
REPORT
OF THE
FOREIGN LIQUOR COMMITTEE,
1908-09.

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REPORT
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1908-09.

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.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY GOVERNMENT
RESOLUTION No. 11847, DATED THE 20TH NOVEMBER 1908,
TO INQUIRE INTO CERTAIN QUESTIONS REGARDING CHEAP
FOREIGN LIQUOR.

INTRODUCTION.

1. The control of foreign spirit in this Presidency outside Bombay City did not begin till long after a considerable degree of control had been established over the manufacture and sale of country spirit. Beyond providing for the warehousing of spirits landed in Bombay, Regulation XXI of 1827, the first Abkari law for the Mofussil, while enacting certain restrictions on country liquor and toddy did not touch foreign spirits at all. For many years subsequently both the wholesale and retail vend of such spirit (and, it may be added, of rum from Bengal and Ceylon) were carried on without license; and the tendency of the shops to increase in certain districts was checked only by the action of the Magistrates, who on their own responsibility prevented the establishment of shops without their permission. The first movement towards legislation was caused by the complaints of the country spirit farmers who began to find their own business suffering from the competition of the foreign spirit. Accordingly the next Abkari law for the Mofussil, Act III of 1852, introduced a provision requiring the taking out of a license on a fee to be fixed by Government for the retail sale of all spirits, however or wheresoever manufactured, and under this a form of license was prescribed with a fee of Rs. 25, afterwards increased to Rs. 50, for the foreign shops (wholesale and retail) with the following as the chief conditions:—

- (1) that only foreign spirits, wines and beers should be sold in the shop,
- (2) that ordinarily not less than a whole bottle should be sold to natives; but any quantities might be sold to Europeans, except soldiers,
- (3) that there should be no sales before sunrise or after an hour to be fixed in the license,
- (4) that no person should be allowed to get drunk on the premises.

This Act did not apply to the City and Island of Bombay which had special regulations of its own. Licenses for foreign spirit were in force there from 1812. Hotels and taverns where Goa liquor was sold paid license fees of Rs. 200, and other liquor shops paid fees varying from Rs. 100 to Rs. 400 according to their business. At all these places foreign liquor was or might be sold along with country spirit and toddy. Under a later law, Act XIII of 1856, licenses were granted by the Commissioner of Police; but the fees went to the Municipality. In 1855 they amounted to Rs. 25,000. In that year there were 8 hotels, 13 taverns and 171 retail shops. Besides these there were a large number of wholesale shops which took out no licenses and were not under any control at all. Except in the Fort they were very disorderly places, keeping open to all hours of the night and selling retail clandestinely. These wholesale shops numbered no less than 250 in 1867 when they were at last brought under the licensing system by Act IX of that year. There must have been in that year at least 450 places in Bombay where foreign liquor was or might be sold. The division of foreign liquor from country liquor shops took place in 1878-1879 but foreign liquor might still be sold by the glass in country liquor shops till the 1st August 1884.

2. In the Mofussil there were but 54 shops for the sale of foreign liquors in 1852 when as already shown these shops first came under regulation. By

1856-1857 the number had increased to 110. In 1867-1868 it had further risen to 222 distributed as follows :—

Districts.	Number of shops.
Ahmedabad	14
Kaira	0
Panch Mahals	0
Broach	7
Surat	13
Thána	26
Khándeesh	17
Násik	0
Ahmednagar	26
Poona	71 (45 in Cantonment.)
Sholápur	1
Sátára	8
Belgaum	12
Dhárwár	4
Bijápur	2
Kolába	5
Ratnágiri	3
Kánara	13
Total	222

The license fee varied from Rs. 50 downwards, and averaged Rs. 42. It was about half this in Poona where the control of the Cantonment shops was vested in the Military Department.

3. In 1869 Mr. Bell, I. C. S., in a report to Government dealing with the whole A'bkári question recommended (among many other things) a closer regulation of the foreign spirit trade and the separation of licenses into wholesale (*i. e.*, sales of not less than a dozen quarts), retail off and retail on. After nearly ten years' discussion of his proposals the existing A'bkári law of the Presidency was enacted in Act V of 1878. This law has brought the import, export, transport and sale of foreign spirit under the complete control of Government (sections 9-13, 16, 17, 19 and 30-34). All necessary details about the working of the system will appear in their places in the report; but one important result which may be noticed here has been a very large diminution in the number of shops in Bombay and in the Mofussil. The number of places of all kinds for the sale of foreign liquor in 1907-1908 was :—

	Shops.	Fees. Rs.
Bombay	182	1,14,558
Mofussil	212	15,252

The Bombay shops were classified as follows :—

Wholesale shops	12
Wholesale and retail off (combined)	32
Retail off (grocers and chemists)	35
Retail on and off (combined)	48
Hotels	14
Refreshment rooms	40
Railway refreshment rooms	1
	<hr/> 182 <hr/>

Of the 48 retail on and off (combined), 28 are privileged and cannot be auctioned during the life-time of the grantees.

The foreign liquor shops of the Mofussil were distributed and classified as follows :—

Districts.	Retail off.	Hotels.	Refreshment rooms and stalls.	Railway refreshment rooms and dining cars.	Travellers' bungalows.
Ahmedabad ...	11	...	2	2	...
Kaira ...	2	...	...	1	...
Panch Maháls ...	1	...	...	2	...
Broach ...	5	...	...	1	...
Surat ...	10	...	...	1	...
Thána ...	9	1	6	2	1
West Khándesh ...	3	...	...	1	...
East Khándesh ...	5	...	...	1	...
Násik ...	6	...	...	3	1
Ahmednagar ...	6	...	...	1	...
Poona ...	22	11	1	4	1
Sholápur ...	9	...	...	2	...
Sátára ...	12	4	1	1	2
Belgaum ...	8	...	...	3	...
Dhárwár ...	9	1	...	3	...
Bijápur ...	2	...	...	1	...
Kolába ...	11	4	...	2	...
Ratnágiri ...	8	...	...	...	...
Kánara ...	5	...	...	1	...
Total ...	144	21	10	32	5
Total Mofussil ...	...	...	...	212	
Total Bombay ...	...	...	...	182	
			Grand total ...	394	

There has thus been a decrease of about 278 places of sale in the Presidency proper since 1867-1868.

MEMORANDUM OF THE EVIDENCE ON EACH OF THE POINTS REFERRED BY GOVERNMENT FOR THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

QUESTION I.

The extent to which crude potato and similar spirit, or liquors manufactured from such spirit, are imported into Bombay, and their ports of origin.

4. The A'bkári Administration Reports of the last five years show the following imports of spirits, wines and liqueurs into Bombay :—

	1903-1904.				Gallons.
Spirits	...	...	...	...	380,219
Wines and liqueurs	...	...	...	...	114,361
					<u>494,580</u>
	1904-1905.				
Spirits	...	...	...	...	400,729
Wines and liqueurs	...	...	...	...	114,225
					<u>514,954</u>
	1905-1906.				
Spirits	...	...	...	...	450,653
Wines and liqueurs	...	...	...	...	112,025
					<u>562,678</u>

		1906-1907.			Gallons.
Spirits	389,475
Wines and liqueurs	109,194
					498,669
		1907-1908.			Gallons.
Spirits	414,167
Wines and liqueurs	113,983
					528,150

The figures for spirit are the totals of columns 5 (potable spirit) and 6 (non-potable spirit) of Appendix F to the Reports. It is found necessary to include the figures of column 6 because, as will be seen presently, a large quantity of the spirits of wine classed there as non-potable, is not only potable but actually drunk. It has now to be seen what proportion of these imports consists of crude spirit or its products.

By crude spirit we understand spirit manufactured at over proof strengths in patent stills. There is no difficulty in identifying such spirit when it comes out in its plain form as rectified spirit or spirits of wine; but when manufactured into the semblance of specific liquors and wines it can only be discovered by the test of price, since the methods of manufacture are never disclosed by the exporters. According to the Customs officers any price for such liquors and wines from Rs. 3 downwards per gallon in bulk and from Rs. 7-8-0 downwards per dozen bottles, as delivered ex-duty in Bombay, unquestionably denotes patent still manufacture from potato, grain or other cheap bases, and accordingly this criterion has been adopted in statements prepared for us by the Head Gauger for the five years for which figures of import have been given above.

From the Gauger's statements it appears that crude spirit or liquors fabricated from it were imported to the following extent:—

		Rectified Spirit.		Manufactured Liquor.				Total Potable.	
		In Casks.		In Casks.		In Bottles.			
		Total imported.	Potable.	Spirits.	Wines.	Spirits.	Wines.	Spirits.	Wines.
		Galls.	Galls.	Galls.	Galls.	Galls.	Galls.	Galls.	Galls.
1903-04	...	42,717	38,946	25,497	9,259	20,625	5,072	85,068	14,332
1904-05	...	62,849	37,583	18,691	10,008	16,429	5,258	72,703	15,266
1905-06	...	64,205	35,732	21,836	6,611	17,911	5,461	75,479	12,078
1906-07	...	71,074	31,406	17,796	7,544	13,771	4,216	62,973	11,761
1907-08	...	76,168	35,236	17,929	7,027	20,589	5,180	73,754	12,207

Of the 76,168 gallons of rectified spirit imported last year, 40,932 gallons were denatured for use as industrial spirit. Owing to the effective denaturation prescribed in Bombay it is probable that little or none of this is drunk; but there is not the same certainty about the consignments of methylated spirit now being brought here from Calcutta by Messrs. Aratoon and Company. The Assistant Collector of Excise, Bombay, has proved by experiment that natives will drink it when mixed with one-third or more of mhowra spirit, and a Bombay excise inspector Mr. Pandit gave hearsay evidence that the Thána and Kolába Kolis buy methylated spirit to drink. As regards the 35,236 gallons which remain potable, one witness, Mr. Patterson, seemed to think that three-fourths were used for medicines; but the actual proportion so used is believed by the Customs authorities not to exceed one-third. It may be assumed therefore that about 23,000 gallons are taken as drink. The total amount of crude spirit or preparations from it which passed into consumption in this Presidency in 1907-08 would then be about 61,518 gallons of spirit and 12,207 gallons of wine. It must be understood however that the gallonage of rectified spirit,

and of manufactured spirit in bulk, would be largely increased in the accounts of sales, for these generally come out at over proof strengths varying from 10° to 70°, and are reduced to U. P. strengths varying from 15° to 50°.

5. The ports from which the cheap foreign spirits come are set out in full in the Head Gauger's report. Nearly the whole of the rectified spirit comes from Hamburg and Trieste, two-thirds of the brandy comes from Hamburg, and most of the remainder from Bordeaux, Antwerp and the Charente : the whisky is chiefly from Glasgow and the rum from Hamburg and London. The imports of fictitious port and sherry come principally from Hamburg and Liverpool.

QUESTION II.

The destination of the imports.

6. Out of the 414,167 gallons of spirit imported into Bombay in 1907-1908 221,682 gallons remained for consumption in Bombay while the remainder according to various witnesses was destined chiefly for the adjacent Native States, the Central Provinces, Berar, the Nizam's Territory, Rajputana, the United Provinces and even the Punjab and Quetta. The comparison of figures is however inexact as to the proportions which stay and go, for the gallons of import are proof gallons, while those of local consumption are of actual strengths as sold. It may be assumed that the cheap spirits and wines pass out of Bombay in the same proportion as the liquors of higher class : there being no information attainable on this point, one way or the other.

QUESTION III.

Their treatment by importers, and the various derivatives which are sold as spirits or wines.

7. To answer this question it is first necessary to describe the treatment of these liquors in the countries of origin. From the evidence given by Dr. Johnson, F. C. S., consulting chemist to a number of distilleries in Europe and India, who drew up a written statement for the Committee (being unable to come in person) regarding the manufacture of cheap spirit it appears that the spirit intended for industrial uses after methylation and denaturation is generally distilled at high strengths from beet or cane molasses. It is also converted by rectification into plain spirit, but is not much esteemed by European blenders for the preparation of brandies and whiskies. The plain spirit intended for drinking is usually manufactured in Germany (Bavaria, Saxony, Posen, East Prussia), Belgium, Austria, Bohemia and the United Kingdom from potatoes and barley malt, or maize and barley malt ; but other starchy materials such as rye, buckwheat, oats, broken rice, millet, sago and cassava root are used. The favourite base on the Continent is the potato. The potatoes are cut up and cooked under steam pressure, and mashed with barley malt to convert the starch into sugar. Fermentation is set up by the addition of yeast, and the wort is distilled and rectified in patent stills. The foreshots or first runnings and the feints or last runnings, which have a large proportion of fusel oil and a bad odour, are rejected and only the spirit of good quality which is turned out between these two is offered for sale as potable spirit : the rest being converted after purification into essences and perfumes. Dr. Johnson considers potato spirit to be of good quality. Maize and barley malt are also used as bases for the manufacture of spirit throughout the Continent and the United Kingdom : in the latter case for blending with pot still whisky. Spirit from this base is also used for fortifying ports and sheries.

8. We have not full information as to the various hands through which this silent spirit passes in the country of origin, but it is understood that on the Continent it is usually distilled in distilleries belonging to associations of the persons who grow the bases, and is sold in the plain state to the blending firms. In the hands of these firms it is mixed with the essences which give it the flavour and appearance of the brandy, rum or other liquor which it is intended to personate. The next stage would be reduction and bottling in the case of liquor not intended for export in bulk. A witness, Mr. B. H. Rustomji (No. 11) states that the liquor passes through three hands in the country of origin : the distillers, the blenders and the shippers. Another witness Dr. Mann (No. 14)

who has been in Germany states that the distilling there is done under Government supervision; but information is lacking as to the extent to which the subsequent processes are subject to control. As however there appears to be a drawback in Germany on exported spirit it is probable that all these operations are carried on in bonded warehouses under some degree of official supervision.

9. It has already been shown that the cheap spirit intended for Bombay comes bottled to the amount of about 20,589 gallons; and in bulk to the amount of about 35,236 gallons of potable plain rectified spirit and 17,929 gallons of spirit manufactured into the semblance of brandy, whisky or rum. Cheap wine comes in bottles to the amount of 5,180 gallons and in bulk to the amount of 7,027 gallons. The bottled spirits and wines do not require any

<i>Strengths.</i>	
Brandy 62° to 12° U. P.	already reduced to the strengths allowed in India,
Whisky 57° to 13° U. P.	and come out corked, capsuled and labelled for sale.
Rum 62° to 12° U. P.	There is reason, however, to believe that dishonest

manipulation sometimes takes place. Mr. Smith (No. 2), the Assistant Collector of Excise, Bombay, says, "Merchants import good whisky, draw out a certain amount (from the bottle) and mix with the rest cheaper stuff, and put on it Bernard and Company's labels and capsules". A Parsee witness, Mr. Kathok, gave an account of the fabrication of port in Bombay from spoiled claret by the admixture of black grape juice and other things; and there is a recent case from Poona where a shopkeeper was found rebottling Gilbey's port and replacing the labels by others of his own invention.

10. Of the spirit coming out in bulk, that which has already been converted by essences into the form of specific liquors requires only the operations of reducing and bottling. The strengths at which the liquors come out are shown in the margin. Reducing and bottling are done in private godowns in this Presidency without official supervision beyond the occasional visit of an excise officer, and therefore any degree of malpractice is possible; but our inquiries have not disclosed that any serious malpractices exist. Common, *i. e.*, undistilled water, and as we have had ocular proof, sometimes very dirty water is used for reduction, but as 10 per cent. of spirit is supposed to be sufficient to kill all microbes, this practice, though reprehensible, is probably not of serious consequence to consumers.

Brandy 28° U. P. to 57° O. P.	
Whisky 16° U. P. to 10° O. P.	
Rum 40° to 68° O. P.	

11. Blending and essencing, if treated as manufacture, are forbidden by the Bombay A'bkári Act without a license for the purpose, and the excise officers and the liquor traders who appeared before us are at one in denying that anything of the kind takes place. Considering the prices at which these spirits are delivered in Bombay (ex-duty) as shown in the margin there should be no very strong temptation to adulteration, and as it is difficult to see how a patent still spirit, coloured with burnt sugar and essenced with oil of almonds or other matter to give it flavour, can be made cheaper by any process of adulteration, it may be assumed that the purchaser of the cheapest kinds gets what came out in the cask with no alteration except the addition of water. But it may also be assumed that, as with the bottled liquor, the more expensive brands of spirit are frequently mixed with the cheaper kinds, to the defrauding of the customer who seeks a superior liquor.

Brandy 1/2d per gallon of 28° U. P.	
" 1/9d " 57° O. P.	
Whisky 3/9d " 16° U. P.	
" 1/6d " 10° O. P.	
Rum 2/1d " 40° O. P.	
" 2/2½d " 68° O. P.	

12. There remains the rectified spirit referred to under Question I which comes out at strengths of 40° to 70° O. P. It has already been estimated that about 23,000 gallons of this may be consumed as a drink. Besides reduction and bottling this spirit ordinarily undergoes in Bombay a process of colouring by burnt sugar, which gives it both the appearance and, to a slight extent, the flavour of rum. This process has hitherto been treated as not amounting to manufacture (and therefore not requiring a special license) under the A'bkári Act, though in fact it is an "admixing" which might as naturally be brought under the definition of manufacture as the infusion of essences. The process is however a harmless one, and the free practice of it up to the present (assuming spirits of wine to be a harmless drink) cannot be said to have produced any evil results.

QUESTION IV.

Their descriptions when sold in foreign liquor shops.

13. Except where the manipulations adverted to in the answer to the last question are practised, liquor coming out bottled is sold under labels attached to the bottles by the exporters, and these labels bear the name of the country of origin as required by the Merchandise Marks Act. The labelling of manufactured liquor coming out in casks and bottled in Bombay is however wholly a matter of the importer's fancy, for no official supervision is exercised over this operation. The same quality of essenced potato or other patent still spirit may appear as "Charles Paulin and Co. old brandy, three stars", as "Vieux Cognac, Vinne Galle and Co." (with a great display of vine leaves and grapes), as "Jules Alfred and Co. superior old brandy, four stars", as "Imperial brandy, superior quality, three stars" with a portrait of the late Queen, or under a score of other equally fictitious and misleading labels. The patent still whiskies of Glasgow may similarly be described as "Scotch Whisky, Genuine Mountain Dew, finest quality" flanked with Highlanders or "Fine old vatted delicious whisky", or "Finest old Highland whisky" with the names of firms below which are probably in every case fictitious. The rum is often styled "Fine old Jamaica". From the evidence of Messrs. Umrigar, Baria, Rustomji and others it appears that some of these labels are imported from Europe either from the exporters of liquor or from other firms, while others are fabricated according to their own fancy by the importers.

As regards the rectified spirit which is reduced and coloured in Bombay the usual practice is to label it as "Tariff duty paid rum" or more lately "Tariff duty paid diluted spirit" in consequence of objections raised by the Collector of Bombay to the description of this liquor as rum.

QUESTION V.

The present consumption of foreign liquor: whether it tends to increase and what classes consume it.

14. Figures showing the consumption of foreign liquors in this Presidency first become available in the A'bkári Administration Report for 1890-91. They are derived from the shop accounts of sales, and unlike the statistics of import which represent proof gallons (in the case of spirit) they represent liquid gallons at the diluted strengths, usually 15°—25° U. P. at which the liquors are actually sold. They are also liable to be under the truth, owing to the temptation to shopkeepers to understate their transactions for the purpose of lowering the license fees; but this error will probably be nearly uniform in all years and therefore will not materially vitiate the comparison of one year with another.

In 1890-91 the total imports were—

	Gallons.
Spirits	253,567
Wines and liqueurs	194,509
Fermented liquors	802,800
	1,190,876

The tariff duty was then—

Rs. 6	per proof gallon of spirit,
Rs. 6	per liquid gallon of liqueurs,
Rs. 8	" " " perfumed spirit,
Rs. 2-3	" " " sparkling wines,
Rs. 1	" " " other wines,
Anna 1	" " " fermented liquor

and this tariff continued unchanged till 1906.

The local consumption of the year (omitting beer) was—

			Spirits.	Wines and Liqueurs.	Total.
			Gals.	Gals.	Gals.
Bombay	...	...	56,744	52,484	109,228
Mofussil	...	...	74,909	20,500	95,409
Total			131,653	72,984	204,637

During the next six years the figures both of import and of local consumption increased in a fluctuating way for spirits, and decreased for wines and liqueurs, and in 1895-96, the year preceding the advent of plague, the local consumption was—

			Spirits.	Wines and Liqueurs.	Total.
			Gals.	Gals.	Gals.
Bombay	...	...	112,416	47,000	159,416
Mofussil	...	...	58,538	11,117	67,650
Total			168,949	58,117	227,066

In 1896-97 the consumption of spirit fell to 157,100 gallons but during the next two years it rose to 161,263 and 170,953 gallons respectively. In 1899-1900 there was a marked fall under all heads as follows:—

			Spirits.	Wines and Liqueurs.	Total.
			Gals.	Gals.	Gals.
Bombay	...	...	92,688	35,930	128,618
Mofussil	...	...	60,110	8,118	68,228
Total			152,798	44,048	196,841

showing that the famine had counteracted the effects of plague in stimulating consumption.

The figures for 1900-1901 are extraordinary:—

			Spirits.	Wines and Liqueurs.	Total.
			Gals.	Gals.	Gals.
Bombay	...	...	86,490	33,330	119,820
Mofussil	...	...	135,779	21,058	156,837
Total			222,269	54,388	276,657

There is not only an immense increase in the consumption of spirit, but the relative positions of Bombay and the Mofussil are reversed. It appears that Poona took 72,000 gallons of brandy and whisky in this year as contrasted with a previous average of 12,000; but no explanation of the fact is on record. The same phenomenon was repeated in the next year, when the total consumption of spirit reached 225,165 gallons of which the Mofussil took 139,897 gallons against 85,268 for Bombay, and though there was a decrease in the next three years the Mofussil continued to predominate over Bombay as a consumer of spirit, taking 105,032 gallons in 1904-05 as against 87,034 taken by Bombay. The explanation appears to be that the ravages of plague in the Deccan and

other parts of the Mofussil in those years had greatly stimulated the drinking of foreign spirit among the up-country Natives, while the desertion of the City by a large proportion of its inhabitants had diminished consumption there. In 1905-06 however there was a return to the features of distribution existing before the plague. The imports of that year (the largest on record) were—

				Gallons.
Spirits	...	...	...	450,653
Wines and liqueurs	...	...	...	112,025
Fermented liquors	...	...	...	1,981,856
Total				2,544,534

The heavy imports of this year were perhaps due in part to anticipation of the increase of tariff duty which took place on February 26, 1906, whereby the rate on spirit was raised to Rs. 7 per proof gallon and those on liqueurs and perfumed spirits to Rs. 10 and 11 respectively.

The local consumption of the year was :—

			Spirits.	Wines and liqueurs.	Total.
			Gals.	Gals.	Gals.
Bombay	...	...	187,196	46,165	233,361
Mofussil	...	...	77,648	10,177	87,825
Total			264,844	56,342	321,186

It will be observed that the consumption of the Mofussil in this year was little greater than that of 1890-91, while the figures for Bombay City had much more than tripled. In the next year, 1906-07, Bombay took 134,597 gallons and the Mofussil 66,823. The figures for 1907-08, the latest available, are :—

<i>Imports.</i>				Gallons.
Spirits	...	...	...	414,167
Wines and liqueurs	...	...	...	113,983
Fermented liquors	...	...	...	1,596,616
Total				2,124,766

Local consumption.

			Spirits.	Wines and liqueurs.	Total.
			Gals.	Gals.	Gals.
Bombay	...	...	150,685	44,765	195,450
Mofussil	...	...	70,997	8,728	79,725
Total			221,682	53,493	275,175

It would be rash to conclude from a comparison of these figures with those of 1890-91 that the consumption of the City has increased threefold while that of the Mofussil has actually decreased in the last 17 years. No doubt there has been a very large increase in the real consumption of Bombay, but there is no ground for supposing that there has been a decrease in the Mofussil. The apparent decline is probably due to the growth of the practice described by Mr. Clifford (No. 23) and others, of Mofussil customers getting their supplies direct from Bombay instead of through the local shops. This practice is the result of the policy of assessing Mofussil shops at high fees and limiting the numbers.

15. Attention may be drawn here to the comparative figures of the consumption of foreign and country spirit in Bombay for the ten years between

1898-99 and 1907-08 given by the Collector of Bombay in the appendix to his report No. A—7191, dated the 20th January last, printed with these papers. Mr. Hatch's foreign liquor figures do not agree with those of the Administration Reports, but are more correct inasmuch as they include the rectified spirit drunk in the City while those of the Reports omit it. His statistics show that while the average annual consumption of foreign spirit in the first half of the decade was 102,373 gallons it had risen to 137,908 gallons in the second half: an increase of nearly 35 per cent. as contrasted with an increase of less than 13 per cent. in the consumption of country liquor in the same period. The conclusion to be drawn from these facts is however subject to the qualification already noticed that much of the liquor recorded as sold in Bombay is sold on orders to private customers in the Mofussil.

16. Another point for consideration is the relative increase in total consumption and in the consumption of the cheapest spirits. The Presidency consumption of foreign spirit in the last five years compares with the imports of cheap spirit as follows:—

		Total consumption.	Imports of potable cheap spirits.
		Gals.	Gals.
1903-04	...	178,020	85,068
1904-05	...	192,066	72,703
1905-06	...	264,844	75,479
1906-07	...	201,420	62,973
1907-08	...	221,682	73,754

It will be observed that while total consumption fluctuates in the general direction of increase the imports of the cheapest spirits fluctuate in the direction of decrease: the net result of the former being an increase of nearly 26 per cent., while the net result of the latter is a decrease of 13 per cent. A reference to the details of the cheap spirits given under Question I will show that the decrease is conspicuous under all heads—potable rectified spirit, manufactured spirit in bulk and manufactured spirit in bottles; though in 1907-08 there was a marked recovery under the last head. It must be remembered that the contrast between the two sets of figures given above is actually greater than appears, for some of the cheap spirit there shown goes out of the Presidency, while the other figures represent only local consumption. That the cheapest kind of spirit is to some extent losing its market is therefore undeniable, but the question remains whether this is because some of its consumers are leaving it altogether or whether they are only transferring their custom to the superior brands. This involves the question how far the increase in total consumption is due to the European demand. On this point attention may be drawn to Mr. Hatch's statement in the report already quoted that the European population of Bombay City has increased by at least 17 per cent. since the beginning of the century, while the expanding trade "brings every year a larger and larger number of thirsty sailors to Bombay". This would certainly explain some portion of the increase of 26 per cent. recorded in the last five years, leaving the rest to be accounted for by an increase of consumption among Parsees and other classes of Indians (the upper stratum of Mr. D. M. Umrigar's middle class customers) who are in a position to pay for the superior brands. It will be seen below that there is a good deal of evidence that educated Natives drink the better brands. There has also probably been some transfer of custom in the lower classes from the Hamburg spirits in favour of beer, which is growing in popularity as the following figures of local consumption show:—

				Gallons.
1903-04	...	...	...	123,313
1904-05	...	...	...	136,967
1905-06	...	...	...	209,850
1906-07	...	...	...	197,444
1907-08	...	...	...	203,643

Messrs. Umrigar (No. 9), Sheriarji Ardeshir (No. 17) and other witnesses depose to the increase of a taste for beer among all classes of natives, especially in Bombay and Poona. Mr. Hatch (No. 13) says these beers are mostly Pilsener or other light beers.

17. On the question of the classes which consume cheap foreign liquor we have the following evidence. Mr. D. M. Umrigar (No. 9) one of the largest dealers in Bombay says his customers in this branch fall into two classes—middle class customers who purchase bottles costing between Rs. 1-8-0 and Rs. 2, and lowest class customers who purchase Fine Pale Brandy, and the various rums and other spirits that are sold at less than Rs. 1-8 per bottle. In his middle class he includes lower class Europeans and Eurasians, Parsees, Hindus, Mahomedans and Portuguese, but he does not admit that high caste natives like Brahmins, Baniyas and Bhatias form a considerable portion of his customers. The low class customers are largely mill-hands. Mr. Baria (No. 10) another large Bombay dealer makes the same classification: and so does Mr. Sheriarji of Poona (No. 17) who defines his middle class as persons earning Rs. 40 or 50 per mensem. Dr. Mann (No. 14) who appeared on behalf of the Poona Temperance Association says: "Our enquiries in Poona enable us to say that cheap foreign liquor is drunk almost entirely by the lower middle classes: I mean the classes above artisans to whom this liquor has become a mere matter of fashion, partly I believe because of the extremely imperceptible smell it gives. We find them taking this liquor and refusing country liquor. A type of these classes in Poona is the Sonar caste." He thinks that the European soldiers are also customers for cheap spirit, through their servants. Asked whether Brahmins and other classes to whom drink is forbidden by religion take foreign spirits he replies: "It is very difficult to answer that. It is very difficult to get the information", while his colleague Mr. L. R. Gokhale (No. 15) says: "Cheap foreign liquors are used by the lower middle classes such as artisans who get daily wages, people who earn ordinarily Re. 1 a day and whose religion does not prohibit them from using liquor". He specifies tailors and goldsmiths among the Hindu drinkers adding "there are Mahomedans also and Goanese and Native Christians who drink cheap liquor. There are no high class Hindus included in this class. I think the use of foreign liquor is decreasing among them. There is very little secret drinking among high caste Hindus. I find that drinking is going down in the Deccan among the higher classes... I find the decline has been going on for 10 or 12 years. I believe the statistics show the decrease". Among the lower classes however he thinks there is a tendency to exchange country for foreign liquor, though the consumption of the former is increasing. He confirms Dr. Mann as to the growth of a fashion of taking foreign spirit, because it is less easily detected, and in answer to a question whether the absence of restriction on sales of foreign liquor and an increase of taxation on country liquor would transfer customers from the latter to the former he says: "I should think so. I think the country spirit drinkers would go in for foreign liquor. They are attracted to foreign spirit because it has less smell than country spirit. They say country spirit smells badly. Foreign stuff does not smell so badly.....Smell leads to detection. At any rate among Hindus and Mahomedans one smelling of liquor is not looked on with favour: drinking liquor is rather looked on as a degradation in society. Whether religion allows it or not it is looked on as a degradation... Even among people who are allowed by their religion to drink, such as Sudras and other lower classes, people would not like that it should be known that they drink, unless they are confirmed drunkards".

Mr. J. C. Mukadam (No. 20) a foreign liquor seller from Dhulia says in his written statement: "In the Mofussil the superior brands of liquor are drunk by Europeans and educated natives, while the inferior brands chiefly brandy, rum and old tom are drunk by Kunbis, Sonars, weavers, dyers and labourers in general". Mr. Ardeshir Lal of Nasik (No. 21) and Mr. F. N. Marfatia of Malegaon (No. 22) say much the same thing. Two Marathas, ring and frame masters of a Bombay Mill, earning from Rs. 60 to 90 per mensem were called by the Committee. These men (Nos. 25 and 26) deposed that they themselves drank foreign spirit of the cheap kind, and that this was also the drink of other employees whose pay was over Rs. 20. The rest drank country spirit.

They principally drank rum at Rs. 1 to Rs. 1-4-0 per bottle: but sometimes bought brandy at prices up to Rs. 3. According to these men it would seem to be the custom of the highly paid mill employees of their class to spend all their money in drink, and to devote all their holidays to getting drunk in convivial parties at the shops. There is evidently a preference for foreign liquor in this class, and nothing but its comparative dearness prevents its superseding country spirit as the general drink. Of the official witnesses Mr. Smith, Assistant Collector of Excise, Bombay (No. 2), asked whether the habit of drinking European liquor is growing among castes and classes forbidden by religion to drink says:

"Some high caste Hindus and Mahomedans drink. The habit is increasing. More people of these classes now drink than were drinking 20 years ago. Of the classes which are allowed to drink by their religion I think some are changing from country liquor to foreign spirit. There is a tendency that way. I am speaking about Bombay City and Khándesh. . . . It is quite usual that persons who 5 to 10 years ago did not know the taste of foreign liquor now regularly resort to shops for their evening brandy peg".

These people, he thinks, are mostly native artisans and mill-hands drawing Rs. 20 or 30 per mensem, and some of the higher classes who find their way to inner compartments of the shops. As regards the peg drinking it may be observed that the evidence is generally to the effect that foreign liquor is but little diluted except in the case of the highest strengths and particularly brandy.

Mr. Keess, No. 3, a Bombay inspector, lately from Khándesh, says in his report:—"In Bombay these liquors are drunk by artificers, mill-hands and low-paid clerks. In the mofussil cultivators of the better class and low-paid clerks, persons who usually used to patronise country liquor shops. The consumption of these liquors is increasing in Bombay and at the expense of country liquor".

In his oral evidence he says:—

"In the mofussil I have seen very few of the coolie class going to buy foreign spirit. The principal customers are those who are prohibited by religion from drinking. They are the upper classes of natives. In Bombay the state of things is different. The principal customers are a mixture of higher and lower classes. Here the lower classes are addicted to foreign liquor much more than in the mofussil. The mill-hand has taken very much to foreign spirit".

It appears however from the evidence of this witness and Mr. Clifford (No. 23) that in Khándesh even Bhils who can afford it buy foreign liquor on special occasions.

Mr. Kuverji Darasha, an inspector: (No. 4), classifies the drinkers as follows:—

"Better paid mill-hands, railway employees, dock workmen, clerks, artists, mostly of the Hindu community. In the mofussil the better class of people during festivals and holidays".

Mr. K. I. Pandit (No. 5), another Bombay inspector, says much the same and adds:—

"It is reported that methylated spirit is drunk by Thána and Kolába district Kolis or fishermen and some illiterate low classes in the mofussil, in small doses mixed with water, like Eau-de-Cologne, for stomach complaints, &c."

He got this he says from some of the licensees of that spirit.

Mr. Hatch the Collector of Bombay (No. 13) says in his report:—

"The supposed virtue of 'brandy' as a specific against plague has led to its introduction among classes who had never drunk foreign liquor prior to 1896. There has been an increase of drinking among higher caste Hindus,

e. g., Baniyas, who adopt the 'civilised' liquor of the European in preference to mhowra or toddy spirit. Foreign spirit leaves little or no smell or taste in the mouth: this is no inconsiderable advantage when a man is ashamed that his friends or family should know that he drinks."

Mr. Proctor, Assistant Collector of Excise for Poona, Sátára and Ahmednagar, speaking specially about the Poona shops, says they depend almost entirely on native custom, and that he does not think soldiers go to them, adding:—

"I should say that both middle class and well-to-do natives, including Brahmins, Native Christians, Goanese and Marathas, go to these shops. When I say Marathas I mean both of the artisan and of the mill-hand class. These people buy bottles. Drinking on the premises of these shops is not allowed Cornaglia's and Cursetji's are the only places where drinking is allowed on the premises. I have seen several natives in the former shop, such as Parsees, Brahmins, Mahomedans and Bhatias I have not seen natives in large numbers. I have seen one or two: probably a dozen in the season."

Mr. Xavier (No. 19), a Poona inspector, says there is little drunkenness from foreign spirit to be seen in public. The Goanese and some Hindus have clubs to which they carry foreign liquor for drinking. He adds:—

"There are some classes that are coming over from country spirit to foreign spirit. These classes are Marathas and even some Brahmins. I say that in early times it was a common thing for Brahmins to drink country spirit. Lately they are taking to foreign spirits. There are clubs and eating-houses to which they take liquor. There are eating-houses in Poona to which Brahmins go and take liquor with them."

Asked whether high caste Hindus are large customers for bottles, he says:—

"Some are. Since the restriction on back doors they send their servants for foreign liquor or they take it away with them and drink. I have heard that the sale of bottles is increasing owing to people not drinking in shops. Consumption of foreign liquor is increasing throughout all classes. Many of these mofussil people club together and send for consignments to Bombay, or if a guest comes to them he is asked to bring a consignment with him. The statistics of shop sales in the mofussil are no guide whatever to actual consumption. You must depend upon general statistics of imports."

Mr. Clifford (No. 23), Assistant Collector of Excise for Khándesh and Násik, says in his report that the consumption of foreign spirits in his charge has not reached serious proportions, but such spirit is consumed occasionally by persons of the cultivating and labouring classes at festivals and bazars. He gives a curious result of a temperance movement: "Pure rectified spirit is not drunk in East Khándesh, West Khándesh or Násik district. 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 . . . 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." In his oral evidence he states that the consumption of foreign liquor has a tendency to increase owing to the attractive colouring and flavour (in contrast to country liquor, which is bolted like a potion), and partly to the mere fact that it is foreign. Kunbis, Sutars and even Bhils and Mahars indulge in it occasionally at marriages or when visitors come. Clerks and Brahmins may sometimes be seen drinking at shops. In no case is the spirit diluted by the drinker. He thinks that there is quite as much drinking from cases ordered from Bombay as from the local shops.

Mr. Lorimer (No. 24), Assistant Collector of Excise, Northern Gujarat, classes the Mofussil drinkers of his charge as Brahmins, Baniyas, Jains, some Mahomedans and some of the lower classes who earn good wages in mills, and considers that consumption is increasing, though not at the expense of country liquor. He considers that there is much secret drinking in the houses of

the high castes named above, and that the habit is also increasing among Mahomedans. He agrees with other witnesses as to the causes, *e. g.*, fashion, flavour, absence of smell, which give foreign liquor attractions over country spirit, but does not think liquor is largely brought from Bombay. Mr. B. A. Parakh (No. 27), an inspector from the Southern Division, says in his written statement that foreign spirit is drunk by the lower and middle classes of all communities, including the Saraswat Brahmins of Kanara, and in his oral evidence states :—

“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 Halyal. 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 Kanara district. There are very few liquor shops there. In Karwar the lower and middle class people and Christians generally drink foreign spirit. Most of the Native Christians and a few Saraswat Brahmins 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 away bottles from the shops. A few high class people have got regular clubs where they drink. Brahmins have some clubs in Belgaum....They take liquor there in bottles and drink it.”

This witness thinks that drinking of foreign spirit is decreasing to some extent in the Southern Division among the higher castes owing to the influence of the better educated men, but slightly increasing at the expense of country liquor among the lower castes. He thinks that soldiers secretly drink both Hamburg and country spirit.

18. The general conclusion which may be drawn from this evidence is that a taste for foreign spirit is becoming diffused among all classes, from the highest to the lowest, and that the attractions of the liquor from several points of view are such that nothing but its comparative dearness stands in the way of its rapidly coming to supersede country spirit in all places where it can be procured. In Bombay City where the cheapest kinds are practically as cheap as country spirit it is actually beginning to supersede the latter.

QUESTION VI.

Whether any restrictions on foreign liquor beyond those now in force are desirable.

19. We deal fully with this question in our conclusion.

QUESTION VII.

