Boord & Sons	...	Do. ...	21	12	0	
Old Tom, Boord & Sons...	...	Do. ...	21	8	0	
Rum, Jamaica, J. Crabbie & Sons, gold label	...	Do. ...	25	8	0	
Do. do. do. do. white label	...	Do. ...	23	0	0	
Do. Hatched & Co.'s	...	Do. ...	20	0	0	
Do. Bombay bottled, No. 1	...	Do. ...	15	0	0	
Port, Phipson's Club	...	Do. ...	40	0	0	
Do. Cutler and Palmer's Invalid	...	Do. ...	26	8	0	
Do. do. Spanish	...	Do. ...	13	8	0	
Do. Page & Sandeman's Invalid	...	Do. ...	21	0	0	
Do. Gilbey's Spanish	...	Do. ...	12	0	0	

## STATEMENT No. I—continued.

					Rs.	s.	p.
Claret, Phipson's Club, No. 2	...	...	Per one doz.	14	0	0	
			quarta.				
Sherry do. Dinner	...	...	Do. ...	18	0	0	
Do. do. Club	...	...	Do. ...	38	0	0	
Yermouth, French N. P.	...	...	Do. ...	15	8	0	
Ginger Wine, John Crabbie & Co.'s	...	...	Do. ...	14	8	0	
Madeira, Phipson's Club	...	...	Do. ...	40	0	0	
Ale, Bass's, Bull Dog Brand	...	...	Do. ...	5	6	0	
Do. Pilsiner, Beck & Co.'s, Key Brand	...	...	Do. ...	5	6	0	
Stout, Guinness's, Bull Dog Brand	...	...	Do. ...	5	6	0	

## STATEMENT No. II.

*Showing the retail prices of the principal brands per bottle in the mofussil.*

Name of Spirit—			Rs.	a.	p.
Brandy, Exshaw's No. I ...	...	Per bottle ...	4	2	0
Do. do. No. II ...	...	Do. ...	2	12	0
Do. Hennessy's * * *	...	Do. ...	4	2	0
Do. H. Denis Mounic	...	Do. ...	2	12	0
Do. Pinet Castilion & Co.'s	...	Do. ...	2	10	0
Do. Bisquit Dubouchie & Co.	...	Do. ...	2	10	0
Do. E. Cusnier's, 25 years old	...	Do. ...	2	12	0
Do. do. 11 do.	...	Do. ...	2	8	0
Do. A. Maret & Co.'s * * *	...	Do. ...	2	5	0
Do. Commandon & Co.'s * * *	...	Do. ...	2	4	0
Do. George Alfred * * *	...	Do. ...	2	1	0
Do. F. Dessendier & Co.'s	...	Do. ...	2	2	0
Do. F. H. Brown's Camel	...	Do. ...	2	2	0
Do. Fine Pale Queen Brandy	...	Do. ...	1	9	0
Do. Sp. Hatchet & Co.'s	...	Do. ...	1	9	0
} Bottled in Bombay.					
Whisky, Carlton 11 years old	...	Per bottle ...	3	6	0
Do. Cockburn & Campbell	...	Do. ...	3	0	0
Do. John Jameson's (Irish)	...	Do. ...	3	2	0
Do. Napier Johnstone	...	Do. ...	2	14	0
Do. Kidd and Shadbolt	...	Do. ...	3	0	0
Do. Daniel Crawford	...	Do. ...	2	8	0
Do. Buchanan Blend House of Commons Whisky, Black and White	...	Do. ...	3	0	0
Do. Andrew Usher's Special Reserve	...	Do. ...	2	9	0
Do. do. Glenlivet ...	...	Do. ...	2	6	0
Do. John Dewar Special Whisky	...	Do. ...	2	10	0
Do. do. Extra Special ...	...	Do. ...	2	12	0
Do. do. White Label ...	...	Do. ...	3	4	0
Do. Phipson's Club No. 2	...	Do. ...	3	8	0
Do. do. V. O. B.	...	Do. ...	2	10	0
Do. Huntley Blend	...	Do. ...	2	4	0
Do. John Haig & Co.'s Glenlivet	...	Do. ...	2	10	0
Do. J. and W. Hardie's Antiquary	...	Do. ...	3	6	0
Do. John Crabbie & Co.'s Scotch Whisky	...	Do. ...	2	2	0
Gin, J. and J. Noilet ...	...	Do. ...	2	12	0
Do. Boord & Sons ...	...	Do. ...	2	4	0
Old Tom, Boord & Sons ...	...	Do. ...	2	4	0
Rum, John Crabbie & Co.'s Jamaica Rum, gold label ...	...	Do. ...	2	8	0
Do. John Crabbie & Co.'s Jamaica Rum, white label ...	...	Do. ...	2	6	0
Do. Hatchet & Co.'s Jamaica rum...	...	Do. ...	2	0	0
Do. Bombay bottled No. 1	...	Do. ...	1	8	0
Port, Phipson's Club ...	...	Do. ...	3	12	0
Do. Cutler & Palmer's Invalid	...	Do. ...	2	8	0
Do. do. do. Spanish	...	Do. ...	1	6	0
Do. Page and Sandeman's Invalid	...	Do. ...	2	0	0
Do. Gilbey's Spanish	...	Do. ...	1	3	0

## STATEMENT No. II—continued.

Name of Spirit—				Rs.	s.	p.
Claret, Phipson's Club No. 2	...	...	Per bottle ...	1	6	0
Sherry, Phipson's Club No. 2	...	...	Do. ...	3	8	0
Do. Cutler, & Palmer's Dinner	...	...	Do. ...	1	12	0
Vermouth, French	...	...	Do. ...	1	8	0
Gingerwine, Crabbie & Co.'s	...	...	Do. ...	1	8	0
Madeira, Phipson	...	...	Do. ...	3	9	0
Ale, Bass & Co.'s Bull Dog Brand	...	...	Do. ...	0	9	0
Do. Pilsener, Beck & Co.'s	...	...	Do. ...	0	9	0
Stout, Guinness's (Bull Dog Brand)	...	...	Do. ...	0	9	0

## No. 21.

*Evidence of Mr. Ardesir Edulji Lal, a Foreign Liquor  
Shopkeeper at Násik.*

Examined by the Chairman.—

Q.—You have a shop at Násik ?

A.—Yes. It is a retail shop, and there is a clause allowing people to drink on the premises.

Q.—Does anybody come to the shop to drink on the premises ?

A.—Seldom. They come to drink on the premises very seldom. Those who come to drink on the premises are generally respectable natives and Europeans. Hindus, Parsis and Europeans come to drink on the premises.

Q.—What Hindus ? Brahmins and Banias ?

A.—I cannot tell their castes. I cannot distinguish a Brahmin from a Parbhu. I don't think more than 10 Parsis reside at Násik. They don't come to the shop to drink. They are Devláli gentlemen and they come to my shop when they come to visit Násik. There is another foreign liquor shop at Násik besides mine. I cannot say which is doing the largest business.

Q.—How long have you been doing this business in Násik ?

A.—21 years.

Q.—What was your fee 21 years ago ?

A.—About 4 years ago it was 150.

Q.—21 years ago ?

A.—Since I came there I am paying 150. Before I came there was another licensee ; since I came I pay 150. I came 21 years ago. I pay 150 for 21 years. My business has largely increased in these 21 years. It may have been doubled.

Q.—Why it is doubled ? Is it because new people are coming to drink or is it because people are leaving country liquor and taking to foreign liquor ?

A.—Not like that ; no new people are coming to drink. More people are drinking foreign spirits now than formerly.

Q.—More natives ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—You mean people who used to drink country spirit ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do the lower classes that usually drink country liquor come to your shop ?

A.—They come sometimes when they require spirit for medicinal purposes.

Q.—Do the lower classes only buy it for medicinal purposes or do they sometimes come to drink foreign spirits as a treat when they have got more money ?

A.—No.

Q.—Has Mr. Clifford taken an account of your sales ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—(To Mr. Clifford who was in the room). Have you got figures of sales this witness's shop ?

*Mr. Clifford.*—I have got statistics for my three districts and not of separate shops.

Q.—(To Mr. Ardeshir). Do you consider that your foreign spirit is as wholesome as country spirit ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know anything about the way in which it is made ?

A.—No.

Q.—I suppose nearly all the liquor you sell comes from Hamburg ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—And that is all bottled in Bombay ?

A.—Not all.

Q.—All the cheap spirit ?

A.—Yes, everything I sell below Rs. 2 per bottle is bottled in Bombay by Messrs. Umrigar and Baria.

Q.—Have you ever tasted that liquor yourself ?

A.—Not lately. I had tasted it sometimes before.

Q.—Did you find it good ?

A.—I found it bad.

Q.—Did you hear the last witness say he found that they import essences in Bombay to be put in these spirits ? Do you think they do ?

A.—I don't know.

Q.—We are told the Fine Pale Brandy is merely made of spirits of wine coloured by burnt sugar and nothing else ; do you think there is anything else ?

A.—I have never heard of anything else besides that. I know they colour it with burnt sugar.

*Dr. Powell.*—Do you get any advertisements of essences ?

A.—No. I have never seen an advertisement for essences.

*Mr. Procter*—Do you know that brandy and rum are only made with rectified spirit and burnt sugar ; is there no difference between them ?

A.—That is what I have heard.

*Mr. Procter.*—Are they just the same, this brandy and rum ?

A.—I have not tasted both. There may be one anna difference in price per bottle between rum and Fine Pale Brandy.

*Mr. Procter.*—If they are made with the same ingredients, they must be the same ?

A.—I cannot say.

*Chairman.*—You don't know whether they differ in flavour ?

A.—No.

Q.—Do you sell any wines ?

A.—Mostly Invalid's Port and Fine Sherry. Natives buy them for medicinal purposes. I also sell good wines. I don't sell port from Hamburg.

*Mr. Procter.*—Messrs. Cutler, Palmer & Co.'s Spanish Port is sold at Rs. 1-6-0 per bottle ; is that good ?

A.—Yes.

*Mr. Procter.*—Is it really good ?

A.—I must think so.

*Chairman.*—Do you know whether it is bottled in Bombay ?

A.—When they bottle here they put their own labels.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—What is Gilbey's Spanish Port Wine sold at ?

A.—I sell it at Rs. 15 per dozen. I get it at Rs. 12 per dozen.

*Mr. Procter.*—You sell it at Re. 1-3-0 per bottle ?

A.—Yes.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—Do you think it is a good port ?

A.—Yes, for ordinary purposes. By that I mean not for medical purposes.

(Replies of Mr. Framji Nowroji Marfatia, shop-keeper, Málegaon, to questions for witnesses.)

No. 106 of 1908-09.

Málegaon, 18th January 1909.

To

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. LOGAN, I. C. S.,  
Commissioner of Customs, Salt, Opium and A'bkári,  
Bombay.

Respected Sir,

Acknowledging receipt of your No. 7693 of 1908, dated 31st December 1908, I have the honour to reply to your questions therein put forth, as under:—

1. As I am not importing the spirits direct I am unable to answer this question.

2. Most of the spirits is consumed in the Presidency.

3 to 6. I am sorry I can't answer these questions as I have no personal experience of the method of manufacture.

7. There being no demand for the rectified spirit, I have no experience of that also.

8. Methylated spirit is never used for drinking purposes.

9. I am not aware personally.

10. Mofussil vendors are generally supplied by wholesale vendors in Bombay.

11. The wholesale prices of the principal brands in Bombay are as per list attached No. I.

12. The strength varies from 12° to 15° under proof.

13. The retail prices of the principal brands in the mofussil are as per list attached No. II. All the bottles are not of eight drams.

14. The liquors are sold under various kinds of labels which are originated by the manufacturers themselves.

15. In the mofussil the principal brands are drunk by Europeans, Parsees, and the educated class of Natives. The inferior Brandy and Rum bottled in Bombay are used by the poor.

16. There has been no considerable increase in the consumption of these liquors in the mofussil.

17. These liquors are not more deleterious than the country liquor.

18. No other correct description of foreign spirits is required on the labels but it would be better if the strength of the spirit is indicated on the label.

19. The present system of assessing the license fees on sales is, in my humble opinion, really a burden on the poor class of people, because this extra fee of Rs. 1-8-0 per dozen bottles combined with the licensee's profits in the mofussil induces educated and well-to-do men to order their liquors direct from Bombay.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

फ़रमज नवरोज मारफ़तीया,

i.e., FRAMJI NOWROJI MARFATIA,

Licensee, Europe Shop, Málegaon. \*



## STATEMENT No. I

*Showing the wholesale prices of principal brands in Bombay.  
(Only the prices of the brands demanded here are given.)*

Names of Spirits.	Per	Rate of price.	
Brandy :—Exshaw's No. 1	One Dozen	Rs. 45 0	
" Do. No. 2	Quarts.		
" H. Denis Mounie	Do. ...	29 0	
" Pinet Castilion & Co.'s ***	Do. ...	29 8	
" Bisquit Dubouchie & Co.	Do. ...	23 0	
" F. Dessendier & Co.'s	Do. ...	27 12	
" Fine Pale, Queen Label	Do. ...	22 0	
" Sp. Hatchet & Co.'s	Do. ...	15 0	} Bottled in Bombay.
Whisky :—Daniel Crawford's	Do. ...	26 12	
" Phipson's V. O B.	Do. ...	28 8	
" Huntly Blend	Do. ...	22 12	
" John Crabbie & Co.'s	Do. ...	21 0	
" Napier Johnstone	Do. ...	31 0	
Gin :—Boord & Sons	Do. ...	21 12	
Old Tom :—Boord & Sons	Do. ...	21 8	
Rum :—Bombay Bottled No. 1	Do. ...	15 0	
Port :—Cutler Palmer's Invalid	Do. ...	26 8	
" Do. Spanish	Do. ...	13 8	
" Gilbey's Spanish	Do. ...	12 0	
Vermouth :—French N. P.	Do. ...	15 8	
Ginger Wine :—John Crabbie & Co.'s	Do. ...	14 8	

## STATEMENT No. II.

*Showing the retail prices of the principal brands per bottle in the mofussil.  
(Only the prices of the brands sold are given.)*

Names of Spirits.	Per	Rate of price.	
			Rs. a.
Brandy :—Exshaw No. 1	... Bottle	...	4 6
” Exshaw No. 2	... Do.	...	2 12
” H. Denis Mounic	... Do.	...	2 12
” Pinet Castilion	... Do.	...	2 12
” Bisquit Dubouchie & Co.	... Do.	...	2 12
” F. Dessendier	... Do.	...	2 4
” Fine Pale, Queen Label	... Do.	..	1 8
” Sp. Hatchet & Co.'s	... Do.	...	1 8
			} Bottled in Bombay.
Whisky :—Daniel Crawford's	... Do.	...	2 10
” Phipson's V. O. B.	... Do.	...	2 12
” Huntley Blend	... Do.	...	2 4
” John Crabbie & Co.'s	... Do.	...	2 2
” Napier Johnstone's	... Do.	...	2 14
Gin :—Boord & Sons	... Do.	...	2 0
Old Tom :—Boord & Sons	... Do.	...	2 0
Rum :—Bombay Bottled, No. 1	... Do.	...	1 8
Port :—Cutler Palmer's Invalid	... Do.	...	2 8
” Do. Spanish.	... Do.	...	1 6
” Gilbey's Spanish	... Do.	...	1 6
Vermouth :—French	... Do.	...	1 12
Ginger Wine :—John Crabbie & Co.'s	... Do.	...	1 8

## No. 22.

*Evidence of Mr. Framji Nowroji Marfalia, Licensee of Europe shop at Málegaon.*

Examined by the Chairman :—

I have a shop at Málegaon in the Násik District. It is a retail shop. I don't bottle. People do not come to my shop to drink on the premises. Nobody comes to my shop to drink. My sales are solely in bottles. I don't sell anything except cheap foreign spirits. I only deal in them.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Don't you sell any high class European spirits ?