Whether correct description should be required as a condition of retail vend.

20. All foreign liquor coming into Bombay by sea is marked with the country of origin, and in the case of bottled liquor this is either stamped across the label or affixed on a separate slip. In the former case it remains when the bottle is exposed for sale, in the latter the slip may be torn off if it suits the purpose of the vendor. In the case of liquor imported in bulk and bottled in Bombay the name of the country of origin rarely appears on the labels affixed by the bottler, unless the liquor is genuine or, if sophisticated, comes from the country where genuine liquor of the same name is made (*e.g.* patent still brandy made in France).

The Indian Merchandise Marks Act 1889 provides for both the marking of the country of origin, and also for the giving of a true trade description of the article, which in the case of liquor would involve a statement of the method of manufacture and the base of distillation. If such a description is to be prescribed for retail vend it must first be enforced as a condition of import; but the Customs authorities have never attempted to enforce it and

the general opinion is that it cannot be enforced. Mr. Patterson (No. 6), Secretary of the Bombay Licensed Victuallers Association, and the native traders are against any attempt to do so, and those who like Mr. Millard (No. 7) of Messrs. Phipson and Co. are in favour of a true description are unable to indicate how it is to be obtained. The difficulty arises principally from the fact that nothing comes here direct from the distillery, and, except perhaps rectified spirit, nothing comes in the precise form in which it left the distillery. It has already been shown that all liquor passes through several hands for manipulation of one kind or another before it is shipped; and the shippers who must give the certificate might often be ignorant, and could always profess ignorance, of the base from which it had been distilled and of the various processes of blending and essencing through which it had passed before it came into their hands. No doubt if a true trade description were prescribed as a condition of import some sort of description would be given; but the truth of it could hardly be guaranteed by the exporter, and could not be tested in Bombay. It seems impossible therefore to prescribe the base and manner of manufacture as part of the correct description which should be given by retail vendors.

21. The following regulations are however feasible and in our opinion should be enforced on retail vendors:—

(1) The country of origin should appear plainly on every label (whether the liquor comes in bottles or is bottled in Bombay) printed or stamped in a way that would preclude removal.

(2) Rectified spirit should be so described on the labels, and when coloured to represent rum should be described as coloured rectified spirit and not as rum or anything else.

(3) In view of the fact that trade practice as recognised in Europe permits anything to be called brandy, whisky, rum or gin which resemble, in flavour the genuine liquors of those names, we cannot venture to recommend that these names should be disallowed in Bombay for sophisticated patent-still concoctions; but descriptions which are obviously in conflict with the nature of the liquor as revealed by the country of origin should not be permitted. Thus the geographical adjectives Scotch (whisky), French (brandy), Jamaica (rum), Italian (vermouth) should not be allowed to appear on labels which show that the liquor in question was manufactured in a country other than that to which the adjective belongs.

(4) In the case of liquor bottled abroad, and of liquor bottled in India for sale at more than Rs. 2 per bottle of eight drams (26.64 ounces) this is probably as far as it is desirable to go. But in the case of the cheaper foreign spirits and wines bottled in Bombay the labelling ought to be under very severe restriction. There should be no pictorial adornments and no epithets beyond what are accurate and necessary, and there should be no fictitious names of firms. The Hamburg potato spirit which simulates brandy might be described as pale brandy of various qualities, if there are real differences in the qualities which now appear under various names; but it should not be called "fine" or "old" or advertised by vine-leaves and grapes and the names of fictitious French firms. All labels should require the approval of the Excise authorities of Bombay City, and these authorities should make it their aim to secure a uniform nomenclature for all liquor of the same kind by whomsoever sold. It should not be possible for liquor of identical quality to appear under different names in every shop and often, as is believed, under several names and prices in the same shop.

23. One effect of this procedure will be to put a stop to the export of fictitious labels from Europe. Another may be to encourage the importation of bottled liquors bearing such labels; but such a result is not to be deplored since it is in the direction of raising prices. It is hardly practicable to attempt restrictions on the labels of imported bottles, because it is not always possible in their case to say with certainty that the liquor does not deserve the epithets attached to it, and above the cheapest brands there is a large borderland of

blends of spurious and genuine spirit in various proportions which would produce infinite complications for the Customs officers if any attempt were made to regulate their labels. Any criterion of invoice price adopted for the purpose of such regulation would be defeated by false invoices.

QUESTION VIII.

Whether the liquors described under (I) are more harmful to Indians than country spirits manufactured under supervision.

23. The country spirit manufactured in this Presidency is distilled in pot-stills from either mhowra or toddy, mainly the former, and until recently was usually distilled up to the strengths at which it may be sold, that is 60° and 23° U. P. in the Mofussil and 20° U. P. in Bombay. It is now however frequently distilled up to London proof, and reduced to the above strengths by the admixture of undistilled water. Beyond double distillation (which however is not carried out for 60° U. P. liquor at the Dhulia distillery) no process of rectification for the elimination of fusel oil and furfural has either been prescribed or is practised, and even the rejection of the impure forshots and feints which is believed to be an invariable feature of all European distillation, whether pot-still or patent-still, does not usually take place. The removal of the above by-products by distillation to high over-proof strengths approaching that of absolute alcohol (74° O. P.) is the achievement for which the patent still manufacturers claim the public favour for their products; but since these products are wholly devoid of any quality except that of producing intoxication, the liquors which command the highest prices continue to be those which possess some proportion of the so-called impurities, either because they are manufactured in pot-stills or because some proportion of pot-still liquor is blended with the silent spirit. According to Major Bedford, I. M. S., the head of the Government of India Laboratory at Kasauli, country spirits show very much the same proportions of "impurities" as the better brands of imported spirits. We quote from pages 17—24 of his Report on Alcoholic Liquors in India, published in 1906. Below a table showing the relative proportions in which fusel oil is found in country and foreign liquors, he says: "It will be seen from the above that country spirits compare very favourably with imported and Indo-European spirits as regards the proportions of fusel oil present. We may take 400 parts of fusel oil per 100,000 as an ordinary figure for high class spirits, and reference to the analytical results will show that some of the finest qualities of brandy analysed exceed this amount. 96 per cent. of country spirits contain less than 400 parts per 100,000 as against 98 per cent. of imported and 97 per cent. of Indo-European spirits. In the higher proportions present the percentages closely approximate."

In respect of fusel oil therefore country spirit is no worse (using the language of the patent-still party) than the best foreign spirits; in respect of all the aldehydes except furfural it is slightly superior.

"Country and Indo-European spirits in respectively 9 and 8 per cent. show an entire absence of aldehydes, while only in 1 per cent. of imported spirits are they absent. Again 82 per cent. of imported spirits and 68 per cent. of country spirit and 61 per cent. of Indo-European spirits had the very moderate proportions of under 25 parts per 100,000 and in the higher range the differences between the three classes are practically unimportant. Thus country and Indo-European spirits compare favourably on the whole as regards aldehydes with imported spirits. It is reasonable to suppose that the high temperatures prevalent in this country and the generally faulty methods of condensation in the case of country spirits favour the escape of aldehydes, in comparison with the conditions existing in temperate climates."

In ethers, which are described as harmless and desirable, country spirit has an advantage over imported spirit. It is only in respect of furfural and acidity that country spirit shows inferiority to the other, in so far that 26 per cent. of the samples analysed had over 10 parts of furfural per 100,000, while

no foreign spirit had more than 10 parts; and six samples of country liquor compared with six whiskies showed an average of 65 milligrams of acidity per 100,000, as against 52 in the whiskies.

On the other hand, the comparison of country spirit with *cheap* imported liquors yielded results which from the laboratory point of view are very unfavourable to the former. The analysis of 27 samples of sophisticated patent still liquors are thus summarised by Major Bedford (page 25):—

“*Acidity*.—Was low in every case (under 100 parts per 100,000 of absolute alcohol).

“*Aldehydes*.—59 per cent. had no trace of these; 10 per cent. had under 25 parts per 100,000; and in one sample the amount was 50·2 per 100,000—a moderate amount in every case where present.

“*Furfural*.—90 per cent. had none or slight traces of this by-product, and of the remaining three samples two had only 1·2 parts per 100,000, and the third even less.

“The above figures serve to indicate the patent-still origin of these spirits.

“*Fusel Oil*.—41 per cent. had under 100 parts per 100,000; 22 per cent. had between 100 and 200 parts; 18 per cent. had from 200 to 400 parts; and 19 per cent. above 400 parts. The samples from Madras and Bombay were all below 200 parts per 100,000. The only samples above 200 parts were eleven from Calcutta: nine of which were declared to be of German origin, and two were described as rums imported from Jamaica.

“*Ethers*.—44 per cent. had under 100 parts per 100,000 of absolute alcohol; 33 per cent. had between 100 and 200 parts; 19 per cent. had between 200 and 300 parts; and 4 per cent. had between 400 and 500 parts. These figures call for no special comment.”

24. It seems then that country spirit practically conforms to the standard of the most expensive European liquors, but is very inferior to the cheapest foreign spirit from the patent distiller's point of view. We do not feel qualified to make any pronouncement on the question at issue between the two classes of distillers; but may refer to Major Bedford's experiments with the various “impurities” and his remarks thereon, contained on pages 106—147 of his Report, as showing that laboratory opinion is not unanimous in regarding the by-products of distillation as noxious in whatever proportions they may be present. On page 141 he says: “Rabuteau's statement that the by-products rather than ethylic (*i. e.* absolute) alcohol were the specially noxious factors in alcoholic liquors is not borne out by our experiments.

“As regards Dujardin-Beaumetz's and Audije's results, in general I agree that the higher alcohols, aldehydes and ethers will in sufficient amounts increase the effect of alcohol; but I consider that in the comparatively small proportions in which these by-products are present in potable liquors the effect is too small to be noxious or of any practical importance. As regards their belief ‘that the poisonous effects of spirit drinking are due to the slow accumulation in the system of the by-products,’ attention can only be drawn to our experiments continued for 10—15 days, in which larger amounts of by-products have been taken (with and without alcohol) than have been found by us to occur per imperial quart in any liquor and without any noxious results.”

As regards furfural (page 144):—

“Doses of furfural far greater than any ever found by us in potable liquors (per imperial quart of 60° U. P.) were administered in single doses and continuously for several consecutive days to men without noxious results. Even when more than these maximal amounts of furfural were taken along with more than maximal amounts of the other chief by-products (with and without alcohol) for several consecutive days by different men, no noxious results occurred.”

As regards other aldehydes :—

“The human experiments indicate that amounts thrice as great as are ever to be found in liquors per imperial quart of 60° U. P. can be taken by many, possibly by most, people without noxious results. Much less then would the amount of aldehydes taken daily by the average consumer in India have any noxious effects.”

As regards fusel oil :—

“Quantities of the various higher alcohols, greater than have been found per imperial quart in potable spirits, have been given, with and without alcohol, to men in single doses and also for several consecutive days, on the whole without any noxious results.”

The experiments in fact seem to show that a certain proportion of by-products is actually beneficial, though Major Bedford does not think it safe to draw this conclusion. On page 146 he says :—

“According to this table (a) pure alcohol alone gave noxious results in 14 out of 58 cases (24 per cent.), (b) pure alcohol with by-products gave noxious results in 13 out of 85 cases (15 per cent.)

“It would thus appear that alcohol alone is at least as deleterious as alcohol plus by-products. It might indeed be argued from these figures that alcohol alone is more deleterious; in other words, that these moderate amounts of by-products are actually beneficial, in so far as they appear to favourably modify the action of the alcohol. I am however by no means prepared to draw any such conclusion in view of the limited number of human experiments made. I do however consider that the above results show that the difference in effects between alcohol with and without by-products is of no practical importance.”

25. There is however so much scientific opinion in favour of the view that the wholesomeness of spirit depends on the elimination of the aforesaid by-products that it is open to anyone to argue that the Hamburg brandies and rums are in fact more wholesome than country spirit, and we are not in a position to say that so far as its physical properties are concerned the former is more deleterious than the latter. But there is one point of view from which it may distinctly be said that cheap foreign spirit menaces more serious harm to the people of India than has so far been inflicted by country liquor. It is more seductive and therefore tempts more to excess. Our evidence shows that foreign liquor is far more attractive to the native than country spirit. The mere fact that it is foreign and the beverage of the ruling race gives it a fashion, and the shapes of the bottles, the gaudy labels, the colour of the liquor, the absence of strong odour and the agreeable flavours are attractions in which country spirit has no share. Moreover the craving for indulgence when the taste is once acquired appears to be much greater in the case of foreign than of country liquor. This was illustrated in some degree by the demoralised individuals who came from one of the mills to give evidence of their orgies; but the most impressive evidence is that of Mr. C. Clifford, the Assistant Collector of Excise for Khândesh and Násik. In his report No. W. K.—3947, dated the 13th January last, he writes :—

“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."

And in his oral evidence he says :—

" Foreign spirit 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."

If the natives of this country must have spirit of some kind it is obviously in the interest of temperance to confine them as far as possible to their national liquors which do not tempt to excess ; and in the sense that foreign spirit does tempt to excess, and if made as cheap and accessible as country liquor would probably produce far more drunkenness and demoralisation than now exists, we hold that it may be considered as likely to prove the more injurious of the two, and therefore needing all possible restriction.

CONCLUSION.

26. To avoid the consequences anticipated in the above passage it should be the policy of Government to raise the price of the cheapest foreign liquor to a point at which it will be beyond the means of the lower classes of natives. This is far from being the case now. The invoice prices of the cheapest spirits landed in Bombay (ex-duty) have already been given in our answer to question III and vary from 1s. 2d. to 3s. 9d. The retail prices in the City of Bombay can be seen from the statement A appended to Mr. Smith's report No. A. C. R/2, dated the 12th December 1908. For the bottle of (nominally) eight drams we find Fine Pale Brandy and Jubilee Brandy (40° U. P.) and coloured rectified spirit (45°-50° U. P.) selling at Re. 1, while the same spirit and rums and brandies of 20°-25° U. P. strength sell at Rs. 1-4, and strengths of 15° U. P. at Rs. 1-6 and Rs. 1-8. The table appended by Mr. Kelly, the Head Gauger, to his answers to our questions, shows that the cost price of an 8 dram bottle of any patent still spirit reduced to 50° U. P. strength need not exceed As. 10 pies 8, and if of 15° U. P., Rs. 1-2-2, taking tariff and town duty into account ; so that it is only the high license fees that, in the face of the keen competition now existing, keep foreign spirit at even the low prices we have quoted. The highest price at which mhowra spirit of 20° U. P. and toddy spirit of 25° U. P. are sold per bottle of 8 drams in Bombay is Rs. 1-4 so that in the City foreign and country spirit may be said to sell at the same prices. In the Mofussil where nothing below 15° U. P. may be sold, the range of prices of the various brands of foreign spirits of that strength is from Rs. 1-6 upwards in places like Poona where there is competition, with slightly higher prices elsewhere. Here foreign spirit cannot compete with country liquor to the same extent as in Bombay, for the highest prescribed maximum price per bottle for country spirit of 25° U. P. is Rs. 1-2-0 (in Poona) and in most of the districts it is below Re. 1. But considering the differences of strength, it is clear that in those parts of the Mofussil like Poona where country spirit is dearest and foreign spirit cheapest the latter

is coming very near competition with the former. The actual difference in the price of country spirit of 25° U. P. at Rs. 1-2 and foreign spirit of 15° U. P. at Rs. 1-6 is less than 2 annas, taking the strengths into account.

We consider that Government should aim at rendering it impossible for any foreign spirit of a strength of 15° U. P. to be sold at much less than Rs. 2 per bottle of 8 drams, either in Bombay or the mofussil, a price which when united with the fixed minimum strength which we recommend below, would either put foreign liquors beyond the purses of ordinary natives, or compel them to drink it in very small quantities.

27. As regards the measures to be adopted to this end one would be to raise the tariff duty per proof gallon on spirit generally; but it would require an enhancement of about Rs. 3 on the present rate to effect the desired object, and the superior brands which there is no occasion to penalise would be almost taxed out of existence in order to inflict some penalty on the inferior ones. One witness, Mr. Millard, suggested a graduated scale of tariff duty rising according to the cheapness of the spirit; but such a measure would be easily defeated by false invoices. It would, no doubt, be practicable to have a higher rate of duty per proof gallon on spirit imported at overproof strengths than is imposed on spirit coming out at under proof strengths, and such a measure would probably inflict little harassment on the trade in superior brands owing to the small quantities of these which come out overproof for reduction in India. But a tax of Rs. 10 on overproof spirit while it would raise the price of the undenatured rectified spirit of 70° O. P. required for drugs and medicines from Rs. 2-4-5 to Rs. 3-2-0 per bottle, would not necessarily cause a material rise in the cost of the liquors intended for drinking. The overproof imports of these would no doubt cease altogether, but as spirit of a degree or two under proof can be sold at 1s. 2d. per gallon or practically as cheaply as overproof strengths, it has been calculated that the change would not necessarily raise prices per bottle by more than ten pies. Unless therefore the Government of India is prepared to raise the tariff generally, for which however the fluctuating increases of the last few years would not seem to afford justification at the present moment, the means of increasing the cost of patent still liquor must be sought in measures of excise rather than of customs.

28. In order to consider what excise measures can be taken to the above end it is necessary in the first place to set out the existing regulations and restrictions on foreign liquor and to compare them with those on country spirit.

The import, transport and sale of foreign spirit in this Presidency are under the following regulations: the import duties being imposed by the Government of India under the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, while the other matters are regulated by the Local Government under sections 9-13, 16, 17, 19, 30-34 of the Bombay A'bkári Act, V of 1878:—

Import.—All spirit and all wine containing more than 42 per cent. of proof spirit imported from foreign countries by sea, pay a tariff duty of Rs. 7 per gallon of London proof.

Other sparkling wines	...	Rs.	2	8	0	} Per imperial gallon.
Other still wines	...	"	1	0	0	
Liqueurs	...	"	10	0	0	

Beer pays a duty of 2 annas per imperial gallon.

Spirit, wine and beer manufactured in India, *e. g.*, Shahjehanpur rum, Kashmir wine, Dapuri beer, which are treated as foreign liquors, pay the tariff rates on import, or if locally manufactured (like Meakin's beer), at the place of manufacture.

Export and Transport.—Foreign liquors which have paid duty may be transported without restriction throughout the Presidency, and exported from it.

Sale.—Foreign liquor may (under section 16 of the A'bkári Act) be sold in the casks and cases in which it is imported in Bombay City (but not elsewhere) without a license. Licenses are necessary for sale in all other cases, and the following is a list of the forms of license at present in force in the Presidency:—

Licenses in force in Bombay City.

	Fee.	
	Minimum.	Maximum.
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Wholesale (No. V)	100	300
2. Retail "off" (No. VI)	100	nil
3. Retail "on" (No. VII), Privileged	Assessed on sales, minimum being Rs. 400.	
" " " Unprivileged	Put up to auction.	
4. Refreshment room (No. II)	Assessed on sales, minimum being Rs. 400.	
5. Hotel (No. 1)	400. No maximum.	
6. Permanent Refreshment stall (No. III)	100.	Do.
7. Temporary stall (No. IV)	5 per day.	

Licenses in force in the Mofussil.

1. Retail "off" license (No. 1)	Assessed on sales between a minimum of Rs. 100 and a maximum of Rs. 1,200.
2. License for hotels, ordinary refreshment rooms and travellers' bungalows (No. 2)	Assessed on sales with minimum of Rs. 25 for hotels.
3. Railway refreshment room license (No. 3) ...	Assessed on sales.
4. Short term license (No. 4)	Rupee one per day.
5. Dining car or refreshment carriage license (No. 5) ...	Assessed on sales.

The license fees assessed on sales are assessed at approximately—

Rs. 1-8-0 per dozen bottles of spirit.

Re. 1-0-0 per 5 dozen bottles of wines.

Re. 1-0-0 per 8 dozen bottles of beer

in the Mofussil.

In Bombay it is proposed to assess them in future at—

Rs. 2-0-0 per dozen bottles of spirit.

Re. 1-0-0 do. do. of wines.

Re. 0-8-0 do. do. of beer.

The sale of foreign spirit may not be combined with that of country spirit either in Bombay or the Mofussil. It is proposed to fix the minimum strength for whisky and brandy sold in Bombay at 25° U. P. and for gin at 35° U. P. In the Mofussil no such spirit costing less than Rs. 2 per bottle may be sold of a lower strength than 15° U. P.

There are no wholesale licenses in the mofussil corresponding to the wholesale licenses issued in Bombay under which not less than one dozen quart bottles can be sold in any one transaction.

The closing hour for all foreign liquor shops in the mofussil is 9-30; but refreshment rooms may keep later hours on special fees. In Bombay the hours are as follows:—

Wholesale and retail off	9-30 P. M.
Retail on	11-30 P. M. for 1st class shops and 9-30 P. M. for 2nd class shops.
Refreshment rooms	9-30 P. M. } Later hours are allowed
Hotels	12 midnight } on special fees.
Refreshment stalls	Half an hour after the close of the performance.

The licenses are granted in Bombay by the Collector in consultation with the Commissioner of Police and in the districts by the Collectors with the previous sanction of the Commissioner of A'bkári. No foreign liquor shops are put to auction in the mofussil. In Bombay, however, the retail on licenses are

divided into two classes: privileged and non-privileged. Privileged licensees are those who by an old concession possess the right of renewal during life, subject to payment of fees assessed on business for triennial periods subject to a minimum of Rs. 400 for shops closing at 9-30 p. m. and of Rs. 500 for shops closing at 11-30 p. m. As these privileged licenses lapse the shops come under the unprivileged class. For this class the licenses are put up to auction and sold to the highest bidder for a period of one year with the privilege of renewal for two successive years on fees equal to the bid. The upset prices for these shops are the same as the minimum fees for the privileged class.

In contrast with the above tariff country spirit of the highest strength sold in the mofussil (25° U. P.) is taxed at rates varying from Re. 1 on mhowra spirit and from annas 14 pies 4 (plus tree tax) on toddy spirit to Rs. 4-4-0 and Rs. 3 per gallon respectively in different districts: the highest taxation being that imposed in Poona. In the City of Bombay where country liquor may be sold at strengths of 20°, 25° and 60° U. P., the taxation is Rs. 4 per gallon on mhowra spirit of 25° U. P. and Rs. 3-0-0 (plus tree tax) per gallon on toddy spirit of the same strength. The other strengths are taxed at proportional rates.

While foreign liquor is thus taxed more heavily than country spirit it is on the other hand subject to somewhat less restriction. Country spirit may not be sold under any circumstances without a license, nor transported without a license in any case except that of transport by a purchaser within a prescribed maximum, which is ordinarily one gallon. In addition the country spirit licenses contain certain provisions regarding keeping minimum quantities of liquor in stock and using vats and jars of prescribed size, &c., for storage which are not found in those relating to foreign spirit.

Recommendations.

29. Under import we can only, for the reason already given, repeat the recommendation of the Excise Committee in Chapter VII of their report (paragraphs 130 and 131) that the course of imports should be watched with a view to a further enhancement of duty when necessary. The recommendation of the Committee in paragraph 116 that "without the prescription of any tests of quality a periodical examination is necessary of all imported liquors with a view to the exclusion of those that are impure or otherwise undesirable" does not appear likely to lead to any useful result. From the reply of the Chemical Analyser to Government No. 176, dated the 28th January, printed with these papers, to a letter from the Collector of Bombay asking for certain information regarding bottles of Hamburg spirit sent to him for analysis it appears doubtful whether the Bombay laboratory could give any valuable assistance in the matter, and we know of no other local experts who could undertake the examination. Moreover some standard of purity must apparently be fixed and in the present state of the controversy on the subject that seems impossible. A test founded on the mere presence of volatile oils and aldehydes would tend to drive all "superior" liquors out of the market and leave rectified spirits of wine in exclusive possession. This is actually the ideal aimed at by the school of chemists represented by Dr. Mann; but it would be extremely repulsive to the vast majority of consumers (including all those of refined taste) and cannot be enforced on them. We are unable therefore to support this recommendation of the Excise Committee until the conditions come into existence which would make the examination practicable and useful. In the case of wine however it may be desirable that the Customs Department should report the alcoholic strengths annually for the purposes of the Excise Administration Report in order that the tendency to increase of strength may be kept under observation; local adulterations can be checked by the Excise Department under the system we propose below for bottling.

30. As regards transport we see no reason for recommending any change in the present system by which transport is free, whether it is transport from the wholesale to the retail vendor or from vendors of either kind to customers at a distance. To require permits for such transport would no doubt provide the Excise Department with the means of obtaining statistics useful for the

assessment of fees on shops ; but there is no reason to believe that present fees are unduly low for want of them, and the Excise Committee in paragraph 110 of their report have recommended the abrogation of such restrictions on transport as exist in other provinces.

31. Between import and vend come the important operations of reducing, colouring and bottling, operations which have hitherto practically escaped supervision in this Presidency. As might have been expected some of the Indian traders examined by the Committee are against the introduction of any effective supervision now ; but the majority of even the non-official witnesses, including Mr. Patterson (No. 6) the representative of the Licensed Victuallers' Association consider such supervision necessary except perhaps in the case of "first class firms which have got the confidence of the Collector." The Excise Committee have also dealt with this question (paragraph 116), and have expressed the opinion that even if the spirit manipulated is itself innocuous the essencing and colouring require strict control. They consider that the most satisfactory arrangement would be to require all such operations to be conducted in Customs bonded warehouses at the ports of import, and elsewhere (if allowed at all) under the supervision and control of a responsible officer. In this Presidency (unlike Lower Bengal and Madras) no essencing or compounding is permitted, and as our inquiries have elicited that there is practically no import or sale of essences, beyond such as are used in confectionery, there is no reason to believe that illicit essencing is carried on to any appreciable extent. It is only, indeed, in regard to plain rectified spirit that any scope for essencing occurs, for all other spirit whether bottled or in bulk comes out already sophisticated ; but the customer for this kind of spirit appears satisfied with the colour and flavour that is imported by burnt sugar, and in many cases he is ready to take the spirit without even that. The case therefore for control is less strong in Bombay than in the other maritime Capitals. We are of opinion, nevertheless, that control should be introduced : firstly to guard against malpractices not alluded to by the Excise Committee (such as frauds on consumers by mixing different qualities of spirit, and giving false descriptions of the liquor sold), and secondly as an indirect means of raising the cost of the cheapest kinds. We therefore recommend that an excise warehouse or warehouses should be established in Bombay in which all reducing and bottling of spirits and wines should be carried out under the control of the Collector of Bombay. We think that the supervision can thus be more effectively done than if the operations are conducted in a Customs warehouse under the Collector of Customs ; and there are obvious advantages in having a single control over liquor during all its stages between import and retail vend. As regards the question of exemptions we have a suggestion from Mr. Millard (written replies to questions) that manipulation in a Government warehouse should only be enforced on liquors invoiced under certain prices ; but this opens a door to evasion by false invoices. We do not in fact think that any reducing or bottling by traders should be free from excise supervision, and we think it desirable that as a general rule these operations in the case of all firms should be carried out in Government buildings. It is only in the event of a difficulty about accommodating all in a single warehouse that we think that any concession should be made to particular firms. In such a case firms "possessing the confidence of the Collector" to use Mr. Patterson's phrase, might be allowed to bottle in separate godowns of which the Collector would keep the keys, under the same excise supervision as would be exercised in the Government warehouse. No reducing or bottling should be allowed in the Mofussil, where no proper control is possible. Effective supervision of these operations in Bombay would involve the employment of a whole time supervisor on not less than Rs. 300 a month, with a competent staff (besides rent charges), and all the extra expense so involved should of course come out of the pockets of the traders concerned. Permission to reduce and bottle should be granted only to firms having a wholesale license (Form V). The present form of that license provides in clauses 10 and 11 for the payment of extra fees for (1) bottling and (2) blending and compounding. It appears however from a letter of the Collector No. A.—4040, dated the 26th August 1908, that no avowed blending or compounding (*i. e.*, mixture of spirits of different strengths and qualities) exists in Bombay and that by those terms he means reducing and

colouring. If blending does not exist in Bombay it is not desirable to encourage it by recognition in the licenses, and the processes really meant should be called by their proper names. We think that the fee for bottling should be fixed and moderate—say Rs. 100; and that reducing as a practice which it is most desirable to discourage, should be subjected to a separate fee of not less than Rs. 200. Colouring should be treated as a process of manufacture, (which it legally is), and prohibited. The mill-hand who seeks to intoxicate himself on spirits of wine should not have any temptation added in colour or flavour; and if the prohibition in Bombay leads to the addition of colouring matter in the country of exports the change will be in the direction, however slightly, of dearness.

32. Another point regarding rectified spirit may be touched on here. It appears to be a practice in some retail shops for the shopkeeper to keep a cask of the plain spirit at O.P. strength and to dilute it into bottles or glasses on demand of the customer. This will come to an end with the prohibition of reducing except in a warehouse, but to prevent unpotable strengths being sold on draught from casks it will be necessary to fix 10° U.P. or some suitable figure as the maximum strength to be allowed for liquor from the wood. The customer may of course dilute at pleasure.

33. Another point which may be dealt with in this connection is the regulation of the sizes of bottles. This is a matter of great difficulty, for the reputed quart, commonly called a bottle, may vary between 25·64 oz. or 8 drams, and 20 oz. or little over 6 drams, and the reputed pint varies in much the same degrees. It will be contended that all these variations in size are accompanied by variations in price; but there can be little doubt that much fraud is practised through them on unintelligent customers. The fact that trade practice in Europe recognises all these varieties may make it impossible to put an effective check on the import of bottled liquors in undersized bottles; but the establishment of a bottling warehouse in Bombay ought to make it possible to regulate the sizes of the bottles to be used by local bottlers, and since the whole of the brands comprised in statement A of Mr. Smith's report of the 12th December last referred to above are bottled in Bombay, a regulation of bottles in the warehouse will clearly go far to protect the class of customers who are least able to protect themselves. We observe that clause 6 of the new retail off license for Bombay City (No. VI) forbids the sales of any but bottles of 8 drams and pints of 4 drams; but this regulation cannot be enforced under present circumstances or perhaps under any circumstances. But as a step in the right direction we recommend that at least in the case of spirits selling at or below Rs. 2 per bottle of 8 drams, no variation should be allowed in the warehouse below 24 oz. in the size of "bottles" and no variation below 12 oz. in the size of "pints". It will however be desirable to secure the adhesion of all India to this rule, for the Bombay trade with other provinces will obviously be injured by it if a demand for smaller sizes continues to exist elsewhere. The sale of flasks or anything below the 12 oz. bottle should also be prohibited throughout India as it will be in this Presidency from April 1st.

34. The next point to be dealt with is that of fixing a minimum strength for spirits. At present there is a minimum of 15° U.P. for the Mofussil (which however is only enforced when the bottles sell at Rs. 2 or under), but no minimum for Bombay, though strengths of 25° U.P. for all spirits except gin and of 35° U.P. for gin have been proposed. It is understood that there are no restrictions elsewhere in India, but that the Government of India is in favour of a strength of 25° U.P. (except for gin and certain liqueurs) as a suitable minimum for general adoption.

The evidence taken by us is practically unanimous to the desirableness of a uniform standard; but while the official witnesses in general advocate a strength of 15° U.P. the trade prefer a strength of 25°. The disclosures regarding the growing habit of mofussil customers buying liquor direct from Bombay show that the object of the high limit of strength fixed for the districts is being frustrated, and afford a strong argument for raising the minimum strength in the City at an early date. To raise it to 25° U.P. would be an important reform there, as at once putting an end to all sales of bottles at less than Rs. 1-4-0, but to introduce the same limit in the mofussil for the sake of uniformity would

be a retrograde step, and in places like Poona would at once bring the cheapest kind of foreign spirit into competition with country liquor on almost equal terms. To reconcile the claim for uniformity in the City and the Mofussil (which is important to the traders for the reasons given by Mr. Rustomji No. 11), we would recommend that 25° U.P. should be fixed for spirit in general (excluding gin and certain liqueurs) but that 15° U.P. should be fixed for all spirits selling retail at Rs. 2 or less per bottle of 8 drams. There appears to be no good reason why this rule should not be adopted throughout India; and we suggest that it should be recommended to the Government of India in connexion with the proposals for a universal standard.

35. In view of the statements of Messrs. Pandit (No. 5) and Clifford (No. 23) regarding the consumption of Eau-de-Cologne as a drink it is desirable to make some remarks here on the manufacture of perfumed spirits in Bombay. Licenses to manufacture perfumes from rectified spirit of wine are granted in Bombay on a fee of Re. 1 to 13 chemists, and a license, without fee, is granted to one individual to manufacture Eau-de-Cologne by distillation in the Dádar Distillery. The licensed chemists carry on their operations on their own premises, and are not under the necessity of keeping any accounts for the Excise Department. The spirit may not be sold at a strength of less than 34° O.P.; but there are no other conditions prescribed for rendering it unpotable, and therefore apparently all that a purchaser need do to make it drinkable is to dilute it with water. As we have reason to believe that these spirits are already being drunk to a considerable extent, and any material increase in the price of foreign liquor will tend to stimulate the practice, we strongly support the suggestion of the Excise Committee (paragraph 116) that their manufacture should be brought under supervision in the proposed warehouse, and would add the further recommendation that the license fees should be made substantial. If the habit of using them as drink is discovered to be general it will be necessary to consider whether there should not be some regulation for denaturing the spirit in order to render it unpotable.

36. Coming to licenses we have already indicated certain points in which the wholesale license (No. V) needs amendment. In addition it ought to contain a clause prohibiting the use of essences, no less than of colouring, for if section 14 of the A'bkári Act read with the definition in section 3 (11) has hitherto been held not to include colouring and reducing it may equally be interpreted not to include essencing.

The new retail off licenses for Bombay and the mofussil do not permit drinking on the premises; nevertheless the Bombay Form (No. VI) no less than the new on license for Bombay (No. VII) incorporates the condition regarding closing or wiring back doors and windows which is intended to discourage secret drinking. This provision however does not exist in the Mofussil retail off license, where it is at least as necessary as in the corresponding license for Bombay, and we recommend its insertion there. Prohibition of sales to minors recommended by the Poona Temperance Association (Nos. 14 and 15) already exists in both retail off and on licenses. Another proposal of the Association that credit should not be allowed on retail off sales of less than one dozen bottles is quite impracticable. Such a provision, applying to every wine merchant in the Presidency, would be an intolerable grievance to the large class of customers who need no protection against their own extravagance.

37. The question of license fees for retail vend is controversial. The Excise Committee (Chapter VII) recommend for retail off shops fixed fees on the following scales :—

(1) For small towns	...	...	Rs. 50—100
„ larger „	...	...	„ 250
„ provincial head-quarters	...	...	„ 500—1,000

(2) For retail on shops a minimum of Rs. 100 per mensem, without maximum.

(3) For hotels and refreshment-rooms minima of Rs. 25, 100 and 400 for the three classes of places mentioned above with separate licenses and fees for bars and for off sales.

38. Taking the retail off shops of the Mofussil first, the Bombay system until the current year was one of assessment on sales without any limitations, but there is now a maximum of Rs. 1,200. The effect of this system was to bring in much larger fees than would result from the plan of the Excise Committee. In the smallest towns possessing foreign liquor shops the fees are often no doubt no higher than they would be under the Committee's scale, but in the prosperous Mofussil towns which would fall under the Committee's second class with a fixed fee of Rs. 250, the fees actually ranged from that figure to Rs. 2,085 in 1908-09 and a large number exceeded Rs. 500. To take one example from each division of the Presidency, in the Poona District the fees for the Committee's two lowest classes together averaged Rs. 670; in the Dhárwár District they averaged Rs. 520 and in the Ahmedabad District Rs. 484. In proposing fixed and comparatively light fees the Committee aimed at securing respectability in the business. We are of opinion that such respectability already exists to the required degree, and that the objects to be aimed at are the reduction of foreign shops to the smallest possible number and the raising of the price of foreign liquor to the highest possible point. The light fees of the Excise Committee would cause Collectors to be besieged with applications for the establishment of such shops in every town, and if such importunities prevailed, as they undoubtedly would in the long run, all the evils witnessed in Bombay from the competition of innumerable shops selling at the lowest possible price, would begin to prevail in the Mofussil. The Poona Temperance Association must have lost sight of this aspect of the case when they advocate low fees on the ground of taking away the temptation to push sales. The resulting competition would restore the temptation (if it was ever lost), and the effect of the present high fees in keeping prices up would be lost. We therefore recommend no change in the present system of assessment except the abolition of newly introduced maximum and in order to discourage the maintenance or the opening of foreign liquor shops in villages, we recommend that a minimum fee of Rs. 100 should be fixed for the Mofussil. There are now about 26 shops in various districts which pay less than this, and they could probably all be spared with advantage. The fees on hotels and refreshment-rooms in the Mofussil are also assessed on sales, and appear to be adequate. There will be no retail on shops there from the 1st April.

39. Before discussing the application of the Excise Committee's scale of fees to Bombay City it is necessary to advert to the classification of the shops given in the introduction to this report. The characteristic of Bombay is the large number of shops that hold two different licenses together. Thus there are only 12 solely wholesale shops, and 35 solely retail off shops, and all these latter are grocers and chemists. The wine merchants, European and Native (32 in number), who do retail off business, generally take out a wholesale license as well. Similarly, all the "on" shops (48) also do "off" trade, and even the refreshment-rooms (about 40 in number) also hold off licenses. As explained by Mr. Hatch in the note accompanying his printed report No. A-7191, dated the 20th January last, the general principle is that fees are based on sales or the magnitude of the business, with the exception of the combined retail on and off shops, which (when non-privileged) are sold by auction for three years. It is these 48 combined on and off shops, and the bulk of the 40 refreshment-rooms which are doing the chief mischief in Bombay and therefore they may be considered first. If the shops were treated under the Excise Committee's scheme they would each have to pay a minimum fee of Rs. 500 for the off sale and of Rs. 1,200 for the on sale, total Rs. 1,700. At present, as Mr. Hatch shows, the 20 non-privileged shops pay average fees of Rs. 1,337 and the 28 privileged shops average fees of Rs. 759. The Excise Committee's minima would probably kill a large proportion of both; but no fees deliberately calculated to kill the business can be applied to the privileged shops (since this would be equivalent to taking away the guaranteed life tenure), and this again somewhat hampers drastic dealing with the non-privileged shops whose custom would then be largely transferred to the others. We think, however, that the auction system both as unsuitable to the liquor trade and as yielding fees in many cases far below the minimum suggested by the Excise Committee, should be abolished for the non-privileged shops, and a system of fees assessed separately on the "on" and "off" businesses should be introduced with suitable minima. These, we think, might,

in the first instance, be Rs. 800 for the "on" business and Rs. 300 for the "off" business. For the privileged shops the minima might be Rs. 500 and Rs. 200; and when all these latter have fallen in by demise, etc., the question of raising the minima to the figures suggested by the Excise Committee can be taken up. The refreshment-rooms in the Native town, which Mr. Hatch describes as "practically mere liquor shops", might be treated in the same way as the non-privileged shops. The fees assessed on them at present average Rs. 895, but the minimum is Rs. 500 and it will be no bad thing if a higher minimum causes some of them to disappear. The *bond fide* refreshment-rooms, like those of Morenas, Cornaglia, etc., appear to be quite highly enough assessed now; but we do not recommend that the principle of assessment on sales or, at least on the scale of the business, should be departed from in any case. It does not however follow that detailed accounts for the benefit of the Excise Department must be kept in all cases.

The 32 shops doing a combined wholesale and retail off business pay the low average of Rs. 576 with a minimum of Rs. 225 and a maximum of Rs. 2,500. In these, as in all other cases of the kind, there are two licenses given on the one fee. In future the fees should be discriminated with a minimum of Rs. 100 for the wholesale license (*plus* the extra fees for reducing and bottling when practised) and a minimum of at least Rs. 300 for the retail off. As several of these shops now pay nearly double the Excise Committee's maximum of Rs. 1,000 we see no reason why that maximum or any other should be introduced. The fixing of any but an extremely high maximum will enable large businesses to undersell small ones, and tempt some small businesses to coalesce into large ones, to escape separate fees; and all this will conduce to that cheapness which it should be the object of Government to check.

The last class of shops that sell retail off are the grocers and chemists: and the average fee is Rs. 242. Some of these, no doubt, may do wine-business with Europeans as an important branch of their business; but it may be assumed that others chiefly do business with persons who would not care to deal with avowed wine-merchants; and there is no reason why this class of traders should be treated with any leniency. We think that a minimum of at least Rs. 300 should be enforced here also, and that licenses should not be granted as a matter of course. The licenses now in question are quite distinct from those granted to chemists for the sale of medicated articles containing less than 42 per cent. of proof spirit.

Wholesale licenses may continue to be granted at Rs. 100 to 300 as recommended by the Excise Committee. It is desirable to reduce the number of persons who hold these licenses merely for the privilege of reducing and bottling; but this will doubtless result from the extra fees to be levied on those operations, which when practised will bring the minimum cost of the license up to Rs. 400, if our proposals on the subject are adopted.

Hotels contribute very little to the sort of drinking with which our Committee was meant to deal, and we need only remark that the recommendation of the Excise Committee that there should be additional fees for bars and for off sale is being carried out in Bombay. In the case of new hotels or boarding houses calling themselves by that name bars should not be allowed as a matter of course. The Bombay rules should be adopted for the Mofussil hotels wherever bars and off sales are permitted; but these should be discouraged in the future as they have been in the past.

40. The usual closing hour for retail off and the 2nd class retail on shops in Bombay is 9-30 p. m.; but the 1st class retail on shops are allowed to keep open till 11-30 without extra fee. As both classes appeal to much the same kind of native customers there is no reason for perpetuating this difference; and it should be abolished as fast as the privileges of the privileged shops, and the terms for which others have been sold by auction, permit. When this occurs the closing time for all should be 9-30, or whatever hour is prescribed for country liquor shops; and if there are grounds for extending it in particular cases a late closing fee should be charged, as in the case of hotels and refreshment-rooms. But such extensions ought not to be allowed to refreshment-

rooms in the native town which do practically the same business as the retail on shops. Fees of Rs. 150 for extension up to 11 p. m. and of Rs. 150 for each additional hour or fraction of an hour seem suitable.

The closing hour for all foreign liquor shops in the Mofussil is 9-30 p. m. Here, also, the hour should agree with that prescribed for country liquor shops in the same place. Extensions for hotels and *bona fide* refreshment-rooms may be granted on the same terms as in Bombay.

41. In conclusion, we would draw attention to the advisability of reducing the number of foreign liquor shops as far as possible. The foregoing recommendations will tend to that result in some degree, and in the Mofussil the recommendations of the local committees appointed by Government Resolution No. 10429, dated the 13th October 1908, have already, as we understand, led to the reduction, immediately or with a year's notice, of a number of foreign liquor shops in various towns. For the Mofussil, where the total number of foreign liquor shops is on the whole moderate, it will probably be sufficient if the policy of reduction where shops are already excessive is supplemented by the principle that new shops should never be sanctioned except in places where there is a sufficiently large population neither Hindu nor Mahomedan to afford full custom to the shop. In Bombay there appears to be considerable scope for the reduction of shops, more particularly among the 88 that do "on" sales, whether as shops or as refreshment-rooms. Owing to the vested interests which have been created in the past and the auctions for long terms which have been in vogue, the Ward Committees appointed for the City by Government Resolution No. 12937, dated the 31st December 1907, have been unable to do anything material in the direction of reduction; but if Government accept our recommendation that the auction system should be abandoned, reduction can begin from an early date, and it might be impressed on the Ward Committees that the reduction of shops that sell cheap foreign liquor to the lower classes of Indians is even more desirable for the reason we have already given, than the reduction of country liquor shops. Indeed, it may be said that any drastic reduction of country liquor shops which would raise the price of that spirit above that of foreign spirit (for it is competition that regulates the price of country liquor in the City) would be a misfortune from the temperance point of view; and therefore care should be taken that the campaign against country liquor is carried out *pari passu* with corresponding action against the foreign shops calculated to prevent any transfer of custom from the former to the latter. There must also be room for some reduction of the retail off licenses (other than those held by on shops) which now number 67. Ordinarily, chemists and grocers should not be allowed to sell liquor, though some large and old established firms may have established a sort of prescriptive right to the privilege. It should be restricted, as far as possible, to these, and not granted, as a matter of course, to every chemist or grocer who asks for it. This is a matter with which the Collector can deal. Whether material reduction can be effected in the number of other shops holding retail off licenses is one that may properly engage the attention of the Ward Committees. No vested interests recognised by Government bar the way here to early reductions; but we do not of course recommend drastic measures that would throw numbers of persons out of their means of livelihood without notice.

A. C. LOGAN,
Chairman.

H. E. E. PROCTER,
CHUNILAL H. SETALWAD,
ARTHUR POWELL,
KAVASJI EDALJI DADACHANJI. } Members.

Bombay, 7th April 1909.

MINUTE OF DISSENT BY DR. A. POWELL

I regret that my colleagues' views of the relative deleteriousness of diluted neutral spirit and country liquors are opposed to mine.

My personal observations as Police Surgeon and Surgeon to the Coroner in this City as well as my observations when in charge of large numbers of hard drinking coolies compel me to form an emphatic opinion that country spirits are more deleterious than the diluted neutral spirit sold under the names of Rum, Brandy, &c.

Had I known further evidence on this point was necessary, I would have called as witnesses unprejudiced persons who have opportunities of observing intoxication caused by both classes of liquor.

For instance I have asked Inspector Finan, for many years in charge of the Police lock-up. His opinion and that of other officers is unhesitating that—

- (1) Men drunk on foreign liquor recover much more quickly than those drunk on country liquor.
- (2) They have less head-ache and redness of eyes on recovery.
- (3) Their condition causes less anxiety. They have less frequently to be removed to hospital.
- (4) They are more cleanly. They do not vomit and defecate on the floor so often as those drunk on country liquor.

Another Police officer of ten years' service in the City could offer no opinion as all the drunkenness he saw was caused by country liquor.

This endorses the evidence given by Mr. Hatch that he never saw drunkenness in the foreign liquor shops, while he saw much in the country shops.

During my twenty-one years in India I have met with many cases of death from acute alcoholic poisoning. I cannot recall one due to cheap foreign spirit.

I have at hand the records of inquests held by the Coroner in Bombay for the last eighteen months only. There are only eight deaths from acute alcoholic poisoning. All eight were due to country liquor. None to foreign spirit, either cheap or matured. It may be argued that the number is too small owing to the relative quantities of country and foreign spirit drunk by the natives, but on the other hand two of those poisoned were Europeans, of a class among whom country liquor is seldom drunk.

In Eastern Bengal it is a common practice for coolies to periodically ask for three days' leave to get drunk. Their objective is not to please their palates but to become quickly and comatosely drunk. My experience was that with country liquor three days was all too short for recovery. Their work on the fourth day was most indifferent. Their heads still ached and they frequently suffered from diarrhoea.

I have supplied these same coolies with cheap German neutral spirit in sufficient quantities to produce a state of equally drunken coma, but they recovered next day, and that without the risk of diarrhoea and death which was by no means unfrequent with country spirit.

The witnesses who supported my views before the Commission were mainly importers of foreign spirit who can hardly be considered unprejudiced. Mr. Hatch, Mr. Kuverji Darasha, Dr. Johnson and Dr. Mann who all support this view appeared to me almost the only witnesses who based their opinions on personally observed facts.

The majority report quotes in favour of its conclusion the evidence of Mr. Clifford. Even he says "I do not believe that foreign spirit is appreciably more deleterious to health than the country article: but it is certainly more demoralising." The facts he adduces in support of his demoralising theory

plainly show the fallacy of his deductions. All those who became demoralised by foreign liquor and gave way to continued "drinking at all hours of the day" were "na'ive gentlemen of the better class." He contrasts these "one or two native gentlemen" with the Kunbi and the Bhil who drink country liquor and that only intermittently. The fallacy is obvious that the poor man can only drink when he has accumulated sufficient money for a spree. Poverty and the necessity for work compel him to remain sober in the intervals. Not so, the native gentleman of means. He has no master to chide or restrain him. His wealth is sufficient to supply him continuously with drink of any kind, country or foreign. He chooses the latter as he finds it has less deleterious effects. Mr. Clifford further waters down his opinion by adding "the occasional indulgence in foreign spirits by the labouring classes certainly does them very little harm. What effect the continual use of foreign spirits would have upon the constitution of people of these classes I have had *little or no opportunity of judging.*"

In support of Mr. Clifford's views—based on little or no experience—two reputed drunkards were produced. I do not think my colleagues placed any greater reliance on their evidence than I. Such as it was, the most striking statements of both were that though formerly addicted to foreign liquor they had given it up and returned to the country article—thus conquering the "irresistible craving" which Mr. Clifford anticipated.

One of these expert drunkards expressed the opinion "country liquor is worse than foreign spirit because the very smell of it makes your head spin."

Any other evidence adduced in favour of country spirit was seldom if at all based on personal comparison of observed facts, but was most often an opinion based on *a priori* reasoning that country liquor must be better as it is made under Government supervision. As a type of such "evidence" given by witness after witness may be quoted that of Mr. R. P. Jehangir: "I am decidedly of opinion that the cheap imported liquors are more harmful than the country liquor distilled under the supervision of Government officers. *The former cannot possibly be pure*, while there is a reasonable guarantee that the latter are so." The statement in italics is contrary to fact. The relative purity of the two classes of liquor has never been impugned by any competent chemist. I need hardly point out that in England and Germany where this cheap spirit is made, official, excise and hygienic, supervision is at least as strict as in this country. Major Bedford has been quoted at length in the majority report, but I think his remarks on page 16, paragraph 23,* refer to the higher class European liquors and are beside the subject.

I would point out that we do not find among Major Bedford's numerous experiments a single one in which the comparative effects of neutral spirit and country liquor were tried on man. The majority of his physiological experiments were with individual chemically pure by-products.

The striking chemical difference between country spirits and cheap imported spirit is the large amount of aldehydes, including furfural, in country spirit. Major Bedford says "the results of my analyses of the cheap imported spirits show that aldehydes are in the main conspicuous by their absence". When he comes to discuss the physiological action of aldehydes we read "it was impossible to fully work out the action of relatively large doses given by the mouth as vomiting was quickly produced". He therefore had to inject it subcutaneously. He reports "the irritating action of aldehydes on the stomach or when injected subcutaneously is very considerable and causes vomiting or large sloughing wounds." In large doses "marked general paralysis," "general convulsions," "involuntary defecation and death". It is to say the least desirable that such a product should be "conspicuous by its absence".

The question cannot, however, be settled on chemical or laboratory experiments. Human beings are willingly experimenting on themselves in our streets and the results can be noted by the general medical practitioner and the Police.

* Majority report.

All criminals and wandering persons in this city suspected of lunacy are placed under my observation. It is impossible for me to offer direct evidence of the cause of insanity in most cases. The relatives in many cases attribute the insanity to indulgence in country liquor. A more definite fact is this many persons charged with offences appear before the Police and Magistrates in a condition that justifies the latter in sending them to me for observation and report, under the impression that they are insane. I find many of these are not insane, but in a condition of prolonged intoxication or temporary insanity induced by drugs from which they recover in the course of the week.

Most of such cases are caused by hemp, many by country spirit, but I have met with none due to cheap imported spirit.

I am impressed by this observation as owing to his offensive breath the country liquor drunkard should be more easily detected by the Police, and if similar cases on the border line between insanity and intoxication existed to any extent among cheap foreign spirit drinkers, a larger proportion of them would be sent to the lunacy observation cells.

This corroborates the statements of the officers in charge of the lock-up that country spirit intoxication and its after-effects are more prolonged than those arising from cheap neutral spirit.

It is common knowledge that a raw pot-still spirit is more injurious than a matured spirit. The most ardent champion of the pot-still will admit that unmatured pot-spirit with the feints and foreshots added is more deleterious than an equivalent quantity of neutral spirit of similar age and dilution.

Country spirits are all made in pot-stills: they contain a greater quantity of "impurities", neither the foreshots nor the feints are removed; they are drunk raw without any maturing.

I agree with Major Bedford's conclusion "there is every reason to believe that in the light of the information now available on the subject, they (cheap foreign spirits) are at least no more injurious in their effects, and from this point of view also there would appear to be no case for interference."

Recommendations.

It will be obvious from the foregoing I would prefer to see any proposed restrictions placed on country spirit as well as, if not more strictly than, on cheap neutral spirit. I think the introduction of patent-stills and the compulsory rejection of feints and foreshots from country spirits desirable. I should be sorry to see any spirit, foreign or country, made more accessible to the consumer, but as long as they are of their present character, I see no hygienic grounds for preventing the less deleterious neutral spirit competing with the more harmful.

The "seductive" character attributed to foreign spirit it is alleged depends to a certain extent on the gaudy labels.

Regulation labels might be issued to remedy this or a tax levied on coloured labels so as to enhance the price of the liquor.

I am not in favour of fixing the minimum strength at 15° U.P. The deleterious effects of alcohol are largely enhanced by its concentration. As the native usually drinks his spirits neat, I consider it advisable to present them to him well diluted. Paragraph 34

ARTHUR POWELL.

5th April 1909.

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REPORTS OF ASSISTANT COLLECTORS OF EXCISE AND DISTRICT
COLLECTORS RELATING TO CHEAP FOREIGN LIQUOR.

No. $\frac{A.C.B.}{2}$ of 1905-09.

EXCISE DEPARTMENT.
Bombay, 12th December 1908.

From

S. D. SMITH, ESQUIRE, B.A.,
Assistant Collector of Excise,
Bombay;

To

THE COLLECTOR OF BOMBAY,
Bombay.

Sir,

With reference to paragraph 2 of Excise Commissioner's No. 7078, dated the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to report as follows:—

2. The different kinds of foreign spirits which are imported into Bombay for the express purpose of being diluted and sold to the natives are as noted below:—

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--|-------------|
| (1) Rectified spirit. | \| | (4) Whisky. |
| (2) Rum. | \| | (5) Gin. |
| (3) Brandy. | \| |  |

Rectified spirit is imported in two strengths, *viz.* 40° and 68° O. P., rum and brandy at 40° O. P., whisky from 8° to 10° and 30° O. P., and gin from 25° to 30° O. P. The first three are imported from Hamburg and Trieste and the 4th and 5th from Leith and Glasgow in Scotland. The largest importers and dealers in these spirits in Bombay are:—

- | | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------------|
| (1) D. C. Oomrigar. | \| | (3) P. C. Shroff. |
| (2) D. D. Baria. | \| | (4) J. S. Mistry. |

These merchants reduce and bottle the spirits themselves and also sell to retail merchants at overproof strengths. For the purposes of sale the overproof spirits are reduced to varying strengths from 15° U. P. to 60° U. P. by the addition of water, and in the case of white spirit burnt sugar is added in order to give it the golden colour of genuine brandy and rum. In many cases the rum and brandy, which is exposed for sale at shops, is imported as rum and brandy from Hamburg and simply reduced in strength by the addition of water before being bottled. The prices given in the private invoices clearly show that they are derivatives from rectified spirit flavoured with essences and coloured with burnt sugar before being shipped from Europe. The favourite

Statement A, with sample
book of labels.

names under which diluted spirits are sold are given in statement A attached to this report. Inferior brands of rum, whisky and brandy are also imported ready bottled from Europe. They are retailed at prices varying from Rs. 1-4-0 to Rs. 1-10-0 per quart bottle and thus command a fairly large sale in the market.

3. Gin and whisky are imported from Scotland from the firm of Barnard & Co. They are reduced in strength and bottled without the addition of any colouring matter. The whisky is labelled and sold as "Old Vatted Gallant Scotch Whisky" and the gin as Barnard & Co.'s "Old Tom." Barnard & Co. supply their own special labels and capsules to the importers in Bombay. Whisky and gin are also bottled under other attractive labels. The latest quotations for the above spirits landed in Bombay are as follows:—

				Price per gallon.
				s. d.
Rectified spirit	...	...	40° O. P.	1 10½
Do.	...	...	68° O. P.	2 4½
Rum	...	...	40° O. P.	1 9
Brandy	...	...	40° O. P.	1 11
Whisky	...	...	30° O. P.	8 10
Gin	...	...	30° O. P.	8 11

Inferior port wine is also imported and bottled in Bombay for sale to the natives, but the trade in wine is not so extensive as that in rectified spirit. Wine does not lend itself to dilution to the extent that spirit does, consequently the limit of profit is very small. Any restrictions on the bottling of wine would probably result in this class of spirit being imported ready bottled from Europe.

4. As regards question 4, I have compiled a statement giving the names in full from the labels of all brands as sold to natives, the names of the merchants who supply them, also their hydrometer strengths and selling prices. Samples* of labels are also attached.

I now proceed to deal with questions 5 to 8.

The present consumption of foreign liquor, whether it tends to increase and what classes consume it.

5. To any careful observer there is no doubt that the consumption of foreign liquor is on the increase. In statement B figures of complete sales for 10 years are given, but the following figures taken from the statement speak for themselves:—

			1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.	1906-07.	1907-08.
			Gals.	Gals.	Gals.	Gals.	Gals.
Rum	...	...	8,660	5,901	20,016	8,167	24,214
Brandy	...	...	28,461	28,368	58,964	65,956	50,165
Whisky	...	...	36,689	47,425	102,264	59,780	66,868
Rectified spirit	...	...	11,497	10,531	12,177	20,856	14,998

Turning to the figures of sales of country spirit in statement B/2 attached, it will be seen that the variations in the annual totals are small compared to those for foreign spirits. The sales have remained almost steady between 7 and 8 lakhs of gallons for all kinds. The present average prices of mhowra and toddy spirit are as follows:—

		Rs. s. p.	
Mhowra spirit	...	20° U. P.	1 2 0 per bottle.
Toddy spirit	...	25° U. P.	1 2 0 per bottle.

The price at which the cheapest foreign spirit is retailed ranges from Rs. 1-2-0 to Rs. 1-4-0. Is it surprising that foreign spirit with its glittering labels and superior attractions is gradually replacing country liquor? I have seen myself when visiting retail shops, and have also received reports from my inspectors, that persons who 5 to 10 years ago did not know the taste of foreign liquor now resort regularly to a foreign liquor shop for their evening "brandy peg".

Employees such as clerks, dock, mill, factory and railway servants and the better class of native artisans of almost all castes are the chief consumers

* Not printed.

of cheap foreign spirits. The opinion seems to be gaining ground amongst the natives that it is not disreputable to have a drink at a foreign liquor shop, consequently the country liquor shops are avoided, and the foreign retail shops freely patronized. The reason seems to be that foreign liquor is looked upon as the drink of the "Sáhéb lók" and the half-educated native evidently thinks that there is nothing degrading in doing what the European does, even though such imitation leads him into undesirable practices. Foreign liquor shops are as a rule better fitted up and more attractive than the ordinary liquor shop. This is also a reason why the better class of native goes there in preference to the country liquor shop. There are other causes contributing to the increase in consumption which I will touch on in discussing question 6.

Whether any restrictions on the sale of foreign liquor beyond those now in force are desirable.

6. Restrictions as to minimum strengths have already been imposed in all the foreign liquor licenses sanctioned by Government at the commencement of this year. The minimum strengths are 25° U. P. for whisky and brandy and 35° U. P. for gin. These restrictions will in some measure tend to enhance the selling price of cheap foreign spirit, but unless the import duty on foreign spirits is further increased it would not entirely stop the competition between country and foreign spirit. The 15° U. P. limit at present in force in the mofussil is for our purposes a more suitable one and better calculated under present circumstances to effectually stop the competition between foreign and country spirit. Either the import duty or the minimum retail strength ought to be so adjusted that it would be impossible for any retailer to go below Rs. 1-10-0 or 1-12-0 per bottle of foreign spirit.

7. The time has arrived, I think, for placing all reducing, bottling and labelling of spirits under strict excise control. There ought to be one large Government warehouse with a compartment for each bottler. All liquor imported at overproof strength would have to be brought to this warehouse in the first instance, and then diluted and bottled under the supervision of an inspector. Bottling in private warehouses is liable to abuse at any time and ought I am respectfully of opinion to be disallowed.

8. The question of allowing proper and correct labels is also one of great importance. The majority of labels now in use, are without doubt intended to deceive the customer. Spirits essenced and coloured in Germany are reduced in strength and bottled in Bombay with labels bearing such names as Charles Paulin & Co., Charles Bumby & Co., Jules Alfred & Co., Sp. Hatchet & Co., Vinne Galle & Co., Russee & Co. and A. J. Ross & Co. As a matter of fact these firms do not exist; and the use of such bogus labels is perhaps the worst feature of the bottling trade in Bombay. Every consignment of German spirit which is bottled is given a new glittering label, with the result that there are now hundreds of different kinds of labels in Bombay affixed to so-called "genuine whisky" and "brandy" bottles which really contain nothing else but coloured rectified spirit. The public have a right, I submit, to be protected against deception of this sort. In view of the opinion given in paragraph 116 of the Excise Committee's report, it is doubtful whether the import of cheap German spirit could be entirely prohibited. For many reasons it would not be expedient to interfere with the trade to that extent, but the Department will have done a sufficient service to the public if it protects it against deception by bogus labels. It ought to be made a condition of all licenses that none but labels approved and passed by the Excise Department should be used for bottling purposes. Further the privileges of bottling and compounding ought to be confined to large and respectable firms only. At present even petty retail shopkeepers dilute, bottle and label spirits at their own shops. Under the circumstances, what guarantee, it may be asked, is there against all sorts of compositions being forced upon the market? Even if a suspected case is detected the ultimate appeal lies to the Chemical Analyser, who up to now has been able to afford very little help in unravelling the mysteries of compounding and blending. The addition of clauses to all foreign liquor licenses prohibiting the use of essences or such of

them as are known to be harmful is very necessary. At present the licenses are silent on this point, possibly because section 43 of the Abkari Act may be invoked against persons stocking essences for admixture. It would be more businesslike to have clear provisions in the license.

Whether correct description should be required as a condition of retail vend.

9. My remarks about labels cover this question. A correct trade description is more essential in the spirit than any other trade. Large profits are being annually made by liquor merchants by passing off patent still spirit under bogus labels for genuine grape brandy, malt whisky and molasses rum. Correct labels would in a great measure afford the public proper protection against deception.

Whether the liquors described under (1) are more harmful to Indians than country spirit manufactured under supervision.

10. From accounts given in text-books on distillation there seems to be no *prima facie* reason for supposing that cheap foreign spirit is more harmful than country spirit. The difference in price seems to be due chiefly to economy in manufacture and the cheapness and alcohol-producing properties of the bases from which they are distilled. In view of the opinion recorded in paragraph 116 of the Excise Committee's report based on the result of Major Bedford's analysis of samples of foreign spirits, it would be rash for a layman to give any opinion to the contrary, for which he was not prepared to produce scientific proof.

Messrs. Oomrigar and Baria are the only merchants who issue regular trade price lists. Copies* are attached.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

S. D. SMITH,

Assistant Collector of Excise.

STATEMENT A.

License No.	Name of the Bottler or Wholesale Merchant (Licensee).	Brands.	Strength.	Price per Quart Bottle.	Remarks.
		<i>Wholesale Merchants.</i>		Rs. a.	
1	Ukerji Cawasji Umrigar, trading in the name of Dhunjibhoy Cowasji Umrigar.	Fine Pale Brandy ...	40° U. P.	1 2	
		Fine Pale Brandy * * * Superior Quality.	15° U. P.	1 6	
		Raja Brandy * * * Superior Quality.	35° U. P.	1 4	
		Old Brandy * * * Charles Paulin & Co.	15° U. P.	1 6	
		Jubilee Brandy "Kaiser-i-Hind" Superior Quality * * * (Queen Brand).	15° U. P.	1 6	
		Jamaica Rum (Lion Brand), John Cameron and Co.	15° U. P.	1 10	
		Old Jamaica Rum " (The Premier)," A. Graham and Co.	25° U. P.	1 8	
		Tariff Duty Paid Foreign No. 1 Rum.	15° U. P.	1 4	
		Tariff Duty Paid Foreign No. 2 Rum.	40° U. P.	1 2	
2	Dadabhoy Dajibhoy Baria, trading in the name of Dajibhoy Dadabhoy Baria.	Fine Pale Brandy * * * Fine Quality (Kaiser-i-Hind).	44° U. P.	1 2	
		Fine Pale Brandy * * * * Sharp Hatchet and Co.	15° U. P.	1 6	
		Superior Old Brandy * * * * Sharp Hatchet and Co.	15° U. P.	0 12	For flasks only.
		Superior Old Brandy * * * * Jules Alfred and Co. (Kaiser-i-Hind).	15° U. P.	1 10	
		Fine Pale Brandy * * * Jules Alfred and Co. (Orange and Green Colour Label).	15° U. P.	0 14	For flasks only.
		Superior Brandy * * * * Prince Victor (White Label).	15° U. P.	1 6	For flasks (Green Label).
		Superior Brandy * * * * Prince Victor (White Label).	44° U. P.	1 2	
		Fine Pale Brandy * * * * "Maharaja Gaikwar."	15° U. P.	1 6	
		Fine Pale Brandy * * * * "Maharaja Gaikwar."	44° U. P.	1 2	
		Vieux Cognac Fine Champagne, Vinne Galle and Co.	15° U. P.	1 6	}
			& 44° U. P.	1 2	
		Superior Old Brandy * * Vinne Galle (Conamine Augeor Label).	44° U. P.	1 2	
		Superior Brandy, Selected Best Quality, Vinne Galle and Co.	15° U. P.	1 8	Reduced to 22° U. P by adding raw sugar.
		Superior Brandy * * * * Vinne Galle and Co.	15° U. P.	0 14	Do. For flasks only.
		Superior Old Brandy * * * * Vinne Galle and Co.	15° U. P.	1 6	
		Scotch Whisky, Finest Quality, Genuine Mountain Dew, Bernard & Co.	15° U. P.	1 10	}
		Scotch Whisky, Fine Flavoured, The Old Vatted Gallant.	& 44° U. P.	1 6	
		Scotch Whisky, Fine Flavoured, The Old Vatted Guardian.	15° U. P.	1 10	
			& 44° U. P.	1 6	
		Scotch Whisky, Fine Flavoured, The Old Vatted Guardian.	15° U. P.	1 10	
			& 44° U. P.	1 6	
		Fine Old Vatted Delicious Whisky <i>Special Reserve</i> , James Cooper and Co. (Pink Colour Label).	15° U. P.	1 10	

STATEMENT A—continued.

License No.	Name of the Bottler or Wholesaler Merchant (Licensee).	Brands.	Strength.	Price per Quart Bottle.	Remarks.
		<i>Wholesale Merchants—continued</i>		Rs. a.	
2	Dadabhoy Dajiboy Baria, trading in the name of Dajiboy Dadabhoy Baria— <i>contd.</i>	Fine Old Vatted Delicious James Cooper & Co. (Green Colour Label).	15° U. P.	1 10	
		Old Scotch Whisky "Highland Club" Special Reserve, John Campbell and Co. (Red Label, Horse Brand).	15° U. P.	1 10	
		Old Scotch Whisky "Highland Club" Special Reserve, John Campbell and Co. (Green Label, Horse Brand).	40° U. P.	1 6	
		Old Scotch Whisky "Crown Blend" Special Reserve, George Gordon (Red Label).	15° U. P.	1 10	
		Old Scotch Whisky "Crown Blend" Special Reserve, George Gordon (Green Label).	40° U. P.	1 6	
		Fine Old Jamaica Rum, John Jackson and Co.	40° U. P.	1 4	
		Fine Old Jamaica Rum, Sharp Hasohet and Co.	15° U. P.	1 10	
		Jamaica Rum, James Cooper and Co.	25° U. P.	1 8	
		Fine Old Jamaica Rum (Crown Brand Label).	15° U. P.	1 10	
		Tariff Duty Paid Superior Quality No. 1 Rum (Blue Label).	15° U. P.	1 6	}
		Tariff Duty Paid Superior Quality No. 2 Rum (Red Label).	25° U. P.	1 4	
		Finest Old Tom Gin, Bernard and Co., Leith.	44° U. P.	1 2	
			15° U. P.	1 10	}
			44° U. P.	1 6	
7	Jamsetji Sorabji Mistry.	Superior Brandy * * * (Queen Brand), Rusee & Co.	15° U. P.	1 6	
		Superior Brandy * * * (Lion Brand).	35° U. P.	1 4	
		Cognac Dauphin Frères * * * (Anchor Brand).	15° U. P.	1 6	
		Jubilee Brandy (Gold Queen Brand).	40° U. P.	1 0	
		Fine Pale Brandy (Gold Label).	40° U. P.	1 0	
		Genuine Scotch Whisky, Fine Flavoured (Yellow Label).	30° U. P.	1 2	
		Genuine Scotch Whisky (White Label).	30° U. P.	1 2	
		Highland Whisky "Finest Old," McPherson & Co., Glasgow.	15° U. P.	1 6	
		Scotch Whisky Rare Old, A. J. Ross & Co.	15° U. P.	1 6	
		Scotch Whisky Fine Old Special Blend, A. J. Ross & Co.	15° U. P.	1 6	
		Highland Whisky Finest Old, Donald Grant & Co.	15° U. P.	1 6	
		Scotch Whisky, Specially Selected, Old.	15° U. P.	1 6	
		Spirit Diluted, Superior Quality No. 1 (Blue Label).	15° U. P.	1 4	
		Spirit Diluted, Superior Quality No. 2 (Red Label).	35° U. P.	1 2	
		Spirit Diluted (White Label) ...	35° U. P.	1 2	

STATEMENT A—continued.

License No.	Name of the Bottler or Wholesale Merchant (Licensee).	Brands.	Strength.	Price per Quart Bottle.	Remarks.	
		<i>Wholesale Merchants—concluded.</i>			Rs. a.	
18	Sorab Pestonji Shroff, trading in the name of P. C. Shroff.	Fine Pale Brandy * * * (Queen Victoria Brand). Superior Brandy Edward VII King and Emperor. Fine Old Brandy (Kaiser-i-Hind Brand), Gold Label. Tariff Duty Paid Foreign Spirit Diluted Superior Quality No. 1 (Red and Blue Label).	50° U. P. 50° U. P. 50° U. P. 25° U. P. & 50° U. P.	1 2 1 2 0 12 1 4 1 0	For flasks only. } Coloured red with burnt sugar.	
8	Dorabji Merwanji Kirowalla.	Fine Rum, Superior Quality No. 1 (Nelson David & Co.). Fine Rum, Superior Quality No. 2.	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	Does not bottle now.	
9	Cowasji Sorabji Umrigar, trading in the name of Sorabji Cowasji Umrigar.	Fine Pale Brandy * * * Superior Quality (Empress of India Brand). Genuine Foreign Rum No. 1 Superior Quality (Red Label). Genuine Foreign Diluted Spirit No. 1 Superior Quality (Blue Label).	15° U. P. 20° U. P. 20° U. P.	1 6 1 4 1 4		
14	Manekji Pestonji Baria	Fine Pale Brandy * * * * Superior Quality (Kaiser-i-Hind). Imperial Brandy * * * Superior Quality (Queen Brand). Diluted Spirit * * Superior Quality (Kaiser-i-Hind). Tariff Duty Paid Superior Quality Diluted Spirit No. 1 (Red Label).	48° U. P. 35° U. P. 48° U. P. 55·8° U. P.	1 2 1 6 1 1 1 2		
19	Dorabsha Sorabji Mistry.	Superior Brandy * * * * Henry Drogier & Co. Spirit Diluted Superior Quality No. 1 (Blue Label). Spirit Diluted Superior Quality No. 2 (Red Label). Spirit Diluted Fine Quality (White Label).	15° U. P. 35° U. P. 40° U. P. 46·7° U. P.	1 8 1 4 1 4 1 2		
37	Manekji R. Patel	Fine Pale Brandy * * * Superior Quality. Fine Pale Brandy ... Superior Old Brandy * * * (Green Colour Label). Tariff Duty Paid, Superior Quality No. 1 Rum (Blue Label). Tariff Duty Paid, Superior Quality No. 2 Rum (Red Label).	37·1° U. P. 43·5° U. P. 43·5° U. P. 38·6° U. P. 41·4° U. P.	1 6 1 4 0 12 1 4 1 2	Coloured red with burnt sugar. Do. For flasks only. Coloured red with burnt sugar. Burnt sugar used for colouring. Do.	
33	Shapurji Rustomji Singara.	Fine Pale Brandy Quality No. 1 (Blue Label). Fine Pale Brandy Quality No. 1 (Queen Brand, White Label). Spirit Diluted, S. Rusee (White Label). Tariff Duty Paid Superior Quality No. 1 (Purple Label).	45·6° U. P. 45·6° U. P. 25° U. P. 45° U. P.	1 4 1 4 1 1 1 2		

STATEMENT A—continued.

Licence No.	Name of the Bottler or Wholesale Merchant (Licencee).	Brands.	Strength.	Price per Quart Bottle.	Remarks.	
		<i>Refreshment Room.</i>				
				Rs. a.		
1	Bai Avabai, widow of Pestonji Hormasji Narielwalla.	Fine Pale Brandy * * * Superior Quality (Victoria Queen Brand). Spirit Diluted, Superior Quality No. 1 (Red and Blue Label).	40° U. P. 25° U. P.	1 4 1 4		
2	Fakirji Nanabhoy Chins.	Fine Pale Brandy * * * Superior Quality. Spirit Diluted, Fine Quality (Kaiser-i-Hind Brand).	40° U. P. 30° U. P.	1 4 1 4	Coloured red with burnt sugar.	
6	Cowasji Motabhoy ...	Fine Pale Brandy (White Gold Label).	15·2° U. P.	1 10		
16	Bai Dhunbai, widow of Aderji Cowasji, Parel Co-operative Stores.	Superior Old Brandy ..	48·8° U. P.	1 8	Coloured red with English cochineal.	
12	Sorabji Jehangir Kerra-walla.	Fine Pale Brandy ... Do. (Gold White Label.) Tariff Duty Paid Diluted Spirit No. 1 (Green Label).	15° U. P. 25° U. P. 20° U. P.	1 8 1 4 1 6		
27 & 36	Rutonjee Manekji Hotel-walla.	Fine Pale Brandy, Superior Brandy). Fine Pale Brandy * * * (White Label). Fine Pale Brandy * * * (Green and Red Label). Imperial Pale Brandy, Very Old * * *. Superior Brandy * * * (Queen Brand). Diluted Spirit No. 1 (Red and Blue Label).	41·1° U. P. 35·4° U. P. 44° U. P. 30·4° U. P. 44° U. P. 24·8° U. P.	1 4 1 4 1 0 0 12 0 10 1 4	For flasks only. Do.	
33	Bapuji Dorabji ...	Fine Pale Brandy (White Gold Label). Spirit Diluted, Superior Quality No. 1 (Blue Label).	49·9° U. P. 47·7° U. P.	1 4 1 0		
		<i>First Class Foreign Retail.</i>				
5	Mancherji N. Mawa ...	Spirit Diluted, Superior Quality (Red Label).	45° U. P.	1 4	Coloured red with burnt sugar.	
8	Ganu Keshav Paleker ...	Spirit Diluted Fine Quality No. 1 (White Label). Spirit Diluted (Red and Blue Label).	50° U. P. 40° U. P.	1 2 1 2	Do. Do.	
4	Navroji Dorabji Karanjia.	Tariff Duty Paid Fine Diluted Spirit No. 1 (Blue Label).	52·6° U. P.	1 2		
9	Ardeshir Rustomji Lakda-walla.	Superior Quality Diluted Spirit ** (Kaiser-i-Hind Brand). Fine Pale Brandy, Superior Quality * * *.	50° U. P. 52·2° U. P. 25° U. P.	1 2 1 2 1 8	Coloured with burnt sugar.	

STATEMENT A—continued.