A.—Yes, I sell Hennessy's brandy. I have very little sale of high-priced spirits.

*Chairman.*—What is the general price of your bottles ?

A.—My prices are from Rs. 1-8-0 per bottle upwards. My customers are Kunbis. I have got few customers besides Kunbis. They take spirits when they get cholera.

Q.—Are any high class people among your customers ?

A.—Some. They send their servants when they want to buy.

Q.—What is your fee ?

A.—Rs. 150. I have been doing this business for 21 or 22 years. Formerly my business was increasing ; now it is decreasing.

Q.—When did the decrease begin ?

A.—When the Military Camp was removed. My fee is increased since then. My fee used to be Rs. 100 ; it is now increased to Rs. 150. I sell no rectified dilute spirit.

Q.—What brands do you mostly sell to Kunbis ?

A.—Whisky, Beehive Brandy, Castillion Brandy and Exshaw No. 1 and 2. I don't sell mostly of these to Kunbis. Mostly I sell them cheaper liquors. Some people club together and order liquor direct from Bombay owing to the increased license fees. Most of my sales are of bottles under Rs. 2.

Q.—You have got a spirit in your list called "Fine Pale Brandy, Queen Label" at Rs. 1-8-0 per bottle ? Do you know where it is made ?

A.—I don't know.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Where did you get it from ?

A.—From Bombay, from Mr. Umrigar. It is bottled by Mr. Umrigar.

Q.—Is it made of dilute spirit and burnt sugar ?

A.—I don't know. I don't see it bottled.

Q.—Don't you make any enquiries as to what your liquors consist of ?

A.—We order what we want from our place of business. We don't go to Bombay. We order simply what brands we require, without asking questions about them.

Q.—Have you heard that essences are put in liquor in Bombay to give it flavour ?

A.—I have no experience of that.

No. W.K.—3947 of 1908-09.

From

C. CLIFFORD, ESQUIRE,  
Excise Assistant Collector,  
Khándesh and Násik;

To

THE COMMISSIONER OF A'BKA'RI, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON CHEAP FOREIGN LIQUOR, BOMBAY.

*Camp Satána, 13th January 1909.*

Sir,

In reply to your No. 7694, dated 31st December 1908, I have the honour to give below an outline of the replies I propose to give to the questions which accompanied your letter above quoted.

Qs. 1, 2, 3.—I have no first-hand knowledge on these points.

Q. 4.—My experience is confined to the manufacture of spirits from one base only—the Mhowra flower. My opinion can only be of use to you in so far as it tends to corroborate that of a much more reliable authority,—Major C. H. Bedford, D.Sc., I.M.S., Director, Central Excise Laboratory. He states in his "Report on the Quality, Manufacture and Excise Control of Alcoholic Liquors in India" that the source of patent still spirit cannot be detected by chemical analysis when rectification has been efficient. A corollary to this would be that the nearer the process of distillation approaches complete rectification, the less is the quality of the spirit affected by the base from which it was derived.

2. A patent still of the kind used in Germany—imported from Germany, as a matter of fact—is at work at the Dhulia Distillery. This still has produced Mhowra spirit at a strength of 50° O. P. Observation of the spirit at different strengths has determined that as the distilled strength of the spirit rises, so its distinctive properties derived from its base tend to disappear. As concentration proceeds the spirit parts with its characteristic flavour and odour; its acidity decreases; and tests have shown such ingredients as fusel-oil and fural diminish until at 50° O. P. they are practically absent. In short, distillation at strengths of over 40° O. P. means the elimination from the spirit of all ingredients, but absolute alcohol and certain volatile essences which are inseparable from it; and I have no doubt that if complete rectification could be achieved with the Dhulia still, the result would be a silent spirit undistinguishable from that produced from any of the bases which are reputed to be in use on the Continent. I am of opinion, therefore, that when spirits are distilled at high strengths their quality is not affected by the base from which they were manufactured.

I have no first-hand knowledge of what bases are used in the manufacture of cheap foreign spirits.

Qs. 5, 6.—I am not acquainted with the processes referred to.

Q. 7.—Pure rectified spirit is not drunk in East Khándesh, West Khándesh and Násik districts. Eau-de-Cologne is not uncommonly consumed as an intoxicant. I investigated cases of the kind in 1905. At the time prohibition was in force among certain castes in Yáwal, Sáyda, Varangaon and other places in East Khándesh, and many members of these castes afraid to be seen at the liquor shops resorted to the use of Eau-de-Cologne. For a few months the trade in inferior brands was brisk. Samples tested by me were 20° to 40° O. P. in strength, and sold at 5 and 6 annas per bottle.

Q. 8.—Methylated and denatured spirits are not drunk in East Khándesh, West Khándesh and Násik districts.

Q. 9.—I have no first-hand knowledge on the point. Foreign spirits undergo no blending or other treatment in East Khándesh, West Khándesh and Násik Districts.

Q. 10.—Mofussil vendors purchase their requirements from wholesale dealers in Bombay in cases of 1 dozen and 2 dozen bottles.

Qs. 11 & 12.—Spirits are not permitted to be sold in the mofussil at a strength less than 15° U. P. The strength of the spirits sold at the shops in East Khándesh, West Khándesh and Násik varies from 15° to 15° U. P.

Q. 13.—Brandy :—

				Per bottle of 8 dra.	
				Rs.	p.
Prince Victor	...	...	...	1	12 0
Fine Pale	...	...	...	1	14 0
George Alfred	...	...	...	2	2 0
Camel Brand	}	...	...	2	4 0
Dessandier					
Bisquit Dubouche	...	...	...	2	8 0
<b>Whisky :—</b>					
X. T. C.,	}	...	...	2	0 0
Fine Flavour, and Braidwood					
Encore	...	...	...	2	2 0
Crabbie's	}	...	...	2	4 0
MacCullum's					
Huntley Blend	...	...	...	2	6 0
<b>Rum :—</b>					
Imported	}	...	...	1	10 0
Bottled by Umrigar & Co.					
<b>Old Tom :—</b>					
Bernards	...	...	...	2	0 0
Boord's	...	...	...	2	4 0
King Charles	...	...	...	2	4 0
<b>Gin :—</b>					
Schnapps	...	...	...	2	6 0
Hemke's Schnapps	...	...	...	2	0 0

14. I shall inspect the labels at the shops before coming to Bombay to avoid error and shall be prepared with an accurate description of them.

15. The cheaper sorts of brandy, rum, Gin and old Tom are chiefly patronised by Kunbis, Mális, Gujars, Sutárs, Shimpis, Sonárs, Bhanjars and Bhils; the more expensive brands by pleaders, clerks, Government servants, and well-to-do Bráhmíns and Hindus.

16. The consumption of foreign spirits in East Khándesh, West Khándesh and Násik is not wide-spread; has not assumed serious proportions anywhere in the 3 districts; shows a tendency to increase; does not affect the consumption of country spirits.

Please see also paragraphs 6 and 7 of my No. W. K.—3543, dated 9th December 1908 (submitted through the Collector, West Khándesh).

17, 18 and 19. The following extract from my No. W. K.—3543, dated 9th December 1908, indicates upon what lines I shall answer these questions:—

"9. I deal with this question before considering the two which precede it in the Government Resolution above referred to, since upon the answer to it depends to a great extent the necessity or otherwise of imposing additional restrictions upon the sale of foreign liquors. As I have stated above the consumption of foreign spirits in Khándesh and Násik, though on the increase, has not yet reached very serious proportions. Habitual customers are rare among the classes with which my duties bring me principally in contact. The occasional indulgence in foreign spirits by persons of the cultivating and labouring classes at festivals, bazars, &c., certainly does them very little harm. What effect

Are cheap foreign spirits more harmful to Indians than country spirit?

the continued use of foreign spirits would have upon the constitution of people of these classes, I have had little or no opportunity of judging. I do not believe that foreign spirit is appreciably more deleterious to health than the country article; but it is certainly more demoralising. I am personally acquainted with several native gentlemen of the better class who are regular customers of foreign liquor and have observed that the temptation to alcoholic excess is much more powerful where a taste for these spirits has been acquired than is the case where country spirits are used. A liking for brandy or rum has a tendency to develop into an irresistible craving for it; the man who would be satisfied with his dram or two of country liquor every evening is, when he transfers his affections to foreign spirit, as likely as not to contract the habit of drinking at all hours of the day to the detriment of his health, the impairment of his faculties, and the neglect of his business or profession. I believe that excessive indulgence in country spirits would produce the same effects, but the appetite for the latter is more easily controlled and satisfied, and habitual intemperance among its consumers is comparatively rare. The great bulk of the consumers of country spirit in East Khándesh, West Khándesh and Násik are of the Kunbi caste. Many of them may be described as hard drinkers, but I have never yet met one who is so completely a slave to the drinking habit as are one or two of the native gentlemen above referred to. A Kunbi may drink hard, and yet attend to his fields and be a useful member of society. Foreign spirits too often reduce a man to such a condition that the satisfying of his appetite is his whole object in life. Even among the Bhils, a notoriously hard drinking race, I have not yet met the habitual drinker of the type so common in European countries.

"10. I would suggest the closing of all foreign liquor shops which exist to meet the demand among native consumers only (Nandurbár, Páchora, Chálistgaon and Málegaon are such shops); the discontinuance of the licenses to bottle and blend in Bombay spirits of the type of those sold in the mofussil under the descriptions of Fine Pale Brandy, Camel Brand Brandy, Imported Rum, etc., and a substantial addition to the license fee of all foreign liquor shops in the mofussil where spirits of these descriptions are sold, calculated on the annual sales of these spirits. I do not think that the danger of an increase in the consumption of these spirits is so great as to call for more heroic measures. My experience is of course confined to Khándesh and Násik. The question may on a consideration of the extent of the traffic in other parts of the Presidency assume sufficient importance to justify a modification in the import Tariff with the object of discouraging the importation of foreign liquors intended for purely native consumption.

"11. The country of origin and the place in India (if any) at which bottled or blended should I think be shown on the labels of all foreign spirits. So far as mofussil shops are concerned, no other particulars are I think required, except that, as hitherto, spirits selling at Rs. 2 or less per bottle should bear a certificate that they are not less than 15° U. P. in strength."

I have the honour to be,  
 Sir,  
 Your most obedient servant,  
 C. CLIFFORD,  
 Excise Assistant Collector,  
 Khándesh and Násik.

## No. 23.

*Evidence of Mr. C. Clifford, Excise Assistant Collector  
of Khánderah and Násik.*

Examined by the Chairman—

Q.—How many foreign liquor shops are there in your three districts?

A.—Twenty.

Q.—Can you quote the figures of sales of foreign spirits in your districts for previous years?

A.—I have those for East Khánderah and West Khánderah from 1905-06 up to date, and for Násik from 1906-07 up to date. In 1906-07 the total sale of foreign spirits, wines and liqueurs, in the three districts was 7,929 gallons; in 1907-08, 8,600 gallons.

Q.—Is the consumption increasing?

A.—In East Khánderah, West Khánderah and Násik, the consumption of foreign liquors is not widespread, it has not assumed serious proportions anywhere in the three districts; but it shows a tendency to increase.

Q.—Why is that?

A.—Foreign liquor has a greater attraction for natives. Kunbis form the great bulk of the population of my 3 districts. I give you the result of my observations among them. The temptation to alcoholic excess is much more powerful where a taste for foreign spirit has been acquired than is the case where country spirits are taken. A liking for brandy or rum has a tendency to develop into an irresistible craving for it. The man who would be satisfied with his dram or two of country liquor every evening is, when he transfers his affections to foreign spirits, as likely as not to contract the habit of drinking at all hours of the day to the detriment of his health and faculties. The appetite for country spirits is more easily controlled and sooner satisfied. Habitual drunkards are rare among the classes with which my duty brings me principally in contact, and among whom, as I have stated, the taste for foreign liquor has not yet spread to any great extent.

Q.—How do you explain the superior attraction of foreign spirit?

A.—It is put up in more attractive form than country spirit. Its labels and its colouring appeal to the eye; its flavour pleases the palate. The country spirit is a stimulant; nothing more. Its pungent smell and disagreeable flavour are against it. Even those habituated to its use gulp it down with closed eyes and twisted features as one does a draught of some unpleasant medicine. The foreign spirit on the other hand offers an allurements to each of the senses of sight, taste and smell. It is not necessary to bolt it like a potion. It makes more enjoyable the evening dram of the Kunbi who can afford to indulge in it; and renders more pleasant the means to the grosser end of the Bhil, Mahar, &c. Sentiment enters to some extent into the question of the attraction of the foreign spirit. Many prefer it simply because it is foreign.

Q.—We are told by shopkeepers that they hardly sell anything except by bottles. Is that so?

A.—Yes. The Kunbis and Sutárs and the lower classes generally usually buy bottles upon such festive occasions as marriages or when visitors come to their places. On such occasions the practice of indulging in foreign liquors is becoming more frequent.

Q.—Are there any number of people who go to the shops to sit there and drink under clause 5?

A.—Very few of the lower classes. In the shops where there is permission to sell on the premises under clause 5 we very often find Hindus of the better classes—clerks and Bráhmíns sitting to drink. They drink the liquor neat. I have never noticed them adding water. The habit of going to liquor shops and drinking there is on the increase.

Q.—Do you think that the habit of drinking foreign liquor is spreading or is likely to spread among the upper Hindu classes as well as among the lower ?

A.—I think it is more likely to spread among the upper classes than among the lower. For the lower classes the comparative absence of facilities for getting the liquor is a bar. Among the wealthier classes there is no such bar. They can and do obtain their supplies from Bombay. They cannot buy foreign liquor in Dhulia cheaper than country liquor. They could not get the cheapest kind of foreign liquor cheaper than the dearest kind of country liquor.

Q.—What is your opinion of the wholesomeness of foreign spirit ?

A.—So far as wholesomeness is concerned cheap foreign spirits can be placed upon the same footing as expensive ones.

Q.—What is your definition of wholesome or unwholesome liquors ?

A.—My opinion is that all liquors containing alcohol are unwholesome to a certain extent ; and they are the more unwholesome the more alcohol they contain. Spirit of a high strength is more deleterious than one of low strength 50 U. P. liquor is more wholesome than liquor at proof strength for example.

Q.—What is your opinion about 15 U. P. as the strength fixed as the minimum for the mofussil ? Do you think that liquor is less wholesome than 25 U. P. ?

A.—I believe it is.

Q.—In the case of this Fine Pale Brandy which is apparently rectified spirit manufactured at 68 O. P. and brought down to 15 U. P. by the admixture of water, as compared with brandy—genuine brandy that you get from France manufactured in the still to the same strength of 15 U. P.—do you say there is no distinction of wholesomeness ?

A.—Strictly speaking there is no distinction of wholesomeness ; and so far as their effect on human system is concerned, I think, there is no distinction.

Q.—What are you going by—any observations of your own ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you drunk Fine Pale Brandy ?

A.—Yes. I have not taken any large quantity of it ; not sufficient to enable me to judge what its effects are upon health.

Q.—Have you drunk this brandy for a continuous period in small quantities ?

A.—For a period of a fortnight or so. I did not take full pegs. I only took about half of a dram, diluted.

Q.—What was the result ?

A.—The result was that I found that the cheaper brands are inferior in flavour and taste. They are intoxicating to the same extent as the more expensive brands. They really have the smell and taste of brandy or whisky, as the case may be.

Q.—You did not experience any bad effects internally ?

A.—I did not take sufficient of it to judge those effects. I have never had an opportunity of observing what the effect of excessive indulgence in foreign spirits is upon the health of natives in my districts.

*Dr. Powell.*—Did you ever notice instances of the craving you spoke about ?

A.—I have noticed one or two.

*Chairman.*—Have you any further restrictions to suggest for foreign liquor besides those that are existing now, in order to suppress it ?

A.—I would withdraw the licenses of all mofussil shops which cater for natives only. I would increase the license fee of all the shops where the cheaper brands are stocked and sold. I would apply the provisions contained in clause 2A of country liquor shops to all foreign liquor shops. This provision requires that one main entrance only should be used, all other doors being barred. There should be only one room. The existence of inner rooms enables people to drink in private, who would be ashamed to do so in public.



Q.—As regards fees, do you consider that the fees which are charged this year on the various shops of your charge are inadequate or below what they might be?

A.—Yes, I think they are. I would put such an additional burden upon the cheaper brands of spirits as to make it impossible for them to be sold for less than Rs. 2 per bottle. I know the effect of raising fees would be to tempt the dealers to evade the law by keeping false accounts.

Q.—Won't they also sell weaker spirit in contravention of the license?

A.—I have never noticed that spirits are tampered with in the shops.

Q.—You are quite sure that a man cannot sell a good deal of spirit under 15 U. P.?

A.—Certainly he could. Not in the case of sales by the bottle, but he might tamper with liquor sold for consumption on the spot. I don't think there is much adulteration going on now.

Q.—As regards bottles, how often have bottles during the last two years been opened by Excise inspectors and tested for strength in the whole of your 20 shops?

A.—I should say 100 times at least, judging from the entries in the diaries. The Inspectors frequently open bottles and test them. During the last three years there was only one case in which strength under 15 U. P. was found. It was a new brand of whisky accidentally stocked. That is the only case that has been brought to my notice in which liquor below strength has been stocked in any of the shops in my charge. There is no bottling at all in my charge.

Q.—To what extent would it be necessary to increase the fee in order to produce the results you want?

A.—On the cheaper brands there should be a fee of 4 annas per bottle. I see no reason why bottling and blending and breaking down in Bombay should not be discontinued. It will have the effect of discouraging the importation of these cheap spirits without making it necessary to modify the Tariff. I would put a stop to the bottling of brands which are black listed, that is, brands which are ascertained to be spurious, or whose origin is doubtful. I would not permit the stuff to come to Bombay in hogsheads at all. It should all come bottled.

Q.—Would it not be possible for anybody in the mofussil to send for cases from Bombay at Bombay prices and so evade the prices in the local shops?

A.—It is quite easy. But it would not be done by the classes chiefly in need of protection. I mean the lower classes. It would be done, as it is being done, by the higher classes like Bráhmíns, pleaders, Government servants and affluent Kunbis.

Q.—Do you think there is a great deal of high class drinking in the mofussil from bottles coming direct from Bombay?

A.—There is quite as much as there is consumption through the local shops. We have ascertained from different stations that consignments of liquors from Bombay are received regularly there, although there is nobody at those stations who has a license to sell.

Q.—With prices raised as you propose would there not be an enormous temptation for people to get liquor down from Bombay and sell it quietly in their houses to the lower classes who want cheap spirits?

A.—Yes, there would be a great temptation, but I believe our establishment is capable of coping with it. We know where the purchase of liquor from Bombay is going on at present, and would soon detect any trade in it.

Q.—Do you consider that the attractiveness of bottles and labels, particularly labels, had anything to do with the increase in consumption of foreign spirits?

A.—Certainly.

Q.—Would it be of any consequence if the materials of which the spirits are made were shewn on the bottle as “potato spirit flavoured with brandy” etc.?

A.—No doubt it would affect the consumption of cheaper brands. I certainly like the idea. In course of time people would come to know what they are drinking. In the course of a few years such a practice would enable people to distinguish between inferior and superior brands.

*Dr. Powell.*—Would you be able to detect any evasion of the provision requiring a true description?

A.—Yes.

*Dr. Powell.*—How? Could you distinguish neutral spirit that is merely diluted from one to which essences are added to make it appear a genuine liquor?

A.—I think we could to our satisfaction. I doubt whether we could to the satisfaction of a criminal court.

*Chairman.*—How would you do it to your own satisfaction?

A.—By taste and smell.

*Dr. Powell.*—You could not tell the proportion in which genuine and other spirit was mixed, whether they were half and half or  $\frac{4}{5}$ th and  $\frac{1}{5}$ th, and, if you could, it would be no use. A majority of the best whiskies are  $\frac{4}{5}$ th patent still with  $\frac{1}{5}$ th malt, whisky?

*Chairman.*—Is that so?

*Dr. Powell.*—Yes. (Reads an extract from the *Lancet* as follows:—“Whisky consists of  $\frac{4}{5}$ th of patent still spirit and  $\frac{1}{5}$ th malt spirit.”) (To witness.)

Have you ever heard of any mhowra spirit being manufactured out of cheap German spirit by the addition of mhowra essence?

A.—No.

*Dr. Powell.*—You don't know whether essence of mhowra spirit or essence of *Arak* is ever added to German spirit?

A.—No.

*Dr. Powell.*—Do you know that chemists and druggists advertise *Arak* essence?

A.—No. I have never heard of *Arak* essence being added to neutral spirit.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—You said that there is a patent still installation at the Dhulia Distillery?

A.—Yes. I have seen it at work.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Do you know that at 50 U. P. all injurious by-products such as fusel oil, disappear from spirit?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do such by-products disappear from the spirit made by the Dhulia patent still?

A.—Tests made at the Kasauli Laboratory shew that they do.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—Do you suggest that a true trade description should be given on labels in the vernaculars of the districts in which the liquor is sold?

A.—I think it would be advisable. I don't anticipate that it would have any immediate effect, but this and other steps I have advised should at least be tried. Correct trade descriptions will become more useful as the years pass by and enlightenment spreads among the masses.

*Chairman.*—Do you think that strength also should be shown on the label for bottles sold in Bombay and the mofussil?

A.—I see no objection. I have not considered the question.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Should the capacity of the bottle be mentioned on the label?

A.—I see no objection to that. Probably, the result will be that bottles will be manufactured of a uniform size.

*Mr. Procter.*—As regards country liquor, are there uniform bottles?

*A.*—Yes, for the purposes of sale under the country liquor license.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Do you say that Eau de Cologne is drunk when liquor-shops are closed?

*A.*—It is drunk by certain classes. I have noticed the practice among Malis, Shimpis, Dheds and Bhangis. They drink Eau de Cologne occasionally. Country liquor-shops are hardly ever closed in my charge at festivals, etc. There are one or two instances in which they are closed, but usually they are not. We don't close them during the Holi or Mohurram holidays, unless we have got information that a riot is likely to happen.

*Mr. Procter.*—We have a lot of evidence about the question of rectified spirit which is sold here as compared with cheap brandy and rum imported. You have drunk them both?

*A.*—Yes.

*Mr. Procter.*—Do you think rectified spirit is only flavoured with burnt sugar or with brandy or with any essences?

*A.*—Different essences are certainly used for different liquors. You can tell by tasting whether the stuff is intended for rum or for brandy. I am speaking of those that are bottled in Bombay. The rum and Fine Pale Brandy as sold by Mr. Oomrigar are not the same thing. By tasting the stuff you can tell whether it is intended for brandy or for rum.

*Mr. Procter.*—You say they have different tastes?

*A.*—Yes. It is possible that to some spirits they do add essences, besides burnt sugar.

*Chairman.*—How under the provisions of the A'bkári Act could essences get into these spirits in Bombay? The A'bkári Act does not allow any blending or compounding without a license.

*A.*—It does not follow that the essences are put in Bombay. They may be blended with the liquor before export.

*Q.*—Rectified spirits, that is spirits of wine, pure and colourless, are brought out here in hogsheads at 68 O. P. and are bottled by Messrs. Baria and Oomrigar and others as rum No. 1 and rum No. 2. We are told they colour it with burnt sugar and we are also told by one of the witnesses that Fine Pale Brandy is nothing but that spirit also coloured; the one is labelled brandy and the other is labelled rum. Do you think you can distinguish a difference in flavour between the rum and the brandy?

*A.*—Yes. How the addition of essences to imported spirit escapes the notice of the Excise authorities in Bombay I don't know. It is news to me that it is coloured in Bombay.

*Chairman.*—Are you sure that this rum (shows a bottle of rectified spirit so-called to the witness) goes up-country?

*A.*—Yes, we get that. It is labelled as rum, as these labels (shows some) taken from bottles sold in Dhulia, show. This bottle (refers to the one just shown him by the Chairman) has the smell of rum.

*Chairman.*—Take that bottle of Hatchet brandy (shows bottle); has it quite a distinct scent from the rum?

*A.*—Quite distinct.

*Q.*—You don't know whether the Hatchet brandy comes out in hogsheads flavoured in Europe?

*A.*—I was under the impression that it was flavoured and sent out in bulk.

*Q.*—Can you get us some bottles of the different spirits which you have actually tested? I should like to see the brands which you yourself have tasted? And will you ask the manager of the shop from where you get bottles to come here, so that we may ask him any necessary questions?

*A.*—Yes. I will bring some bottles to-morrow.

*Mr. Procter.*—You just said you thought all bottling should be stopped in Bombay ?

A.—Yes, of those brands that are to be placed on the black list.

*Mr. Procter.*—Do you believe that if you stop bottling in Bombay it will not lead to the increase of imports of bad liquors ? If bottling was done in the warehouse we would know that nothing deleterious was put in ?

A.—It would be very expensive.

*Mr. Procter.*—The evidence we have got shews that it is not impracticable, though Messrs. Oomrigar and Baria were against it.

*Dr. Powell.*—Why not allow the addition of essences here as is done in Calcutta ?

A.—I see no objection to that, if you are going to have a system of bottling under supervision.

*Mr. Procter.*—Your general experience is that the effect of country liquor on people is less harmful than that of foreign liquor—that a man who drinks country liquor all his life never goes to excess ?

A.—Not so much. When he begins to take foreign spirit he is apt to go to excess.

*Mr. Procter.*—Has that anything to do with the strength at which foreign liquors are sold ?

A.—The reason is that foreign liquor is more alluring than country liquor.

*Mr. Procter.*—At present you get foreign spirit in the mofussil at 15 U. P. Do you think the limit of strength should be reduced ?

A.—No.

*Mr. Procter.*—If you reduce it to 40 or 50, would not the liquor be more wholesome to the consumer ?

A.—It would be a wrong step to reduce the strength. The liquor would then be much cheaper.

*Mr. Procter.*—It would be drunk in larger quantities ?