License No.	Name of the Bottler or Wholesale Merchant (Licensee).	Brands.	Strength.	Price per Quart Bottle.	Remarks.
		<i>First Class Foreign Retail</i> —continued.		Rs. a.	
10	Sahadeo Bapuji Padwal (and Damodhar Bapuji Padwal).	Fine Pale Brandy * * * Superior Quality. Tariff Duty Paid Diluted Spirit No. 1 (Blue Label). Do. No. 2 (Red Label) ... Spirit Diluted (White Gold Label).	44·1° U. P. 46·6 U. P. 48·8° U. P. 50° U. P.	1 4 1 0 1 0 1 0	} Coloured with burnt sugar. Do. Do.
		<i>Second Class Foreign Retail.</i>			
1	Sorabji Edulji Machliwalla.	Tariff Duty Paid Diluted Spirit (Blue and Red Labels).	34·7° U. P.	1 2	
3	Nawazbai, widow of Rustomji Bhicaji Surti.	Tariff Duty Paid Foreign Superior Rum (Blue and Green Labels).	35° U. P.	1 4	Labels bearing the initials of "P. B." as Bottler, Bombay.
5	Manockji Jivanji Batliwalla.	Spirit Diluted Superior Quality No. 1 (Blue Label). Spirit Diluted (White Label) ...	40° U. P. 33·3° U. P.	1 4 1 4	
8	Constantine Sequeira ...	Tariff Duty (Foreign) Paid Diluted Spirit No. 1 (Red Label).	45° U. P.	1 4	
9	Pestonji Fakirji Sidhwa.	Tariff Duty Paid Spirit Diluted Superior Quality No. 1 (Red and Blue Labels). Spirit Diluted, Fine Quality (Kaiser-i-Hind Brand).	44·8° U. P. 52·4° U. P.	1 4 1 2	
10	Jamasji Framji Umrigar.	Tariff Duty Paid Foreign Spirit Diluted, Superior Quality No. 1 (Red Label).	50° U. P.	1 1	
6	Aspandiarji Temulji Irani.	Tariff Duty Paid Foreign No. 2 Diluted Spirit (White Label).	45° U. P.	1 2	
12	Ruttonji Aderji Cooper...	Spirit Diluted (White and Purple Labels).	42·5° U. P.	1 2	
14	Motibai, widow of R. J. Irani.	Tariff Duty Paid Foreign Spirit Diluted Superior Quality No. 1 (White and Green Labels).	49·4° U. P.	1 0	
15	Nowroji Aderji Cooper ...	Spirit Diluted Fine Quality (Red, Blue and White Labels).	45° U. P.	1 2	
19	Hormusji Dhanjibhoy Mulla.	Tariff Duty Paid Diluted Spirit No. 1 (Red and Purple Labels).	42·1° U. P.	1 2	
20	Anandibai, widow of Tukaram Sambhaji Morey.	Tariff Duty Paid Spirit Diluted No. 1 Rum (Red and Blue Labels).	45° U. P.	1 2	
22	Byramji Cursetji Hotelwalla.	Superior Brandy * * * (Horse Brand) Fine Pale Brandy * * Superior Quality (Kaiser-i-Hind Brand). Fine Rum Superior Quality No. 1 (Blue Label).	30° U. P. 15° U. P. 25° U. P. 35° U. P.	0 12 1 8 1 4 1 1	For flasks only.

STATEMENT A—concluded.

License No.	Name of the Bottler or Wholesale Merchant (Licensee).	Brands.	Strength.	Price per Quart Bottle.	Remarks.
		<i>Second Class Foreign Retail</i> —continued.		Rs. a.	
23	Vasu Bapuji Padwal ...	Fine Pale Brandy * * * Superior Quality. Tariff Duty Paid Diluted Spirit No. 1 (Blue Label). Do. No. 2 (Red Label) ... Spirit Diluted (White Label) ...	44.1° U. P. 46.6° U. P. 47.7° U. P. 50° U. P.	1 4 1 2 1 2 1 0	
24	Edulji Ruttonji Mistry	Spirit Diluted, Superior Quality No. 1 (White and Blue Labels).	.....	.....	Does not bottle now.
26	Pirojsha Rustomji Daruwalla.	Spirit Diluted, Extra Quality (The Diamond Brand).	35.7° U. P.	1 2	Coloured red with burnt sugar.
27	Bhikaji Manekji Damania.	Spirit Diluted Superior Quality No. 1 (Blue Label). Spirit Diluted, Fine Quality * * * (Kaiser-i-Hind Brand).	46.6° U. P. 50° U. P.	1 2 1 2	Do.
32	Dosabhoy Bomanji Mistry.	Cognac Fine Champagne Very Old Brandy * * *. Tariff Duty Paid Diluted Spirit (Blue Label).	39.3° U. P. 43.6° U. P.	1 2 1 4	Coloured red with burnt sugar. Do.
34	Sadu Laxuman Mayekar	Rum No. 1 (Red Label) ...	53.7° U. P.	1 2	Do.
38	Pallonji Edulji Vasuna ...	Spirit Diluted (Blue and White Labels).	35° U. P.	1 2	
35	Nowroji Cowasji Wadiwalla.	Spirit Diluted No. 1 Superior Quality (Red Label).	45° U. P.	1 0	Coloured red with burnt sugar.
36	Aimai, widow of Darasha Dossabhoy.	Spirit Diluted Superior Quality No. 1 (Blue Label).	44° U. P.	1 2	
37	Jamsetji Hormusji Colabawalla.	Tariff Duty Paid Fine Diluted Spirit No. 1 (Blue Label).	52.4° U. P.	1 0	Coloured red with burnt sugar.
38	Awabai, wife of Sorabji Hormasji Navasariwalla.	Spirit Diluted (White Label) ...	38.1° U. P.	1 4	
39	Hirjibhoy Daruwalla.	Spirit Diluted (Blue Label) ...	40° U. P.	1 3	

STATEMENT B/2.

Statement showing the consumption of country liquor in the Town and Island of Bombay during the years 1898-99 to 1907-08.

No.	Year.	Mhowra Spirit.		Toddy Spirit.		Totals.	Remarks.
		25° U. P.	Exceeding 25° U. P.	60° U. P.	25° U. P.		
1	1898-99 ...	Gals. 97,981	Gals. 512,977	Gals. 63,941	Gals. 31,981	Gals. 706,880	
2	1899-00 ...	88,986	489,869	61,627	31,020	671,503	
3	1900-01 ..	84,557	459,200	61,831	34,175	639,764	
4	1901-02 ...	88,573	491,092	62,604	43,450	685,720	
5	From 1st August 1902 to 31st March 1903.	59,059	353,039	42,828	31,432	486,359	8 months only.
6	1903-04 ...	89,661	540,010	65,143	48,533	743,349	
7	1904-05 ...	91,055	550,780	65,597	53,529	760,962	
8	1905-06 ...	97,316	592,157	72,595	49,609	811,678	
9	1906-07 ...	85,962	542,810	75,142	50,928	754,843	
10	1907-08 ...	91,720	570,777	81,249	57,646	801,393	
	Total ...	874,871	5,102,715	652,561	432,306	7,062,455	

No. 11269 of 1908.

From

J. J. S. LORIMER, ESQUIRE,
Assistant Collector of Excise, Northern Gujarát ;

To

THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS,
SALT, OPIUM AND ABKARI,
Bombay.

Camp Talod, 13th December 1908.

Sir,

In reference to your No. 7952 of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to submit herewith a list, marked A, of the designations, together with the labels, of the brands of the cheap foreign spirits sold in Ahmedabad, and the figures of sales for the last and current years of each such brand, and to report that the correct description of these liquors is rectified spirits, a large quantity of which is imported into Bombay, as will be found from the records of the gauging branch of the Customs Department, from Germany and Austria, chiefly by two firms, *viz.* D. C. Oomrigar and Co. and D. D. Baria of Bombay. The spirits cost, exclusive of freight, at the port of export about 1s. 1d. a gallon, and when flavouring essence of brandy or rum is admixed the price is enhanced by a penny or a half-penny a gallon. The low rate of the essences will of itself indicate their inferiority. In Bombay the two firms mentioned above break the strength of the spirits, which when imported is between 60° O. P. and 70° O. P. by the addition of water—the strength sold is 15° U. P. in the mofussil—colour it with a burnt sugar solution, and label it Brandy or Rum. Wines in Ahmedabad are not sold very cheap. Only one brand, *viz.* that of John Cameron and Co., bottled by D. C. Oomrigar and Co., causes suspicion. I have doubts whether there is in reality a firm of the name of John Cameron and Co., for if such a business house existed, the place where their business was conducted would be shown on the label; its absence makes me believe that the label is a fictitious one and there is no firm of that name. The sales, however, are small and call for no further remarks.

2. In regard to question 5 I should consider that there is a steady increase in the consumption of cheap and inferior brands of foreign spirits as the figures in the attached statement will show. Most of the people of the higher classes, with the exception of the small orthodox minority, indulge in such foreign liquor. Brahmirs, Banias, Jains, and some Mahomedans, also some of the lower classes, who, as mechanics or jobbers in mills, earn decent incomes, consume it. Its higher strength and consequently its better intoxicating effects, and its improved taste, coupled with the fact that it is of European manufacture, make the people consider that it is much superior to the locally produced mhowra spirits; besides the general inclination of people of means to adapt themselves to foreign articles, or to acquire European tastes, leads them to the use of such inferior kinds of liquor.

3. It is in my opinion necessary (question 6) to impose certain restrictions on such cheap brands. The complete prohibition of their importation has not been considered desirable by the Government of India, nor has the Excise Committee or Major C. Bedford, I. M. S., recommended such a course. But the cost of such liquors landed in Bombay should be made heavier. The gain to the importer is derived really by the facilities offered to break the strengths of such spirits by the addition of water. This, I think, should be absolutely forbidden, and it should be made a condition of the license that the strength should be on no account reduced in this manner, nor should any colouring matter be admixed with the spirits. This would to some extent increase the cost of the liquor as double the amount of freight would be paid since the volume of the liquor would be larger owing to the strength being lower. It would then be possible to increase the cost and prevent importing firms selling

the liquor so cheap. It is, I believe, under contemplation to lower the standard of strength of liquor which may be sold in the mofussil from 15° U. P. to 25° U. P. In this connection I would beg to report that it would further cheapen the inferior brands of foreign spirits, and it would be necessary to impose some further restrictions to prevent any competition with country liquor. Should, however, the license contain a provision making any interference with the strength of spirits after importation, an offence, as suggested above, these cheap brands would gradually disappear from the market.

4. The correct description of all liquor (question 7) should be indispensable as a condition of retail vend. The label does in many instances deceive the public, it certainly does in the case of the brands bottled by D. C. Oomrigar and Co. and D. D. Baria. The labels indicate that the spirits are brandy or rum, as a matter of fact the contents of the bottles are rectified spirits flavoured and coloured. Brandy is produced from grape, and rum from sugarcane or molasses, but the brandy and rum sold in the shops are not the production of these bases and they, therefore, cannot be called such as they are. The purchaser has no knowledge about such liquors, and he is guided solely by the label, for he trusts its genuineness and correctness. The word brandy or rum signifies to him a superior European brand such as Europeans drink. A label showing rectified spirits as brandy or rum is not only a gross deception, but a false description of the real article. It cannot be, therefore, a honest label, and such attempts to hoodwink the public should be suppressed. The public have a right to protection and look to the Excise Department to prevent and expose such frauds, and I think every endeavour should be made by the department to help the public in this respect. Every label should be honest and should specify clearly the real contents of the bottle, the country and place of manufacture, and the name of the manufacturing firm. On two of the labels submitted are noted the names of firms which do not exist, such as Charles Paulin and Co., and Sp. Hatchet and Co. ("Sp." being abbreviated for "Sharp"). This may be a trick of the trade but it is certainly not a genuine and a honest label, and licensees should not be permitted to use them. The fact of the use of such bogus labels shows that the manufacturers cannot guarantee the genuineness and purity of their articles, and, therefore, permit their sale under false colour. That alone stamps such brands as spurious.

5. In regard to question 8 I should hesitate to answer it, because I feel that mhowra spirits as manufactured in the stills in use at the distilleries contain, in accordance with the tests made, a quantity of copper which renders the spirits, if the tests are correct, rather unwholesome. Apart from this fact I consider mhowra spirits less harmful than the inferior rum and 'brandy' sold in the foreign liquor shops for the reason that we know what the base is from which that liquor is produced.

6. In the Ahmedabad District no bottling or blending operations are conducted in the foreign liquor shops, wholesale or retail. The spirits are purchased in Bombay chiefly from Messrs. D. C. Oomrigar and Co., and D. D. Baria. I regret I cannot recommend any excise officer, shopkeeper or person in Ahmedabad who will be able to give evidence of any importance likely to help the Committee in its deliberations, as this question has not been previously considered, except by the Excise Committee, as it should have been, nor have customers complained of the liquor being injurious to attract attention or to invite discussion upon it. For about twenty-five years rectified spirits have been sold as brandy and rum without the least objection being taken by the public. The licensees merely sell their stock without any regard for the quality of the inferior brands sold by them as brandy or rum. So long as these brands find a ready sale they do not care to trouble themselves about their superiority or inferiority. They would only push their sales.

I have the honour to be,
 Sir,
 Your most obedient servant,
 J. J. S. LORIMER,
 Assistant Collector of Excise,
 Northern Gujarát.

A.

Statement showing the sales of cheap foreign spirits bottled in Bombay and sold in Ahmedabad City and Daskroi Taluka during the years 1907 and 1908.

Brands.	Sales during the year 1907.	Sales during the year 1908.	Bottler's Name.	Remarks.
1. KAISER-I-HIND FINE PALE BRANDY Superior Quality. * * *	Doz.	Doz.		
Bottled by D. C. Oomrigar & Co., Bombay...	570	583	D. C. Oomrigar & Co.	
2. TARIFF DUTY PAID FOREIGN No. I Rum.				
Bottled by D. C. Oomrigar & Co., Bombay...	356	380	Do.	
3. Charles Paulin & Co., Old Brandy * * * ...	26	18	Do.	
4. TARIFF DUTY PAID FOREIGN No. I Rum.				
Bottled by D. D. Baria & Co., Bombay ...	51	56	D. D. Baria & Co.	
5. SP. HATCHET & Co. FINE PALE BRANDY.				
Bottled by D. D. Baria & Co., Bombay ...	21	13	Do.	
6. PRINCE VICTOR SUPERIOR BRANDY. * * *				
Bottled by D. D. Baria & Co., Bombay ...	6	4	Do.	
Total ...	1,031	1,061		

J. J. S. LORIMER,
Assistant Collector of Excise,
Northern Gujarát.

Camp Talod, 31st December 1908.

No. A.—1344 OF 1908.

SURAT COLLECTOR'S OFFICE.

From

A. R. BONUS, ESQUIRE, I. C. S.,
Collector of Surat;

To

THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS,
SALT, OPIUM AND ABKARI.*Camp Pardi, 2nd December 1908.*

Sir,

In reply to your 7138, dated 27th November 1908, I have the honour of intimating that I do not think I could give any useful evidence before the Committee. But I may say that I believe that the consumption of foreign liquor by natives is steadily increasing. A month or two ago I received an application from a man in Surat City for permission to open a shop for its sale in a Hindu quarter, on the ground that a demand existed. On the 1st of last month I was having a whisky and soda in the refreshment-room at Lánawli Station when a native walked in—a man of the lower middle class, I should say—and astonished me by openly calling for and drinking off at least a claret-glassful of brandy neat. At various places during the past five years—places where the European or Parsi demand was small or non-existent—I have found foreign liquor-shops doing a fair trade in brandy and whisky and occasionally other spirits, and have always been told that people bought them 'for medicinal use.' Yet I do not know that the localities in question were notably unhealthy. Nine years ago I saw Hamburg-manufactured liquor on sale in Srinagar (Kashmir). I had, as Collector of Sholápur, more than one application for leave to open brandy-shops for the benefit of mill-hands and pilgrims.

2. Under section 12 of the Bombay A'bkári Act a foreign liquor license^e can obtain any amount of foreign liquor without a transport-pass. It might be worth while to watch and trace consignments of such liquor from Bombay to mofussil areas. I think it would, under existing conditions, be by no means difficult for a dishonest licensee, under cover of an open if limited trade in good wine, beer and spirits, to carry on in his back premises an illicit trade in cheap deleterious stuff.

3. With regard to paragraphs (5) and (8) of the n^otification referred to in your letter under reply, I would suggest Pen and Roha (in Kolába) and Pandharpur (in Sholápur) as places in which enquiry might elicit some interesting information.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A. R. BONUS,
Collector of Surat.

[*Report from the Assistant Collector of Excise, Thána and Kolába,
No. T.-4329 of 1908.*]

No. T.-4329 OF 1908.

In resubmitting this I have the honour to state that the questions raised have reference principally to the state of the trade in foreign spirits in Bombay with which I have not been in touch for some considerable time past and I am therefore not in a position to give any information or opinion of value. So far as the districts of Thána and Kolába are concerned, the dealings in imported

spirits are exceedingly limited. There are very few licensed shops in the Thána and in the Kolába districts, and most of these are petty ones. A statement showing the designations of all the brands of cheap spirits and wines sold in the principal foreign liquor shop at Thána as well as the consumption of each brand during the year ending 31st March last is submitted herewith. The statistics have been obtained from the licensee's accounts, but, as will be presently explained, these are not a correct indication of the volume of sales. It may be mentioned that no bottling or blending is carried out in any of the shops in either district.

As regards questions 5 to 8 I would report as follows:—

The sales of imported spirits and liquors, though not considerable in my charge, indicate a tendency to increase. The sales are principally amongst the middle class Hindus who consume intoxicating drinks in semi-privacy and whose taste is not sufficiently educated yet to enable them to distinguish between the genuine and spirituous stuff. The stronger the spirits the more they appear to appeal to their palates.

It is difficult to see what further restrictions on the sale of foreign spirits and wines are feasible or could be enforced with advantage. I would, however, respectfully suggest that the existing restrictions on the transport of country liquor should be applied to foreign spirits and wines to enable excise officers to obtain accurate statistics of consumption in local areas. At present a licensed shopkeeper, say at Thána, can understate the sales in his accounts without fear of detection, because the excise officers have no means of knowing how much he buys from the wholesale dealer and how much of it he retails at his shop. If he were required to obtain a pass for the transport of the cases he buys, he would be under the necessity of accounting for them at the end of the year. This will not only enable the department to assess his license fee adequately but procure for us reliable information as to exact sales of each brand; with information on the latter point it will be easier than at present to devise measures for checking the consumption of the spirituous spirits. As things are at present, a licensee may import a 100 cases into a district and may show 50 cases in his accounts of sales without risk of exposure.

It is presumed that by the expression "correct description" as used in question No. 7 is intended to signify strength, place of manufacture, of bottling, blend, &c. I do not know that these particulars, if required, would serve any good purpose in the mofussil in present circumstances. In course of time, however, they might prove useful and might be prescribed.

I am decidedly of opinion that the cheap imported liquors are more harmful than the country liquor distilled under the supervision of Government officers. The former cannot possibly be pure, while there is a reasonable guarantee that the latter are so. Those who understand the difference would sooner drink country spirit than the imported stuff labelled as brandy and whisky.

I am unable to name any excise officers, shop-keepers and others who are likely to be able to give useful evidence before the Committee. The farmers and their agents are very intelligent persons, but they are not familiar with the questions under discussion.

(Signed) R. P. JEHangir,
Assistant Collector of Excise,
Thána and Kolába.

No. ABK.—1201 OF 1908.

Camp Pachapur, 12th December 1908.

Copy forwarded with compliments to the Commissioner of Customs, Salt, Opium and A'bkári, with reference to his letter No. 7052, dated the 24th ultimo.

2. The statement referred to by the Assistant Collector and subsequently received from him is attached.

3. The Parsis are also responsible for a considerable proportion of the consumption of foreign liquor in the district. There is at present no foreign liquor shop for Dáhánu and Umbergaon where a fairly large Parsi community exists. A proposal to establish one was recently negatived by the Commissioner.

4. One of the chief factors in the steady increase in the consumption of foreign liquor is the attractive manner in which the bottles are labelled and capsuled. This attractiveness is generally in inverse proportion to the quality of the liquor.

5. The undersigned is doubtful as to the advantage of regulating the transport of foreign liquor by passes. Such regulation would be mainly for statistical purposes. Its efficacy would be doubtful as in the absence of properly controlled depôts there would be no means of enforcing the regulation.


6. The only way of restricting the sales of these inferior brands of foreign liquor would be to impose a higher tariff rate on them and on the kinds of spirits from which they are manufactured in India. It is a question, however, whether such restriction is necessary. Rum of the strength of 14·8° U. P. which is sold at Rs. 1-4-0 a bottle, cannot but be a vile and deleterious compound. But at the same time the consumption of liquor of this sort is still small. The classes which partake of these liquors are not as a rule given to excess. The intemperance which is so prevalent in this district is practically confined to the consumers of country liquor. On the whole therefore these inferior brands of foreign liquor at present do little harm in the aggregate, though if their consumption were to show any decided increase and exhibited a tendency to spread to the lower strata of the population there would certainly be cause for alarm.

7. The undersigned does not wish to give evidence before the Committee as he has no special knowledge of the subject.

J. L. RIEU,
Collector, Thána.

List of the designations from the labels of brands of cheap spirits and wines and estimate of annual sales of each brand. The names of firms from whom purchased in Bombay.

Brandy.

<i>Labels.</i>	<i>Purchased from</i>
1. "Fine Pale Brandy" * * *	D. C. Oomrigar at Rs. 16 per dozen ; annual sale 55 dozen ; strength 14.8° U. P.
2. "(Picture of a Camel), Made in France, D. P. Batha & Co., Sole Agents in Bombay."	D. C. Oomrigar at Rs. 21 per dozen ; annual sale 25 dozen ; strength 13.0° U. P.
3. " * * * Medal print in gilt, Honor Virtus Probitas, Jules Condon & Co., Cognac, selected expressly for Messrs. Navroji Ardaseer and Sons, Sole Agents in Bombay."	D. C. Oomrigar at Rs. 21 per dozen ; annual sale 5 dozen ; strength 12.7° U. P.
4. "  George Alfred Superior Old Brandy * * * Selected expressly for Messrs. Navroji Ardaseer and Sons, Sole Agents in Bombay."	D. C. Oomrigar at Rs. 21 per dozen ; annual sale 30 dozen ; strength 12.7° U. P.
5. "Established 1821, Comandon & Co. A. Jarnac Cognac (Charente), Made in France. Selected expressly for Messrs. Navroji Ardaseer & Sons, Sole Agents in Bombay."	D. C. Oomrigar at Rs. 23 per dozen ; annual sale 2 dozen ; strength 12.8° U. P.
6. "Sp. Hatchet & Co. Fine Pale Brandy." * * * *	D. D. Baria at Rs. 16-8-0 per dozen ; annual sale 50 dozen.

Whisky.

1. "Every bottle guaranteed equally pure. The Encore Whisky (The Double Distilled). This Whisky is guaranteed entirely free from fusel oil or other injurious substance the presence of which in most Whiskies makes them so dangerous to health. This Whisky is thoroughly matured for immediate consumption."	D. C. Oomrigar at Rs. 21 ; annual sale 11½ dozen ; strength 12.3° U. P.
2. "Vanguard" Old Scotch Whisky, Lovat Fraser & Co., Glasgow."	H. J. Rustom at Rs. 21 per dozen ; annual sale 1½ dozen ; strength 15.1° U. P.
3. "Geo. Hyde & Co. Old Highland Whisky, Registered Glasgow."	H. J. Rustom at Rs. 21 per dozen ; annual sale 1½ dozen ; strength 15.0° U. P.
4. "Scotch Whisky, John Crabbie & Co., Ltd., Leith."	D. C. Oomrigar at Rs. 21-8-0 ; annual sale 25 dozen ; strength 13.0° U. P.

Rum.

1. "Genuine Mauritius Superior Quality No. 1 Rum."	D. C. Oomrigar at Rs. 15-8-0 per dozen ; annual sale 83½ dozen.
2. "Tariff Duty Pai Superior Quality No. 1 Rum."	D. D. Baria at Rs. 15 per dozen ; annual sale 75 dozen ; strength 14.8° U. P.

Port Wine—Sherry Wine.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. " (Black Label) Bottled by Dhunjibhoy Cawasji Oomrigar, Bombay." | D. C. Oomrigar at Rs. 7-8-0 ; annual sale 11 dozen. |
| 2. " Genuine S. Port Wine, Bottled by D. D. Baria." | D. D. Baria at Rs. 10 per dozen ; annual sale 24 dozen. |
| 3. " (Eagle on Anchor) Old Dry Sherry, Produce in Germany." | D. C. Oomrigar at Rs. 15 per dozen ; annual sale 2½ dozen. |
| 4. " Quality Castle Pale Spanish Sherry imported from Spain, 3 years old at the time of bottling. Bottled and Guaranteed by W. & A. Gilbey." | D. D. Baria at Rs. 13-8-0 ; annual sale 1 dozen. |

Ginger Wine.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. " Manufactured by Bernard & Co., Best Quality, Leith." | D. C. Oomrigar at Rs. 12 per dozen ; annual sale 5½ dozen. |
| 2. " Manufactured by Bernard & Co., Best Quality, Leith." | D. C. Oomrigar at Rs. 12 per dozen ; annual sale 4 dozen. |

No. T.-4369 OF 1908.

Submitted to the Collector in continuation of this office No. 4329, dated the 4th instant. The accounts are of the principal foreign liquor shop of the Head-Quarter town only as required by the Commissioner.

R. P. JEHANGIR,
Assistant Collector of Excise,
Thána and Kolába.

7th December 1908.

No. W. K.—3543 OF 1908-09.

From

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

To

THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS,
SALT, OPIUM AND A'BKARI,
Bombay.

Camp Lasalgaon, 9th December 1908.

Sir,

In reply to your No. 7052, dated the 24th November 1908, I have the honour to submit a statement showing the various brands of

Descriptions of liquors sold
in foreign liquor shops in
Dhulia, West Khándesh.

cheap foreign wines and spirits sold at the two foreign liquor shops at Dhulia, West Khándesh. The list includes all wines and spirits retailed at Rs. 2-8-0 or less per quart bottle. A limited quantity of the more expensive foreign liquors is stocked, but these are of well-known brands, and their title to be placed outside the category of the potato and other spirits referred to in Government Resolution No. 11847, dated 20th November 1908 (query 4), is indisputable.

2. I have been unable to ascertain the estimated annual sale of each different brand. This information is not obtainable from the Account Books kept under the terms of the Foreign Liquor License, nor from the private accounts of the licensees. It could have been compiled from their invoices but I had insufficient time to do so.

3. The brands of spirits which command the readiest sale have been noted in the margin of the statement. The following cheap brands of spirits, which appear to be of doubtful origin and wholesomeness, are stocked at all foreign liquor shops in East Khándesh, West Khándesh and Násik (excluding Railway Refreshment Rooms and Railway Co-operative Stores) :—

Brandy—Fine Pale.

- „ Kaiser-i-Hind Brand.
- „ Empress of India.
- „ Camel Brand.
- „ Prince Victor.

Rum—Imported. Bottled by Oomrigar and Co., Bombay.

It is these brands which are chiefly patronised by native customers and upon the sale of which the licensees depend for their profit.

4. No bottling or blending takes place in any of the foreign liquor shops in East Khándesh, West Khándesh or Násik.

5. Fermented liquors and wines are patronised almost exclusively by Europeans, Eurasians, and Parsis. I notice no considerable increase in the consumption of these liquors.

Consumption of fermented
liquors and wines.

Tendency of the consump-
tion of foreign spirit to
increase.

6. The following statement shows the consumption of potable spirits during the years 1905-06, 1906-07 and 1907-08 :—

Year.	Consumption of potable spirits.					
	East Khándesh.		West Khándesh.		Násik.	
	Gals.	drs.	Gals.	drs.	Gals.	drs.
1905-06	3,297	39	1,116	24	(Figures not readily available).	
1906-07	3,110	44	1,133	4	2,897	24
1907-08	3,003	8	1,572	44	3,301	30

From these figures there would appear to have been a marked increase in West Khándesh and Násik and a decrease in East Khándesh; but the sales recorded at the licensed shops do not represent the whole of the consumption. Consignments of spirit,—cheap brandy for the most part,—for private consumption, arrive from Bombay regularly at most of the stations on the G. I. P. and Tapti Valley Railway in East Khándesh and West Khándesh. Those with whom the use of foreign spirits is habitual have long since discovered that it pays them to deal direct with the big firms in Bombay, where brandy selling at Rs. 1-14-0 per bottle in the mofussil can be obtained at Rs. 14 per case of a dozen bottles. Since my arrival in Khándesh 5 years ago there has incontestably been an increase in the consumption of foreign spirits. Their use is not yet widespread, nor can it be said to have yet reached serious proportions, but there is no room for doubt that there is a tendency on the part of those who can afford it to substitute the foreign for the country liquor for habitual use, and on the part of others, to indulge in foreign spirits on such special occasions as marriage and religious festivals, etc., and visits to bazaars at villages where there are foreign liquor shops. At present the high price of even the cheaper kinds of foreign spirit places it beyond the reach of the masses for general use, and it is, moreover, not readily procurable except in villages within a reasonable distance of foreign liquor shops; but that the traffic is only awaiting opportunities for expansion is evidenced by the number of applications I receive for licenses for the sale of foreign spirits at places like Dondaicha and Shirpur (West Khándesh), Amalner, Dharangaon and Jámner (East Khándesh), and Yeola (Násik), where the demand is exclusively native. I have no doubt that a flourishing business would be done at such places, and have no hesitation in saying that the tendency to indulge in foreign spirits is on the increase among all classes of Hindus, and to a less extent of Mohámedans, and that the consumption of these spirits is only kept within its present moderate limits by the comparative absence of facilities for obtaining them.

7. I do not connect the increase in the consumption of foreign spirits among natives with the enhancement which has taken place during the last few years in the still-head duty on country spirits, nor with any other recent administrative measures. I have heard it contended that the present high price of country spirit tends to drive its former patrons to the foreign liquor shop. This may happen in the future, if the cheaper brands of foreign spirits can be placed on the market at a much lower price than at present rules, and the still-head duty on the country product continues to advance. But at present it would be illogical to contend that the raising of the price of 60° U. P. country spirit (the popular beverage in Khándesh) from 5 annas to 7 annas (approximate) per bottle has driven the people to indulge in foreign spirits at Rs. 1-10-0 to Rs. 1-14-0 per bottle. The reason for the increasing popularity of the latter is due to the superior esteem in which all articles of foreign origin are held by the great mass of the people, in spite of the influence of the swadeshi school. It is no more remarkable that the native should purchase a bottle of foreign spirits when he can afford it, than that he should, if his means permit, and the fear of the swadeshi agitator is not upon him, prefer Austrian soap to the locally manufactured article, or Mauritius sugar to the inferior native produce. The foreign spirit, too, is put up in a more attractive form, and has a fiery taste which favours the supposition (I find it to be common among native purchasers) that those in search of a powerful intoxicant get more value for their money in a bottle of brandy than in two or more bottles of 25° U. P. country spirit. Then again around the foreign spirit is the glamour of its being the drink of the Sahib, and *ipso facto* it is credited by natives with being immeasurably superior to their own humble beverage.

The classes which consume foreign spirit.

8. Native consumers of foreign liquors may be divided into the following three classes:—

1. High caste Hindus, pleaders, Government servants, clerks, &c., who usually patronise the better brands of wines and spirits;
2. Jáhirdárs, Inámdárs, wealthy cultivators, merchants, &c., many of whom use foreign spirits habitually;

3. Kunbis, Rajputs, Malis, Patils, Gujars, Bhils, Bhanjaras, native Christians, &c., with whom indulgence in foreign spirits is occasional only.

Among each of these classes I notice an increased consumption. Many persons belonging to the two first classes obtain their supplies direct from Bombay. Consumption is particularly high in Taloda and Nandurbár talukas, where many of the Bhils and Bhanjaras are regular customers of the foreign liquor shop at Nandurbár. A deal of foreign liquor is consumed by the chieftains of the Mewás Estates. The customers of the Páchora and Cháligaoon foreign liquor shops (East Khándesh) and the Málegaon foreign liquor shop (Násik) are wholly Hindus,—principally Brahmins, Kunbis, Patils, Rajputs and Gujars. The sale of cheap brandy and rum to natives is the backbone of Mrs. Lobo's foreign liquor business at Bhusáwal. Her customers are of miscellaneous castes—Madrasis, Native Christians, hamals and low-caste Mahomedans and others employed on the railway, and Patils, Kunbis and others visiting Bhusáwal on bazaar day.

9. I deal with this question before considering the two which precede it

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

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 consumers 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, bazaars, etc., certainly does them very little harm. What effect 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 consumers 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 satisfied and controlled, 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 drunkard of the type so common in European countries.

10. I would suggest the closing of all foreign liquor shops which exist

What restriction, if any, on the sale of foreign spirits, is necessary?

to meet the demand among native consumers only (Nandurbár, Páchora, Cháligaoon, and Málegaon are such shops); the discontinuance of the licences 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.

12. The following excise officers are in a position to give useful evidence regarding the extent to which, and the classes by which, foreign spirits are consumed :—

Mr. J. Lamb, Acting Chief Excise Inspector, West Khándesh ;

Mr. A. S. Dalal, District Excise Inspector, Sákri, West Khándesh, (formerly foreign liquor licensee, Dhulia) ;

Mr. C. Marchant, District Excise Inspector, Páchora, Chálisgaon, East Khándesh.

13. The foreign liquor licensees will, I anticipate, be reluctant to disclose the truth regarding their transactions in cheap foreign spirits. The following possess a thorough acquaintance with the traffic :—

Mr. Nasarwanji Dadabhoy, Nandurbár.

Mr. Jahangir Cawasji Mukadam, Dhulia.

Mr. Ardeshir Lal, Násik.

Mr. Framji Nowroji Marfatia, Málegaon.

Mr. Erachshaw Cawasji Kapadia, Páchora.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

C. CLIFFORD,

Excise Assistant Collector,
Khándesh and Násik.

No. $\frac{A}{1009}$ OF 1908.

Camp Betáwad, 18th December 1908.

Forwarded with compliments.

2. I do not wish to give evidence before the Committee.

3. I agree generally with what the Assistant Collector of Excise has said in his report.

There is no doubt that the consumption of foreign liquor is much on the increase. I was surprised to learn some time back that the Bhils of Nandurbár had taken to cheap foreign liquor. I am not prepared to say that it is drunk by them as regularly as the ordinary country liquor, but I understand that at most assemblies there is now some foreign liquor kept side by side with the country liquor. The foreign liquor is begun first and they end up with the country liquor.

4. The consumption of foreign liquor has increased with the better classes of people as well as the poorer classes. No doubt the better classes favour the higher brands but the good old Surat Mhowra, which had at one time a very high reputation and very justly so and which was more like a liqueur than any-

thing else, has now gone out of fashion and brandy and whisky have taken its place. I have heard it said that this was due mainly to the difficulty which now exists of getting really good liquor of the old kind. I remember having, in my father's house in Bombay, Surat Mhowra which was thirty years old which European friends have tasted and liked as liqueur. I may state at once that there is none left.

5. So long as the difference in price between country liquor and foreign cheap spirits is appreciable, there is not much chance I think of the indigenous article going out of favour to a great extent. But the fact that people like the Bhils should have taken to foreign liquor is a matter which must furnish cause for anxious consideration. There is with most people a tendency to believe in an article which costs more than another that costs less and this may to some extent account for the increased use of foreign spirits together with the attractive form of the bottles and the greater strength of the spirit.

6. I do not think that the closing of foreign liquor shops would be of much use. If there is a desire for such stuff some way will be found of gratifying it. I think that the blending and bottling of such spirits should be forbidden, and I would certainly like to see an increase in the import duty on such spirits. If blending and bottling in India cannot be stopped, then it seems to me very desirable that the place of bottling should be marked on the labels.

7. Popular opinion is, I think, decidedly in favour of the idea that country liquor manufactured under proper supervision is much less harmful than foreign spirit. This is a matter which is capable of being settled by analysis, and if this has not been done already it is my respectful suggestion that it should be done now.

K. R. BOMANJI,
Collector of West Khândesh.

No. $\frac{8}{2156}$ of 1908-09.

From

A. PRIDEAUX, Esquire,
Assistant Collector of Excise,
Sholápur and Bijápur ;

To

THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS,
SALT, OPIUM AND A'BKA'RI,
Bombay.

Camp Mulwad, 8th December 1908.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 7052, dated the 24th November 1908, forwarding Government Resolution No. 11847, dated the 20th November 1908, I have the honour to attach a statement showing the quantity of cheap foreign liquor classified according to the brands, consumed in Sholápur, the names of the bottlers and presumably importers.

Question 5.—From enquiries I have made and my own observations I believe most of the cheap foreign liquor sold in Sholápur amounting to over 1,000 dozens is consumed by the educated and higher castes of Hindus who formerly were not given to intoxicants. Since the duty has been enhanced a few consumers of country liquor have taken to cheap brandy, as they can

obtain a more powerful intoxicant for practically the same price. A pint of cheap foreign liquor costs very little more than a bottle of country liquor containing 8 drams. However I consider the amount of people who have gone from country liquor to foreign liquor is not large and the increased consumption of the latter is due to the spread of the habit among the higher castes. The cheapness of the liquor and the ease with which it is obtained is, I think, responsible for the increased consumption.

Question 6.—I consider restrictions are necessary and desirable and would advocate the closure or removal of foreign liquor shops from the Indian quarter of towns and the reductions of foreign liquor shops generally, the sparing issue of "on" or "retail" licenses, the closing of all back and side-doors and windows and the placing of all foreign liquor shops in a conspicuous situation. If these restrictions are brought into force they will deter the casual or secret drinker or one who is acquiring a taste for foreign liquor and will prevent the habit spreading, but they will not affect the person who considers himself sufficiently "advanced" to ignore caste restrictions and who drinks openly in public or known to his relations and friends. For this class of drinkers—and I believe there are many of them—the only remedy is to place cheap foreign liquor beyond their reach. The restrictions mentioned above will not prevent him and his friends ordering their cheap foreign liquor from Bombay. As the whole of the Presidency proper depends on Bombay I would suggest the establishing of a bonded warehouse in Bombay as recommended by the Excise Committee where bottling must be done under supervision of an excise officer. This will ensure correct description and enable the Excise Department to obtain accurate information of consumption. As foreign liquor does not require a permit there are at present no means of knowing exactly what quantities of such shops receive. The bonded warehouse will also render possible the exclusion of any particular brand if necessary. I would also suggest that a high tariff duty be fixed on the brands of cheap foreign liquor which are known to have a large sale.

Question 7.—It is desirable that correct description be insisted on.

Question 8.—It is, I believe, a fact that mature liquor is less harmful to drink than raw liquor. Matured liquor is always more expensive. The drinking of immature foreign liquor would be harmful to Europeans and in my opinion certainly would be for Indians because the class of Indians who now consume cheap foreign liquor have never been accustomed to drinking country spirits and would not take to it if cheap foreign liquor were not obtainable. They would, I believe, drink good matured foreign liquor which would be less harmful to them and the price of which would reduce consumption or else they would abstain altogether.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A. PRIDEAUX,

Assistant Collector of Excise,

Sholapur and Bijapur.

A.

Statement showing the quantity of cheap foreign liquor sold annually at Sholapur.

No.	Names of Brands.	Foreign liquor consumed in Sholapur.	Names of Bottlers.
		Dozen.	
1	Victoria Queen Fine Pale Brandy .	360	Messrs. Dinshaw Hormusji and Sons, Ahmednagar.
2	Kaiser-i-Hind Fine Pale Brandy ...	50	" D. C. Umrigar and Co., Bombay.
3	Genuine No. I Rum ...	120	" Dinshaw Hormusji and Sons, Ahmednagar.
4	Foreign No. I Rum ...	140	" D. C. Umrigar & Co., Bombay.
5	Fine Pale Brandy ...	180	" D. D. Baria, Bombay.
6	No. I Rum ...	180*	Do.

No. 5685 OF 1908.