A.—Yes, there would be a great temptation to that.

*Mr. Procter.*—Why ?

A.—From the fact that these foreign spirits have more allurements than country spirits. I think we should keep the strength up and impose higher fees.

*Chairman.*—You mean that if you allow weak strengths then the liquor becomes cheap and from that popular, and when they once begin to have foreign liquor they will go to excess in it ?

A.—Yes, there is that danger.

*Mr. Procter.*—You say you don't think that country spirits are less wholesome than cheap foreign liquors ?

A.—No. I believe that the one injurious ingredient in both which counts is the alcohol. If one went to excess with country spirit the result would be exactly the same as with foreign spirit. That is my experience from observations. I think the present restrictions on the sale of country liquor are sufficient. I think there ought to be increased restrictions on foreign liquor. The tendency is to increase the excise duty on country spirit year by year and make it dearer.

*Dr. Powell.*—Do you know what is the chemical effect of maturing ?

A.—I don't know.

*Dr. Powell.*—It is to get rid of by-products. Therefore is it not unnecessary to mature spirits if you can deprive the neutral spirits of these by-products through patent stills ?

A.—I suppose so.

*Rdo Bahddur Setalwad.*—In your districts has plague tended to increase the sale of cheap foreign spirits ?

A.—Plague has not been virulent in my districts. I noticed very few cases in which these spirits were used as preventives.

*Rdo Bahddur Setalwad.*—Has the temperance or Swadeshi movement tended to decrease the consumption of foreign liquors ?

A.—No. It is a strange thing that the most ardent advocates of the swadeshi movement themselves indulge in pardeshi liquor.

*Chairman* —Was there not a strong temperance movement in Malegaon ?

A.—It was so strong that it threatened the licensees with bankruptcy. The movement, however, is against country liquor. It is not against foreign spirits. The object of the movement was to damage the Government somehow or the other. The promoters of the movement thought that Government was getting an enormous revenue from country spirit, and so they went for that. There is only one foreign liquor-shop at Malegaon. It was left entirely unmolested.

*Mr. Procter.*—Do natives take foreign spirit as medicine ?

A.—Yes, in certain cases, chiefly among the educated people, the Brahmins for instance. They use port wine very often in the case of sickness.

*Dr. Powell.*—We have been told that frequently the increase in the drinking of foreign liquor was due to the fact that people used it as a preventive against plague ?

A.—My districts have not suffered much from plague, and that argument does not apply to them.

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*Replies of Mr. J. J. S. Lorimer, Assistant Collector of Excise, Northern Gujarat, to questions for witnesses.*

1. The port is Hamburg where it is also manufactured. I think such spirit is also imported from Trieste (Austria).

2. Yes, I think it is intended for consumption chiefly in this Presidency. A fairly large quantity is employed for making Eau-de-Cologne, and medical preparations such as tinctures, &c.

3. No definite information is available in this connection. The importers display complete ignorance. Major Bedford, the Director of the Excise Laboratory, Kasauli, has stated that such fermentative bases as potatoes, beet, saw-dust, rye, oats, rice, wheat and other cereals are employed for the production of such spirits, cheap flavouring essences being added to give it the required taste. The liquor is produced in patent stills at high strengths.

4. I think the nature of the base ought to affect the nature of the spirit. Damaged or rotten potatoes and cereals and saw-dust are unwholesome bases.

5. The processes applied are the addition of water to break the strength of the spirit and the admixture of a burnt sugar solution to give it the appearance of brandy or rum.

6. No.

7. Pure rectified spirit is drunk in Bombay and in the mofussil. In Bombay the strength varies from 20 U. P. to 40 U. P., the strength is lowered by the addition of water. In the mofussil the strength is 15 U. P. The prices are as follows :—

In Bombay the prices vary from

Rs. 12-8-0 to Rs. 19-8-0 a dozen.

In mofussil (Ahmedabad)

Rs. 1-14 a bottle.

Rs. 22-8-0 a dozen.

8. No. I have no reason to suppose that methylated or denatured spirit is drunk. But the liquor should be properly methylated or denatured as laid down by Government before it passes the Customs.

9. The spirits undergo no blending, but as I have stated in my answer to question 5, water is used to reduce the strength and the burnt sugar solution to give it colour.

10. The spirits are obtained in the mofussil from two firms, D. C. Oomrigar & Co. and D. D. Baria, who are the two chief importers of rectified spirits. Both these importers are retail vendors from whom mofussil dealers get their supplies. The spirits imported are at a strength varying from 60 O. P. to 70 O. P.

11. The wholesale prices in Bombay are from Rs. 12-8-0 to Rs. 19-8-0 a dozen bottles.

12. In the mofussil the strength is fixed at 15 U.P.

13. The retail price in Ahmedabad is Rs. 1-14-0 a bottle of about 8 drams.

14. Under fictitious labels in some cases. One label of Brandy is :

Sp. Hatchet & Co.

Fine Pale Brandy.

\* \* \* \*

Bottled by D. D. Baria, Bombay.

Another,

Charles Paulin & Co.

(Illustration of a ship.)

Old Brandy.

\* \* \*

Sp. is intended for 'Sharp'. There are no such firms as Sp. Hatchet & Co., and Charles Paulin & Co.

Other labels are

Tariff duty paid foreign No. 1  
Rum.

Prince Victor  
Superior Brandy.

Kaiser-i-Hind Fine Pale Brandy.

Maharaja Gaikwad Brandy.

These liquors are rectified spirits coloured and reduced in strength and incorrectly labelled as rum or brandy.

The labels have been prepared by the firms bottling the spirits.

15. In the mofussil Brahmins, Banias, Jains and some Mahomedans and some people of the lower classes who earn good wages in mills.

16. The consumption of these liquors is increasing in Ahmedabad, but not at the expense of country spirits.

17. Yes. They drink it neat. 15 U. P. is too strong a drink. I consider the Indian spirit more wholesome.

18. Yes. I am of very strong opinion that the correct description of foreign spirits on the labels should be required as a condition of retail sale. The label should clearly specify the *true contents* of the bottle, the place and country of manufacture and the name of the manufacturing firm. No bogus labels should be allowed on the bottles.

19. I should make it a condition of sale that no water and colouring substance be added to the spirit by importers. The spirit should be sold in the strength it is received. I should increase the license fee assessed on such cheap liquors from Rs. 1-8 a dozen bottles of spirits to Rs. 3.

Seventh day, Friday, January 29th, 1909.

No. 24.

*Evidence of Mr. J. J. S. Lorimer, Assistant Collector of Excise,  
Northern Gujarát.*

Examined by the Chairman.—

Q.—How many foreign liquor shops are there in your charge?

A.—16. There are 16 shops in my three districts of Ahmedabad, Kaira and the Panch Maháls. In Ahmedabad there are 11 such shops. These are in the Ahmedabad City and Cantonment; besides these there is a railway refreshment room there.

Q.—Do you think that number is required for the city?

A.—It may be reduced by two.

Q.—Do you think even ten foreign liquor shops are required for a city like Ahmedabad?

A.—That number is necessary, I think.

Q.—Who are their customers?

A.—Principally Natives and Europeans employed in the mills.

Q.—How many Europeans are there in Ahmedabad?

A.—I could not definitely say; there may be about 80 or more. Including Railway people there may be about 150.

Q.—What class of natives come to the foreign liquor shops?

A.—Brahmins, Banias, Jains, Mahomedans and natives from mills like jobbers and mechanics.

Q.—Do the upper classes of natives come there in numbers?

A.—I think a pretty fair number come. None of these 11 shops are purely wholesale. They allow drinking on the premises according to clause 5. I think there is much drinking on the premises.

Q.—By the higher classes?

A.—Yes, and the mill managers. The latter are Europeans.

Q.—Are there private rooms in these shops where drinking can take place?

A.—I have stopped them. There used to be.

Q.—Is the principal part of the business done in bottles or by drinking on the premises?

A.—By bottles.

Q.—What kinds of spirits are mostly sold?

A.—Cheap spirits, rum and inferior brandies. They come from Hamburg. The liquors sold are chiefly those that are sold by Messrs. Umrigar and Baria in Bombay. They are mostly bottled in Bombay. The price of the cheapest spirit in Ahmedabad is Rs. 1-14-0 per bottle. It is called either rum or Pale Brandy or Maharaja Gaikwad Brandy.

Q.—Have you any idea how these brandies are manufactured?

A.—They are pure rectified spirits, coloured with burnt sugar.

Q.—Do they add any essences to make the spirits rum or brandy?

A.—I suppose some essence is added. But that must be added at the port of export.

Q.—Do you know whether there is any difference in flavour between the rum and brandy?

A.—There is a difference in smell, but it is hardly perceptible. I have never heard of any practice of putting essences in Bombay. I have served as Assistant Collector in Bombay. I never heard anything at that time. I made enquiries whether essences were imported and I found that they were not.



Q.—Did you enquire at chemists?

A.—Not at chemists, but from the Calcutta and Madras Customs Houses. I thought they might be getting essences in Bombay from those places.

*Dr. Powell.*—Is there any record in the Customs to show who import essences into India and where they come from?

A.—I have information that there is only one firm that of Messrs. Parry & Co. in Madras that imports these essences.

Q.—Have you made enquiries whether the chemists in Bombay have essences in their stock which could be bought by the bottlers?

A.—No, I made no enquiry. There is a prohibition against the importation of essences in Bombay.

Q.—But there is nothing to prevent chemists of Calcutta or Madras from sending essences down to the chemists in Bombay?

A.—No, there is nothing to prevent it.

Q.—Have you ever heard of the adulteration of cheap wines such as port wine in shops?

A.—No.

Q.—Have you got any statistics of sales of foreign liquor in your charge during the last few years taken from shopkeepers?

A.—Yes. Sales are increasing. I don't think there are many people in my charge who send to Bombay for their spirits. I don't think they send to Bombay to get cheap spirits. I certainly consider that they could get spirits materially cheaper in Bombay. Foreign spirits are not nearly as cheap as country liquor there. Country spirit is sold at 12 annas and 8 pies per bottle in Ahmedabad.

Q.—Has there been any move in the direction of abandoning country spirit and taking foreign spirit?

A.—Yes, I should think so, especially among people like jobbers in mills. These belong to different classes, such as Mahomedans or Mochis, they are not people of a high class.

Q.—Are the Mahomedans of Gujarát taking to drink?

A.—I think so.

Q.—Low class Mahomedans?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think there is much secret drinking going on among higher classes in their houses?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What classes of Hindus?

A.—Brahmins, Banias and Jains.

Q.—Do Jains drink?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know of instances?

A.—Oh yes, I know very well about them. I know that Brahmins drink openly in shops.

Q.—Can you say whether the higher class people take more to foreign spirit than to country spirit?

A.—I think the drinking of foreign spirit is a fashion.

Q.—Is there anything in the flavour?

A.—Yes. I think they say country spirit gives the mouth a certain smell and that that is not so in the case of foreign liquor.

Q.—Why is the smell objectionable?

A.—I suppose for the fear of their own castes. They don't want to be known to have taken a drink.

*Dr. Powell.*—Country liquor has an unpleasant smell?

A.—Undoubtedly.

*Dr. Powell.*—You would not care to be in a room with a number of men who drink it?

A.—No, I should not.

*Chairman.*—Have you any opinion as regards the comparative wholesomeness of patent still foreign spirit and mhowra liquor?

A.—I think mhowra liquor is the more wholesome because we know the base from which it is distilled. I don't know the bases of the other stuff. I should consider that even when a spirit is manufactured up to a very high strength its base does matter.

Q.—Have you any experience or observation of the different effects of country and foreign spirits on people?

A.—No.

Q.—Do people who drink foreign spirit get as drunk as those who take country spirit?

A.—I think those who drink foreign spirit get more drunk, because it is a stronger stuff and people who take it take it for the purpose of intoxication.

Q.—Is not that the case with country spirit also?

A.—Not so much.

Q.—Do you recommend any raising of fees?

A.—I should certainly think they might be raised on cheaper foreign spirits. I should not touch the superior kinds.

Q.—How are you going to distinguish?

A.—We ought to classify.

Q.—How would you classify?

A.—By putting all liquors, which are sold at less than Rs. 25 per dozen, in one class. I would have them in the lower class and assess double fee on them. I would assess Rs. 3 per dozen instead of Rs. 1-8-0 per dozen. I would keep Rs. 1-8-0 for the superior class.

Q.—You say that the cheapest spirit is already sold at Rs. 1-14-0 per bottle; would not the heavy fee drive it out of consumption altogether?

A.—It would be a good thing if it did.

Q.—Your object is to kill the trade?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Now they sell at 15 U. P. With the higher fee would there not be a great temptation for them to sell at 50 U. P.?

A.—I don't think they could do it.

Q.—What would prevent them?

A.—We should take up the case at once. Our supervision would prevent them.

Q.—Would not every body go in for sending for liquor from Bombay?

A.—I don't think everybody would do it.

Q.—Presumably a great number would; it is quite a simple thing; would not there be a great temptation to send to Bombay when the local prices were prohibitive?

A.—I should think drinkers would be afraid of their families, etc., coming to know if they got cases from Bombay. They are high caste people.

Q.—Is drinking still regarded as so improper among the high castes that it is kept a secret?

A.—I don't believe that the caste really objects very much to drinking spirits, but if a man is seen drunk and misbehaves in public they would cast him out, not otherwise. But there is the moral fear of being thought disreputable.

Q.—Would you raise the strength in Bombay City to 15 U. P.?

A.—Yes.

Q.—On all spirits or you would make a distinction between cheap and dear?

A.—Only for cheap.

Q.—Would Rs. 25 per dozen be your dividing line in Bombay?

A.—I don't say Rs. 25 in Bombay. I would take a lower figure there.

Q.—What would you suggest?

A.—I would say about Rs. 22-8-0 or Rs. 22 per dozen.

Q.—Does rectified spirit, called dilute spirit when prepared for drinking, appear in the shops in Ahmedabad under that name?

A.—Never.

Q.—Do you find brands there which have been bottled in Europe and sent out?

A.—You mean brands of cheap spirits?

Q.—Yes.

A.—Very few, about two or three brands.

Q.—Are the brands that come direct in bottles from Europe superior in any way to the brands bottled in Bombay?

A.—I think so.

Q.—Are they more expensive?

A.—Yes, much more expensive.

Q.—Have you any idea why some bottles come from Europe and others are bottled here?

A.—No.

Q.—Does anybody bottle in Ahmedabad?

A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—Does anybody print his own labels there?

A.—No.

Q.—Are there any restrictions which you would put on foreign spirit besides the raising of fee?

A.—I should prevent its being diluted in Bombay.

Q.—What do you mean?

A.—There should be no watering, and no colouring substances should be added. I would have all bottling done under our supervision.

Q.—In a Government warehouse?

A.—Yes, irrespective of any firm. I would make no exception whatever.

Q.—Do you suspect any malpractices at the hands of large European firms?

A.—I don't see why they should be treated differently from others.

Q.—You say that no water should be mixed with spirits?

A.—I should make it a condition that no water or colouring substances should be added to spirit by importers. The spirit should be sold at the strength at which it is imported. I should not allow them to import at over proof strengths.

Q.—What strength would you fix for importation?

A.—15 U. P. Everything should come here already compounded and diluted in Europe.

Q.—Would that not enormously increase the transport charges which would be very unwelcome to foreign merchants?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What is your reason for refusing to allow foreign liquors at O. P. strength to be imported and reduced here?

A.—I should put this restriction with a view to bring all the liquor at a certain strength from Europe.

Q.—Would you increase the duty on cheap foreign liquors at the port of importation?

A.—No.

Q.—You never found out, while you were Assistant Collector in Bombay, that any malpractices occurred in the bottling of liquor?

A.—None were found to my knowledge.

Q.—Have you any reason to suspect that any malpractices are going on?

A.—I cannot say.

Q.—Have you any other recommendations to make?

A.—No.

*Dr. Powell.*—Do you want to kill the trade altogether from temperance principles?

A.—Oh no. I don't think the liquor is sufficiently wholesome.

*Dr. Powell.*—You would not like to kill the country liquor trade?

A.—No.

*Dr. Powell.*—Do you know what it is that causes these liquors to be intoxicants?

A.—Yes, their strength.

*Dr. Powell.*—What is that due to?

A.—Alcohol.

*Dr. Powell.*—Do you know that superior brandies, etc., are matured?

A.—Yes.

*Dr. Powell.*—For what purposes?

A.—For flavour.

*Dr. Powell.*—Besides alcohol are there not also other substances in these liquors?

A.—I suppose so.

*Dr. Powell.*—Have you heard of fusel oil?

A.—Yes.

*Dr. Powell.*—Maturing is done to get rid of that?

A.—Partly yes.

*Dr. Powell.*—Do you know that to all these neutral spirits that come to Bombay and are bottled here they add only water and burnt sugar?

A.—Yes, burnt sugar solution.

*Dr. Powell.*—The spirit is made in patent stills and it contains no fusel oil and no impurities?

A.—I don't know that it does not contain fusel oil.

*Dr. Powell.*—That is the opinion of the chemists. It has got no impurities, practically none; so that what goes up country is pure spirit with water.

A.—I am not aware of it.

*Dr. Powell.*—Chemists tell us that the diluted spirit is simply alcohol and water with only a trace of impurities?

A.—I think if it is manufactured from unwholesome substances it must be bad.

*Dr. Powell.*—With patent stills no chemists can tell what is the base from which a spirit is manufactured?

A.—I believe not.

*Dr. Powell.*—Then why do you think that country liquor is more wholesome than cheap foreign spirit?

A.—These foreign liquors are made from damaged potatoes and damaged grain.

*Dr. Powell.*—Damaged grain is merely grain which has sprouted. All fermentation is done from sprouted grain?

A.—If you purposely make the grain sprout for the purpose of distillation it is quite a different thing from the grain which was damaged before you caused it to sprout.

*Dr. Powell.*—Chemists say as regards the products of damaged grain or potatoes that they cannot tell them from any other spirit which has passed through a patent still. They say the one is as wholesome as another.

A.—That may be the chemists' view. I doubt it.

*Dr. Powell.*—You say practically no bottles that are bottled in Europe are sold in your part of the country, do you mean that only bottles of the superior brands come from Europe?

A.—Yes, but not exclusively. There are superior brands, and some inferior ones. When I speak of superior brands I mean Exshaw's brandies and such like.

*Dr. Powell.*—Does not country liquor contain a large quantity of impurities?

A.—It contains some fusel oil and other matters.

*Dr. Powell.*—Chemists say those are impurities. Then how do you make out country spirit to be more wholesome than the dilute pure alcohol?

A.—We have always found it to be so.

*Dr. Powell.*—You are speaking from experience?

A.—Yes.

*Dr. Powell.*—In what way? A man gets more drunk from imported liquor because he drinks more of it.

A.—Imported liquor has other bad effects on people who drink it neat at 15 U. P. It is too strong a drink for any body.

*Dr. Powell.*—That is merely a matter of strength?

A.—Yes.

*Mr. Procter.*—Have you any grounds except your belief for saying that mhowra spirit is more wholesome than foreign spirit?

A.—It has a wholesome base.

*Mr. Procter.*—I think Dr. Mann said that fusel oil in country spirit was 4 times as much as it is in patent still spirit.

A.—I am not aware of it.

*Mr. Procter.*—You have no reason to give except that it is your belief?

A.—It is my belief.

*Mr. Procter.*—You say that the consumption of foreign spirit has increased but not at the expense of country spirit?

A.—Yes.

*Mr. Procter.*—If one goes up does it not do so at the expense of the other?

A.—Not to a very large extent.

*Mr. Procter.*—You do think it is not at the expense of country liquor?

A.—Yes.

*Mr. Procter.*—If a man gives up country liquor and takes to foreign spirit, does he do so at the expense of country spirit?

A.—Undoubtedly he does.

*Mr. Procter.*—You suggest that liquor license fees should be assessed at Rs. 3?

A.—Yes, instead of Rs. 1-8-0 per dozen.

*Mr. Procter.*—Would not that lead to a great deal of fraud? We have been told that often the returns furnished by shopkeepers are not correct. If you double their fees would it not make them still more fraudulent? How can you check the accounts?

A.—From railway invoices.

*Mr. Procter.*—Do you check them now from railway invoices?

A.—Yes.

*Mr. Procter.*—How do they defraud now?

A.—They don't defraud us now.

*Mr. Procter.*—There is no fraud in the accounts now?

A.—I cannot say definitely there is none, but I think not much.

*Mr. Procter.*—If you double the fees, do you not think there would be a likelihood of fraud in that way?

A.—I do not think the shopkeepers could venture to be very dishonest in that respect. They would do it at the risk of losing their licenses completely.

*Chairman.*—If you double the fees do you think that will stamp out the inferior liquor entirely?

A.—Yes.

*Mr. Procter.*—You say no spirit ought to be allowed to be imported over 15 U. P. in bulk?

A.—Yes.

*Mr. Procter.*—At present half the quantity becomes bottled in Europe and half in bulk?

A.—I think a larger quantity comes in bulk.

*Mr. Procter.*—More than what is imported in bottles?

A.—Yes.

*Mr. Procter.*—Do you think it ought all to come in bottles?

A.—Oh no; let it come in bulk, but it must be of certain strengths, 15 U. P.

*Mr. Procter.*—No O. P. would be allowed by you to come in?

A.—I am against cheap and weak liquors.

*Mr. Procter.*—We are told that the imported liquors are more unwholesome than rectified spirit bottled here, because they mix essences with them in Europe?

A.—Possibly.

*Mr. Procter.*—Would it not be better to bring out pure spirit from Europe and have the blending done in Bombay ?

A.—I don't think we can possibly do it.

*Mr. Procter.*—Why should the spirit be mixed under excise supervision ?

A.—I think it better to have spirit of certain strength, not below 15 U. P.

*Dr. Powell.*—Then you would force them to bring it mixed already ?

A.—Not necessarily ; I think my suggestion would drive the cheap liquor out of the market altogether.

*Dr. Powell.*—You want to stop trade, to put such restrictions as would make it impossible for merchants to bring out liquor ?

A.—Yes, cheap liquor.

*Dr. Powell.*—Don't you think that the increase in the consumption of cheap foreign liquor is due to the increased prosperity of the people, through people getting more money than they are able to spend on necessaries ?

A.—Jobbers get more money ; others get little more than before.

*Dr. Powell.*—Still the increase is due to their prosperity, as all over the world ?

A.—Yes.

*Báo Bahádúr Setalwad.*—You say the limit of your cheap class should be up to Rs. 25 per dozen ?

A.—Yes.

*Báo Bahádúr Setalwad.*—How would you prevent exporters from sending false invoices ? In order to escape heavy fees importers may ask the home people to put high prices in their invoices.

A.—Yes, if they want to cheat the Customs. If people mean to do it they can evade the high fees.

*Ráo Bahádúr Setalwad.*—You say that inferior liquor is unwholesome. Do you know what it is flavoured with ?

A.—I have absolutely no knowledge.

*Dr. Powell.*—We have knowledge of what is bottled by Messrs. Umrigar and Baria from neutral spirit ?

A.—I have no knowledge of it.

*Dr. Powell.*—Would you reduce the number of shops ?

A.—Yes. I think there are too many.

*Dr. Powell.*—Don't you think people will rather revert to country liquor brands than give up drinking ?

A.—I think 8 shops are quite sufficient to meet the demand for foreign spirits. If people only knew what it was they would not drink it.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—You would not pass bogus labels ?

A.—Absolutely not. I should suggest that the correct contents of bottles should be mentioned on the label, with the place of manufacture and the manufacturer's name.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—And the base from which the spirit is produced ?

A.—If we can get that, certainly.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Do you think it can be got ?

A.—I don't know.

*Dr. Powell.*—If exporters don't give correct information how would you detect it ?

A.—There are no means.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—You said that 15 U. P. is a very strong drink. Supposing the limit is reduced to 25 and made uniform for the Bombay Presidency, would you like it ?

A.—No, I should have 15 U. P. strength for Bombay City also.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—You know that most people drink liquor neat, especially natives who are in the habit of drinking country liquor ?

A.—They always drink it neat.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—You said that the base used generally for cheap liquor is damaged or rotten potatoes ?

A.—Yes, I say it is supposed to be.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Have you read about it ?

A.—Yes.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Where ? If you read the North London cases of whisky prosecutions you will find it is stated there that only methylated spirit is prepared from damaged grain. Otherwise damaged grain is not allowed for other purposes.

A.—I have not read this case.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—Have you noticed effects upon certain individuals who are addicted to country spirits and upon others who are addicted to foreign liquor ?

A.—No. I think people who drink foreign liquor drink too much of it.



## No. 24-A.

*Evidence of Mr. C. Clifford taken with regard to certain bottles that he was asked on the previous day to produce before the Committee.*

*He said* :—I produce 5 bottles of the cheapest kinds of rum and brandy, all of which I have tasted. I can distinguish different flavours in the brandy and rum. [Some of the bottles were opened and their contents being poured out into a small glass were passed round the members of the Committee who smelt them.]

*Mr. Procter.*—Is there a very large consumption of this rum upcountry?

*A.*—Yes, there is a considerable consumption.

*Mr. Procter.*—Which is more popular—brandy or rum?

*A.*—I think rum is most popular.

*Mr. D. M. Oomrigar* was examined as regards these bottles. He said: The liquor in these bottles is in the same condition in which we imported it. We imported them as brandy and rum.

*Chairman.*—Was this fine pale brandy bottled by you?

*Mr. Oomrigar.*—Yes.

*Chairman.*—You added no essence to that?

*Mr. Oomrigar.*—No.

*Chairman* (to *Mr. Baria*).—Is that correct of the brandy bottled by you?

*Mr. Baria.*—Yes.

*Chairman.*—Do you bottle this Hatchet & Co.'s brandy exactly as it comes out in the hogshead?

*Mr. Baria.*—Exactly.

*Mr. Procter.*—Do you import rum or do you import rectified spirit and colour it with burnt sugar?

*Mr. Baria.*—I both import rum and I import rectified spirit and dilute it and sell it to shopkeepers as they require—one gallon, two gallons, five gallons. By retail shopkeepers it is sold by the peg.

*Mr. Procter.*—As rum?

*Mr. Baria.*—Yes.

*Mr. Oomrigar* (interposing).—As dilute spirit.

*Mr. Procter.*—Is it not sold as rum?

*Mr. Oomrigar.*—It may be, for rum is another name for dilute spirit.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—Do you put any essence in rectified spirit?

*Mr. Oomrigar.*—No. We simply dilute rectified spirit and colour it with burnt sugar. That is all. We do not put in sugar, but colouring matter made from burnt sugar. That is allowed by the excise. The burnt sugar gives some flavour.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—You sell it as rum?

*Mr. Oomrigar.*—Yes.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—Or brandy?

*Mr. Oomrigar.*—Not as brandy, only as rum or dilute spirit. It is called rum for that class of people that call any ardent spirit rum. We don't now use the word rum on the label of bottle of this stuff since the Collector has asked us to discontinue the use of the term for dilute spirit. We only say dilute spirit now. We have been importing rum from home since then. We used to put labels of rum on bottles of dilute spirit. As to brandy it is always imported as brandy and labelled as brandy.

*Dr. Powell.*—Was it allowed by the Abkari Department to use the word rum for dilute spirit on labels?

*Mr. Oomrigar.*—I think they did. The practice existed for nearly 20 years.

[Mr. Clifford opened a bottle of Hatchet & Co.'s brandy and a bottle of rum, and the Committee on smelling the liquors found that one had a smell of brandy and the other of rum. These bottles, it was explained, were bottles of spirits brought out from Europe in hogsheads in the same state in which they were bottled, except for reduction. A bottle of rectified spirit diluted with only burnt sugar was produced. It smelt much the same as the rum manufactured in Europe but fainter.]

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## No. 25.