From

J. K. N. KABRAJI, ESQUIRE,
Collector of Kolába;

To

THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS,
SALT, OPIUM AND A'BKA'RI,
Bombay.

Camp Pannel, 3rd December 1908.

Sir,

In reply to your letter No. 7138 of 27th ultimo, I have the honour to state that I do not propose to give evidence before the Committee in question, and to make the following remarks :—

2. I think all foreign spirits, liquors and wines which may be found adulterated to a harmful extent should not be allowed to be sold.

For this purpose every fresh consignment received in Bombay should be tested before being allowed to be sold. Local adulteration, after such a test has been made, should be made punishable and should render the foreign liquor liable to seizure. When bottling or recasking is done in Bombay, fresh tests should be made before the bottles or casks are sent out which should bear certificates of having been tested.

3. All Licensees, except wholesale importing houses recognized by the Commissioner of A'bkári, should be required to obtain transit licenses in order that their full stock may be ascertained and accounted for. There is no check at present and the stock and sale accounts cannot be relied upon.

4. A limit of retail sale to a single purchaser for consumption at the shops should be imposed as a check on intoxication.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. K. N. KABRAJI,

Collector of Kolába.

No. P.-1915 of 1908.

From

D. S. PROCTOR, ESQUIRE,
Assistant Collector of Excise,
Poona, Sátára and Ahmednagar;

To

THE EXCISE COMMISSIONER,
Bombay.

Poona, 19th December 1908.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 7052, dated the 24th ultimo, forwarding copy of Government Resolution No. 11847, dated the 20th November 1908, and in reply thereto I have the honour to report as follows:—

2. I omit replying to questions (1) and (2) of the Resolution, as I have had no experience of Bombay.

3. As regards question 3, I would point out that the following firms in my jurisdiction import spirits and wines of various strengths in bulk, bottle the same on their own premises and then sell them under the names as shown against the name of each firm:

Poona District.

Phillips & Co.	...	...	"Ferintosh" and "Club Blend" Whisky.
Treacher & Co.	...	...	"Heart Label" Whisky.
Cursetjee & Sons (Kirkee)	...	...	"Old Blend" Whisky.

Ahmednagar District.

Dinshaw Hormasjee & Sons	...	...	"Victoria Queen" Fine Pale Brandy ***. "Superior Old Brandy." "Special Liqueur" Old Highland Whisky for connoisseurs and invalids, guaranteed 10 years old. "The Old Gallant" Fine Flavoured Scotch Whisky.
Cursetjee & Co.	...	...	"Fine Old Port."

The price of the whisky bottled by the Poona firms and by Dinshaw Hormasjee & Sons of Ahmednagar, varies from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per quart bottle of 8 drams. These whiskies are said to be of good quality and cannot, I think, be classed as inferior spirits. Phillips and Treacher & Co. obtain their supplies through their Head Office in Bombay, while Cursetjee & Sons of Kirkee and Dinshaw Hormasjee & Sons of Ahmednagar, import theirs direct, the former from Chivaz Brothers, Aberdeen, and John Allnutt & Co., London (3° and 12° U. P.) and the latter from Macleay Duff & Co., Glasgow (8° to 10° O. P.). The last-named firm also imports its brandy direct from Knaner Ectrinann, Hamburg, Germany, at from 60° to 62° O. P. Cursetjee & Co. of Ahmednagar import port wine in casks from J. Sacconi, Gibraltar. The selling rate of the brandy bottled by Dinshaw Hormasjee & Sons of Ahmednagar, is, wholesale, Rs. 15-6-0 per dozen quart bottles, *viz.*, 2 gallons or 96 drams, and, retail, Rs. 1-8-0 per quart of 8 drams. In reducing their spirits, the firms named only add water to the same and do not blend, etc. In this connection,

I would mention the names of Excise Inspectors Xavier (Poona City and Cantonment) and White (C. D., Ahmednagar) as having special knowledge and experience of the methods followed by the firms named in reducing and bottling the spirits and wines they import in bulk. I would also mention that Inspector White of Ahmednagar informs me that one Mr. Dhunjishaw Rustomjee Nagarwalla, of Ahmednagar, is a gentleman who has had a wide experience of the liquor trade in the direction under reference and suggests that he should be invited to attend to give evidence before the Committee appointed by Government. Personally, I do not know the gentleman named.

4. With reference to question 4 of the Resolution, I beg to attach a complete list of the designations (in full from the labels) of all the brands of cheap spirits and wines sold in the principal foreign liquor shops in my charge.

I could not obtain figures as to the annual sale of each brand, as the licensees say they do not keep a record of the same and as the time at my disposal for the submission of this report was very limited, I could not gather the information required from the shop invoices. I am, however, having this information gathered and will submit the same to you in due course. Personally, taking the sale of all brands together, I would estimate the annual sale of the same approximately at 65 per cent. or 70 per cent. of the yearly sales at each shop, excluding such firms as Phillips and Treacher & Co., Merwanjee Cursetjee & Sons, and Cursetjee & Sons, Poona and Kirkee, and Cursetjee & Co. of Ahmednagar, who supply the upper and middle class European residents.

5. Regarding question 5 of the Resolution, I would point out that the consumption in my charge of foreign liquor (superior and inferior) as gauged by the sales registered yearly by the foreign liquor licensees, shows a considerable falling off during the past few years, but that the falling off is as great as would appear from the shop sales, I do not conscientiously believe. True, owing to the dearer price of the cheaper kinds of foreign liquor at present, due to the recent enhancement of the Tariff Duty and the introduction of the system of assessing the shop license fee on its annual sale, as compared with the price prevailing a few years ago, some falling off in the consumption was to be expected, but certainly not to the extent the shop sales represent. I give below two examples to illustrate this fact and in support of my opinion :—

Ahmednagar District.

Sale of foreign liquor in 1904-05	...	...	...	30,988 Gallons.
Do. do. 1905-06	...	...	...	10,912 do.
Do. do. 1906-07	...	...	...	5,894 do.

Saldra District.

Sale of foreign liquor in 1904-05	...	...	...	7,374 Gallons.
Do. do. 1905-06	...	...	...	5,012 do.
Do. do. 1906-07	...	...	...	4,542 do.

I think these figures, particularly those of the Ahmednagar District, leave room for reasonable doubt as to the "*bona fides*" of the falling off in consumption and whether the same can alone be attributed to the present dearer price of the liquor. Personally, I do not believe that such a stupendous falling off in the consumption has really occurred and attribute much of the same to licensees (some of them) recording incorrect receipts and sales as well as to the fact that some of the consumers now find it cheaper for them to get their supplies direct from the Bombay wholesale dealers. Personally, I am convinced that the dearer price of liquor has caused some falling off (not very much), but even this falling off I do not think will be permanent nor do I attribute the same to former consumers reverting to the country, in preference to the foreign spirit. I am of opinion that such legitimate falling off as there is, is caused through the recent bad years we have had, which has put the dearer foreign liquor out of the reach of the poorer classes for the time being. Given a few

good years and I am convinced that, with correct records of sales being maintained, we should very soon again reach the sales of 1904-05.

As to what classes consume the cheap foreign brands, I venture to assert that all but the very well-to-do drinking classes, but principally the moderately well-to-do Europeans, Eurasians, Goanese, Native Christians, Parsees, Mahomedans, Brahmins and Marathas,

6. With reference to question 6 of the Resolution as to whether any restrictions on the sale of the cheap foreign liquor beyond those now in force are desirable, I am of opinion that bottling, blending, &c., should be absolutely prohibited in the district shops by the insertion of a clause in the licenses to that effect. I would further suggest that all bottling, blending, etc., carried out in Bombay, be done at a Bonded Warehouse under the supervision of Government officers who are experienced in this direction. I am also of opinion that a clause should be inserted in the license prohibiting the exchange of bottle labels, corks and capsules, so as to make the liquor of one manufacturer appear to be that of another. I make this suggestion, as a case recently came under my notice in Poona, in which a licensee admitted having removed the labels of Port Wine, Whisky and Brandy manufactured by certain firms and replaced them by labels of a firm not now in existence, so as to deceive the public. You will remember this case, Sir, as you made personal enquiries into the same while at Poona in October last.

7. As regards question 7, I am inclined to think that to insist upon correct description as a condition of retail vend, would be impractical, as in almost all instances the retail vendors are themselves utterly in the dark as to the fermentative bases from which the liquors they retail are manufactured. It would, therefore, be next to impossible to hold them responsible for the same. True, the wholesale dealers might be compelled to show the correct description, but even they would have to be guided by the description given them by the exporters. I am convinced that a correct description, if it be found possible to insist upon, would go far to reduce the consumption of the cheap brands, as at present most of the ignorant classes only purchase the same under the impression that they are purchasing a really good article and the identical drink of the Sahibs, which, in many cases they are led to believe by the shopkeepers, possesses magical properties (curative) for many stomach and other complaints. I would make one further suggestion in this direction and that is, that the labels affixed to all bottles of the cheap brand should—

- (1) bear the name of exporter and place of export;
- (2) bear the name of the Bombay or other firm who bottle the same; and
- (3) bear the designation of the contents, *i.e.* Brandy, Whisky, Gin, etc., as the case may be, in moderate sized letters.

All the above details should be in English and the Vernacular of the district in which the liquor is sold. I suggest the vernacular language on the labels as some means to guide the buyer in correctly obtaining what he wants and to prevent substitution by the seller.

8. As regards question 8 of the Resolution, I would observe that public opinion seems divided on the point at issue. So far as my own opinion is concerned, I think the country spirit, as at present manufactured, the less harmful. In making this statement, I am cognizant of the fact that Major Bedford has stated that there is little, if any, difference between the two classes of spirit, but then Major Bedford was speaking of results obtained by analysis, whereas I make my statement from what consumers who have tried both, have told me. Perhaps my informants were in error, I cannot say, but as nearly all excise officers know, the lower classes seldom dilute their spirit (country or otherwise) before consumption; it is, therefore, only reasonable to presume (leaving the question of unwholesomeness aside) that a person who consumes neat 14° or 15° U. P. liquor, will be more injured constitutionally, than one who indulges in the weaker country spirit. Then, again, the constitution of the native classes in general, is not such as to permit them indulging freely and long in a strong class of spirit, without injurious consequences. These are my own opinions and

I do not claim that they cannot be refuted, but I think the question one that could be best answered by a medical, rather than an excise officer.

9. In addition to the information already supplied above, I beg to attach (1) the sale catalogues of Messrs. Oomrigar & Co., D. D. Baria and Herbert, Son & Co., Bombay, and (2) samples of some of the labels used by Dinshaw Hormasji & Sons and Cursetjee & Sons of Ahmednagar, on the bottles of the spirits and wine they bottle on their premises.

I have the honour to remain,

Sir

Your most obedient servant,

D. S. PROCTOR,

Assistant Collector of Exoise,
Poona, Sátára and Ahmednagar.

Forwarded with compliments through the Collector of Poona with reference to his No. A.—338, dated the 25th November 1908.

*List of spirits and wines sold in the Poona, Ahmednagar and Sátára
Districts Foreign Liquor Shops.*

Name of the Firm.	List of spirits and wines.	Remarks.
Messrs. Oomrigar	<p style="text-align: center;">Brandy.</p> <p>... Jules Coadan & Co. George Alfred. F. H. Lebrun & Co.'s * * * De Valmeales & Co.'s Cognac. Bidault Dubois Royal Family. De Vaveral & Co.'s * * * Fine Old Brandy Swan Brand. * * * Assorted Labels. Charles Paulin Brandy. Cutler Palmer & Co.'s</p>	
Messrs. Baria	<p>... Vini Vici Vidi. Sauvion & Co.'s Leon. E. Cusenias Liqueur. A. Naverette & Co.'s Eagle Brand. Sp. Hachet & Co.'s * * * * Sp. Hachet & Co.'s Assorted Brand. Vinna Galle & Co.'s * * * * Do. Gold Leaf. Prince Victor * * * * Maharaja Gaikwar. Assorted Brandy Flasks.</p>	
Messrs. Baria and Oomrigar.	<p>A. Marret & Co.'s Commandon & Co.'s George Alfred * * * * F. H. Brown's Camel * * * J. J. Borde's Royal Mess. San Martin * * * * Do. * * * Jubilee Brandy Kaiser-i-Hind. Fine Pale Brandy B. N. S. Bidault Dubois Royal Family * * * * Traicher's Fine Old Cognac. F. Dessandier & Co.'s</p>	

Name of the Firm.	List of spirits and wines.	Remarks.
Whisky.		
Messrs. Oomrigar	... Balies Old Highland Square. Duncan Gords Highland Club.	
Messrs. Baria	... Fine Flavoured Genuine Scotch. E. and J. Burke's * * * Irish. McCallum and Co.'s John Campbell & Co.'s McCallum Highland H Quality. James Watson. Glenlivet. John Robertson & Son's Blue Seal.	
Messrs. Oomrigar and Baria.	Donald McKenzie & Co.'s * * * * Do. do. * * * Club Blend Whisky. Amalgamated Distillers Company, A. D. C. Huntley Blend Whisky. John Crabbie & Co.'s Phillips Ferintosh.	
Rum.		
Messrs. Baria	... Sp. Hatchet & Co.'s Jamaica Rum Whole Label. John Cameron & Co.'s Jamaica.	
Messrs. Oomrigar	... A. Graham & Co.'s Old Jamaica.	
Messrs. Oomrigar and Baria.	Bombay Bottle Rum. Foreign Rum No. 1. Do. No. 2.	
Old Tom.		
Messrs. Oomrigar and Baria.	Boards and Son's Old Tom. Bernard & Co. Traicher's London. Salinette.	
Madeira.		
Messrs. Oomrigar and Baria.	Page & Sandeman's Fine Old Madeira.	
Port.		
Messrs. Baria	... Sp. Hatchet & Co. Muscatel. Arroba Company's Invalid.	
Messrs. Oomrigar	... Port B. B. Superior Old Port. Cameron's Spanish. Do. Invalid.	
Messrs. Baria and Oomrigar.	Outler Palmer's Invalid Page & Sandeman's Invalid. Gilbey Spanish. Spanish Port No. I.	
Ginger Wine.		
Messrs. Baria and Oomrigar	John Crabbie & Co.'s Bernard & Co.	

Most Urgent.

No. CAMP—15 OF 1908.

Camp Nharra, 21st December 1908.

Forwarded with compliments.

2. Mr. Proctor has dealt fully with the subject and I agree with his remarks in the main.

3. So far as this district is concerned, I do not think the actual consumption of foreign liquor shows a marked tendency to decrease if allowance is made for the effect of the present system which by raising the local retail prices has driven consumers to obtain their supplies from Bombay, and offers an inducement to the licensees to return sales at as low a figure as they think they safely can.

4. At the same time it is the case that among the upper classes of the native population, the rising generation are more abstemious than their fathers, but this must have only a very gradual effect and is probably counterbalanced by other tendencies.

5. With regard to the eighth question I am strongly of opinion that crude potato spirit is more harmful than the country spirit as supplied at present from the Mundhwa distillery. It is not so much a matter of supervision over the manufacture as of the method of distilling the spirit. If patent stills are introduced into our distilleries there would be nothing to choose between the two kinds except as regards the strength at which they are allowed to be sold. I have no facts to bring forward in support of my opinion but when the majority of thinking people act on the idea that they might as well drink poison as crude patent still spirit, there must be a substantial ground for the belief.

6. I think some further restrictions are required with regard to the sale of foreign spirits—restrictions that would prevent crude patent still spirit being sold as cheap or cheaper than country spirit. I do not see why a correct description should not be required as a condition of retail vend. Until steps are taken to enforce the correct description being given, it will not be possible to take any other restrictive measures against the sale of deleterious liquor.

7. I have no special knowledge of the subject and do not wish to give evidence before the Committee.

G. CARMICHAEL,
Collector of Poona.

No. 3436 OF 1908.

From

F. A. INGLE, ESQUIRE,
Assistant Collector of Excise,
Belgaum, Dhárwár and Kánara A. G.;

To

THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS,
SALT, OPIUM AND ABKARI,
Bombay.

Camp Háveri, 14th December 1908.

Sir,

In compliance with your No. 7052, dated 24th ultimo, I have the honour to report as follows :—

2. The average annual sales of cheap foreign spirits and wines, in Dhárwár town, are as follows :—

Brand of spirits.	Bottled by	Description on label.	Average annual sales.
(a) Brandy ...	D. C. Oomrigar, Bombay ...	Kaiser-i-Hind Fine Pale Brandy.	40 dozen.
(b) Do. ...	D. D. Baria, Bombay ...	Julis Alfred Superior Brandy.	120 dozen.
(c) Rum ...	D. C. Oomrigar, Bombay ...	Tariff Duty Paid Foreign Rum No. 1, Blue Label.	20 dozen.
(d) Do. ...	D. D. Baria, Bombay ...	Tariff Duty Paid Superior Quality No. 1.	50 dozen.

3. The average annual sales of cheap foreign spirits in Hubli town, are as under :—

Brand of spirits.	Bottled by	Description on label.	Average annual sales.
(a) Brandy ...	D. C. Oomrigar, Bombay...	Kaiser-i-Hind Fine Pale Brandy.	} 343 dozen.
	and D. D. Baria, Bombay ...	Julis Alfred Superior Brandy.	
(b) Rum ...	D. C. Oomrigar, Bombay ...	Tariff Duty Paid Foreign Rum No. 1, Blue Label.	} 300 dozen.
	and D. D. Baria, Bombay ...	Tariff Duty Paid Superior Quality No. 1.	
<i>as against</i>			
(a) Brandy ...	D. C. Oomrigar, Bombay...	Kaiser-i-Hind Fine Pale Brandy.	} 180 dozen.
	and D. D. Baria, Bombay ...	Julis Alfred Superior Brandy.	
(b) Rum ...	D. C. Oomrigar, Bombay ...	Tariff Duty Paid Foreign Rum No. 1, Blue Label.	} 70 dozen.
	and D. D. Baria, Bombay ...	Tariff Duty Paid Superior Quality No. 1.	
<i>in Dhárwár Town.</i>			

4. The present annual consumption of all brands of foreign spirits, in *Dhárwad* and *Hubli towns*, is as under :—

Beer.	Wines.	Brandy.	Whisky.	Rum.	Other kinds.
<i>Dhárwad Town.</i>					
90 dozen ...	120 dozen ...	365 dozen ...	275 dozen ...	75 dozen ...	30 dozen.
<i>Hubli Town.</i>					
1,000 dozen ...	130 dozen ...	750 dozen ...	430 dozen ...	380 dozen ...	50 dozen.

5. There is no bottling or blending of foreign spirits in my charge.

6. The price per quart bottle of the above Fine Pale Brandy bottled by D. C. Oomrigar, or D. D. Baria ranges from Rs. 1-8-0 to Rs. 1-12-0 per bottle, and the price per quart of Tariff duty paid Foreign Rum No. 1, bottled by the same Bombay Firms, ranges from Rs. 1-8-0 to Rs. 1-10-0 per bottle. The usual average price of cheap brandy or rum may be taken as Rs. 1-8-0 per quart bottle.

7. The classes, chiefly consuming cheap foreign spirits, are :—

- (1) Mahrattas,
- (2) Mahomedans,
- (3) Goans,
- (4) Madrasis, and
- (5) Lingayats.

Many of these consumers work in the Railway offices and Mills. The poorer classes also indulge in the use of cheap foreign spirits, on High days and Holidays.

8. The present consumption of cheap foreign spirits undoubtedly tends to increase in the larger towns, especially those which have been visited by plague, and at some of the Railway Refreshment Rooms, in this District.

9. It seems desirable to discourage the use of cheaper brands of foreign spirits, amongst Indians, as the majority of such brands are undoubtedly derived from rectified spirit which is imported at Bombay at 60 to 70 degrees O. P., and brought down to 15° U. P., for use in the mofussil, by copious additions of water, a small quantity of brandy or whisky, &c., essences, and a few drops of colouring matter. I understand the illicit importation of these essences still continues and is rarely detected as elaborate precautions are taken to deceive the Customs Authorities.

10. A correct and full description of the cheap spirits sold, *indelibly marked* according to the provisions of Indian Merchandise Marks Act, should, I think, be made a condition of vend. If the Potato Spirit now sold under the above brands, be marked as "Potato Whisky" or "Potato Brandy" "Made in Germany", it will, I think, tend to diminish the consumption very materially, despite the fact such spirit is bottled and capsuled and often wired in a most attractive manner, calculated to deceive even the educated classes.

11. If such spirit is allowed to be sold, I am of opinion, it should not be put on sale, at less than Rs. 2 per bottle.

12. If the number of persons participating in the profits of the sale of cheap foreign spirits and the retail prices, are considered, it will be evident that the quality of the spirit sold, must be very inferior and harmful and that it must be chemically prepared, or from rectified spirits, with the addition of essences and colouring matter. First, there is (a) the manufacturer, secondly (b) the shipper, thirdly (c) the local commission agent, who is generally paid 1½ to 3 per cent., (d) then there is the wholesale merchant, for whom it is imported and lastly (e) the retail dealer. Rs. 18 is generally the highest retail price, in the mofussil, per dozen quarts of the cheaper brands of foreign brandy

or rum, which price also includes (a) the import duty paid originally on the importation of the spirit in bulk into Bombay, before it is doctored into brandy or whisky, (b) the price of the bottles, (c) the corks, (d) the labels, (e) capsules, (f) wire envelopes with lead bottom for brandy, (g) grass envelopes, (h) empty cases, besides wharfage charges, which are usually incurred when spirit is imported in bulk and (i) clearing charges and (k) railway freight. It is impossible that the spirit sold retail at the above price, could be other than potato spirit or spirit chemically prepared, by the addition of water, essences, &c.

13. If the importation of potato or otherwise chemically prepared spirit cannot be entirely prohibited, the rate of duty on such spirit might be raised.

14. There is another point for consideration in connection with the bottles chiefly used by German and French firms, when exporting whisky, brandy, or other spirits to India other than in bulk, for importation at Bombay. The ordinary bottle of whisky or brandy or other spirits usually contains 26 fluid ounces but the German and French bottles often hold only 21 or 22 ounces, though by appearance they might be supposed to hold 26 fluid ounces. This difference is due chiefly to the thickness of the glass, and to the depth of the kink, at the bottom of the bottles.

15. I would suggest the names of Inspectors Maidment, Velloze, and Parakh, to give evidence before the Committee.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

F. A. INGLE,

Assistant Collector of Excise,

Belgaum, Dhárwár and Kánara A. G.

STATEMENTS SHOWING IMPORTS OF CHEAP FOREIGN SPIRITS
AND WINES INTO BOMBAY DURING EACH OF THE FIVE YEARS
—1903-1904, 1904-1905, 1905-1906, 1906-1907 AND 1907-1908—
ENDING 31st MARCH.

GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION No. 11847, DATED THE 20TH

Statement showing the imports of the various kinds of cheap foreign spirits

N.B.—Neutral spirit means rectified spirit or dilute

Year.	Neutral undenatured spirit imported in casks, drums or bottles.			Cheap manufactured liquor imported in								Total	
	Amount imported.	Amount denatured.	Balance remaining potable.	Casks.				Bottles.				Description.	Amount.
				Spirits.		Wines.		Spirits.		Wines.			
				Description.	Amount.	Description.	Amount.	Description.	Amount.	Description.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons		Gallons.		Gallons.		Gallons.		Gallons.		Gallons.
1908-1904	42,717	3,771	38,946	Brandy	18,084	Port	2,822	Brandy	11,608	Port	780	Neutral	42,717
	--	--	--	Whisky	3,353	Sherry	565	Whisky	8,046	Sherry	271	Whisky	12,888
	--	--	--	Rum	4,080	Others	4,873	Rum	913	Others	4,372	Rum	4,973
Total	42,717	3,771	38,946	----	25,497	----	9,260	----	20,625	----	5,171	----	38,846

NOVEMBER 1908 (REVENUE DEPARTMENT), QUESTION (1).

and wines into Bombay during the year ending 31st March 1904.

spirit not transformed into any specific liquor.

Imports		Invoice price of										Ports of origin with approximate proportion of liquor coming from each.		
Wines.		Neutral Spirit per gallon.	Manufactured liquor.											
Description.	Amount.	Potable.	Per gallon.				Per dozen bottles.				Description.	Name of port.	Amount.	
			Spirits.		Wines.		Spirits.		Wines.					
			Description.	Rate.	Description.	Rate.	Description.	Rate.	Description.	Rate.				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	Gallons.	Rs. s. p.		Rs. s. p.		Rs. s. p.		Rs. s. p.		Rs. s. p.			Gallons.	
Port	4,683	From 0 13 0 to 3 0 0	Brandy	From 0 13 0 to 3 0 0	Port	From 1 0 0 to 2 4 0	Brandy	From 3 0 0 to 7 8 0	Port	From 4 8 0 to 6 0 0	Neutral	Hamburg Fiume London Trieste	33 737 9,406 82 501	
Sherry	553		Whisky	From 1 3 0 to 3 0 0	Sherry	From 1 8 0 to 1 12 0	Whisky	From 4 8 0 to 7 0 0	Sherry	Not imported.	Brandy	Hamburg London Glasgow Liverpool Bordeaux Marseilles Pines Jaffa Charente Beshire Liverpool Trieste Antwerp Cognac	17,598 126 109 5,729 1,936 67 30 1,853 198 68 508 1,415 128	
Others	2,146		Rum	From 0 14 0 to 2 4 0	Others	From 1 0 0 to 2 0 0	Rum	From 5 0 0 to 7 0 0	Others		Whisky	Hamburg London Glasgow Liverpool	2,206 55 9,031 16	
											Rum	Hamburg London Glasgow Bordeaux Liverpool	5,509 813 450 71 36	
											Port	Hamburg Marseilles Colombo Liverpool	3,080 113 193 2,246	
											Sherry	Hamburg London	348 211	
											Others	Hamburg Glasgow Bordeaux Marseilles Colombo Noumea B-india Patras Sues Port Said Oporto Genoa Anco a Suyra Bre en Marnagoa Jaffa Liverpool	497 164 4,731 479 433 10 87 83 112 272 65 1,385 192 35 41 24 353 117	
	14,832													

P. C. CAMA,
Acting Head Gauger.

GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION No. 11847, DATED THE

Statement showing the imports of the various kinds of cheap foreign

N. B.—Neutral spirit means rectified spirit or dilute

Year.	Neutral undenatured spirit imported in casks, drums or bottles.			Cheap manufactured liquor imported in								Total	
				Casks.				Bottles.				Spirits.	
	Amount imported.	Amount denatured.	Balance remaining potable.	Spirits.		Wines.		Spirits.		Wines.		Description.	Amount.
				Description.	Amount.	Description.	Amount.	Description.	Amount.	Description.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.		Gallons.		Gallons.		Gallons.		Gallons.		Gallons.
												Neutral	62,949
1904-1905	62,819	25,265	37,553	Brandy	13,961	Port	3,996	Brandy	8,094	Port	2,078	Brandy	21,999
				Whisky	2,136	Sherry	329	Whisky	6,636	Sherry	190	Whisky	6,773
				Rum	2,991	Others	5,743	Rum	1,999	Others	3,066	Rum	4,991
Total	62,849	25,265	37,583		18,991		10,068		16,429		5,256		27,970

20TH NOVEMBER 1908 (REVENUE DEPARTMENT), QUESTION (1).

spirits and wines into Bombay during the year ending 31st March 1905.

spirit not transformed into any specific liquor.

Imports.			Invoice price of								Ports of origin with approximate proportion of liquor coming from each.		
Wines.		Neutral spirit per gallon.	Manufactured Liquor.										
Description.	Amount.	Potable.	Per Gallon.				Per dozen bottles.				Description.	Name of port.	Amount.
			Spirits.		Wines.		Spirits.		Wines.				
			Description.	Rate.	Description.	Rate.	Description.	Rate.	Description.	Rate.			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Gallons.	Rs. s. p.		Rs. s. p.		Rs. s. p.		Rs. s. p.		Rs. s. p.			Gallons.
.....
Port	5,039	From 0 12 0 to 3 0 0	Brandy	From 1 0 0 to 2 8 0	Port	From 1 8 0 to 2 4 0	Brandy	From 3 0 0 to 7 8 0	Port	From 3 0 0 to 6 0 0	Brandy	Hamburg ... 33,754 Glasgow ... 279 Fiume ... 19,059 London ... 75 Trieste ... 9,681	
												Hamburg ... 18,929 Glasgow ... 269 Marseilles ... 1,230 Bordeaux ... 2,904 Charante ... 1,114 Antwerp ... 1,207 Cognac ... 223 Liverpool ... 102 Trieste ... 163 Rotterdam ... 2	
Sherry	519	...	Whisky	From 1 0 0 to 3 0 0	Sherry	From 1 4 0 to 2 4 0	Whisky	From 4 2 0 to 7 4 0	Sherry	From 6 0 0	Rum	Hamburg ... 715 Glasgow ... 7,674 Antwerp ... 82 Liverpool ... 300	
												Hamburg ... 2,365 Glasgow ... 183 London ... 634 Bordeaux ... 894 Trieste ... 123	
Others	8,807	...	Rum	From 1 0 0 to 3 0 0	Others	From 1 4 0 to 2 4 0	Rum	From 3 0 0 to 6 0 0	Others	From 3 12 0 to 6 0 0	Port	Hamburg ... 2,436 London ... 273 Liverpool ... 3,231	
												Hamburg ... 406 Marseilles ... 57 Liverpool ... 65	
	15,366											Hamburg ... 584 London ... 418 Marseilles ... 365 Bordeaux ... 3,665 Trieste ... 6 Genoa ... 1,075 Liverpool ... 323 Brindisi ... 469 Marmagosa ... 141 Lisbon ... 1,110 Bari ... 88 Beshire ... 5 Ancona ... 76 Colombo ... 260 Jaffa ... 146	

P. C. CAMA,
Acting Head Gauger.

GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION NO. 11847, DATED THE 20TH NOVEMBER 1905

Statement showing the imports of the various kinds of cheap foreign

N. B.—Neutral spirit means rectified spirit or dilute

Year.	Neutral undenatured spirit imported in casks, drums or bottles.			Cheap manufactured liquor imported in								Total	
				Casks.				Bottles.				Spirits.	
	Amount imported.	Amount denatured.	Balance remaining potable.	Spirits.		Wines.		Spirits.		Wines.		Description.	Amount.
				Description.	Amount.	Description.	Amount.	Description.	Amount.	Description.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.		Gallons.		Gallons.		Gallons.		Gallons.		Gallons.
1905-1906	64,205	28,472	35,733	Brandy	14,970	Port	2,165	Brandy	8,788	Port	1,481	Neutral	64,205
				Whisky	2,716	Sherry	160	Whisky	8,302	Sherry	100	Whisky	11,017
				Rum	4,351	Others	2,265	Rum	810	Others	2,680	Rum	4,661
Total	64,205	28,472	35,732		27,896		6,611		17,911		4,661		108,988

(REVENUE DEPARTMENT), QUESTION (1).

spirits and wines into Bombay during the year ending 31st March 1906.

spirit not transformed into any specific liquor.

Imports.		Invoice price of										Ports of origin with approximate proportion of liquor coming from each.		
Wines.		Neutral spirit per gallon.	Manufactured liquor.											
Description.	Amount.	Potable.	Per gallon.				Per dozen bottles.				Description.	Name of port.	Amount.	
			Spirits.		Wines.		Spirits.		Wines.					
			Description.	Rate.	Description.	Rate.	Description.	Rate.	Description.	Rate.				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	Gallons.	Rs. s. p.		Rs. s. p.		Rs. s. p.		Rs. s. p.		Rs. s. p.				
Port	4,648	From 1 0 0 to 3 4 0	Brandy	From 1 4 0 to 3 6 4	Port	From 1 0 0 to 2 4 0	Brandy	From 3 0 0 to 7 8 0	Port	From 3 12 0 to 6 3 0	Neutral	Trieste	18,995	
												Liverpool	115	
												Fiume	13,199	
												Glasgow	1,474	
												Hamburg	29,618	
												London	802	
												Hamburg	16,088	
												Glasgow	86	
												Liverpool	119	
												Port Said	53	
												Marseilles	1,903	
												Antwerp	1,114	
												Charente	647	
												Aden	52	
												Bordeaux	2,700	
												Liverpool	80	
												Glasgow	10,733	
												Hamburg	80	
												London	112	
												Liverpool	1,111	
												Hamburg	3,025	
												Glasgow	361	
												Bordeaux	312	
												Mauritius	161	
												Hamburg	2,997	
												London	26	
												Liverpool	1,259	
												Antwerp	53	
												Oporto	230	
												Marmagosa	43	
												London	163	
												Hamburg	100	
												Hamburg	642	
												London	416	
												Marmagosa	20	
												Naples	77	
												Argostole	59	
												Liverpool	135	
												Glasgow	1,310	
												Bordeaux	2,217	
												Genoa	391	
												Ancona	63	
												Jaffa	161	
												Messina	91	
												Bushire	15	
												Brindisi	54	
												Marseilles	432	
												Port Said	40	
												Lisbon	76	
	12,973													

P. C. CAMA,
Acting Head Gauger.

GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION NO. 11847, DATED THE 20TH

Statement showing the imports of the various kinds of cheap foreign

N. B.—Neutral spirit means rectified spirit or

Year.	Neutral undenatured spirit imported in casks, drums or bottles.			Cheap manufactured liquor imported in								Total	
	Amount imported.	Amount denatured.	Balance remaining potable.	Casks.				Bottles.				Description.	Amount.
				Spirits.		Wines.		Spirits.		Wines.			
	Description.	Amount.	Description.	Amount.	Description.	Amount.	Description.	Amount.	Description.	Amount.	Description.	Amount.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.		Gallons.		Gallons.		Gallons.		Gallons.		Gallons.
1906-1907	71,074	39,668	31,408	Brandy	11,917	Port	2,678	Brandy	6,909	Port	1,845	Brandy	18,737
				Whisky	2,359	Sherry	133	Whisky	6,606	Sherry	269	Whisky	6,865
				Rum	2,519	Others	2,745	Rum	851	Others	2,301	Rum	2,671
Total	71,074	39,668	31,408	-----	17,796	-----	7,544	-----	19,771	-----	4,216	-----	108,646

NOVEMBER 1908 (REVENUE DEPARTMENT), QUESTION (1).

spirits and wines into Bombay during the year ending 31st March 1907.

dilute spirit not transformed into any specific liquor.

Imports.			Invoice price of								Ports of origin with approximate proportion of liquor coming from each.		
Wines.		Neutral spirit per gallon.	Manufactured liquor.										
Description.	Amount.	Potable.	Per gallon.				Per dozen bottles.				Description.	Name of Port.	Amount.
			Spirits.		Wines.		Spirits.		Wines.				
			Description.	Rate.	Description.	Rate.	Description.	Rate.	Description.	Rate.			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Gallons.			Rs. s. p.		Rs. s. p.		Rs. s. p.		Rs. s. p.			Gallons.
Port	5,330	From 0 10 0 to 3 3 0	Brandy	From 1 0 0 to 1 14 0	Port	From 1 0 0 to 2 4 0	Brandy	From 3 0 0 to 7 8 0	Port	From 4 0 0 to 6 0 0	Neutral	Hamburg ... 40,381 Finne ... 14,729 Trieste ... 14,144 London ... 993 Rotterdam ... 843	
Sherry	483		Whisky	From 1 8 0 to 3 0 0	Sherry	3 0 0	Whisky	From 3 13 0 to 7 8 0	Sherry	From 4 8 0 to 6 0 0	Brandy	Hamburg ... 14,760 Bordeaux ... 1,593 Glasgow ... 831 London ... 232 Marseilles ... 878 Liverpool ... 141 Antwerp ... 1,118 Charente ... 181	
Others	6,047		Rum	From 0 14 0 to 3 0 0	Others	From 1 0 0 to 2 4 0	Rum	From 3 0 0 to 6 8 0	Others	From 4 0 0 to 6 0 0	Whisky	Glasgow ... 8,355 Hamburg ... 461 Liverpool ... 108 Rotterdam ... 45	
	11,761										Rum	Hamburg ... 2,108 Bordeaux ... 129 London ... 473 Mauritius ... 162	
											Port	Glasgow ... 113 Hamburg ... 3,008 Bordeaux ... 230 Liverpool ... 1,268 Lisbon ... 260 Oporto ... 209 Marmagos ... 125	
											Sherry	Adelaide ... 123 Hamburg ... 359	
											Others	Glasgow ... 34 Hamburg ... 494 Bordeaux ... 3,145 London ... 99 Marseilles ... 87 Liverpool ... 471 Colombo ... 134 Genoa ... 596 Lisbon ... 116 Port Said ... 84 Oporto ... 47 Adelaide ... 178 Valentia ... 120	

P. C. CAMA,
Acting Head Gauger.

GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION No. 11947, DATED THE 20TH

Statement showing the imports of the various kinds of cheap foreign

H. B.—Neutral spirit except rectified spirit or spirits

Year.	Neutral undenatured spirit imported in casks, drums or bottles.			Cheap manufactured liquor imported in								Total	
	Amount imported.	Amount denatured.	Balance remaining potable.	Casks.				Bottles.				Spirits.	
				Spirits.		Wines.		Spirits.		Wines.		Description.	Amount.
				Description.	Amount.	Description.	Amount.	Description.	Amount.	Description.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.		Gallons.		Gallons.		Gallons.		Gallons.		Gallons.
1907-1908	76,366	40,981	35,385	Brandy	12,659	Port	3,081	Brandy	11,009	Port	3,116	Neutral	76,366
				Whisky	2,367	Sherry	218	Whisky	2,107	Sherry	464	Brandy	24,669
				Rum	2,972	Others	2,880	Rum	542	Others	2,808	Whisky	10,670
Total	76,366	40,981	35,385		17,998		7,027		20,599		5,189		114,998

Accompaniment to the 5 Returns showing the statistics of imports of the various kinds of cheap foreign liquors into Bombay for each of the last five years ending 31st March 1908.

Remarks. (Such information as the Customs Department may have to give under question 3 in Government Resolution No. 11547, dated the 20th November 1908.)

Foreign rectified spirit is used for the following purposes :—

- I. In medicine..... mostly for preparing tinctures.
- II. In preparing methylated spirit by the addition of wood and mineral naphthas.
- III. For drinking purposes when it is diluted with water and coloured with burnt sugar. Bottles are labelled "Diluted Spirit.—Tariff duty paid spirit. Bottled in Bombay by....." Under the Abkari rules such diluted spirit is not allowed to be flavoured and called brandy or rum.
- IV. A very small quantity is used for burning purposes, though it would not pay to use it for that purpose to a very great extent, as methylated spirit would do as well instead.

Diluted spirit is consumed mostly by working classes.

16th December 1908.

P. C. CAMA,
Acting Head Gauger.

SUPPLEMENTARY.

GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION No. 11847, DATED THE 20TH NOVEMBER 1908, REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Statement showing the imports of the various kinds of cheap foreign spirits and wines into Bombay for each of the five years ending 31st March 1908.

Year.	Cheap manufactured liquor imported in.				Total imports.		Invoice price of				Ports of origin with approximate proportion of liquor coming from each.			Remarks.	
	Casks.		Bottles.		Spirits.		Manufactured Liquor.				Description.	Name of port.	Amount.		
	Spirits.		Spirits.		Description.	Amount.	Per Gallon.		Per Dozen Bottles.						
	Description.	Amount.	Description.	Amount.			Description.	Rate.	Description.	Rate.	Description.	Name of port.	Amount.		
1	5	6	9	10	13	14	18	19	22	23	26	27	28	29	
		Gallons.		Gallons.		Gallons.								Gallons.	
903-04.	Nil ...	...	Nil ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
904-05.	Nil ...	...	Nil ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
905-06.	Nil ...	...	Nil ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
906-07.	Nil ...	...	Old Tom Gin.	159	Old Tom Gin.	159	...	...	Old Tom Gin.	From 3 8 0 to 4 2 0	Old Tom Gin.	Hamburg.	159	Produce of Germany.	
907-08.	Nil ...	...	Old Tom Gin.	11	Old Tom Gin.	11	...	...	Old Tom Gin.	4 8 0	Old Tom Gin.	Hamburg.	11	Produce of Germany.	

Prince's Dock Custom House,
28th December 1908.

R. F. L. WHITTY,
Assistant Collector of Customs,
Prince's Dock.

P. C. CAMA,
Acting Head Ganger.

Statements of witnesses before the Foreign Liquor Committee.

No. 1.

Mr. J. M. Kelly, Head Gauger, Bombay Custom House, questioned by the Chairman.

Q.—What is your total experience in the Gauging Department?

A.—About 17 years.

Q.—The statement prepared by you shows considerable fluctuations in imports of cheap liquor. It seems from this that imports of cheap liquor are rather decreasing than otherwise.

A.—I think they are decreasing slightly. If you take the total import it is slack. I put in another statement contrasting the total imports with the imports of cheap spirit in the last 5 years. This shows a decrease in the proportion of cheap spirits under all heads. As regards the absolute quantities also there are decreases in all the cheap kinds, but in total imports brandy is fluctuating. Whisky shows an increase each year. From 150,000 in 1903-04, it has risen to 175,000 gallons. Rum has decreased. I could not say whether the classes which were previously drinking cheap foreign spirits are now taking to a better class of foreign liquor, because I don't know what becomes of it when it leaves the Custom House. Some of this spirit goes out of the Presidency. I cannot draw any particular conclusion about what remains in Bombay City, or what proportion goes out of the Presidency. Very weak spirits will be consumed in the city. Of what is reduced below 15 U. P. some goes to the Native States. Baroda is an exception, as spirit there must be 15 U. P. (Witness is shown a price list.)

Q.—Taking whisky in that list.—There is some cheap whisky which is imported by highly respectable firms in Bombay, what is that imported for, and what is the criterion by which to distinguish that cheap whisky from any other whisky?

A.—These cheap whiskies, as a rule, are used for blending with whiskies of higher qualities. People who cannot afford to pay high prices require cheap whiskies. I consider cheap whiskies those selling at four shillings or three rupees per gallon, invoice price at over proof strengths. When this whisky is reduced—the value would be still less. The strength of whisky worth three rupees a gallon varies up to 30 O. P. Such whisky comes in bulk.

Mr. Procter—Some whisky is sold at Rs. 10 a dozen in bottles?

A.—Yes.

Chairman.—Do you know what is done with the whisky that comes in at one shilling per gallon?

A.—I think it is blended with expensive whiskies.

Q.—You don't know, you have no means of knowing, anything of these spirits after they pass out of the Custom House?

A.—No, they are not controlled by us in any way.

Q.—What is about the price per gallon of whisky and brandy and rum in bulk such as is sold by Messrs. Phipson?

A.—I think the price of his whisky is 7-6 per gallon, brandy 20 shillings per gallon. Phipson does not import rum or gin in bulk.

Q.—Look at the Excise Administration Report for 1907-08, Appendix F, where non-potable spirit is shown as 132,627 gallons, against 76,168 gallons of spirits of wine, of which only 40,931 gallons are non-potable in your return. What is the reason of the difference between the two figures?

A.—The figures of the Report must be proof gallons, while mine are gallons of 68 O. P. at which the spirit comes in.

Q.—The two figures do represent the same thing?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Then 35,236 over proof gallons of what is called non-potable spirit in the Report is actually drunk, and has been imported for drinking?

A.—Yes. I put in two statements showing where the neutral spirit comes from, chiefly Germany and Austria. A small quantity comes in already denatured with naphtha, but most is denatured here. The neutral spirit which is not denatured is drunk in Bombay. It is also used for medical tinctures. From enquiries I believe that one-third is used for medicine. The remainder is reduced to a strength fit for drinking in Bombay and the mofussil. The original strength of such spirit varies from 40 to 68 O. P.

Dr. Powell.—Methylated spirit with naphtha added to it is unpotable?

A.—Yes. When so denatured the duty is reduced to about $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas per gallon, as against Rs. 7 per proof gallon when potable.

Chairman.—Do the labels on liquor imported in bottles show the country of origin?

A.—Yes. The labels have the words "Made in France" or "Made in Germany," as the case may be. Labels that are used in bottling here are printed in this country. They have not the same finish as English labels.

Q.—Do these labels (showing a number) come through the Custom House?

A.—No, they are made here, for liquor bottled in Bombay.

Mr. Procter.—Do you think all labels are made here?

A.—No, some may be imported from home. In some cases labels are sent out with the liquor, but in some cases independently.

Dr. Powell.—Are not labels also produced by distillers and sent out separately?

A.—Sometimes. Sometimes they pack them with the casks.

Q.—Are the labels which come out on bottles and pass through the Customs taken off and replaced by other labels in the retailers' shops?

A.—I think not. These labels are put on liquor which is reduced in the godowns here.

Chairman.—Liquor that comes in bottles is already reduced. The shopkeepers have got nothing to do except to sell?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know whether bottles have new labels put on them after they pass through the Custom House?

A.—No liquor in bottle is imported without labels.

Q.—I want to find out whether the original labels are changed? What do you require to be stated on casks and cases of bottles under the Merchandise Act?

A.—They are marked, for instance, D. C. O. in a diamond and R S or B to represent rectified spirit or brandy. As a rule in all cases there is marked the country of origin.

Q.—The Merchandise Marks Act provides not only for declaration of the country of origin but also for a description of the manner of production. You don't insist on this in the case of spirits?

A.—We have made references in some cases where we find liquor to be unwholesome.

Q.—That is another thing. That refers to unwholesomeness. You know the requirement of the Merchandise Marks Act as regards true trade description?

A.—Yes. It refers to the manner of production.

Q.—You never, as a matter of fact, require any true trade description under the Act. Taking what is called brandy, for instance, you don't require a description of the materials from which this spirit is manufactured or the method of manufacture?

A.—No. We only require the country of origin. It has never been the custom to require more. The question has never been raised as to whether this should be done. This statement applies both to spirits and wines. We don't inquire how the thing was manufactured and whether the manufacture corresponds with any particular standard.

Mr. Procter.—A man can call anything whisky and you accept it?

A.—We judge it from colour, taste and smell. Cheap whisky is whisky that is distilled from grain.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—You don't inquire into the method of manufacture or the material?

A.—No. We are satisfied that it is alcohol.

Dr. Powell.—There is no necessity for importers to have the words "Potato," or "Malt" or whatever the spirit is made of specified on the consignment?

A.—No.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Have you any remarks to make as regards the importation of labels and capsules?

A.—We don't make any objection to it.

Chairman.—Is there any accommodation in the Custom House premises for a warehouse in which all spirits which come in bulk could be bottled under supervision?

A.—Not without having a warehouse from the Port Trust.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Suppose it is made necessary that the mode of manufacture should be specified on labels would it inconvenience the authorities?

A.—The question is whether it can be done. No manufacturer would do it. Importers also will not do it. They would find it difficult because they do not buy from the distillers, but from middlemen who blend and compound, and none of the three parties is in a condition to give a full and true description.

*
Addendum to answer to Question 19.

It was suggested to restrict the strength of cheap foreign spirits so that the duty would be about the sale price of the liquor. This is not feasible in the case of neutral spirits and over-proof German rum at the present rate of duty as per statements put in.

These liquors could only be kept from competing with country liquor by

	Duty at Rs. 10 on 24 ozs. bottle.	Duty at Rs. 9 on 26.66 ozs. bottle.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Duty	1 4 5	1 4 5
Value	0 1 2½	0 3 0
Town Duty	0 0 3½	0 0 4
Total value of a bottle with duty	1 6 ½	1 6 9

restricting the strength at 15 U. P. and levying duty at Rs. 10 per proof gallon if sold in 24 ozs. bottles and Rs. 9 if sold in reputed quart bottles as per statement given in the margin. *

The cheapest liquors imported are neutral spirits at 2s. to 2s. 2½d. per imperial gallon of 63 to 70 O. P. and German rum of 68 to 70 O. P. at 2s. 2½d. per imperial gallon. A gallon of the cheapest costs 2s. and is equivalent to 2 gallons of 15 U. P. The value of a gallon of the spirit at 15 U. P. would be 1s. or annas 2 per reputed quart of 26.66 ozs. and anna 1 pies 9½ per bottle of 24 ozs.

The importer gains 10 per cent. by selling liquor in bottles of 24 ozs. instead of 26.66 ozs.

The town-duty on a fluid gallon of 70 O. P. is annas four and on a gallon of 15 U. P. reduced as above to 15 U. P. it would be 2 annas or 4 pies per bottle.

The duty on a reputed quart of 15 U. P. is 15 annas 10 pies and on a bottle of 2½ ozs. 14 annas 3 pies. The value, duty and town-duty on a reputed quart amount to Re. 1-2-2 and on a 2½ ozs. bottle to Re. 1-0-4. This liquor of 15 U. P. strength can compete with country spirits of weaker strengths, viz., 20 and 25 U. P., as these are sold from Re. 1 to Re. 1-6-0 per bottle.

For every degree of strength less than proof in a gallon the importer pays Re. 0-1-1½ less and for every 5 degrees Re. 0-5-7½ per Imperial gallon or 10½ pies on a bottle of 2½ ozs.

Statements are attached showing the duty, value and town-duty per imperial gallon, per reputed quart of 26 66 ozs. and per 2½ ozs. bottle after reducing the spirit to strengths varying from 15 to 60 U. P.

One gallon of 70 O. P. is equivalent to 4.8 imperial gallons of 60 U. P. On importation one fluid gallon is accounted for, but this gallon can be quadrupled in town by reduction with water.

Statement showing the equivalents of an imperial gallon of neutral spirit of 70 O. P. at 2s. per imperial gallon in imperial gallons of strengths 15 U. P. to 60 U. P., also the amount of duty on a gallon of the spirit at the abovementioned strengths with cost and town-duty.

Percentage of proof spirit.	Degrees under proof.	Equivalents to an imperial gallon of 70 O. P. at strengths from 15 U. P. to 60 U. P.	Duty per imperial gallon at strengths 15 to 60 U. P.	Value per imperial gallon at 2s. per imperial gallon of 70 O. P.	Town-duty per imperial gallon at 15 to 60 U. P.	Total cost of an imperial gallon at strengths from 15 U. P. to 60 U. P.	Cost per bottle of 8 drams.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
85	15	2	5 15 2	0 12 0	0 2 0	6 13 2	1 2 2
80	20	2.1	5 9 7	0 11 3½	0 1 11	6 6 0½	1 1 1½
75	25	2.3	5 4 0	0 10 7½	0 1 9	6 0 4½	1 0 0½
70	30	2.4	4 14 5	0 9 10½	0 1 8	5 9 11½	0 15 0½
65	35	2.6	4 8 10	0 9 2½	0 1 6	5 3 6½	0 3 11½
60	40	2.8	4 3 2	0 8 5½	0 1 5	4 13 0½	0 12 9½
55	45	3.1	3 13 7	0 7 9½	0 1 4	4 6 8½	0 11 9½
50	50	3.4	3 8 0	0 7 0½	0 1 2	4 0 2½	0 10 8½
45	55	3.8	3 2 5	0 6 4½	0 1 1	3 9 10½	0 9 7½
40	60	4.8	2 12 10	0 5 7½	0 0 11	3 3 4½	0 8 7½

Gauging Department,
25th January 1909.

J. M. KELLY,
Head Gauger,
H. M.'s Customs.

*Replies of Mr. S. D. Smith, Assistant Collector of Excise, Bombay,
to questions for witnesses before the Foreign Liquor Committee.*

1. Cheap foreign spirit comes to Bombay chiefly from Hamburg and Trieste. Cheap Whisky comes from Glasgow.

The spirit which comes from the Continental ports is manufactured at various distilleries in Germany and Austria. I regret I am unable to give a list of the places.

2. The major portion of the spirit imported is consumed in the Bombay Presidency. The rest of it goes to the Central Provinces, Berár, the Nizám's dominions, Rájputána, and even as far as the United Provinces.

3. The following are the chief bases used for the manufacture of alcohol :

- (1) Potatoes.
- (2) Beets.
- (3) Corn, wheat, maize, and other cereals.
- (4) Molasses.

The great bulk of alcohol in Germany and Austria is manufactured from potatoes. The potatoes used for the manufacture of alcohol in Germany are not the same as the varieties raised for edible purposes. Systematic efforts have been made in that country by the Agricultural Department for many years to grow potatoes rich in starch irrespective of their edible qualities. These latter are used for the manufacture of alcohol.

. The spirit turned out is 40, 60 and 68 O. P.

I have no personal experience of manufacture as conducted on the Continent. What I know about it is derived from text books on the subject; and it is scarcely necessary to repeat it here, as these books are always available.

4. All O. P. strengths of alcohol are obtained by rectification and purification, *i.e.*, by getting rid of all solid and liquid impurities and the volatile oils. It is the opinion of chemists that after the removal of these impurities all alcoholic fluids are identical. This being the case I do not think that the nature of the spirit is affected by the bases ordinarily employed. There is nothing *prima facie* unwholesome in the bases enumerated above. Spirit of 68 O. P. is as near to pure alcohol as it is possible to get, consequently when this strength is attained by rectification most of the volatile oils and other accidents of fermentation have been got rid of.

5. From enquiries made it appears that spirits are converted into brandy, rum, etc., by the addition of essences and colouring substances such as burnt sugar, cochineal, etc. Essences are not added in Bombay as it is not permitted by law. The spirit is essenced before export.

6. I regret I am unable to give an opinion on this question.

7. Pure rectified spirit is drunk in Bombay after dilution with water. The strength after reduction varies from 15 U. P. to 50 U. P. In the mofussil the limit is 15 U. P. The prices wholesale and retail are as follows :—

Wholesale—

Rs. 11-8 to Rs. 16 per dozen.

Retail—

Rs. 12 to Rs. 18 per dozen according to the strength.

8. I have known of isolated cases in which methylated spirits have been drunk by confirmed drunkards; but there is no reason to believe that such consumption is habitual even amongst the lower drinking classes.

9. Cheap spirits are not blended in Bombay. They are simply reduced in strength by the addition of water and are coloured with burnt sugar when it is intended to pass them off as rum.

10. Rectified spirits are imported in wood and metal drums by big wholesale merchants like D. D. Baria and D. C. Oomrigar and reduced and bottled

by them for sale to retailers in Bombay and the mofussil. Most of the importers being retail-off licensees sell by the pint and bottle, the spirits being reduced and bottled by themselves. Retail shopkeepers buy 5 gallon drums of 66 O. P spirit from the wholesale importers at Rs. 14-8-0 per Imperial gallon and reduce and bottle the same with their own labels, for sale at their own shops.

The mofussil retailers are supplied by the wholesale importers of Bombay, chiefly Messrs. Oomrigar and Baria.

11. The wholesale prices of the principal brands vary from Rs. 10-8-0 to Rs. 16-8-0 per dozen quarts according to the strength. A detailed list of prices are given in statement A attached to my report A. C. R./2 dated 12th December 1908.

12. The principal strengths vary from 15 U. P. to 55 U. P. There being no restrictions as to strengths in Bombay, liquor of all strengths is at present on the market.

13. The retail prices of the principal brands vary from Re. 1-0-0 to Rs. 1-8-0 per bottle. In the Mofussil from 2 to 4 annas extra per bottle is charged.

14. I have attached samples of all labels to my report No. A. C. R. /2 dated the 12th ultimo. The labels depend absolutely on the caprice of the bottler. Every licensee who bottles spirit designs his own labels.

Some copyright labels are imported direct from Europe and are pasted indiscriminately on bottles of cheap spirit. Some manufacturers send out their own labels and capsules with their spirit.

15. In Bombay diluted spirit is consumed chiefly by clerks, dock, mill, factory and railway servants, mechanics and the better paid class of native artizans.

In the large towns in the mofussil, mill-hands, mechanics, railway servants and the better class of natives drink cheap foreign spirit.

16. The consumption of cheap foreign spirit seems to be on the increase in Bombay as the statements attached to my report No. A. C. R. /2 dated the 12th ultimo will show.

17. I am not prepared to give any definite opinion on the point. The manufacture of potato spirit is conducted on scientific principles and without the addition of any noxious substances. There is no reason therefore why it should be more deleterious than country spirits. One thing is clear, however, and that is, that country spirits manufactured in our distilleries contain far more copper than any imported spirits.

18. I am strongly of opinion that the label should give a clear indication of the class of spirit contained in the bottle. If potato spirit is contained in a bottle it should be labelled "potato spirit" and not brandy, as brandy is ordinarily understood to be liquor manufactured from the juice of the grape. All labels should state—

- (1) class of spirit;
- (2) the strength of liquor contained in the bottle.

19. In addition to the present restrictions the following further restrictions might be imposed :—

- (1) All bottling and reduction to be done in a warehouse under Excise control.
- (2) Bottling and reduction to be confined to respectable and large firms only.
- (3) The minimum strength to be restricted to 15 U. P. in Bombay.
- (4) The insertion of a clause in the license prohibiting the use of essences.

No. 2.

Evidence of Mr. S. D. Smith, Assistant Collector, Excise Department.

Chairman.—Can you tell us why Bombay merchants import their liquor partly in hogsheads and partly in bottles?

A.—They import in bulk for cheapness. They dilute the spirit which comes in bulk in Bombay and then bottle and label it. In bottling they are not allowed to use essences. The stuff they get bottled is cheaper than the other stuffs flavoured in Europe. It is impossible to say that the one stuff is better than the other. I don't think that rectified spirit which comes out and is sold in the raw state is more pernicious than the other stuffs that come out as rum, whisky or brandy. So far as this spirit is diluted with water it is impossible to say it is pernicious.

Q.—Is not the spirit that comes out at 60 or 68 O. P. very near to pure alcohol, which is a deadly poison?

A.—Yes. They add water to it and bring it to the strength at which it can be drunk, any strength from 15 to 50 U. P. People who drink this spirit say they get headaches from it, but not from country liquor. There is practically no difference between dilute spirit and Hamburg whisky and brandy (produces bottles). The dilute spirit that I have brought here is pure dilute spirit. It is broken down to 15 U. P.

Mr. Procter.—Broken down with water?

A.—Yes. This is brought from the shop just as it is sold there. It is mixed with water in the shop. It is not diluted under excise supervision, but just as the shopkeeper pleases. He can sell at any strength, high or low.

Chairman.—Under what names is the spirit sold?

A.—The dilute spirit when coloured with burnt sugar is called rum. It is not rum. It is simply spirits of wine coloured with burnt sugar. It is called rum, not brandy or whisky.

Dr. Powell.—There is nothing to enable you to prosecute a man who sells it as rum or any other liquor.

A.—Not unless he could be prosecuted for cheating.

Dr. Powell.—There is nothing to prevent a man from selling 90 per cent. of alcohol or absolute alcohol?

A.—You cannot get absolute alcohol 74 O. P. There is however nothing to prevent 68 O. P. alcohol being sold for drink in Bombay.

Chairman.—Do you consider the habit of drinking European liquor is growing among castes and classes of natives who are forbidden by their religion to drink?

A.—Some high caste Hindus and Mahomedans drink. The habit is increasing. More people of these classes now drink than were drinking 20 years ago. Of the classes which are allowed to drink by their religion I think some are changing from country liquor to foreign spirit. There is a tendency that way. I am speaking about Bombay City and Khandesh. In Bombay City in some cases foreign spirit is cheaper than country spirit.

Q.—How does dilute spirit compare in price with mhowra liquor?

A.—At 15 U. P. the price is Rs. 1-8-0 per bottle and for mhowra at 20 U. P. it is Rs. 1-2-0 per bottle. A man would prefer drinking the foreign stuff because it smells less. Some people drink in the shops. Others buy bottles and carry them away. They can do both in the retail-on shops under license No. VII. These shops have got bars. The difference between retail-on No. VII and a refreshment Room is that in the refreshment Room they sell food as well as liquor. In the retail-on shop only liquor is sold. There are 48 retail-on shops in Bombay exclusive of refreshment Rooms. Retail-on shops are resorted to mostly by Natives. By Natives I mean artisans, and men drawing an average monthly pay of Rs. 20 or 30.

Rao Bahddur Setalwad.—You mean the working classes?

A.—Yes.

Mr. Procter.—That includes mill-hands ?

A.—Yes.

Chairman.—Mill-hands go in for foreign liquor ?

A.—Yes. Some of them.

Q.—Look at Retail-off No. VI. How many of these shops are there ?

A.—Only bottles are sold in these shops, and sometimes they stock good liquor as well as inferior liquor. There are 43 retail-off shops in Bombay. Every one of these 43 stocks good liquor as well as this cheap stuff. But you cannot get brands like those of Phipson or of the Army and Navy Stores. You get ordinary stuff. You can get Napier Johnstone's whisky, but most of the business is in the cheap stuff.

Q.—See Wholesale No. V. How do these trade ?

A.—Under license No. V they can only sell by the dozen. But they also sell single bottles as they have got retail-off licenses as well. There are 41 wholesale shops and 35 retail-off. 32 wholesale shops also have retail-off licenses.

Q.—There are altogether 67 shops selling retail-off. 32 have got both licenses and 35 have got one ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Have any wholesale shops got retail-on licenses ?

A.—None. No wholesale shops have retail-on.

Q.—How many retail-off shops have retail-on ?

A.—None.

Q.—Making altogether how many selling retail-on ?

A.—Retail-on 48.

Q.—Do you think that the number could be reduced ?

A.—Yes, by careful selection of localities where there is more than one shop in a street:

Q.—Can you give any good reason why there should be a retail-on license between a retail-off and a refreshment room ?

A.—I don't see any reason. I don't think the retail-ons serve any useful purpose.

Q.—You have said in your report that you would have the price of foreign spirit raised to the minimum of Rs. 1-10-0 a bottle. How do you propose to get the price raised ?

A.—Either by fixing the strength or by raising the tariff duty.

Q.—What strength would it be necessary to fix for a quart bottle to sell at Rs. 1-10-0 ?

A.—It must not be less than 15 U. P. The price of this would be about Rs. 1-8-0.

Q.—Then it would have to be stronger than 15 U. P. You say in your report the price to be Rs. 1-10-0. What strength is necessary to be fixed for that ?

A.—I should say 15 U. P., the same as in the mofussil. I would have a uniform rule for Bombay City and the mofussil. Brandies and whiskies sold by Phipson are 15 U. P. or at least 16 or 17 U. P.

Dr. Dadachanji.—You would fix it at 15 U. P. to prevent competition with country liquor ?

A.—Yes, through enhancement of price.

Rao Bahadur Setalwad.—The other remedy would be to increase the customs dues ?

A.—Yes, but I would prefer to have increase in strength. I don't think it would be practicable to differentiate for the purpose of customs duty between genuine liquor and cheap spirit, especially as the stuff which comes in bottles is essenced and it is impossible to detect what it is made of.

Q.—Genuine brandy is made nowhere, but in France, therefore, the brandy that comes from Hamburg is not true brandy. If you fix a definition of brandy which would include France as the country of origin why could you not discriminate against Hamburg brandy?

A.—They would change the port, and send the stuff through Bordeaux.

Q.—I think you supplied these labels. All these are put on by importers?

A.—Yes.

Q.—None of them came on bottles from Europe?

A.—No.

Q.—Can you find any label from this collection which came through the Customs House?

A.—No. These are all made in Bombay or imported for Bombay bottling. There are different labels for bottles which come out from Europe.

Q.—Can you give us a specimen of such a label?

A.—I have not got any label which came from Europe. These are all Bombay labels and none show country of origin. They are stuck on bottles indiscriminately. Labels imported in packets from Europe bear the names of various liquors and are put on bottles indiscriminately.

Q.—What I am trying to get at is what becomes of the labels on bottles coming from Europe which pass through the Customs and show the country of origin?

A.—Perhaps they are destroyed. I have not seen in a shop a label on a bottle bearing the words "Made in Hamburg," &c.

Dr. Powell.—Is the country of origin not marked on bottles coming from Europe?

A.—It is marked on the cases. I don't know whether the Custom House require the country of origin to be shown on labels of bottles as well as on the cases containing bottles.

Q.—Speaking of customers of foreign liquor shops you say in your report that "It is quite usual that persons who 5 to 10 years ago did not know the taste of foreign liquor now regularly resort to shops for their evening brandy peg." What shops are these?

A.—The retail-on shops.

Q.—If the retail-on shops were abolished and there were only refreshment rooms where food is sold, would the same class of natives go to the refreshment rooms and get their brandy pegs?

A.—I think many of them would.

Q.—When you say Natives you don't mean high caste Natives? You don't see Brahmins and Banias having their brandy pegs?

A.—They go by the back road, if there is one.

Q.—Is it not a condition of the license that there cannot be a back entrance?

A.—Yes, but some of the shops have got two or three compartments and these men can go into the back compartments through the front and have their drink there.

Dr. Powell.—The whole premises are licensed?

A.—Yes, but houses in Bombay are so built that you often have two or three rooms communicating with one another.

Dr. Powell.—Is it not the intention of the license that there should be no drinking at the back?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Powell.—That is circumvented?

A.—Yes.

Chairman.—Would you advise that all shops for selling liquor in Bombay should be built of a model pattern?

A.—I think there should be no back room in which anybody could sit without being seen from the front door.

Q.—Are there any other excise restrictions which you would propose for the sale of foreign liquor? You have suggested about strength?

A.—Yes. I have given them in my report.

Q.—In paragraph 7 you say you would have reducing, bottling, &c., done under excise control. Where would you have your Government warehouse? Would you put your warehouse under the Customs Department?

A.—I think it should be under the Excise Department, because we would know then exactly where the spirit goes and we could control the strength. The Port Trust warehouse next to the Custom House might be taken up for the purpose. The liquor must come straight from the Docks into our warehouse. There would have to be a special staff for this warehouse consisting of a Supervisor with inspectors. The Supervisor's pay should be about Rs. 300. He should be of the same rank as a Chief Inspector. There should be two inspectors on Rs. 150 or 100.

Q.—Would you raise the license fees?

A.—I would not recommend any increase in license fees. I think the present license fees are very high; but supposing the present fees were doubled they would make prices higher.

Q.—Can you devise any way by which certain shops would sell the cheap patent still liquor and no other?

A.—I don't think that would be wise.

Q.—The object would be to have these shops under a greater control. Would it be practicable to divide foreign liquor shops into liquor shops which sell a good expensive spirit and those which sell cheap patent spirits only?

A.—I think it would be possible. It would be possible to draw a line according to the brands sold.

Q.—Would you merely make it a matter of brand?

A.—There are many shops in the Fort now at which you could not get cheap stuff.

Q.—But would you not come to a point where you could hardly distinguish between what is to be considered good spirit and what is bad?

A.—Yes. There are difficulties.

Q.—Supposing the fees are raised drastically what would be the result? Supposing the fees on foreign liquor shops were doubled, would that lead to any abuse?

A.—One danger is that they would import worse and cheap spirit and sell it at a high price.

Q.—Do the fees on retail-on foreign liquor shops correspond in amount to the fees which are bid at auctions for country liquor shops?

A.—The fees on foreign liquor shops are much lower, not half as high. There would be no result if the fees on foreign liquor shops be doubled or even trebled except that it would increase the price of liquor.

Q.—How is foreign liquor taken?

A.—The natives who drink this stuff in shops usually take it neat.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Or mixed with a very small quantity of soda or water?

A.—Yes.

Chairman.—When you say there should be a warehouse under Excise control, what evil are you guarding against in particular?

A.—Against any unwholesome things being mixed with the liquor. I have no reason to suspect that at present anything unwholesome is mixed with spirit. I have not discovered anything. There may be a possibility of unwholesome things being mixed. Methylated spirit can be drunk by simply mixing so much country spirit with it, in the proportion of half and half.

Q.—You know it is drunk?

A.—It can be drunk. I have made experiments, and will send for some bottles.

Dr. Powell.—Methylated spirit with naphtha added you can make potable?

A.—Yes. (Bottles were brought, which witness said contained denatured spirit made potable by various admixtures with mhowra liquor.)

Chairman.—Apart from the risk of methylated spirit being used, have you any reason to believe that anybody puts any unwholesome thing into the spirit that comes out of the hogsheads?

A.—No.

Q.—Will you tell us exactly what the importers do to the spirit that comes out in casks?

A.—They get the spirit tested with a hydrometer and dilute it with a certain quantity of ordinary water. The water is taken from the Municipal water tap.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Not from wells?

A.—No.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Do you know that gavlis give milch cattle water drawn from wells? Have you ever heard that?

A.—No.

Chairman.—Why should they use well water?

Dr. Dadachanji.—The water taps in Bombay run for certain hours in the day only. During that time the milkmen mix their milk with water from wells in their compounds.

Chairman.—(To the witness) Do you know whether the bottlers use well water?

A.—I have seen tap water used. In the native bazár they have got taps in their godowns.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—It would be easier for them to get water from taps?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Powell.—What is the minimum strength allowed.

Chairman.—There is no minimum for Bombay City.

Dr. Powell.—Not at all?

Chairman.—No. (To the witness) I want to know how the importers treat this rectified spirit in bottling so as to get the appearance of rum.

A.—They get burnt sugar and mix it in a cask and reduce to a certain strength. They allow the liquor to stand for a day or two and then they bottle it off. They have got their own labels and capsules. They do nothing else with the diluted spirit. Nothing but sugar is put in it. I have never known them to mix methylated spirit with it. They never put in any flavouring essences. No essences are allowed to be imported. The A'bkári Act does not allow it.

Dr. Powell.—No dhatara or tobacco is added?

A.—No. They can only make methylated spirit potable with country liquor. They cannot do this with foreign spirit.

Q.—Owing to the fact that the country spirit has a strong odour?

A.—Yes. Brandy would not help to kill the smell of methylated spirit. I don't think there is any kind of foreign spirit that would remove the scent of naphtha and methylated spirit.

Q.—What do you suggest about labelling?

A.—Labelling should be done in the warehouse. The labels should show the name of spirit and the name of country in which the spirit is made. It should be stated on the labels whether the spirit is made of grain or rye or potato or whatever it may be.

Dr. Powell.—Is the mode of production now declared on each label?

A.—It is not.

Dr. Powell.—As a matter of fact you don't know whether the spirit is made from potato or grain?

A.—As it comes from Germany it is probably potato spirit. "Brandy made of potato spirit" on a label would make the label correct.

Mr. Procter.—(Shows the witness some imported bottles on the table). Are these bottles sold with these labels on showing the country of origin?

A.—Yes.

Chairman.—The bottles bear these labels in the cases?

A.—Yes. The bottles are taken out of the cases with these labels.

Dr. Powell.—(Shows witness a bottle). What is the price of this?

A.—Rs. 1-2-0.

Q.—On whom would you put the duty of giving a true description.

A.—We should have to make it a condition with importers to have the material from which the spirit is made stated on the labels.

Q.—Then you go back to the Merchandise Marks Act?

A.—Yes. It is necessary under that Act that a true trade description be given.

Q.—Would you make every firm bottle in your warehouse or would you let firms like Phipson's bottle in their own godown?

A.—In the case of high class firms such exemption may be made. But we must have our own supervision over the firms who would bottle in their own places.

Q.—How would you deal with the stuff that comes already bottled?

A.—You cannot do anything to that unless we insist on their giving a proper trade description. All bottling must be done in our warehouse.

Q.—Under section 16 of the A'bkári Act casks and cases can be taken from the Custom House by wholesale importers without any licenses? Would you alter that?

A.—Yes. I think that clause ought to be abolished.

Q.—Can you point out any evil in Bombay that results from the want of licenses for wholesale dealers in casks, etc.?

A.—We don't know what they do with the casks. Anybody from Parsi Bazar may try to sell wholesale. There are 44 wholesale licenses in Bombay. Besides these 44 there are some persons who are selling casks without any licenses at all. I think there are about 20 or 30 firms selling without any A'bkári license at all. That is a loss to the revenue. I am referring to their wholesale trade in casks and cases.

Q.—Is any further restriction desirable on hours of sale?

A.—For most shops the closing hour is 9-30. It is necessary, however, that refreshment rooms doing a respectable trade should be open till 11-30 or 12. Places like Green's are open all night. Retail-offs close at 9-30. I would not make any change in the present times of closing.

Q.—Can you say anything about the respective wholesomeness of foreign and country spirit?

A.—I have no experience of the different effects of these liquors on natives.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Are you aware that country liquor when distilled in a still contains some copper?

A.—Yes, I have not noticed whether it has a deleterious effect on the health of consumers. No complaint has been received as regards bad effects from country liquor which passes out of distilleries. I have not tested any foreign spirit for copper. The percentage of copper allowable in country spirit is about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a grain per gallon.

Q.—Have you anything to say about cheap wines? Is there any material sale of cheap wine to natives of India?

A.—Not very much. Natives who drink wine generally take the bottles away from the shops. All classes of people may buy, the better as well as the lower classes. Port wine is used in the case of illness.

Q.—Has the increase of duty on country spirit given an impetus to the sale of foreign spirit?

A.—Probably not in the mofussil, where people can still get country spirit much cheaper.

Dr. Powell.—Do you mean that the enhanced still-head duty in these places has led to the increased sale and consumption of foreign spirit?

A.—No. The increased taxation on country spirit has not led to its abandonment in any great degree in favour of foreign spirit. Foreign spirit is resorted to by people on account of the attractive bottles and labels and the attractiveness of the shops.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Would you apply your rules about labelling to respectable firms?

A.—Yes. I would insist on all labels having proper trade descriptions. The labels would be read by literate purchasers. Mill-hands and the labouring classes would not read the labels.

Dr. Powell.—You said you would have an excise warehouse. Would you require to employ an expert?

A.—Bottling and reducing require no expert knowledge. The inspector would only have to attend to reduction of the spirit, *i.e.* the mixing of water, and colouring substances.

Dr. Powell.—You say if the duty on these spirits was increased, it would encourage importers to introduce cheaper spirits. Is that possible? Is not this spirit as cheap as it possibly can be?

A.—They can get a cheaper spirit.

Dr. Powell.—Do you know that there is any cheaper spirit than this?

A.—No.

Dr. Powell.—At present there is no cheaper way of manufacturing it?

A.—The sellers can make it cheaper by reducing the strength, and diluting it and by lessening the cost of manufacture.

Dr. Powell.—Lessening the cost of manufacture would not necessarily make it inferior?

A.—No.

Q.—Have you seen anybody drink this methylated spirit mixed by you with country spirit?

A.—They have drunk it before me. All the bottles of methylated and country spirit mixed in different proportions have been drunk by natives in my presence. They like it. They were coolies or mill-hands.

Mr. Procter.—Is rectified spirit imported in bulk?

A.—In drums. It is bottled in Bombay. All bottles of cheap spirit imported in cases are labelled before they come to Bombay. There is no cheap bottled whisky brought by importers and labelled in Bombay.

Mr. Procter.—What proportion of spirit comes with labels as compared with unlabelled?

A.—I think equal proportions.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Have you seen any case in which bottles of well-known manufacturers coming out here with labels are opened by shop-keepers, some of their contents emptied and inferior stuffs put in instead and sold?

A.—There may be cases. Some of these manufacturers send their labels and capsules. Merchants import good whisky, draw out a certain amount and mix with the rest cheaper stuff and put on it Barnard & Co.'s labels and capsules. Many European firms export labels which can be put on bottles of any spirits.

Chairman.—Should that be stopped?

A.—Yes, because it is desirable that in every case the country of origin and the process of manufacture should be shown on the label.

Dr. Powell.—When rectified spirit is reduced to 25° U. P. is it cheaper or stronger as compared with country spirit of equal strength?

A.—It is cheaper. It is 40° U. P. foreign spirit which competes in price with country liquor at 25° U. P.

No. 619 OF 1908-09.

From

MR. H. J. KEESS,
Chief Inspector of Excise,
Bombay;

To

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

Bombay, 11th January 1909.

Sir,

With reference to your No. 7692 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to submit the following outline under each question:—

1. These spirits are imported into Bombay from German and Austrian ports. They, I believe, are manufactured in Germany.
2. A large quantity of this spirit is intended for the Bombay Presidency. Much of it also goes to Berar and Central Provinces, Hyderabad State, Central India and the United Provinces.
3. These spirits are manufactured from potatoes, and are distilled at 60 to 68 over proof. The potatoes are first required to pass through a washing machine which removes a large amount of adhering and extraneous dirt and foreign matter, after the potatoes have been thoroughly washed they are conveyed to a mash cooker and washing apparatus, by which they are gelatinized, which practically liquifies the starch. The liquid thus made is strained and passed through cooling pipes to fermenting vats and eventually conveyed to a patent still.
4. I regret I am not in a position to offer an opinion on this point.
5. These cheap liquors are nothing else but spirits drawn at high strengths, they are treated with different essences before export and are thus converted into "Brandy or Rum" to meet the requirements of the Bombay firms. The cost of spirits with the essences is about two pence extra per gallon.
6. I do not think that these processes make any change in the wholesomeness of the liquor.
7. Rectified spirit is drunk after being reduced in strength.
 - (1) In Bombay the strength varies from 25° to 50° U. P.
 - (2) In the mofussil 15° U. P.
8. Methylated spirit is not drunk. Dr. Wiley of the U. S. Department of Agriculture says "that he does not believe alcohol can be denatured in such a way as to make it so impotent that somebody will not drink it, because there are some men so depraved that they would drink anything that looked like alcohol." A stray person or so may therefore drink methylated spirit.
9. No spirits are blended in Bombay. All that is done here is to reduce imported spirits from 60° O. P. to ? , from 15° to 50° U. P.
10. Wholesale vendors import these liquors and sell them to smaller vendors in Bombay. The importers being also retail "off" licensees sell them by retail, *i. e.*, single bottles at a time. Mofussil vendors are supplied by the Bombay merchants, either in bottles at 15° U. P. or 5 gallon drum or hogsheads at the strength imported, *i. e.*, 60° O. P.
11. The wholesale prices in Bombay of the principal brands of brandy and rum range from 13 to 14 rupees a dozen bottles of strength 30 to 50° U. P.