*Evidence of Devji Ganu, Ringmaster in the Crescent Mill.*

Examined by the Chairman in Maráthi—

A.—My pay is from Rs. 80 to Rs. 90 per month. I don't drink foreign liquor now because it is very dear. I formerly used to drink it.

Chairman.—What do you drink now?

A.—Toddy. Till two months ago I used to drink foreign spirits.

Q.—Why did you leave foreign spirit?

A.—It gives headache and also it is dear. Country liquor is slightly cheaper. I drink toddy because it keeps me cool. It gives me no headache.

Chairman.—Used you to drink this? (shews a bottle of rum).

A.—I cannot understand the English letters on the label.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Look at the colour.

A.—It looks like rum.

Chairman.—Used you to drink rum formerly?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you drink white liquor like this? (shews a bottle of uncoloured dilute spirit).

A.—Yes, this is *rásí* (country spirit).

Q.—No, it is European liquor, not country liquor.

A.—When I drank foreign liquor I used to get white liquor, like this in the foreign liquor shops.

Dr. Powell.—How much did you drink at a time?

A.—I used to buy a bottle or a smaller quantity down to 2 or 3 annas worth.

Chairman.—What did you pay for a bottle of rum?

A.—A rupee and 2 annas. When we took smaller quantities we took 4 annas worth or 4 pice worth. We used to get also a quarter of a seer (one dram) for 6 pice.

Dr. Dadachanji.—What do you pay for one dram of country liquor?

A.—When we buy we ask the man to give us liquor worth so many pice. We don't say give us so much quantity.

Chairman.—When you went alone to a shop how much did you drink?

A.—One *nouták* (a dram). If we go there alone we usually drink one *nouták*.

Q.—Not more than one *nouták*?

A.—No.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—You don't take 3 or 4 *noutáks*?

A.—Not at one draught but at intervals.

Chairman.—How many in one day?

A.—Three or four. That is on holidays.

Q.—What is your state at night if you take liquor 3 or 4 times in the day?

A.—I feel intoxicated and I feel a burning sensation in the throat.

Q.—Do you feel much intoxication?

A.—Yes, if we drink much rum. If we drink very much we feel inclined to vomit. We feel that at the time of eating.

Q.—And next day how is your head?

A.—It becomes heavy.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Can you attend your duties next day ?

A.—We must go there whether we can or not. We have to work whether we can or not.

*Dr. Powell.*—Have you ever taken a bottle home and drunk it ?

A.—If there is a party at home we send somebody to fetch the liquor home.

*Chairman.*—Do many of your caste people drink foreign liquor ?

A.—Big people drink foreign liquor ; poor people drink country liquor worth 3 or 4 pice, because a bottle of foreign liquor costs Rs. 3.

Q.—What is the pay of those people who drink country liquor ?

A.—Some draw Rs. 12, some draw Rs. 14 and some draw Rs. 20.

Q.—Do those who draw higher salaries drink foreign spirit ?

A.—Yes, those whose salary is over Rs. 20.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—How many people are there under you ?

A.—From 400 to 450.

*Chairman.*—What do they drink ?

A.—They drink country liquor.

Q.—Are there any people in the mill who don't drink at all ?

A.—There is not a man in the mill who does not drink some kind of liquor.

Q.—Did you ever drink country liquor formerly ?

A.—We have drunk *pheni* (toddy spirit) of 25 U. P. when it is made hot. It costs 8 annas a bottle.

Q.—Do you mean spiced liquor ?

A.—No, it is merely made hot.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—How often did you drink *pheni* ?

A.—Once or twice.

*Chairman.*—What was the effect ?

A.—It gave me burning sensation because it was hot. I never bought it again.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—Do you regularly become intoxicated ?

A.—Not on working days. In the Shimga (Holi) holidays or on Sundays or whenever there is a party at our place we get drunk.

*Chairman.*—Do you drink something every day ?

A.—When the mill closes we must drink something. I drink something almost every day, but I only get drunk on Sundays and holidays.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—Do you think it is better to drink foreign spirit or country spirit ?

A.—We take country liquor because it is cheap. If foreign spirit were as cheap as country liquor we should prefer foreign spirit. We have no objection to drinking foreign spirit. It is rather dear while country liquor is cheap. If we take foreign spirit and buy a bottle of it, it will absorb the whole of our salary ; therefore we take country liquor costing 3 or 4 pice.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—You say you yourself drank foreign spirit. Did it create a bad effect on you ?

A.—The urine is hot as the result of drinking foreign spirit.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—Does foreign spirit also give you headache ?

A.—If you drink a little of it you won't feel any effects.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—If you drink more ?

A.—Then you are sure to feel the bad effects.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—If you got more pay how much spirit would you drink ?

A.—If we got more salary we would drink even 2 bottles per day.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—There is no objection from religion?

A.—There is no question of religion. If we don't drink the shops would be closed and Government will lose their revenue. Shops have got to be maintained on the sale of liquor and Government get money from us.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—Suppose you don't drink for 4 days, what would be the result?

A.—If we won't drink for 4 days we shall eat more. But if we don't drink we feel unpleasant. We are obliged to drink on account of the nature of our work.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—Can you drink a bottle of rum at one time?

A.—Not now.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—Could you have done so?

A.—Yes.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—A bottle of brandy?

A.—Not now.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Half a bottle of brandy?

A.—Formerly I have drunk 2 bottles at a time.

*Dr. Powell.*—In a day?

A.—Yes.

*Chairman.*—Do you say you alone drank 2 bottles in a day?

A.—Not alone, but when there was a party of 5 or 50 persons we could drink 2 bottles. Personally I would drink half or a quarter bottle.

## No. 26.

*Evidence of Bhau Hiraji, a Frame Master in the Crescent Mill.*

Examined by the Chairman in Maráthi.—

A.—I draw Rs. 60 per month and over according to the extra work I do. Formerly I used to drink foreign spirit. I have stopped it for the last 2 months. I used to drink rum or whisky. This bottle (one of rum shewn to him) is either rum or whisky. I used to drink brandy also. I used to ask for whisky, rum and brandy and they used to give us the stuff. I don't know what they gave us. I don't know what liquor was in the bottle. I asked for liquor and the shopkeeper gave it to me.

Q.—Did you find different smells in brandy, rum and whisky?

A.—Yes. There is no smell for whisky; there is some smell for brandy, rum smells like water. Brandy has little smell, it has little flavour. Whisky has no flavour; rum has a strong flavour.

Q.—Did you drink the three kinds of spirit daily?

A.—No, not daily. We used to buy today brandy, tomorrow *bewda*, (*mowra* spirit of 20 U. P.), next day *pheni* (toddy spirit of 25 U. P.). On different days we bought different things. If we had more money in our pockets we would buy big bottles.

Q.—Did you take bottles away and drink them at home?

A.—No. We never drank at home. We go in a company to a shop, sit there and buy the stuff. Other people come there. We buy. They buy. Some buy a quarter seer and some more. There is no limit.

Q.—Where does the company meet?

A.—In the shop. People meet in liquor shops and eat and drink without limit.

Q.—How much did you drink personally?

A.—If I had 2 annas I would buy liquor worth 2 annas, if I had 8 annas I would buy liquor for 8 annas, and if I had 12 annas I would buy liquor worth 12 annas. When I had much money in my pocket I used to spend Rs. 25 in one day. I and others would take a victoria or other *gharry* and wander in the town, and wherever we came across a shop of liquor we would get down and order liquor.

Q.—What was the effect of drinking so much?

A.—I had a sensation of vomiting. When we drink *pheni* or toddy they give us nourishment (*pushti*). Whenever we see liquor before us we are tempted to drink it, although for the last 2 months I don't drink anything. Once I got dead drunk and vomited after taking a heavy drink, and since then I have stopped drinking liquor. I drink toddy. Toddy we get from Mahim. It is from the *mád* (palm) tree. It is sweet. For a bottle of toddy we pay one anna and for a bottle of rum we pay Re. 1 and Re. 1-4-0 or Re. 1-3-0. A bottle of brandy costs us Rs. 2-8-0 or Rs. 3. There is a shop in front of our mill and if there is time we drink. There is a temptation for us to drink. We don't get brandy for Re. 1-8-0 a bottle or Rs. 2 a bottle. There is a cheap liquor at that price but I don't take it. Higher classes of brandy are better. When you take *bewda* or *pheni* of 2 annas worth you are inclined to drink them again of 4 annas worth. Rich people drink brandy with water to make it cool. When brandy is diluted with water it is not so ardent.

*Mr. Procter.*—What happens when you mix brandy with water?

A.—Water makes brandy cooler.

*Chairman.*—How much water do you mix with your brandy?

A.—To one glass of spirit worth 2 annas we add 1½ glasses or 2 glasses of water.

Q.—Used you formerly to drink country liquor?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Which produces more intoxication, country or foreign ?

A.—Both give the same intoxication.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—Foreign spirit gives intoxication ?

A.—When they drink it with water there is no intoxication. When they drink with water it is cool.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Without water ?

A.—It will cause a burning sensation in the throat.

*Chairman.*—Do all people who drink foreign spirit mix it with water ?

A.—Yes. They will take soda water or water. They cannot take it neat. It is the custom to drink it with soda water or water. No water is added to rum. They mix water with whisky and with brandy. We don't know what the shopkeepers give us when we ask for brandy or whisky or rum. We take anything they give. We know three things—*phensi*, *beoda* and rum.

Q.—If on the labels of bottles you are told in Maráthi it is brandy or whisky or rum, will it do any good ?

A.—Yes. We don't understand now what is written on the labels.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—How many people can read Maráthi labels ?

A.—Four persons in 10 are educated and can read labels ; they will understand what is written on the labels and one will read to the others. One man alone will never go to drink. They go in parties to drink. Only respectable people go alone to drink.

*Chairman.*—In your mill do all drink ?

A.—Many drink.

Q.—Generally do they drink foreign or country spirit ?

A.—They mostly drink country liquor but they suffer from it. If you take it neat you feel giddy. Country liquor is worse than foreign spirit because the very smell of it makes your head spin.

Q.—Have the people in your mill given up country liquor and taken to foreign spirits ?

A.—Yes. There is no question of preference between country liquor and foreign spirits. It depends on the money we have in our pockets. If we have more money we will drink foreign spirits. Most people will drink either country or foreign spirit according to the amount of money they have got to spend.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—How many people are there under you ?

A.—About 209 or 210.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—How much do you spend in drink out of your salary ?

A.—Formerly I used to spend my whole pay. I used also to borrow and spend the whole money ; but now since I don't drink I have saved about Rs. 500. When we have got something in our pocket we go to drink. We don't care to pay even our creditors.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Has anyone been giving you lectures on temperance ?

A.—Some time ago lectures were given and then we felt it was right that we should not spend our money for nothing. Educated people used to give us those lectures. Now the lectures are stopped and everyone now drinks. The effect of the lectures was temporary. Now everyone knows that Government will prosecute him who would speak against drinking.

*Chairman.*—Suppose your salary were reduced, what would you drink ?

A.—If there is no money in our pockets we won't drink. If there is money to pay for drinks we shall drink and shall not pay our creditors. If there is liquor in our presence we shall drink it till we fall and vomit.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—Why don't you give it up ?

A.—We cannot. Once we see it before us we are tempted to take it although we try our best not to drink it.

*Answers of Mr. Bomanji A. Parakh, Excise inspector, Haliyal,  
to questions for witnesses.*

1. It comes generally from Germany, France, Australia, and Scotland. They are generally manufactured in the countries from which they are imported.

2. Yes. It also goes to Central Provinces, Ajmer, Rájputána and Málwa.

3. It is said white rectified spirit is chiefly manufactured from potatoes at the strength varying from 60 to 68 O. P. I do not know about the method of its manufacture.

4. In my opinion, it does not affect. I am not aware that any of the bases used are unwholesome.

5. The spirits are diluted with water only.

6. No.

7. Pure rectified spirit is drunk in Bombay as well as in the mofussil after being diluted with water. In Bombay it is reduced to strengths varying from 15 to 50 U. P. and in the mofussil to 15 U. P. The rates are fixed according to strength, the wholesale and retail rates in Bombay are nearly the same on account of keen competition.

8. Yes. It is very rarely drunk by ignorant villagers as medicine for asthma, rheumatic pains, etc. It is diluted with water before use.

9. It does not undergo any other treatment except water and burnt sugar for bringing up the colour. Also at times some flavouring essences are used.

10. The importers in Bombay who are generally retail vendors also, supply the local as well as the up-country traders. The mofussil vendors are supplied by the licensed importers in Bombay.

11. This can be gathered from Messrs. Oomrigar's and Baria's price lists.

12. In Bombay, varying from 15 to 50 U. P. and in the mofussil at 15 U. P.

13. Nearly same as wholesale on account of competition. In the mofussil Fine Pale Brandy of 15 U. P. is sold at Rs. 1-6-0 to Rs. 1-9-0 per bottle of 8 drams.

14. They are sold under the descriptive labels of the spirit imported as Brandy, Rum, Whisky, etc.

15. Lower and middle classes of all communities. In Halyál it is mostly drunk by Sáraswat Bráhmíns.

16. The Customs Statistics in Bombay can speak of it with certainty. In my opinion it is increasing gradually. The increase is independent of country liquor on account of people's tastes and fancies.

17. I have no knowledge of this as well as the patent still and, therefore, cannot answer this.

18. Yes. They should be labelled according to the description under which they are originally imported and invoiced.

19. The bottling of liquor should not be allowed except in bonded warehouses under proper supervision.



## No. 27.

*Evidence of Mr. Bomanji A. Parakh, Excise Inspector, Haliyál.*

Examined by the Chairman :

Q.—Have you any special knowledge about mofussil business in foreign spirits?

A.—Yes, I have.

Q.—What have you got to tell us?

A.—I think methylated spirit is drunk to some extent. I have observed a few cases in which people have drunk methylated spirit. That was at Belgaum and Haliyál. I have noticed it also in Bombay. They do drink it in Bombay mixed with water. I did not notice much of it. I now come from the Kárwár District. There are very few foreign liquor shops there. In Kárwár the lower and middle class people and Christians generally drink foreign spirit. Most of the Native Christians and a few Bráhmíns, Sáraswat Bráhmíns, drink it. In Belgaum there is much drinking of foreign spirit among the military, regimental servants and Hindus of all castes. Even the higher class Hindus drink it. They take bottles away from the shops. A few high class people have got regular clubs where they drink. Bráhmíns have some clubs in Belgaum.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Are they " Vishis " (eating-houses) or regular clubs?

A.—Regular clubs. They don't drink in the clubs openly, they do it privately.

*Chairman.*—Do they take liquor there in bottles and drink it?

A.—Yes. I am of opinion that the habit of drinking foreign spirit is decreasing among higher classes in the Southern Division. I don't know why. I see it is decreasing to some extent. I cannot say why but there are many higher educated men in the castes there who are not much in favour of drink.

Q.—Owing to their education?

A.—Yes, I think so. The lower classes are taking to drink foreign spirit. In some cases they are doing it in preference to country liquor. They are not doing it to a large extent but to a slight extent. They don't drink in shops now in the mofussil.

Q.—Do you consider that any new restrictions of any kind ought to be put on foreign spirits in Bombay or in the mofussil?

A.—No, I don't think so. I think the present restrictions are enough. The license fees are not very high. They are reasonable in my opinion. They are sufficiently high. They are as high as they ought to be. I know no private drinking goes on on the premises of shops in Belgaum or in the other districts I am acquainted with.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Under clause 5?

A.—There is no retail license at all except at Hubli.

*Chairman.*—Wholesale licenses allow the sale of one bottle?

A.—Yes, the licensee cannot sell less than a pint and he cannot sell for consumption on the premises. I have not observed any difference in effects between cheap foreign spirit and country spirit. I cannot say whether one of them is more wholesome or less wholesome than another.

Q.—In 21 years you must have seen drinkers of both kinds in large numbers?

A.—Yes, I have.

Q.—Did you see no difference in effects?

A.—No.

*Mr. Procter.*—Do you see traces of much drinking in Belgaum?

A.—It is increasing.

*Mr. Procter.*—Do soldiers drink?

A.—They do. There is a European regiment there.

*Chairman.*—Do European soldiers drink Hamburg spirit?

A.—Yes, but privately, clandestinely.

*Mr. Procter.*—How do they get it?

A.—Through their servants and *dammivalas*.

*Chairman.*—Do they take it to the barracks?

A.—Yes and also to other places.

*Dr. Powell.*—Do they ever drink country spirit?

A.—Yes.

*Chairman.*—Soldiers?

A.—Yes, but few, very few.

*Dr. Powell.*—How do they get it?

A.—Through their servants.

*Chairman.*—Do soldiers take the liquor neat?

A.—They don't mix it with water when they drink country liquor. They drink it the way natives drink it.

Q.—Does not the native ever dilute spirit?

A.—I have never seen any do that in my own part of the country, especially in the case of country liquor.

*Mr. Procter.*—We have heard that natives always put water in brandy?

A.—In brandy they do, but not in country liquor.

*Chairman.*—Do you yourself dilute the foreign spirit you drink?

A.—Yes, I take it diluted.

Q.—Do natives ordinarily dilute foreign spirit?

A.—Yes.

Q.—All sorts?

A.—Yes, rum, brandy and whisky. They dilute these things not excessively but according to their tastes. The general custom is to dilute with soda water or water.

Q.—To what extent?

A.—In the same proportion as the spirit.

Q.—Half and half?

A.—Yes.

*Mr. Procter.*—Because they think it is too strong?

A.—Yes, because in the mofussil 15 U. P. is the only strength at which it is allowed to be sold. That is not the case in Bombay.

Q.—Do you know the taste of these Hamburg liquors yourself?

A.—Yes, I have tasted them. I have tasted all sorts of rums and brandies.

Q.—What is your opinion about them?

A.—I don't like them.

Q.—What is the effect, is it very bad?

A.—I cannot say, as I have taken very little. I don't like them.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Why not?

A.—On account of the taste.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Is it bad?

A.—Yes.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Has it any ill-effect?

A.—It burns the chest and the throat.

*Chairman.*—Do you take it neat ?

*A.*—I always dilute it.

*Q.*—You find it burns the throat more than country spirit ?

*A.*—It does to a certain extent.

*Q.*—You approve of country spirit ?

*A.*—Yes.

*Dr. Powell.*—Do you like it ?

*A.*—I personally like it better than foreign spirit.

*Dr. Powell.*—Have you ever had headache after drinking either of these spirits ?

*A.*—I had no experience, I never drunk to that extent.

*Dr. Powell.*—Neither country spirit nor brandy ?

*A.*—No.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Do you say that flavouring essences are used in cheap foreign spirit ?

*A.*—Yes.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—How do you know ?

*A.*—I have enquired in Bombay. That is my belief.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—They are used in Bombay ?

*A.*—Yes.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Not in the mofussil ?

*A.*—No, not in the mofussil, at all.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—By whom in Bombay ?

*A.*—By bottlers.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Where do they get them from ?

*A.*—From foreign countries.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Don't you know there is a restriction as regards the importation of essences ?

*A.*—Yes, but there is nothing to prevent anybody from getting them.

*Chairman.*—Can they get them from chemists ?

*A.*—They cannot get them from chemists' shops. They must make some other arrangement.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Do they get them from Madras or Calcutta ?

*A.*—Yes, or from Goa. That is my belief. I think very few must be doing it. Some unscrupulous people do it.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Can they bring those essences into Bombay ?

*A.*—Yes. There may be a few who make use of essences.

*Chairman.*—You were an Inspector in Bombay ?

*A.*—Yes.

*Q.*—You learnt this at that time ?

*A.*—Yes.

*Q.*—Did you then get on the traces of the people about whom you heard these things ?

*A.*—I tried to do that but I could not detect them. I could not find any bottlers doing it in Bombay.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—You failed to detect anything ?

*A.*—Yes.

*Mr. Procter.*—Then why do you think it is done ?

*A.*—Because it is possible. I had obtained information from certain servants of the men said to be doing it.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Servants working under them gave you the information and you acted on it but could not detect anything?

A.—No.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—Did you search the premises?

A.—I visited them.

*Ráo Bhádur Setalwad.*—Did you search the premises and find any essences?

A.—No.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—You paid surprise visits?

A.—Yes.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—Do you expect that shopkeepers who put in essences, would do it in the presence of their servants?

A.—There must be trusted servants in whose presence they would do it. They would not do it in the presence of all.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—One of the trusted servants informed you?

A.—Yes.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—You could rely on his word?

A.—Yes, I believed him.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Did you get that information about many firms?

A.—Very few. They were not prominent firms.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—Did you notice any adulteration in port?

A.—I did not detect any adulteration. To some extent it is possible.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—What adulteration takes place?

A.—In Bombay most of the European firms sell sour claret by auction which is bought generally by wholesale licensees here. These licensees generally make use of the claret by adulterating it with something.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—Is the claret put in port?

A.—No, my information is that it is put in inferior sorts of rectified spirit called brandy and they make some profit out of it. They sell it as brandy.

*Mr. Procter.*—Do they put sour claret in brandy?

A.—Yes.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Can it not be detected?

A.—It cannot be.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Have you tasted brandy so adulterated?

A.—No.

*Chairman.*—In order to drown the taste of claret, they must put a small quantity of it into several gallons of brandy?

A.—Yes, the brandy proportion must be very large. They make certain amount of money in that way when you take the prices of spoilt claret and brandy into consideration.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Is sour claret put in port wine?

A.—I have heard and I believe that it is put in these inferior kinds of over-proof brandies. As spoilt claret contains some alcohol, it is more profitable to mix it than plain water.

*Dr. Dadachanji.*—Not in port?

A.—No.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—Have you heard of the adulteration of port wine with black grapes?

A.—No.

*Dr. Powell.*—You say you have heard that sour claret is mixed with brandy. How do they get rid of the claret colour in the brandy?

A.—They may put in burnt sugar.

*Dr. Powell.*—That would not get rid of the claret colour?

A.—Sour claret is sometimes of white colour.

*Dr. Powell.*—Do they not distil the claret ?

*A.*—No, they only mix it with spirit over 40 O. P.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—The only restriction you want to add is that bottling should be done under direct Government supervision ?

*A.*—Yes.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—And in a Government warehouse ?

*A.*—Yes.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—Would you make any exception in the case of respectable firms ?

*A.*—I think it should be general.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—No exception ?

*A.*—No, except to those who do not deal in cheap German spirits and who do not sell liquor below Rs. 2 per bottle.

*Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.*—It ought to be under Government supervision ?

*A.*—Yes.

*Mr. Procter.*—Your remarks on adulteration do not apply to big firms ?

*A.*—No. They apply only to small firms because they have facilities for doing such things.

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*Answers to questions for witnesses before the Foreign Liquor  
Committee by Dr. H. Johnson, F.C.S., Calcutta.*

1. Spirit in bulk appears to be imported into India chiefly from Germany (*via* Hamburg, Bremen or *via* Antwerp) and from Java.

Spirit exported *via* Trieste may also find its way into India, but the writer has no evidence of this.

3. Spirit imported in bulk has a strength of about 68 O. P. When such spirit is highly rectified it becomes a difficult matter to state from what base the article is prepared, as the flavouring matters from the raw material are more or less eliminated in the process of manufacture. The best rectified or plain spirit consists only of pure spirit of wine (Ethylic Alcohol) mixed with water.

Java spirit is manufactured from molasses the residues from the refineries. The usual way of dealing with molasses is to dilute them to a suitable strength, to add sulphuric acid and ammonium sulphate to the wash, and to allow fermentation to set up with the natural yeasts which adhere to the distillery vessels or which find their way into the wash from the atmosphere. Spent wash (*i. e.*, wash which has been fermented and distilled) is also commonly added to fresh wash to assist fermentation.

Spirit up to 68 O. P. is produced from such wash in patent stills. The process does not differ materially from that carried on in certain parts of India and the spirit produced is of about the same quality, although it is not general in India to produce spirit much above 40 O. P. in strength.

Spirit from molasses (cane or beet) is also produced in large quantities in Europe. The process of manufacture is essentially the same as above except that yeast is added to the wash to promote fermentation.

Spirit produced in Europe from beet or cane molasses is generally distilled at a high strength and is used for methylation and denaturation. It is also converted by rectification into plain or silent spirit. Generally speaking spirit from the base is not much esteemed by European blenders (in the preparation of brandies and whiskies) although when well rectified it would answer as well as any other spirit for certain classes of liquors.

The other principal bases from which plain spirit is prepared in Germany, United Kingdom, Belgium, etc., are as follows:—

- (1) Potatoes and barley malt.
- (2) Maize and barley malt.

Other starchy materials such as rye, buckwheat, oats, broken rice, millet, sago and cassava root are also used.

Potato spirit manufacture is carried on chiefly in Bavaria, Saxony and in East Germany (Posen and East Prussia) also in Bohemia and Austria. From  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $\frac{4}{5}$  of the spirit produced in Germany is said to be manufactured from potatoes but the writer has no statistics on this subject and has considerable doubt whether this is so. The process of manufacture is simple. The potatoes after being cleaned are cut up, cooked under steam pressure and then mashed with barley malt, by which means the starch is liquified and converted into sugar. Fermentation is set up by the addition of yeast. The resulting wort is distilled and rectified in patent stills. Rectified spirit produced from potatoes is a product of good quality and fetches a good price. It is not, as is generally supposed, of bad quality.

It may be explained that in modern patent stills three classes of spirit are produced by distillation:—

- (1) The foreshots or first runnings (bad flavour).
- (2) Good quality spirit.
- (3) Feints or last runnings (bad flavour).

The feints from potato spirit have an objectionable odour on account of the large proportion of fusel oil (consisting chiefly of propyl, butyl and amyl alcohols) contained therein but the writer personally has never seen offered for sale, as potable spirit, feints from potato distillation.

It is now found profitable to separate as much as possible of the fusel oil (amyl alcohol) from feints as these higher alcohols are converted into essences (amyl acetate) which fetch higher prices than spirit of bad flavour. The writer personally knows several manufacturers of perfumes and fine essences who purchase plain spirit manufactured from potatoes in preference to spirit from other bases, as being purer and better than the latter.

Maize and barley malt are used throughout Europe in the production of spirit and yeast (for bakers' purposes). Rye, oats and the other starchy materials mentioned above are used in small proportions in addition to malt-culms. It appears to the writer that spirit exported from North Germany is more likely to be manufactured from maize and malt than from potatoes and malt. The bulk of the spirit manufactured in the United Kingdom for blending with pot-still whisky is made from maize and malt. The spirit used by wine growers for fortifying wines such as ports and sheries is often plain spirit manufactured from grain.

4. In general terms it may be said that the base used in the manufacture of silent spirit does not greatly affect the quality, as determined by chemical or physical analysis, nor can any of the bases used be considered unwholesome.

Spirits produced at high strength (68-69 O. P.) undergo fairly complete rectification in the process of manufacture and unless exporters take special pains to export bad quality stuff (feints and foreshots), which in the writer's opinion is unlikely, it may be said safely that such spirit is of a quality at least equal to, if not better than that manufactured in India, where the processes of manufacture are generally crude and where rectification is not as rule carried on.

In support of this contention, blenders in India of high classes whiskies import European spirit and do not avail themselves of the article manufactured locally.

5. The spirit is diluted with water to the strength required and additioned with burnt sugar and essences. The number of essences sold for this purpose is considerable. Many of them are proprietary articles, the composition of which is deemed a secret by the manufacturer. Books are published giving hundreds of recipes for the preparation of sophisticated liquors. The writer has one in his possession dating from 1850 (as far as he can remember by memory). The principal essences used appear to be essence of almonds, and acetic, amylic and oenanthic ethers. The writer's experience of Indian sophisticators shows them to employ crude methods only.