Diluted spirit from 12 to 13 rupees per dozen bottles, strength varying from 30 to 50° U. P.

Wholesale prices at 15° U. P. as follows :—

Brandy Rs. 15 to 17 a dozen.

Rum Rs. 15 per dozen.

Diluted spirit Rs. 14 per dozen.

12. In Bombay the strengths of cheap liquors sold to the public range from 30 to 50° U. P.

In the mofussil 15° U. P.

13. The retail price per bottle in Bombay is :—

Brandy at 15° U. P. Re. 1-5-0 to Re. 1-6-0.

Rum ditto Re. 1-4-0 to Re. 1-5-0.

Diluted spirit Re. 1-2-0.

Brandy at 30° to 40° U. P. Re. 1-2-0 to Re. 1-4-0.

Rum ditto Re. 1-2-0 to Re. 1-4-0.

Diluted spirit ditto Re. 1-0-0.

In the mofussil about Re. 1-8-0 to Re. 1-10-0.

14. These liquors are sold as "Brandy", "Rum" and "Diluted Spirits." Bottles are capsuled and wired and labelled with gorgeous labels, bearing bogus manufacturer's names. There are many firms in Bombay who bottle the spirit received in the one consignment and label them with several different labels, misleading the public entirely.

15. In Bombay these liquors are drunk by artificers, mill-hands and low paid clerks. In the mofussil cultivators of the better class and low paid clerks, persons who usually used to patronise country liquor shops.

16. The consumption of these liquors is increasing in Bombay and at the expense of country liquor.

In the mofussil it is increasing and will do so much more when it becomes widely known that the price of foreign liquor is so low.

17. Regret I am not in a position to give an opinion on the subject.

18. Yes, I think the correct description of foreign spirit of all kinds should be made on all labels.

The place of manufacture and the manufacturer's name ought to appear on the labels. Bottling ought to be done in bonded warehouses and under Government supervision, rectified spirit should not be permitted to be reduced in strength and be labelled as "Brandy" or "Rum" but be labelled "Diluted Spirit."

19. The strength of all foreign liquors for Bombay be fixed at 15° U. P. This would affect the cheap brands only, as the higher quality of spirits is usually put on the market at 15° U. P. This would be the means of discouraging the consumption of cheap foreign liquor as the price would rise slightly, and would not compare so favourably with country liquor as is now the case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

H. J. KEESS,

Chief Inspector of Excise, Bombay.

No. 3.

Evidence of Mr. H. J. Keess.

Examined by the Chairman :—

A.—My total A'bkári service is 22 years. I am Chief Inspector in Bombay City.

Q.—Do you know from experience that no essences or flavouring matters are used by any importers in Bombay ?

A.—I know that no essences are used. I have not found any. The Excise inspection is such as to preclude them being used without its being known.

Q.—It cannot be done in secret ?

A.—Those people who bottle here having their own bottling godowns, might do it, because we have no control over their bottling warehouses.

Q.—Are you sure they are not doing it ?

A.—Yes. I say they don't do it from my experience and from the enquiries I have made.

Q.—Would a man get a bottle of rectified spirit and turn it into fine pale brandy ?

A.—No.

Q.—Are you sure that is never done ?

A.—No.

Q.—Are the places in which rectified spirit is turned into rum, places to which your inspectors have access ?

A.—Yes, but we don't go to all places. We have no control over their bottling godowns. There is, however, nothing to prevent us from going there.

Q.—Are these places such as your inspectors can drop in occasionally ?

A.—Yes. They have done so frequently of late. They have done it under special orders. No objection is made by the merchants. Under their licenses they cannot make objections. We have the right to go over any part of the premises and see anything that is being done.

Q.—Therefore they can be controlled ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—In these special researches has it become practically certain that nothing is done except colouring the dilute spirit ?

A.—Yes. No essences are allowed to come from Europe. I know nobody manufactures essences here. I don't know any case of methylated spirit being converted into a drink in Bombay. I have no reason to suppose this is done. Dilute spirit is sent to the mofussil at 15° U. P. strength. It is sent in casks or drums. Some people bottle up-country. From my enquiries I have learnt that it is often sent to the mofussil in casks. I don't know any firm to whom it goes in the mofussil, but they say it is exported to Central India and Hyderabad.

Q.—That is another matter. Do you know that it goes to any liquor shop-keeper in the mofussil in casks ?

A.—No.

Q.—Do you regard this dilute spirit as any worse than any other foreign spirit ?

A.—I cannot say.

Q.—Have you any opinion as to whether the liquor, which comes out as brandy, rum or whisky from Europe, compares unfavourably or favourably with country spirit ? Have you any opinion about its effect ?

A.—No.

Q.—Can you give any reason why Bombay importers import some of their spirit in casks and some already bottled ?

A.—I don't know. They simply bring it in casks and bottle here to introduce their own label and show they are doing their own business. They want to show different brands.

Q.—Why do they import in bottle at all? Is the stuff that comes out already bottled cheaper or dearer than the other?

A.—It is sold at about the same price.

Q.—Practically there is no difference in price?

A.—Very little. Mill-hands and artificers patronise European liquor shops. They think it a little more respectable to call for brandy and rum and English liquor. They think it more respectable to patronise European liquor than country liquor. Foreign liquor shops sell cheap liquors and are therefore patronised by people who otherwise would use country liquor. They are patronised by low paid clerks, mill-hands and artificers who would otherwise go to the country liquor shops. Up-country cultivators go to the foreign liquor shop-keepers and ask for brandy because they think it is superior to country liquor.

Q.—Your mofussil experience was in Khándesh. What is your experience about Dhulia? Who would be the principal customers of liquor shop-keepers there?

A.—I was at Nandurbár. Better class Bhils and other people, who are doing well, and cultivators patronise these shops. Many of the people who are forbidden to drink by their caste scruples patronise these shops. They are high caste Hindus. I have seen some Brahmins going into the shops. They do not drink in the front room. In the shop they are served with meals and liquor. Besides Brahmins, other well-to-do Hindus patronise these shops. I have not seen Banias going to them, but Parsis do. Parsis don't take country liquor. Mahomedans also patronise foreign shops. The above are the principal customers of the shops in Násik, of which I have had experience. Many people of the lower classes also patronise these shops. In the mofussil I have seen very few people of the coolie class going to buy foreign spirit. The principal customers are those who are prohibited by religion from drinking. They are the upper classes of natives. In Bombay the state of things is different. The principal customers are a mixture of higher and lower classes. Here the lower classes are addicted to foreign liquor much more than in the mofussil. The mill-hand has taken very much to foreign spirit.

Q.—Have you any suggestions as regards further restrictions to be put on cheap foreign spirits?

A.—The only restrictions I can suggest are that it would be necessary to raise the strength in Bombay to what we have got in the mofussil about 15° U. P. I would apply that to all foreign spirits whatsoever that come into Bombay. That would be welcomed by the shops that only sell high priced liquor, for such liquor is chiefly 15° U. P.

Q.—Have you verified the fact that high priced liquors are principally sold at 15° U. P. strength?

A.—I have tested some of the liquor in our refreshment rooms.

Q.—Is that the only thing you have to suggest? Do you suggest any increase in the license fee?

A.—If license fees are to be increased at all they may be increased on refreshment rooms and on retail-on shops only.

Q.—Do you think there is room for increase there?

A.—Very little; hardly any.

Q.—Are the fees already high?

A.—It is assessed at Rs. 1-8-0 a dozen. That seems to be fairly high.

Q.—What evil do you anticipate if fees were materially increased, say doubled, on retail-on shops and refreshment-rooms? What would happen then?

A.—Unscrupulous licensees will sell inferior brands as superior brands and charge higher rate.

Q.—Have they not come to the very bottom of inferiority in spirits now?

A.—Oh yes.

Q.—Then can there be anything worse sold ?

A.—If customers went to ask for a superior brandy or whisky, they would sell him half inferior and half superior stuff, calling it by the higher name.

Q.—Have these shops any class of customers who care about the quality of the stuff they get : Are there any Europeans to suffer ?

A.—Yes, for the refreshment-rooms.

Q.—Do you think everybody would be cheating ?

A.—Some unscrupulous shopkeepers would undoubtedly cheat.

Q.—Are not the foreign license fees far lower than the corresponding fees on country liquor shops ?

A.—The country liquor shops are usually sold by auction, and, in that case high bids are made for the shops, because one man wishes to outbid another.

Q.—Do you consider that there is no room for bringing up the foreign liquor license fees to something nearer the scale of country liquor fees ?

A.—I don't think there is much margin left.

Q.—Do you consider that the retail-on license might be altogether abolished ? What would happen if it were ?

A.—If the retail-on shops were entirely abolished it would probably inconvenience the public, because there are now so many retail-on shops that people have got used to drink cheap foreign stuff.

Q.—What do you say to abolishing those licenses altogether and having only retail-off shops which would sell bottles, and refreshment-rooms which would sell retail-on as they do now ?

A.—That would be very advisable. The retail-on shop has a bar. It is a Refreshment Room except that it does not sell food. That is all. It sells by the peg. Europeans very rarely, hardly ever frequent retail-on shops. The stuff from these shops very largely goes away in whole bottles also. The greater part is taken away in bottles. I think the retail-on do a brisker and bigger trade in bottles than retail-off shops. Mill-hands do not go to retail-off shops, or at least very few. Well-to-do people go there, such as clerks getting moderate salaries. I should not consider that Pársis are the principal customers of these shops. They may perhaps be a fairly large number in proportion to the general body of people that purchase cheap liquor.

Q.—The rectified spirit all goes out as rum ?

A.—It goes out both as rum and dilute spirit.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Do Pársis take cheap foreign liquor ?

A.—They take it very largely.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Very largely ? Are you quite sure ?

A.—I see them at the shops coming and buying the stuff.

Dr. Dadachanji.—They take the very cheap stuff ?

A.—Yes.

Chairman (to *Dr. Dadachanji*).—Do you think they don't ?

Dr. Dadachanji.—No. Even Pársis who are employed in mills on low pay do not drink it.

Chairman (to witness).—Then the chief customers must be Hindus and Mahomedans ?

A.—Hindus very largely, and some Mahomedans. I have never made an actual account of people going in to buy liquor in one of these foreign liquor shops. Shopkeepers never show us lists of customers. So that I don't know precisely what proportion of different classes goes to these shops.

Mr. Procter.—Do you say rectified spirit is turned only into rum ?

A.—Yes. I never heard of its being called anything else.

Chairman.—What does the man who drinks dilute spirit think he gets ?

A.—He thinks he gets rum. He calls for rum. He never calls for dilute spirit under that name.

Mr. Procter.—Is all dilute spirit drunk as rum ?

A.—Yes, and there is a very large demand for it under that name.

Chairman.—Is this of recent growth?

A.—No. I think it has been going on for some time.

Q.—How long can you remember?

A.—When I was here about seven years ago there were people who were bottling rectified spirit and selling it as rum. The purchaser asked for rum, and got this dilute spirit. Whisky is not much drunk by natives. They usually asked for rum or brandy. (To Mr. Procter.) By reducing the strength to 15° U. P. I aim at raising the price. The high strength would not make it more injurious, or more intoxicating.

Chairman.—Surely it would make a man more intoxicated than a low strength.

A.—He would be intoxicated if he drank as much of the higher, but he would drink less.

Mr. Procter.—You raise the price and you expect he will drink a smaller quantity?

A.—Yes. But they don't like liquor unless they feel intoxicated.

Mr. Procter.—And he would get drunk as much with a small quantity of the 15° U. P. as with a larger quantity of the other?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Powell.—Do customers ask for specific brands of liquor?

A.—People who drink brandy sometimes ask for a particular brand to which they are accustomed. Ordinarily a man merely asks for brandy, rum, etc.

Dr. Powell.—Referring to your answer about license fees, exporters might send out cheaper spirit, but how would it be inferior?

A.—Buyers of the better quality would be cheated. In many cases a customer goes and asks for a particular brand. The bottler would fill the bottle half with this special brand and half with inferior spirit.

Q.—Can you distinguish superior and inferior spirit?

A.—I cannot. They are all alike.

Q.—If duty were increased, would not the price of the liquor be increased equally?

A.—Yes, but when duty is raised it affects the price of all liquors equally.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—So you would prefer to have a higher minimum strength 15° U. P. rather than that duty be raised?

A.—Yes. By raising the strength and, therefore, the price you would prevent many persons from patronising foreign liquor shops. They would revert to the country liquor shops.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—But you can either raise the strength or raise fees to achieve that?

A.—If you raise the fees it would affect all kinds of liquor superior as well as inferior, whereas I would check only the latter.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Why not make people selling liquor up to a certain quality pay so much fee and people selling better qualities pay less?

A.—That would create a difficulty in differentiating between the two.

Mr. Procter.—Do you think country liquor is less injurious than the cheap foreign stuff?

A.—I cannot say.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Country liquor is made under direct supervision of Government officers?

A.—Yes. When liquor is manufactured without supervision it may be manufactured from articles which are injurious and the purchaser does not know what the stuff is manufactured from. I think liquor which is manufactured under the direct Government control is far preferable to one which is manufactured under we don't know what control.

Dr. Powell.—This imported liquor has no worse effect than country liquor?

A.—I don't know.

Dr. Powell.—You are not aware of any difference—whether it is better or worse?

A.—No.

Answers of Mr. Kuverji Darasha, Excise inspector, Bombay, to questions for witnesses.

I. These spirits in many cases are imported to Bombay direct from Germany and Austrian Ports and sometimes from English Ports after they are imported into Great Britain from Germany and Austria where they are manufactured. Few of the importers have it from French ports also.

II. Most of these imported spirits are for consumption in Bombay Presidency and the rest go to Central Provinces, Hyderabad, Native States, Punjab, Quetta, Northern Frontier and some to Madras.

III. It is distilled from Potatoes, Beet Roots, Molasses, Sugarcandy and rotten or decomposed fruits. It is distilled in Patent stills and, therefore, the product is much superior to that manufactured in India as all the impurity and injurious ingredients are removed by number of distillations of the same stuff which has to be distilled till the highest strength of O.P. is reached, *viz.*, 68 O.P.

IV. Nature of the base does not affect the products, for, as said before, re-distillation to the highest strength in Patent Stills removes all injurious ingredients and products irrespectively of the base used. None of the bases used are considered unwholesome.

V. Diluting with water and colouring by burnt sugar are the only processes to which these spirits are subjected in Bombay to represent Brandy, Whisky, Rum and Diluted Spirits.

VI. The liquor is neither made more or less wholesome by the above processes.

VII. Yes, it is drunk all over Bombay and mofussil after diluting. It is reduced by addition of water and in strength of from 15° to 50° U.P. for Bombay and 15° U.P. only for mofussil as no spirit is allowed to be sold below this strength.

Prices of whoesale per dozen vary according to strength and it is for 15° U.P. Rs. 15 and Rs. 1-5-0 to Rs. 1-6-0 per bottle, and of 50° U.P. Rs. 11-8-0 per dozen and Re. 1 for a bottle and 44° U.P. Rs. 12-8-0 per dozen and Rs. 1-2-0 for a bottle.

VIII. In mofussil it is drunk as medicine by Bhils and other ignorant classes of people after diluting it with water for strong colic, indigestion and cholera under the belief that the strong spirit will relieve the pains. In Bombay, too, coolies, hamáls and mill labourers are said to drink for the same reasons.

IX. No blending is allowed in Bombay, but it is done in Europe where they consider blending as an art and there are special warehouses for blending. Blending is allowed at Calcutta and Madras.

In Bombay liquor is only diluted and coloured by importers and wholesale and retail dealers.

X. In Bombay most importers are wholesale and retail dealers and supply to Bombay and mofussil dealers also. There are very few direct importers of spirits in mofussil, for, most of them get their supply from Bombay importers and wholesale dealers.

XI. The wholesale prices per dozen of the following principal inferior brands are as follows :—

	Rs.	a.	p.	
Fine Pale Brandy of 15° U.P.	...	15	8	0
Rum, Diluted spirits 44° U.P.	...	12	8	0
15° U.P.	...	15	0	0 for mofussil.

There are some kinds of inferior Brandy bottled in Europe and sold here in Bombay at Rs. 11 to Rs. 10-8-0 a dozen of 50° U.P.

XII. 15°, 30°, 40°, 50° U.P. and in mofussil of 15° U.P.

XIII. These inferior brands are not bottled in reputed quarts but are bottled in bottles of less capacity, *viz.* of from 6 to 7½ drams, and prices vary according to strength.

Re. 1 to Rs. 1-6-0 a bottle in Bombay and in mofussil Rs. 1-12-0.

XIV. These liquors are bottled in Bombay and principally sold under labels invented by the bottling merchants. The brands are given imaginary and bear bogus company's names and are chiefly invented to imitate better brands and are made attractive by applying showy labels chiefly imitating home printed labels.

XV. Better paid mill-hands, Railway employees, Dock-workmen, clerks, artists, mostly of Hindu community. In mofussil a better class of people during festivals and Holidays.

XVI. Yes, specially in Bombay and at the expense of country spirits chiefly because it competes with country liquor which can be had for Rs. 1-2-0 a bottle. In mofussil it does not compete with country liquor, but people generally consider foreign liquor as superior to country liquor in quality and, therefore, its consumption is prevalent there amongst better class of people.

XVII. No.

No patent stills in Bombay Presidency except one lately constructed in Dhulia Distillery for country liquor.

XVIII. Yes, by enforcing the retailers to mark correct strength and true brand of the spirit on the labels, the public will be better informed as to what stuff they receive for their money.

XIX. Retail dealers should be compelled to take out permits before they are allowed to take any liquor in their shops from wholesale dealers or importers. They should be compelled to have no spirits of less than 20° U.P. strength.

No. 4.

Evidence of Mr. Kuverji Darasha.

Examined by the Chairman he said as follows:—

I am an Excise Inspector of Bombay City. I have said in my answers that no blending goes on in Bombay but in Calcutta and Madras. I have heard so. I do not know anything about the regulations or the circumstances under which the blending takes place. There they are allowed to put essences to convert rectified spirit into whisky or brandy, and they are allowed to import essences which is not the case in Bombay.

Q.—Are you always looking out to detect blending with essences here?

A.—Yes. During the last six months the Excise Officers have been making special enquiries about what is going on in the godowns of importers. I have heard of no cases of essences being used. I have heard of no case of methylated spirit being turned into a drinkable spirit.

Q.—You say that shops sell bottles of different sizes—that is not all quarts of eight drams?

A.—The bottles vary from 6 to 8 drams.

Q.—Does the customer know when he asks for a bottle that he gets a bottle of 6 drams instead of 8 drams?

A.—No. The ignorant class of people don't understand this. Questions regarding uniform sizes for bottles have been raised with regard to foreign liquor shops, but difficulties are found in enforcing them, and there is no provision on the subject in the licenses.

Q.—Is there variation to such an extent that it is an extensive fraud on customers?

A.—Yes, because the ignorant classes don't understand what they get. But there is a difference in price if the quantity is less.

Q.—Do the shopkeepers cheat the customers by selling them 6 drams and charging for 8?

A.—The retail dealers do if there is no competition.

Q.—Suppose one man sells Pale Brandy in 8 dram bottles and his neighbour sells exactly the same stuff in 6 dram bottles; will they both be charging the same price?

A.—No. If one sells an 8 dram bottle, the other man will do the same or charge less, because no customer would go to him otherwise.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Would there be any cheating?

A.—Two neighbouring shops both keep generally the same size bottles or there might be a difference of a quarter of a dram or so.

(Witness here explained the different capacities of the bottles standing on the table, showing considerable variations. He priced one bottle at Rs. 2-12-0.)

Q.—Why should that be so dear?

A.—Because it is 68° O. P. rectified spirit.

Q.—What is it bought for?

A.—For preparing essences, and chemists and druggists use it for hair oil and other things.

Q.—That is for industrial purposes?

A.—Yes. It is not used for drinking.

Q.—If bottles of 6 drams are sold at lower prices then there is no fraud?

A.—Some bottles from Europe of less than 8 drams are sold dearer than bottles of 8 drams. The customers have to pay a higher price because though quantity is less the liquor is better.

Dr. Powell.—Would a customer ask for a bottle or would he ask for a quart?

A.—He would ask for a bottle, and not mention any particular size.

Q.—Do you consider that the capacity of the bottle ought to be shown on the label?

A.—Yes. I think uniform sizes of 8 and 4 drams ought to be prescribed. It would be better to have the labelling done under supervision. It should be done in a warehouse under the supervision of excise officers who can see that the labels that are put on the bottles are proper.

Q.—Is there any difference in the sizes of bottles in high class shops like Treacher's and Phipson's?

A.—Yes.

Q.—The same variety of size as in other shops?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Are country spirit and this cheap foreign liquor sold at much the same prices?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any country spirit sold at one rupee per bottle of 8 drams in Bombay?

A.—No.

Q.—Is any of this foreign stuff sold at one rupee?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What?

A.—Dilute spirit of 50° U. P.

Q.—The foreign spirit is about half the proof strength of the country spirit?

A.—Yes. Country spirit sells at 20° to 25° U. P. in Bombay.

Q.—Have you any experience whether the cheap foreign spirit is more injurious than country spirit?

A.—No personal experience.

Q.—You have no opinion one way or the other?

A.—I have. Foreign liquor is not injurious at all. It is not injurious because it is distilled in patent stills and thus all injurious ingredients are removed.

Q.—You are theorising. Have you seen foreign liquor in the process of manufacture?

A.—No, I have not.

Q.—Do people of your own race drink this foreign spirit—Pársis?

A.—Few, very few. They understand the inferior and the superior stuffs and they drink the superior stuff.

Q.—Hardly anybody of your class would drink Hamburg patent still spirit?

A.—Very few.

Mr. Procter.—With regard to those that cannot afford dearer liquor?

A.—They would go in for country spirit.

Mr. Procter.—In preference to this?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Why do they prefer country spirit?

A.—They like it better because it is stronger, especially the spiced kinds called Masala.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Is it hot?

A.—No.

Dr. Powell.—Suppose a man drinks Mhowra or foreign spirit of equal strength, would he get an equal or worse headache? Some people get headaches after drinking liquor. I presume they would get greater headaches by taking Mhowra on account of its being strong?

A.—If he takes Mhowra he can digest his food better. I have seen many Pársis earning 200 and 300 a month consuming country liquor, especially Masala.

Mr. Procter.—Many Pársis ?

A.—Yes, but some go in for foreign liquor.

Dr. Powell.—Does country liquor upset them and make them vomit, does it produce any injurious effects ?

A.—If they take a large quantity.

Q.—You don't know any instances ?

A.—If people take large quantities of either country or foreign liquors they would get headaches.

Dr. Powell.—Which would give them the worst headache, country or foreign spirit ?

A.—I think country spirit, as far as I know, won't give headaches.

Chairman.—Is there much drinking of foreign liquor among Hindu classes who are forbidden by religion to drink ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you made any observations on the question whether it ruins the constitution or intellect ?

A.—I have not asked them questions. They go to the shop and buy a bottle. They get cheap, inferior stuff if they ask for a bottle for Rs. 1-2-0. That would be 50° U. P. If they pay Rs. 1-4-0 they get stuff which is 15° U. P.

Q.—Is drinking growing to your knowledge ?

A.—No.

Q.—Are foreign spirit drinkers mostly moderate drinkers or the contrary ?

A.—The most part are moderate drinkers.

Q.—Do you see people coming from foreign liquor shops reeling ?

A.—Very few.

Q.—Do you find them get drunk more in country shops ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do those people who drink foreign liquor mix the stuff with water ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Extensively ?

A.—No, half and half. Mill-hands don't mix water, but Hindu clerks and other people do. I have found Mahomedans going to the shops to drink. It would be better to have a uniform strength fixed for all foreign spirits both for Bombay and the mofussil.

Q.—What strength ?

A.—20° U. P.

Q.—Why not 15° ?

A.—Fifteen would be better. It must be above 20.

Q.—Why fix this strength in Bombay ?

A.—So that foreign would not compete with country liquor, as the prices would have to rise.

Mr. Procter.—Is that your only reason that it should give a free field to country liquor ?

A.—At present people get good foreign liquor cheaper than country liquor.

Q.—You don't consider restrictions should be put on it with any other object than that of preventing it from competing with country liquor ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—It is purely a revenue question ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—You don't think the liquor is bad ?

A.—No.

Q.—You don't consider there should be any further restrictions than there are now ?

A.—There should be permits on which the retail shopkeepers can get liquor from wholesale shopkeepers, so that we can check the accounts for the purpose of fixing license fees.

Q.—You don't think the shopkeepers keep proper accounts?

A.—No. With a permit system, we should keep the counterfoils of the permits and so check the deliveries at the shops.

Q.—You consider that the excise authorities are seriously misled in the matter of assessing duty by false accounts?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Then the fees are probably a great deal lower than they should be?

A.—In some cases, not in all as some honest people keep proper accounts.

Q.—Have you got anything to suggest about the labels in order that the purchaser may be informed what he is drinking?

A.—The label should bear the strength and if the contents of the bottle are brandy then brandy should be stated.

Q.—Explain further.

A.—Rectified spirit is coloured and put in a bottle with a brandy label.

Q.—Well, what would you have put on that bottle?

A.—“Rectified spirit, coloured, of 15° U. P.” or whatever the strength is.

Q.—But practically everything before us called brandy is a potato spirit or some grain spirit into which an essence has been put? Would you consider the public ought to be informed about that on the label?

A.—Yes, I think so.

Q.—What means would you suggest to enforce correct labelling?

A.—If this bottling is done in the warehouse, then we will know what they do. They should be compelled to put the labels on in the warehouse.

Q.—Have you anything to say on cheap wines?

A.—No. There is no need for any special restriction on them.

Mr. Procter.—You said rectified spirit is sold as brandy?

A.—Yes. I have found that rectified spirit is sold as brandy or rum.

Mr. Procter.—How do you know?

A.—Because it is admitted. That is my experience, I have found it in the shops.

Dr. Powell.—You wish to have the strength increased, for the sole reason that foreign liquor is cheaper than country liquor. Would not the consumer soon find out that he is getting stronger drink and take it mixed with water?

A.—No. He would always take it neat. Only educated people dilute.

Q.—How would you prevent change of the approved label in the shop?

A.—We have a very large excise establishment in Bombay. There are 20 or 25 Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors who are continually going to the shops.

Dr. Powell.—A man who adds water to the spirits is not engaging in manufacture?

A.—No.

Dr. Powell.—The man who adds essences does?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Powell.—The man who adds burnt sugar?

A.—No.

Dr. Powell.—Why not?

A.—It is only for colouring.

Dr. Powell.—Why does the man who adds essences engage in manufacture while the man who adds burnt sugar does not?

A.—Because the one comes under the definition of manufacture and the other does not.

Dr. Powell (looking at the Act).—Both seem to be equally “admixing” which is part of manufacture?

Chairman.—We have taken the view that admixing with water or colouring matter is not manufacture.

Dr. Powell.—I think colouring ought to be considered manufacture.

Ráo Bahádur Setalvad.—You say you see more people coming out reeling from country liquor shops than from cheap foreign liquor shops?

A.—Yes.

Ráo Bahádur Setalvad.—It is not due to this fact that those who resort to the country liquor shops are people who are less able to take care of themselves?

A.—Yes.

Ráo Bahádur Setalvad.—And who have less self-control?

A.—Yes.

Ráo Bahádur Setalvad.—You said that drinking of even cheap foreign stuff is not more injurious than country liquor?

A.—Yes. My grounds for saying so are that it is the purer stuff.

Ráo Bahádur Setalvad.—Do you mean to say that liquor manufactured here under the direct control of Government is not so pure as foreign liquor?

A.—Perhaps not so clear.

Ráo Bahádur Setalvad.—You say the stuff manufactured in Bombay under the direct control of Government is not so clear and so good as cheap foreign liquor?

A.—Yes. It is good but the cheap foreign liquor is purer for having been made in a patent still.

Chairman.—By 'purer' you mean that ethers and acids and other oils have gone out. But whether it is purified or made more poisonous thereby is a question on which you have no knowledge?

A.—Yes.

Answers of Mr. K. I. Pandit, Excise inspector, Bombay, to questions for witnesses.

1. Hamburg, Bremen, Glasgow, Leith and London.
2. The spirit which comes to Bombay intended for consumption is in the proportion of—

$\frac{2}{3}$ in Bombay Presidency,

$\frac{1}{3}$ Up-country, *i. e.*, Berars, Hyderabad, Central Provinces Rajputana and United Provinces.

3. I have no experience to know what is required in this question. From what I have heard and read I can say that the bulk of these spirits are manufactured from potatoes with malted barley. The other bases used are beet-roots, sugar molasses. It is also said that saw-dust is at times used.

Boiled and broken up potatoes are treated with malt (barley or Indian corn) or with sulphuric acid. Cleansed potatoes are boiled, cut into pieces by machines, so as to be an uniform mass. Sometimes they are washed. The ground malt made into a thin paste is added to the potato mass. The mixture is well stirred and mashed, the fermentation being set up with artificial yeast. The proportion of malt and potatoes being 5 parts of malt to 95 parts of potatoes.

Carrots and beet-roots are sometimes added to secure a larger yield of spirit, and of better quality.

When the fermentation is favourable the whole is ready for distillation.

4. I cannot answer this question having no medical knowledge.
5. Diluting to the required strengths. Colouring with burnt sugar or caramel (catachu or terra japonica is sometimes added to give a roughness to spirits), and flavouring with essences.
6. Cannot answer the question.
7. Pure rectified spirit is drunk in Bombay at different strengths, from 25° to 50° U. P., reduced in strength by mixing water. The prices are—

Wholesale.

Rs. 1-4-0 to 1-0-0.

Retail.

Rs. 1-8-0 to 1-0-0.

8. It is reported that methylated spirit is drunk by Thána and Kolába District Kolis or fishermen and some illiterate low-classes in the mofussil in small doses mixed with water, like Eau-de-cologne, for stomach complaints, etc.

9. The spirit undergoes watering for reduction in strength, colouring with burnt sugar or molasses.

10. The importers or wholesale-dealers supply the retail off and on dealers. The importer is ordinarily a retail vendor in Bombay.

11. Rs. 10-8-0 to Rs. 16-8-0 per dozen.

12. From 25° U. P. to 50° U. P.

13. The retail prices in Bombay are Rs. 1-8-0 to 1-2-0.

14. Fine Pale Brandy, Superior Brandy, Fine Old Scotch Whisky, Old Vatted Whisky, Rum Nos. 1 and 2, Spirit diluted.

The labels are mostly printed in Bombay. But in some cases they are imported from Europe, often supplied by the manufacturers of the spirit on indent after approval, the same firm of manufacturers supplying labels under different fictitious names.

15. The low-classes of both Mahomedan and Hindu societies, such as mill-hands, dock-labourers, workmen, artisans, and low-paid clerks,

16. The consumption is believed to be on the increase in Bombay. It is to some extent at the expense of the country liquor.

17. I am unable to answer this question.

18. Correct description of all kinds on the labels should be required as a condition of retail vend.

If the foreign spirit be spirit of wine, it should be described as "Spirit of Wine" and not as Rum No. 1 or 2, or Fine Pale Brandy, etc.

19. It is desirable that some new restrictions should be placed on the sale of foreign liquor. I beg to propose that —

(1) the lowest strength of the liquor sold in Bombay be raised to 15° U. P. to make it uniform with the mofussil.

(2) Diluting and bottling be prohibited in refreshment rooms and retail off and on shops.

(3) Hotels should not be allowed to sell to outsiders by bottles, half bottles or in pegs. They compete with refreshment rooms and retail off and on shops.

No. 5.

Evidence of Mr. K. I. Pandit.

Examined by the Chairman.

I am Excise Inspector, Bombay City. I have no experience of Thána.

Q.—You say methylated spirit is drunk by Thána and Kolába Kolis. Where did you get that from?

A.—From some of the licensees who sell methylated spirit. The Thána Kolis come to Bombay and buy it. They don't drink it in the shops, but take it home. When the shopkeepers ask them what they want it for they say they drink it.

Q.—Are they supposed to add anything to it to get the naphtha flavour out?

A.—They simply add water to it.

Q.—Do you understand this is being done on a large scale?

A.—Only on a small scale.

Q.—You have not heard that the spirit is mixed with country spirit?

A.—No.

Q.—Have you heard anything of that sort being done in Bombay?

A.—No.

Q.—Do you know of the diluted rectified spirit being sold under the name of rum?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Or, as brandy?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Whisky and gin?

A.—I only know it is sold as rum and brandy.

Q.—They colour it like whisky?

A.—Yes.

Q.—There is nothing to prevent them from selling it as whisky?

A.—No. There is no Excise regulation at present which prevents them from calling it anything they please. This dilute spirit is growing in popularity. If it is not controlled I think it is likely to become the prevailing drink in Bombay City. I have not tasted it.

Q.—Have you any restrictions to suggest either with regard to this dilute stuff in particular or foreign spirits in general?

A.—As regards foreign spirits in general the strength of importation might be raised to 15° U. P. Besides, bottling should not be allowed in retail-on shops.

Q.—What system of restriction do you suggest?

A.—It would be better if bottling is done under supervision by certain wholesale importers.

Q.—You mean restricting the bottling to selected firms?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Where should they bottle?

A.—In a Government warehouse.

Q.—There is no such place at present?

A.—No; it is only a proposal. I have heard the evidence of Messrs. Keess and Darasha. I agree with them. I have nothing to say about cheap wines.

*Replies of Mr. P. Patterson, Secretary, Licensed Victuallers' Association,
to questions for witnesses.*

1. Hamburg, Rotterdam, Bordeaux, Glasgow, London.
2. Yes, in the Presidency and also to places in India of which Bombay is the recognized trading port.
3. Potato, beet, molasses, rye, from 40 to 68 Over Proof.
Unable to state for certain the method of manufacture, but is believed to be generally what is known as the patent still process ; in any case it is so in South Africa, where molasses are used as the base.
4. Yes ; for instance, in the opinion of many, spirit made from molasses is more adaptable for potable purposes than that of potato and beet.
In the case of whisky, rye is infinitely inferior to malt.
In brandy the pure grape is preferable.
The bases mentioned cannot be considered as unwholesome.
5. By diluting and blending with a percentage of the spirits after which they are named.
In India a colouring matter of burnt sugar is added to the spirit and sold as rum.
6. More wholesome.
7. Only as stated above with burnt sugar added to the spirit from 15 U.P. to 50 U.P. By adding distilled water.
Wholesale approximately Rs. 14-8-0 per gallon at the strength of 68 O. P.
Retail 50 U.P. Re. 1-0-0 per bottle.
„ 40 U.P. „ 1-2-0 „ and so on.
8. No.
9. No, with the exception of rum as mentioned in answer to paragraph 5.
10. The system of supply is conducted by wholesale dealers.
In one or two instances the importer is a retail vendor of bottles only.
The mofussil is supplied through the wholesale houses of Bombay.
11. From Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per dozen bottles according to strength.
12. From 15 to 50 U.P. From 1st April 1909 the lowest strength will be 25 U.P.
13. From Rs. 1-2-0 to 1-8-0 per bottle according to strength.
14. Under labels of rum, brandy, whisky, etc., as the case may be, the labels originating from the brand of liquor which the spirit represents.
15. Inhabitants of India and the poorer classes of all communities.
16. Yes, independently.
17. Do not consider these liquors more deleterious than country spirit.
Unable to give an opinion.
18. Consider that the affixment of label stating country of origin in accordance with present Merchandise Act is quite sufficient.
19. Cannot recommend the placing of any further restrictions upon the sale of foreign liquor in general nor the spirit defined above in particular than those already at present in existence.

(The second sitting of the Committee took place on Friday,
22nd January 1909.)

No. 6.

Mr. P. Patterson, Honorary Secretary of the Bombay Licensed Victuallers' Association, questioned by the Chairman :—

A.—I am Secretary of the Bombay Licensed Victuallers' Association. I represent the views of the Association. The Association represents the whole of the foreign liquor trade of Bombay. It also represents the country liquor trade to some extent. It chiefly represents the foreign liquor trade.

Q.—In your answer to question No. 6 you say the addition of essences to patent still spirit makes the liquor more wholesome?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Why?

A.—I don't know whether you have read the evidence given before the Whisky Commission which sat in England; but from that I consider that the addition of pure liquor of the brand which is imitated tends to make the silent spirit more wholesome.

Q.—By "pure" what do you mean? Illustrate from the case of brandy?

A.—I would rather take the case of rum. In that case a bottle of silent spirit would have 20 to 25 per cent. of pure Jamaica rum added to it. This rum is distilled in Jamaica from sugar molasses and sacharum. In the case of brandy the mixture would be patent still spirit with a certain percentage of genuine brandy. Patent still whisky is a genuine whisky, for it is manufactured up to a low O. P. strength which does not deprive the spirit of the character of the base.

Q.—So far as you know manufacturers of the various liquors only mix genuine spirit with patent spirits?

A.—In some instances essences are used, such as essence of rum or brandy or gin as the case may be. I think these essences are chemical compounds. I can't say whether they are wholesome or unwholesome. The object of essencing is to restore those flavours which distillation removes. Dealers in Bombay import pure rectified spirit of 40 to 68 O. P. It is drunk after being diluted with water. It is wholesome, not unwholesome. All doctors certainly don't regard it as unwholesome. I have seen from the evidence before the Commission in England that a Doctor who was considered of good authority said he would prefer pure rectified spirit to any other for drinking.

Q.—Has anybody or any class of people been under observation who drink this raw spirit? Have they been under observation so that the ultimate effects of a course of the stuff could be ascertained?

A.—Not to my knowledge. The Doctor that I referred to was a witness for the patent still distilleries. I have not brought the evidence.

Chairman.—I read it myself. I think he was the only witness who said so.

A.—I think so. Rectified spirit seems to become popular on account of its ardent nature.

Q.—It is not all drunk, I understand. Some of it is used for medical purposes?

A.—Oh, yes. I got an order yesterday from a large firm of druggists in Bombay for a thousand gallons. All this will be used by druggists. Of the 35,000 gallons which were imported last year what proportion was drunk as liquor it is very difficult to say. I should say about 25 per cent. was drunk and 75 per cent. used by chemists and druggists. Rectified spirit from Germany which is coloured as rum, is all classified under the name of rum.