6. The substances added neither improve nor detract from the quality of the spirit. It is possible that unscrupulous parties exist who employ substances of objectionable nature, but in the writer's experience only harmless substances are used.

11. Sophisticated brandies and whiskies are sold wholesale (in Calcutta) from 8 rupees upwards per dozen reputed quarts.

12. Spirit imported in bulk is at a strength of about 68 O. P. Sophisticated liquors are sold at strengths between 22 and 45 U. P. About 35 U. P. appears a favourite strength (in Calcutta).

Scotch whiskies imported in bottle vary in strength from 17 U. P. to 22 U. P. (High class proprietary articles).

14. The labels are printed in India or imported by wholesale merchants. They are generally designed to give the impression that the article is a European product bottled in Europe.

15. Natives and poor Eurasians.

16. The increase in consumption of imported liquor appears at present to be at the expense of country liquor (in Calcutta).

17. Provided that these sophisticated liquors are made from good plain spirit and flavoured with essences only they cannot harm the health of the consumer. This question cannot be answered satisfactorily until an enquiry has been made into the quality of the spirit imported and chemical examination of same carried out. In the writer's opinion the bulk of the country spirit manufactured in the Bombay Presidency is not a high class spirit and is not likely to prove attractive to those who can procure good European liquor.

18. It should be made obligatory to place a label on the bottle (of liquors sold retail) indicating the country where the spirit has been purchased and where bottling has been performed.

19. To encourage the consumption of country spirit and the manufacture of an article of high class quality in India, the writer would advise as follows :—

(a) That spirit imported in bulk and intended for potable purposes should be imported at a strength not exceeding 15 U. P. (except in the case of reputed Scotch or Irish whiskies and brandies for which special permits would be obtained) and that every consignment of imported spirit should be accompanied by a true certificate of origin indicating the name of the distillery and bonded warehouse from which it originates.

(b) That the blending and bottling of spirits in India could only be undertaken in specially licensed premises, subject to expert supervision.

(c) That no label can be used unless the use of such label is sanctioned by some public body.

(d) That the conditions affecting the manufacture and sale of country spirit should be facilitated, *i. e.*, that once the distiller has paid duty he should be free to sell or deal with his spirit how he likes. At present when duty has been paid on imported spirit it is to a certain extent a free article and can be manipulated or dealt with in any way, whereas country spirit is subject to regulations concerning "strength," etc., and can only be sold in certain districts regulated by Government.

(e) That the duty on imported spirit should be increased.

(f) That imported spirit other than whisky or rum, brandy of known and reputed origin, should conform to a certain standard of quality to be decided on by Government.



*(Analysis by the Chemical Analyser to Government, Bombay, of three bottles labelled, respectively, Brandy, Whisky and Rum.)*

No. A.—7307 OF 1908-09.

EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

*Bombay, 25th January 1909.*

From

G. W. HATCH, Esquire, I. C. S.,  
Collector of Bombay;

To

THE CHEMICAL ANALYSER TO GOVERNMENT,  
Bombay.

Sir,

I have the honour to send herewith 3 bottles labelled respectively Brandy, Whisky and Rum, and to request that you will inform me of the nature of the contents of each; in particular whether the bottles contain—

- (a) pure neutral spirit—spirit distilled to an overproof strength at which it loses all the characteristics of its base and most of the oils and acids that are found in pot still spirits—plus water only, or
- (b) neutral spirit and water together with a certain proportion of grape brandy, malt whisky or Jamaica rum, or
- (c) neutral spirit plus water plus essences designed to give the flavour of the spirit the name of which appears on the bottle.

2. The above information is required for the benefit of the Committee on Cheap Foreign Liquor which is sitting in Bombay; I beg to request that it may be furnished if possible not later than Thursday next.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

G. W. HATCH,  
Collector of Bombay.

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No. 176 OF 1909.

*Office of the Chemical Analyser,  
Government Laboratory, Byculla,  
Bombay, No. 8, 28th January 1909.*

From

CAPTAIN W. H. DICKINSON, I. M. S.,  
Chemical Analyser to Government,  
Bombay;

To

THE COLLECTOR OF BOMBAY.

Sir,

With reference to your No. A.—7307 of the 25th instant, forwarding 3 bottles labelled, Brandy, Whisky and Rum, I have the honour to state that—

- (a) the samples cannot be classed as "neutral spirit" as defined by you,

- (b) it cannot be stated whether the samples are "neutral spirit" with any brandy, whisky or rum added to them, nor,
- (c) can your third query be answered satisfactorily.

2. As regards the samples sent with your No. A—7352 of the 27th instant (received into this Laboratory this morning), I have the honour to state that the sediment in the bottle put in by Mr. Proctor, is not due to the addition of chemicals but is due to dirt, probably from the inside of a cask.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. H. DICKINSON, Capt., I. M. S.,  
Officiating Chemical Analyser to Government.

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Bombay, January 25th, 1909.

To

THE HON'BLE MR. A. C. LOGAN, I. C. S.,  
Chairman, Foreign Liquors Committee.

Sir,

I have been directed by the Bombay Temperance Council to submit to you the following *notes* on the terms of reference which your Committee has been appointed to investigate :—

*Terms Nos. 1 and 2.*—This information can easily and only be procured from the records of the Abkari Department.

*Terms Nos. 3 and 4.*—This information can be readily obtained by calling as witnesses those liquor-sellers who are licensed to deal in such spirits or wines.

*Term 5.*—The question of the increase of consumption of foreign liquor can be ascertained from the records of the Abkari Department: but I give some figures in my enclosure to this letter. The liquor-sellers, if called as witnesses, will be best able to state what classes consume it.

*Term 6.*—The Council feel that nothing more is desirable than that the rules already laid down by Government should be strictly adhered to, and that foreign liquor shops should not be licensed in places where they are in no way needed. For instance, within the last quarter at least two foreign liquor shops have been allowed to be opened in the Fort, and a wish has been expressed by the Department to have another opened near the Wodehouse Road under the fashionable name of a restaurant within a very short distance of already existing establishments of a similar kind.

*Term 7* seems to admit that false descriptions are being actually given by persons holding licenses from the Department and that the Department are aware of this fact. It is perfectly obvious that such criminal deception should not be permitted, and that the Departmental Officers should have ample powers to investigate the matter, cancel the license of those guilty of such an offence, and if the law covers such frauds prosecute them in the Courts.

*Term 8.*—It would seem to be almost impossible to obtain any satisfactory answer to this question for the following reasons :—

(a) It will first be necessary to discover what classes consume these liquors and *no others*.

(b) A variety of circumstances, such as climate, economical conditions, etc., will have to be taken into account in making a comparison.

And yet given the alcoholic strength and purity of a particular liquor, it is probable that sufficient medical evidence is already available, which would enable the Committee to determine its relative detrimental effect upon those who consume it.

In connection with this Term of Reference, the Council are glad to note the tacit admission by Government that both kinds of spirits are "harmful" to some extent to those who consume them; and they trust that the Committee will strongly recommend to Government that this tremendous fact shall always have a weight preponderating over all interests, either of revenue or of the liquor trade, in determining the policy and still more the practice of the Abkari Department.

I have the honour to remain,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

BHALCHANDRA KRISHNA,  
Chairman of the Bombay Temperance Council.

*Marine Lines, Third Street,  
Bombay, 15th February 1909.*

To

THE HON'BLE MR. A. C. LOGAN, I. C. S.,  
Chairman of the Foreign Liquor Committee,  
Bombay.

Sir,

I notice from the papers that this Committee has concluded its labours, and I presume is now engaged in drawing up the Report for the information of the Government. The investigations conducted by the Committee as reported in the daily papers from time to time have conclusively proved what kind of stuff is being sold by the foreign liquor licensees. It seems from the evidence of Abkari officials, liquor shop-keepers and others that cheap foreign alcohol is imported here, and after being doctored by the licensees, in their places, is bottled, labelled and finds ready sale as genuine brandy or rum. I may be permitted to bring to the notice of the Committee a letter which I addressed to His Excellency Lord Reay, so far back as 23 years ago, *viz.* on the 6th January 1886. Therein I have touched among other points connected with the Abkari administration of this Presidency, the question of cheap foreign liquors.

In my said letter I have dealt with cheap low brandy and genuine mhowra liquor, and shown how the latter is handicapped by a heavy duty taking into consideration its alcoholic strength as compared to that of foreign liquors. (See Appendices A and B.) I have therein suggested that there should be a great difference between the duties on genuine country spirit and foreign stuff.

The idea of gradually raising the duty on country spirits till it is finally brought on a par with the Tariff on imported spirits does not seem to be carefully weighed. It will crush the home industry in favour of foreign countries, while other Governments protect their home industries against foreign competition by granting bounties to the indigenous trades and manufactures.

With your permission I shall now venture to state the chief cause of the large growth in the consumption of foreign stuff, which can be safely attributed to the policy the Abkari Department has been following for years past.

Before the introduction of the farming system in Surat, the old distillers (some of them celebrated for their brands) used to manufacture three varieties of spirits, from flowers and fruits, spiced and plain. Large quantities of the first and second kind were sent to Bombay for local consumption and from Bombay it was exported in small quantities to China for use by the Parsis there. Rich Parsi gentlemen used to present liquor of the first quality to their European friends.

Now in 1882 the then Commissioner Mr. Pritchard by private arrangement in Poona gave the farms of the Surat District for three years to one Mr. Dubash on favourable terms and he was supported by the Revenue Secretary Mr. Nugent.

It took the former some time to set up his distillery at Surat, so he was allowed to bring the plain mhowra spirit manufactured in his Poona distillery for sale at Surat. The quality of this liquor was so bad that a cry was raised by the consumers and petitions were made to the Collector, also complaints were made by the papers, as follows :—

*Gujarát Mitra* (Surat), 12th August 1883—

“As the pleasures of the famed Surat toddy have disappeared from the poor classes since the introduction of the Abkari Act, so last year's monopoly of spirits has killed the pleasure of the spicy and rich liquor which enjoyed in all India and in places like Bombay and Calcutta and even in all India and in distant China. There are present complaints in

Surat against the spirit brought from Poona and it is said to be injurious to the health of the consumers."

*Vartman Sar* (Surat)—

"It is insipid and causes a burning sensation in the throat and stomach."

*Kaisir-i-Hind* (Bombay, 19th August 1883)—

"It is very irritating when drunk, but its effects are not known but long after. It causes discharges of blood from the stomach and the mouth when cleaning the teeth and it is difficult to say what it is made of."

Not satisfied with selling such bad stuff, and instead of manufacturing spirits of 25° U. P. according to the terms of his contract, the farmer manufactured and sold spirits of 30° and 31° U. P., as the accompanying report of analysis will prove, marked C.

As if this was not enough, he introduced the "Kusur" system, i.e. charging full price and giving less liquor. The people who had been accustomed to the delicious spirits mentioned above, did not like the stuff supplied by the contractor; hence those who could afford it began to use foreign spirits, while the poor classes had to remain satisfied much against their will with what they got.

About the time of the expiration of the three years' contract, the late Mr. Byramjee Jeejeebhoy, Sir Dinshaw Petit and others requested the Government in a letter dated 14th June 1886 to revive the old system as they did not get the delicious liquor to which they had been accustomed. The Uran distillers tried but failed to produce equally good liquor.

After some correspondence with Government these Parsi gentlemen seeing that the Government were not inclined to grant their wishes gave up the question and now they use good foreign liquors according to their means.

To stop the clamour for good liquor Government issued a Resolution (marked D) that spiced country spirits of strength between 10° and 25° U. P. should be taxed at Indian Tariff rates. This made the liquor so dear that its distillation was totally stopped by the Uran distillers. If this duty were removed they can distil spiced liquor of the 2nd class mentioned above. What is manufactured under that name at present is inferior quality, being 25° U. P. The third cause that drives the people to foreign liquors will be found in a letter from a correspondent published in the *Bombay Gazette*, marked E.

I have never seen in my life or heard that country liquors whether strong or weak are used in a diluted state. They are always drunk in their original state; for if diluted, they become tasteless and prejudicial to the health of the consumer. Now, for the sake of saving his carriage expenses, the farmer is allowed to take to his Depôt from the distillery, spirits of London proof strength, and there dilute it with water to bring its strength down to 25° and 30° U. P. In this way about 1½ gallons of water are diluted with 1 gallon of London proof spirits to make spirits of 30° U. P. or 2 bottles of water for spirits of 25° U. P. Thus the religious susceptibilities of the consumers are wounded, and they are indirectly driven to foreign liquors.

It has been adduced in the evidence given by an A'bkári Officer that people of certain places in the mofussil complain of throat burning caused by using the spirit of 25° U. P. while there is no such complaint in Bombay although there the consumers use stronger liquor of 20° U. P.

Owing to competition among the Uran distillers, the Bombay people get good liquor, while some of the contractors in the districts might mix whatever they like to make the liquor more ardent.

To check the consumption of foreign fire waters I beg to suggest that the abovementioned Resolution should be repealed to enable the Uran distillers to distil really good spiced, etc., liquors of 2nd class.

To order that foreign spirits of different kinds not weaker than 15° U. P. should be sold in Bombay as in the mofussil. This will prevent cheap stuff for sale which is so rife in Bombay at present.

To decrease the duty on country liquor to enable it to compete with foreign spirits.

To allow citizens of Bombay to take with them without permit at least two bottles of spiced liquor for their own use on their going out of Bombay. At present they are obliged to take with them foreign spirit, as they are prohibited to take without permit from one area to another more than one dram of toddy and one dram of country liquor, while they can take with them any quantity of foreign liquor without permit.

It is most deplorable that our benign Government allow the industry of their own people to be crushed and let them to be robbed of their hard earned money by foreigners who give them spurious stuff.

I have kept with me a small sample of the old delicious Surat liquor made from flowers, about 35 years old, with the object of showing it at any time to the proper authorities, when needed, and to convince them of the nature of the drink we have been deprived of by the A'bkári policy of the Government, a policy which would never be adopted by any other Government. Should the Committee wish to see it, I shall be very glad to show it to them.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

PESTONJEE BYRAMJEE DANTRA.