Q.—Would you have a uniform strength prescribed for all foreign spirits in Bombay and mofussil?

A.—Yes. Whatever strength is fixed should apply to the whole of India. It is unfair to the trade to have different rules: the minimum should be 25° U. P. everywhere.

Q.—What have you to say about labels?

A.—The words "Made in Germany" ought to be embodied in the centre of the label. The separate slip on many bottles bearing these words showing country of origin can be torn off.

Q.—Are they generally torn off?

A.—I have never seen it done.

Q.—Would you make the label show more than the place of origin?

A.—No. The only restriction we would recommend is that the country of origin should be printed in the centre of the label. Then the consumer will know exactly what he is going to drink. There should be a label showing the country of origin.

Q.—With reference to this blackberry brandy (referring to a bottle brought by witness) presumably it would be a patent still spirit made from potato and doctored with some essence of blackberry?

A.—Yes. *

Q.—And this bottle of rum?

A.—It is a silent spirit containing 25 per cent. of pure Jamaica rum.

Q.—And this vermouth.

A.—It is made in Germany from silent spirit.

Q.—Patent still spirit is generally made from potato?

A.—Probably in Germany; in general from whatever material is cheapest.

Q.—Would you not have a true trade description and the manner of production and manufacture given on the label? The Merchandise Marks Act provides for it.

A.—No. It would not be desirable.

Q.—Don't you think customers require to know what their blackberry brandy and vermouth is made of, as well as where it comes from?

A.—I don't think so from 15 years' experience of the liquor trade.

Q.—A purchaser buying a bottle of vermouth would not care to know whether it is real Italian vermouth or German spirit?

A.—I think that 90 per cent. of people who call for a particular kind of spirit know what it ought to be, therefore I don't think it necessary to put on label how the thing is manufactured.

Q.—Labels are imported into this country to be put on anything. Do you think any restriction desirable?

A.—In the interest of wholesale trade a restriction would be certainly necessary.

Q.—Should their importation be prohibited?

A.—No; I should not say so. I cannot suggest any method of restriction.

Q.—Would it be sufficient to prevent import of labels unless sent with spirits?

A.—Distillers will not send out labels only.

Q.—But certain firms do so.

A.—Well-established firms of liquor will not send them.

Q.—Will the Hamburg people?

A.—Oh yes, they will do anything, and in fact at present there is nothing to prevent rectified spirit from Germany coloured with sugar being sold as the best Jamaica rum.

Q.—You cannot suggest any way by which the false labels can be kept out of the country ?

A.—I cannot. I think at present the A'bkári instructions are that on the labels of rum bottled in Bombay there must be the name of the bottler. I think there should be a supervision of labelling and bottling by the Excise authorities.

Q.—It has been suggested that there should be a general warehouse under the Excise Department where all bottling, reducing and labelling should take place. What is your view on that point ?

A.—It is quite a recognised custom in the Colonies.

Q.—Do you consider all firms, from the highest to the lowest, should be bound to bottle, reduce and label in that warehouse ?

A.—I think that firms of standing should be exempted. I mean really first class firms which have got the confidence of the Collector. There would be no objection if certain firms were allowed to bottle at their own places under Excise supervision. There would be no material objection if you require bottling to be done in a specified place and at a specific time, so that Excise supervision might be possible. I cannot speak for the wholesale trade. I should not like to be taken to give an opinion on behalf of the wholesale trade in Bombay.

Q.—You are referring to the big firms like Phipson, Treacher, Cutler, Palmer, &c., as wholesale dealers ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—With regard to the spirit, that is the rectified spirit which has been essenced into brandy or rum in Europe, would you put any extra restrictions on it, would you tax it higher than genuine liquor ?

A.—No.

Q.—Do you consider that Government ought to allow the rectified spirit now sold as mere diluted spirit to be essenced in India so as to make it a little more wholesome ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—In the case of such spirit when called rum, would you insist on a certain proportion, say 25 per cent. of genuine rum, being added to the dilute spirit before it is sold under that name ?

A.—I should not insist on an admixture of genuine rum, but in any case I should like to see essences of rum infused. I am unable to give an opinion whether essences are wholesome or unwholesome. I should think they are more or less wholesome.

Q.—Have you any views about licenses ? Do you consider that there are some sort of licenses which are unnecessary—wholesale, retail-on, retail-off and refreshment rooms ?

A.—They are all necessary. It is quite necessary to have licenses for retail-ons, retail-offs and refreshment rooms. There are bars in refreshment rooms like Cornaglia's and Temple Bar. Retail-ons are the same as retail-offs except that you can have drinks there. There are about 43 retail-ons in Bombay. Retail-ons are in some instances public houses set up for the benefit of natives of the lower classes. Natives of lower classes also drink country spirit. I think the sale of beer among these classes is becoming considerable in those shops.

Q.—Do you think that is a desirable change from country or foreign spirit ?

A.—I would not give any opinion. I think every man should be allowed to please himself. If he finds imported beer suitable to his palate, more suitable than country liquor, let him have it.

Q.—Supposing country spirit shops were allowed to sell beer, would that remove the objection to closing retail-on shops ?

A.—I don't think that class ought to be abolished.

Q.—Have you any opinion as to the respective effects of foreign and country liquor on natives ?

A.—I don't think there is any great difference. I doubt if rectified spirit would injure a man more than mhowra spirit.

Q.—What have you to say about license fees?

A.—As regards the fees which are now taken for licenses, I consider them to be heavy enough. I object to the way in which they are assessed on sales. They should be fixed. I would have one scale fixed for Bombay and another for the mofussil. The proper place to gain revenue from liquor is Customs. It is not correct to look upon licenses purely from a revenue point of view. I would have fixed scales for different towns. I would have one scale for Bombay, another for Ahmedabad, a third for Sátára, and so forth, according to the size of the town. I gave the Collector of Bombay a copy of the Government Gazette of India which shows how they manage things in Calcutta, and the same course ought to be taken here.

Q.—If the fixed fee were above a man's business he would have to shut up shop?

A.—Yes. You would find a lot of places shut up and the public would be benefitted. To do good business one must make the shop attractive. I know one or two instances of foreign liquor shops being closed for want of business under the present system.

Mr. Procter.—You object to the present system of licensing. You say it falls heavily on shopkeepers?

A.—Yes. Because the licensee is quite uncertain how he will be assessed next year, so he does not know whether his business is likely to pay. They are also put to great inconvenience over the accounts. Take the case of Mongini. He spends an hour every morning preparing his books. He cannot leave it to his servants, because if a servant makes a mistake, then under the regulations Mongini is liable to be fined. So he spends an hour in the morning making up his books. It is better that the licenses should be fixed as they are in all other parts of the world. The present system is liable to make a licensee dishonest.

Q.—Does it make them cheat the Excise Department or the public?

A.—They are liable to cheat the Excise Department by not entering their sales correctly.

Q.—And the public?

A.—I don't say they are cheating the public; they are *perhaps* liable to cheat Government. They can enter one case of whisky as received in the shop, and may have several cases of whisky in their private bungalow, which they afterwards bring along secretly.

Mr. Procter.—With regard to the import of undenatured rectified spirit of 35,000 gallons in 1907-08, can you say $\frac{3}{4}$ th of that amount was used by druggists and chemists for trade purposes?

A.—Yes.

Mr. Procter.—Do you know that rectified spirit is sold in Bombay as brandy, whisky or rum?

A.—Cheap brandy and rum.

Mr. Procter.—The importations of brandy, whisky and rum were 37,000 gallons against 35,000 gallons of rectified spirit? But of the first quantity there were only 3,513 gallons of rum. Don't you think a large quantity of rectified spirit is turned into rum?

A.—Yes, I say 25 per cent.

Chairman.—You say that large quantities of diluted spirit are sold as rum? Do you consider that you underestimated the amount drunk in putting it at 25 per cent. only?

A.—I don't think so. I speak from my own experience of business. My experience however does not touch the lowest classes of liquor. It touches good classes of liquors.

Mr. Procter.—Do you consider that imported cheap spirits are more wholesome than rectified spirits?

A.—Yes, they are more palatable. Essences are quite wholesome in good spirits.

Mr. Procter.—And in the cheapest ones?

A.—Yes, I think so. There is a great difficulty in getting information about the composition of essences. It is withheld as a trade secret.

Mr. Procter.—They may consist of anything?

A.—Yes.

Mr. Procter.—Probably they are not genuine spirit?

A.—Probably they are not spirit at all, but I cannot speak from my own knowledge. They are bound to be palatable at least. If you add 25 per cent. of pure Jamaica rum to a bottle of silent spirit it is bound to make the spirit palatable and also less unwholesome.

Dr. Powell.—You say diluted spirit is not unwholesome?

A.—No.

Dr. Powell.—Because you have there only water and alcohol?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Powell.—You say if essence is added, the stuff becomes more wholesome?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Powell.—You don't know what is in the essence?

A.—No.

Dr. Powell.—There may be anything?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Powell.—As far as the essences are concerned you don't know anything?

A.—I have no grounds to say.

Q.—Then why do you say they make the spirit more wholesome?

A.—I should alter my statement. I should say they make it more palatable.

Dr. Powell.—You would restrict yourself as regards wholesomeness where the essence is real rum or real brandy?

A.—Yes.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Do you know of any instance in which methylated spirit is drunk?

A.—No, but I suppose it is possible for servants and hamals to steal and use it. I can assure you that the restrictions put on methylated spirit are most severe. You cannot sell a bottle without a license.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Would you insist upon the mode of manufacture and the place of manufacture to be placed on labels?

A.—Only place of origin.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Not the mode of manufacture and the products from which the spirit is made, such as potato?

A.—Those are trade secrets which the exporting firms will not disclose. Such regulations are not known in any other part of the world.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Are they not necessary in the interests of the consumers? Take the case of the German vermouth.

A.—No. If a man gets vermouth from Italy he knows what it is. If he gets it from Germany he knows it is something quite different. Therefore, I think it is quite sufficient to have the country of origin. It will do no good to anybody to disclose the mode of manufacture. It will merely damage certain industries.

Q.—Does not the French Government insist on the mode of manufacture of brandy being specified?

A.—No. I think they merely insist upon having the word "Cognac" confined to labels of pure grape brandy. There is the difference between the two. *Cognac* is pure grape, whilst the word "brandy" only need not be pure grape brandy.

Ráo Bahádur Setalvad.—Suppose a man buys a bottle labelled rum, would you not require that the true trade description of rum should be specified?

A.—No. Let it go out as rum.

Ráo Bahádur Setalvad.—If it is merely silent spirit coloured, is that not a false trade description?

A.—Yes, to a certain extent.

Ráo Bahádur Setalvad.—Would it not be better to have the true trade description in the interests of consumers?

A.—I should say: leave it to the consumer to distinguish. I think the consumer is quite able to protect himself.

Chairman.—Do not the importers of genuine liquors want protection?

A.—Yes; but I think they have sufficient protection in the declaration of place of origin.

Chairman.—Here you find sold in the Bazar “Fine pale brandy” without a drop of real brandy in it. Do not importers of real brandy want protection against that?

A.—I certainly do, if it can be secured.

Ráo Bahádur Setalvad.—Don't you think it would be better in the interests of the public to have a correct trade description on the bottle?

A.—Yes, so far as rectified spirits are concerned.

Ráo Bahádur Setalvad.—Would there be any objection to put on a true trade description?

A.—Yes, on the part of shippers.

Dr. Dadachanji.—As regards the capacity of bottles, is it necessary to have any regulation?

A.—I don't think it is necessary.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Why?

A.—Because the trade regulates the size of bottles.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Is there any fraud perpetrated?

A.—No. Competition is against it. If you practise fraud on a consumer he will never come back again to your shop. Diluted rectified spirit is not popular to my knowledge. It has no deleterious effect to my knowledge.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Is there any difference in Jamaica rum which is genuine and the patent still spirit which passes as rum?

A.—Yes, all the difference in the world. I don't think it is necessary to object to the patent still spirit being called rum because pure Jamaica rum is of much better quality.

Mr. Procter.—Is there any difference between Jamaica rum and Demerara rum?

A.—A vast difference. Demerara rum is cheaper than Jamaica rum.

Dr. Dadachanji.—What causes the cheapness?

A.—Quality.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Or the quantity of ether contained in it?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Which do you prefer—high percentage of ether or a low percentage?

A.—I could not answer that question. I don't like rectified spirit diluted and coloured being passed as rum.

Dr. Dadachanji.—As regards fixed license fees, suppose one man makes good profit and another does not—under these circumstances would you have the same scale for all?

A.—Yes, because I consider that if a man makes a good profit it will be principally due to his own energy.

Ráo Bahádur Setalvad.—Would the locality make any difference to the scale?

A.—That would be left entirely to the man who rents the premises. It is entirely his consideration. For instance, if I take a shop in the Fort, I should have to pay double rent, but I expect more business. If I take a place which is dirty and wont attract customers, I take the risk of loss.

Ráo Bahádur Setalvad.—Will a fixed scale not drive shops into certain localities only and leave other localities without a shop?

A.—No.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Do you say that no profit should be earned by Government from license fees? They must only be sufficient to maintain a staff?

A.—We always recognise fees as a source of revenue; to a certain extent as a recognized source of revenue.

Dr. Dadachanji.—What is your opinion?

A.—They are a recognised source of revenue.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Besides Customs duty?

A.—Yes, certainly. But here you are suggesting raising the rate of license fee from Rs. 1-8-0 to Rs. 2-0-0 per dozen; which I say is not right.

Dr. Dadachanji.—What fixed scale do you recommend for license fees?

A.—Similar to what is in Calcutta.

Dr. Dadachanji.—What is it there?

A.—I cannot say. I have given the Gazette to Mr. Hatch. It is the result of the committee which sat there 18 months ago. Government have adopted the recommendation of that Committee.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Can you tell me the rate per gallon paid by importers for rectified spirit?

A.—I don't think it a fair question. No man would give you his wholesale quotations.

Chairman (to Dr. Dadachanji).—We have got it from the Head Gauger of the Custom House.

Ráo Bahádur Setalvad.—Don't you think it would be better for the consumer to have his liquor manufactured under the direct supervision of Government? Don't you think liquor made under direct supervision and Government control is better in quality than the cheap stuff that is imported?

A.—It is quite possible.

Ráo Bahádur Setalvad.—Because you don't know what the thing is that is imported.

A.—Yes.

Dr. Powell.—You said the country of origin should be enough.

A.—Yes.

Dr. Powell.—Don't you know wines are sent to France and from there are re-exported to India as French wines?

A.—That is news to me.

Dr. Powell.—Australian claret?

A.—I don't think so.

Dr. Powell.—Australian wines are sent to Bordeaux and thence they come here.

A.—What is the advantage?

Dr. Powell.—It simply satisfies the conscience of the man who sells it.

A.—I don't know. I should think it could compete with real French wines.

Dr. Powell.—With regard to these labels, take the case of vermouth which is exported from Hamburg and not from Italy. The Hamburg vermouth you would not call Italian. What is there to prevent a German from sending his vermouth to Italy and then putting "Made in Italy" on the label.

A.—It seems quite easy; but I will explain. All these liquor distillers have got their associations, and what you say may happen once but not twice. I can assure you that the people who made the Italian vermouth would not be long before they would approach their Government and stop the practice.

Dr. Powell.—Ought we not to be able to prosecute such people in India for fraud?

A.—Yes. Prosecute those who represent German as Italian vermouth.

Dr. Powell.—Do you think Italian vermouth is the only true description necessary?

A.—Yes. Just as you would call rum Jamaica rum.

Dr. Powell.—Is Jamaica rum by itself a true trade description?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Powell.—You can call it Jamaica rum though it has never come from Jamaica?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Powell.—Then you may have an Italian vermouth which has never come from Italy.

A.—Yes. Nevertheless "Italian" is a true trade description. Take the case of Benedictine. It is manufactured everywhere. It is not manufactured only by monks.

Dr. Powell.—There is no reason why Scotch whisky should come from Scotland only?

A.—No. Not if it is made in the same way as genuine Scotch whisky.

*Replies of Mr. W. S. Millard of Messrs. Phipson & Co. to Questions
Nos. 18 and 19 of questions for witnesses.*

18. Yes, but I am afraid I cannot suggest any method of enforcing the correct description being on the labels except by the penalty of declining to renew the retailer's license if it is known that he is importing and selling foreign spirits which do not correspond in every respect with the description on the label.

19. I would suggest that all compounding, blending and 'breaking down' (reductions in strength) in Bombay be stopped, or if permitted, that they should only be permitted to be done in bond under the supervision of a Customs officer. Such practices as adding flavouring essences or colouring matter should be and could be then entirely stopped.

If it is believed that cheap foreign spirit is more deleterious to the health of the consumer than properly matured spirit, (and personally I believe that this must be so), I would suggest the advisability of a graduated scale of duty which might be based on the original invoice value of the spirit.

Grain whisky *when freshly made* is sold at about 1s. 6d. per proof gallon Lowland malt whisky at 2s. 3d. to 2s. 9d., whilst Highland malt obtains from 3s. to 4s. 8d. per bulk gallon. All whiskies invoiced at under 4s. per proof gallon or 10s. 6d. per case, f. o. b. might bear a heavier duty of, say Rs. 10 per proof gallon, in order to make these inferior or immature spirits more expensive to the consumer.

Brandy invoiced at under 5s. per proof gallon or 13s. per case and British gin under 2s. 6d. per proof gallon or 7s. per case might also bear the heavier duty.

If this scheme is not feasible or effectual it might be possible to introduce into Bombay a system by which all foreign spirits should only be bottled in bonded warehouses and in the presence of an Excise officer. These bonded warehouses might be on the retailer's premises so long as they were separate and under Customs lock and key. If this system was introduced due notice would of course have to be previously given to retailers, and I would not advocate its being adopted unless considered absolutely necessary. Possibly a modified form might be tried first by which all foreign spirits invoiced under the minimum price already mentioned should only be permitted to be bottled in the present Government bonded warehouses.

No. 7.

*Mr. W. S. Millard of Messrs. Phipson & Co., examined
by the Chairman.*

Q.—You have no answers to give except to questions 18 and 19?

A.—I have no knowledge on the others. I can give merely hearsay evidence.

Q.—What is your view of this patent still spirit doctored to represent brandy, whisky and rum, which comes in India and is sold under those names? Do you consider that restrictions should be put on it?

A.—Most decidedly.

Q.—In what way?

A.—Is it not possible to try and get it kept out of India altogether?

Q.—Would you prohibit it?

A.—Yes, if it is believed that cheap foreign spirit is deleterious to the health of the consumer, as I have said in my written reply.

Q.—Don't all chemists say that patent still spirit is not deleterious?

A.—I don't think so. I don't know what the chemists say, but judging from the Whisky Commission there is as much evidence on the one side as on the other. If properly matured, however, patent still grain spirit, I believe, is quite harmless.

Q.—A great part of the whisky sold at a high price is grain spirit which has been manufactured in patent stills and then blended with malt spirit, and this is allowed to be sold freely in England?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Then how can we prohibit patent still spirit from coming to India?

A.—I cannot suggest that Government should prohibit the importation of patent spirit. They should prevent its being blended and sold as something else. I would most distinctly have a true trade description on bottles.

Q.—Will you give your view as to what sort of label you would prescribe as a true trade description for this thing which is called "Fine Pale Brandy" which is German patent still spirit with some essences?

A.—I don't think that should be permitted.

Q.—Would you prohibit the sale altogether?

A.—It should not be sold at all if it represents what it is not.

Q.—Again we come to the question whether we should prohibit all patent still spirits pretending to be liquors of one kind and another?

A.—Most distinctly.

Q.—Would not that shut out all grain whiskies?

A.—I think not. As I have said in my written reply I would have all compounding under supervision. Personally, I think, the best way would be to stop all blending here.

Q.—No blending is supposed to go on in Bombay. Do you know of any?

A.—I don't know of any.

Q.—Blending takes place in the country of manufacture. The Excise Department does not permit any blending in Bombay.

A.—It permits breaking down.

Q.—Yes, reducing and colouring.

A.—Then how can it be known whether blending does not go on at present?

Q.—If blending goes on, it goes on in secret, contrary to the provisions of the Act and the man who does it is in danger of a penalty. The Customs returns show that the spirit mostly comes in already compounded.

A.—It may be so. The reducing of strength should however be done under Customs supervision entirely if permitted at all.

Q.—Would you have a Government warehouse where all the bottling and other operations should be done?

A.—There should be supervision either with or without a warehouse. Just in the same way as it is done at home where everything done—whatever operation is made on the liquor—is always done under Customs supervision and under Customs lock and key. But here instead of Customs supervision you might have Excise supervision.

Q.—Are you willing to do all your own bottling in a warehouse, or would you prefer to do it on your own premises?

A.—I should prefer that it should be done on our own premises. There would be undoubtedly a lot of trouble in bottling elsewhere, and I would not recommend a general warehouse unless it is found absolutely necessary.

Q.—Do your views represent those of the wholesale foreign trade in Bombay?

A.—I think I represent the views of both wholesale and retail trades.

Q.—Your view about bottling, reducing and labelling being done under the supervision of the Excise Department is the view of the wholesale traders in Bombay?

A.—I am speaking only for myself. I don't know whether the views of others are what I suggest.

Q.—Your alternative suggestion is that there should be a graduated scale of customs duty heavier on cheap spirits than on dear ones?

A.—Yes, if it is admitted that cheap spirit is deleterious to the health of the people.

Q.—Have you any opinion on that point?

A.—I am not prepared to give any opinion. All I say is that, if true, it constitutes a reason for a graduated scale.

Q.—Apart from the question whether it can be proved that it is actually deleterious, there is still the fact that this spirit is for sale under a false name. Possibly in the stuff, called brandy, there is not one drop of pure brandy. The same with whisky and rum. Does not honest trade require protection by some regulation?

A.—Most distinctly.

Q.—Therefore setting aside the question of wholesomeness, would you still have graduated duty on the cheap stuff as a protective measure?

A.—I would, though I don't want to seem to take too personal a view in the matter.

Q.—With regard to the details of your graduated tax, as given in your written answer, might not the penal duty on whisky invoiced at Rs. 4 per proof gallon fall on some Scotch whisky which is now sold by the best firms?

A.—I think not, judging from the Sterling rates given in Ridley's trade Circular. (Hands it in.)

Q.—You would call all these genuine whiskies, though some sell at the distilleries at 2 or 3 shillings a bulk gallon?

A.—Yes, those are all genuine whiskies.

Dr. Powell.—What is a genuine whisky?

A.—That is to be decided by the Whisky Commission. I would most distinctly call all those given in Ridley's Circular genuine whiskies. Supposing any was all patent still spirit it might still be whisky if made in the way whisky is made. They would be correctly termed Scotch whiskies if made in Scotland.

Dr. Powell.—As regards brandy would you not accept anything unless it was distilled from grapes, or if a proportion of grape spirit were added to patent spirit would you still call it brandy?

A.—No.

Dr. Powell.—Only the spirit that is made from grapes you would call brandy?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Powell.—Would you call a thing brandy if it contained any patent still spirit at all? Would the trade call it brandy? You would not call a thing brandy that was proved to have a certain proportion of patent spirit in it?

A.—It should not be described as Cognac. But brandy is a name applied to any produce from grape however distilled. I don't think you can go beyond that.

Dr. Powell.—If you add patent still Spirit?

A.—You can call it brandy so long as the patent still spirit was made from grapes.

Dr. Powell.—It is a true description?

A.—Yes. All brandies should be produced from grapes. They may be made anywhere. Brandy is made in Kashmere and in Algeria, Spain and the British Colonies. I think it can be made either in a pot still or in a patent still and still be brandy.

Chairman.—Even if manufactured up to a strength of 68 O. P. would it be brandy?

A.—Yes. If made from grape juice.

Q.—Would not all the characteristics of grape juice have gone at that strength?

A.—I do not know whether the result would differ from spirit of equal strength manufactured from potato. I don't know at what strength all the characteristics of the base disappear. I don't know whether that brandy is ever produced in patent stills. Pot stills do not, I believe, manufacture so much above proof strength. I don't know whether such stills are used except in making whisky.

Q.—Are patent still spirits ever manufactured up to proof strength only at which the flavours of the base are not lost?

A.—Yes. Such spirit may have all the characteristics of the material.

Q.—Don't you think that spirit which has been manufactured up to a strength when it has lost the characteristics of its base, ought not to be called by the name of such well-known liquors as brandy or whisky?

A.—I think not.

Q.—If 20 per cent. of genuine brandy or whisky is poured into that, do you consider that would restore the patent still spirit to its title of whisky or brandy?

A.—I am afraid I cannot give any opinion.

Dr. Powell.—Suppose a man distils from the juice of grapes in a patent still, would you not call it brandy?

A.—Yes. But if it is distilled up to a certain strength it would I believe lose its character.

Chairman.—You don't give us any means to recommend Government to stop all importations of patent still spirit, because you cannot draw the line between what ought to be kept out and what ought to be allowed. Might we not shut out some whisky or brandy which is recognised as a good brand, if we stopped everything that was made in a patent still at overproof strength?

A.—I have not considered that point. I think Government might admit patent still spirits if made from grain and not admit them if manufactured from potatoes or by-products.

Q.—You see the difficulty?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Powell.—You cannot say in what way these liquors are manufactured or tested or adulterated?

A.—No. Chemists differ from distillers and one chemist differs from another in their views.

Dr. Powell.—We may take it that good brandies have some addition of patent still spirit?

A.—I cannot say.

Dr. Powell.—Whiskies?

A.—Most certainly. I do not mean to imply that *all* good whiskies have some patent still spirit added, but that many good whiskies have a small proportion of good matured patent still or grain whisky blended with them.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Do you think many of these foreign liquors are flavoured with essences?

A.—I think they are. I have no knowledge on the subject, but I believe they are.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Do you think flavouring with these essences causes wholesomeness?

(No answer.)

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—If people don't know what these essences are then really you cannot say if they are more wholesome or less wholesome?

A.—No.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Do you think it would be safer in the interests of the public as well as of trade that a correct description should be put on labels specifying the base of manufacture whether potato or grape, etc.?

A.—It is most desirable to do so in the case of the cheaper spirits. People who drink are not aware of what they are drinking. Most decidedly it would be better for the trade also.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Do you think it would be better also if it is stated on the labels from what country the stuff has come?

A.—I don't think you can do that. How can you prove it? I have said that all labels should bear full and proper descriptions of the contents of the bottles. The remedy is Excise supervision over all bottling of cheap spirit and, if necessary, better spirit also, though I cannot see why Government should not differentiate between the two kinds.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Do you consider that country liquor manufactured in India under direct Government control is better than the cheap foreign stuff?

A.—In my opinion country spirits are more deleterious than more matured spirit.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Apart from maturing is it your personal opinion that country spirits manufactured under direct Government supervision are better than cheap foreign spirits?

A.—I cannot say. I have no knowledge.

Dr. Powell.—Are country liquors matured?

A.—No. In the old days of the East India Company, it is said that Europeans used to buy and mature it for their own drinking.

Chairman.—Parsees buy and mature a certain amount of spiced or other country liquor, but the ordinary coolie drinks perfectly raw spirit.

Dr. Powell.—As far as maturing is concerned, imported spirits would be better and longer matured than country spirits?

A.—I think not necessarily.

Chairman.—Do you know whether patent still spirits coming out here are matured at all?

A.—I don't know. I don't know what has been decided on the point by the Whisky Commission. What the Commission seemed to think was that it would be better that no spirit should be taken out of bond under 2 years' maturing. I think patent still whisky is generally kept for that period.

Q.—Would you have a regulation in Bombay that no spirit should be sold unless an importer produced a certificate that the spirit had that maturity?

A.—There might be some difficulty in obtaining it. The distillers could not give the particular age, for the bottlers blend spirit of different ages. In one bottle there might be spirit of which one-third was 10 years old, one-third 7 years old and one-third 4 years old. I believe it desirable, however, to have such a regulation that no spirit should be less than two years old.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Is there no difference between pot still whisky and patent still whisky?

A.—There is. There is a difference as regards by-products. I cannot give you details. You will find it from the report of the Commission which came here 16 months ago. I am afraid I cannot say whether patent still whisky has more or less injurious by-products than pot still whisky. A doctor gave evidence before the Whisky Commission that he preferred to drink absolutely new patent still spirit.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Can you distinguish brandy prepared from grapes and brandy prepared by synthetical processes?

A.—I am afraid, I cannot. It is necessary—it is desirable—even though I do not think it is any protection—that a proper description should be given of the liquor showing whether it is a pure genuine brandy or not.

Chairman.—Would you prohibit the importation of labels to be put on any kind of bottles?

A.—Most decidedly. I think that is prohibited already.

Chairman.—No. We were told by the last witness that it would interfere with honest trade because shippers send out hogsheads of liquors with the labels alongside. How are you going to draw a line between the labels to be kept out and those to be allowed?

A.—I don't think there is any reason why we should keep labels out provided they are of a proper description.

Q.—Labels are sent out independently of consignments of liquor and bottlers here put them on anything they please. Thus brandy labels may be put on rectified spirit?

A.—In that case the best plan would be to stop all labels unless they are on bottles.

Q.—Then what about casks?

A.—Labels might be sent by the firms exporting them, and might be put on the bottles in Bombay.

Mr. Procter.—Would you do it under supervision?

A.—Yes. It would be a good plan with regard to bottling from hogsheads that an Excise officer should be present during bottling. That is done at home.

Mr. Procter.—Mr. Patterson told us that Scotch Whisky is a trade description and that from the term it did not follow that it came from Scotland just as Jamaica rum is a trade description and may be used for spirit although it never came from Jamaica. Do you agree?

A.—I don't agree with him.

Q.—Any liquor named Jamaica rum must come from Jamaica?

A.—Yes. It may be called rum to show what the bottle contains, but not Jamaica rum. I don't think you can call whisky that comes from England Scotch whisky. That has been clearly established by the Whisky Commission.

Chairman.—You would say the same about Italian vermouth which is produced in Germany?

A.—Yes, most decidedly.

Mr. Procter.—You think that labels should not be allowed to say "Italian Vermouth" or "Jamaica Rum" when the liquors were made in Germany?

A.—No. I think they are absolutely wrong descriptions.

Dr. Powell.—It is not a true "trade description"?

A.—No, it is a "trade misdescription."

Chairman.—One more point. You are allowed to import and sell casks and cases wholesale without license. Would you object to the withdrawal of that privilege?

A.—I am not aware of it. I think our license includes selling liquor of all descriptions.

Q.—You have no objection to Government requiring that nobody should get casks from the Customs and sell them wholesale without a license? Some people do so now.

A.—I should have a decided objection to the privilege being continued. All wholesale dealers should have licenses.

*Replies of Mr. Wm. E. Davies of Messrs. Cutler, Palmer and Co.
to sheets of queries.*

1. From Germany, France and Scotland principally.
2. Chiefly in this Presidency, but a small quantity ultimately finds its way into the Central and the United Provinces, I think.
3. Potato, beet, molasses, in fact *anything* from which a spirit can be extracted.
4. This is largely a medical question, but in the case of spirit distilled up to 60 (or higher) O. P., I should say not.
5. Before shipment with colouring and essences. After arrival here, with colouring matter only.
6. No, neither more nor less; it is merely a matter of palatability and appearance.
7. In both Bombay and the mofussil—after heavy dilution; the price obviously must vary according to the strength.
8. The practice is not prevalent in India, as far as I am aware.
9. Nothing beyond reducing and as per question 5.
10. Yes, from the wholesalers in Bombay city.
11. Approximately one rupee per bottle for the cheapest and up to Rs. 1-6-0 or Rs. 1-8-0.
12. 15 U. P. to 50 U. P.
13. In Bombay Rs. 12 per case of quarts and Rs. 14 for pints. In the mofussil the above rates plus freight and all charges, to which add a fractional profit—fractional only.
14. Rum, gin, brandy, &c., with numerous fancy names but often without a clear definition.
15. The poorer classes of all communities.
16. Yes; yes, quite independently of local spirit.
17. Like question 4, one must be largely guided by medical authority. I am not prepared to say that they *are* more deleterious.
18. If it be possible, labels should undoubtedly be a correct and clear indication of the liquors contained in the bottles. I am not prepared to give any suggestions which appear to me entirely practicable.
19. With regard to liquors generally, I see no need for added restrictions. In respect of the cheap foreign liquors, short of a direct refusal to allow the importation of liquors to be vended below a certain value, I have no suggestions that appear to be entirely practicable for restricting the sale.

No. 8.

Evidence of Mr. William E. Davies, of Messrs. Cutler, Palmer and Company.

Examined by the Chairman :

A.—My firm is Cutler, Palmer & Co. We are wholesale dealers, but also do some retail trade. I see no objection at all to the proposal that all bottling, blending and reducing should be done in future under Excise supervision. I see no objection to there being a central warehouse. It would cause little or no inconvenience to my firm for we do very little bottling. We practically do no bottling in India, we only reduce. If we have to go to a central godown for that purpose it would cause us a certain amount of inconvenience, but not very great. As a matter of convenience I would prefer reducing to be done in my own godown under Excise supervision. We merely reduce by adding water. We do no blending and no colouring.

Q.—Your firm probably has little or nothing to do with cheap stuff from Hamburg?

A.—We import nothing at all of that description.

Chairman.—By cheap stuff, I mean all spirits so cheap that they are within the reach of native customers. Is there any genuine whisky which is within the reach of a native consumer, say which is sold at Rs. 1-4-0 per bottle?

A.—No.

Q.—Or at Rs. 1-8-0?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Whisky is being brought into Bombay at Rs. 1-3-0 per gallon invoice prices. Are you not aware of that?

A.—I should have supposed it is impossible to sell whisky at such prices.

Q.—The whisky in question is an over proof spirit, sent at high over proof strength which is made from grain and sent from Glasgow after being flavoured in a manner which makes it taste like whisky.

A.—I have not heard of whiskies being imported of more than 9 or 10 O. P.

Q.—Does cheap foreign spirit, whether continental or from Glasgow or London, compete with genuine high priced spirit? Do you consider it has damaged your trade in any way?

A.—It does not affect our class of customers.

Q.—Would you put any restrictions on this inferior article?

A.—If practical means can be devised it should be excluded altogether.

Q.—Do you see any practical way of excluding it? Can you suggest any device under which you can shut out certain kinds of spirit and let in others?

A.—It is very difficult to reply. I fail to see how a practical scheme can be laid down. A suggestion has been made to me that there should be a standardization of spirits, but I don't see how it is practicable.

Q.—Do you anticipate that the Royal Whisky Commission at Home will result in standardization?

A.—So far as I have read its deliberations it seems likely that they will lay down a rule about grain spirit.

Chairman.—That spirit made of grain should not be sold as whisky?

A.—So far as I can see you cannot lay down any such regulation with regard to whisky. To my knowledge it is prepared either from grain or from malt.

Q.—As regards malt whisky should you not say that it should not be distilled above that strength where all the qualities of the malt disappear?

A.—Yes.

Q.—How does whisky come to India cheap?

A.—So far as my information goes the cheap whisky which is shipped to India is cheap purely because of age. I speak from observations I have made. I know commercially in fixing the prices of my blends, I rely on age. It is the better class of whisky that I sell. In the blending of better class whiskies a strength of more than 10 O. P. is not used.

Q.—What is the lowest price at which genuine pot still malt whisky can be sold per bottle in India?

A.—I have been selling at Rs. 2-12-0.

Q.—It has been suggested, as you heard, by Mr. Millard, that there should be a graduated duty heavier on cheap liquors and lighter on stronger. Do you agree to that?

A.—This is the first time I have heard the suggestion, and I don't quite see how it is to work out.

Q.—It has been suggested by Mr. Millard as a protective measure for the dealers in good liquors.

A.—It might be useful if practicable. But as far as I can see it would simply result in the invoice prices of the cheap liquors being raised. The exporters would declare any value to escape taxation.

Q.—By an understanding with the importers?

A.—Yes. The plan could not work unless by some means you could check the actual prices in the country of shipment.

Q.—Have you any views about the present regulation which allows you and other firms to sell casks and cases wholesale without any license. You can handle casks of liquor without a license though you cannot handle bottles? Does that make any practical difference to you?

A.—I would prefer that every importer of liquor should have to take out a license.

Q.—Are you acquainted with any firms in Bombay that deal solely in casks or cases and never take out a license at all?

A.—No.

Q.—Have you any view about the proposal that there should be a uniform minimum strength for sale in Bombay and the mofussil?

A.—I am particularly in favour of a uniform strength for the whole Presidency. I think the most practicable strength would be 25 U. P.

Mr. Procter.—For both the mofussil and Bombay?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Why do you wish to apply Bombay standard to the mofussil?

A.—There ought to be one standard all over India. If you fix a standard in Bombay only it will differ from that of the surrounding provinces, and a man can send there for strengths prohibited here.

Q.—What is the usual strength at which high priced spirit is sold?

A.—Most at 15 U. P., but there is a considerable amount which is between 15 and 25 U. P.

Q.—If you say that most of the high priced spirit that is sold in shops in Bombay is of 15 U. P. a uniform strength of 15 for the whole Presidency might be no hardship?

A.—15 is an approximate figure. The strength usually varies between that and 18.

Q.—Practically is there nothing in the category of good liquor imported under 18?

A.—Some valuable liquors are, and gin is usually much weaker.

Q.—Would there be serious inconvenience in prescribing 15 as the strength for Bombay City with allowance for gin?

A.—I think there are whiskies which come below that. Personally I would have a uniform figure of 25 all over India. It will remove the inconvenience not only of the importers but also of the authorities here.

Q.—Do you know that in the most good whiskies and other spirits selling at over Rs. 2 per bottle are allowed to be sold at less than 15 U. P. without question?

A.—There is no exception in the license, and my firm does not as a matter of fact send whisky of less than 18 U. P. upcountry.

Mr. Procter.—Is there any objection to prescribe .15 U. P. specially for rectified spirit?

A.—I don't handle rectified spirit. I cannot give any opinion on that point. I don't quite know what they use rectified spirit for. I should not like to answer yes or no.

Mr. Procter.—The question is whether when the label on a bottle containing rum not made in Jamaica bears the words "Jamaica Rum" it gives a true trade description, so also with Scotch whisky, not made in Scotland, what is your opinion?

A.—I believe the subject is engaging a certain amount of attention at home. I should say it is a matter for the Whisky Commission to decide. I cannot say I think that whisky not made in Scotland should be called Scotch whisky. But unless you lay down a standard which would insist that no whisky should be called Scotch whisky unless it comes from Scotland, I don't know how you will decide the questions that arise.

Mr. Procter.—Are you not prepared to say that whisky made in Germany and called Scotch whisky is wrongly described?

A.—I would call it a wrong description. Liquor landed from Germany manifestly is not of Scotch origin, and the expression "Scotch," I think, has come to be applied generally to liquors produced in Scotland.

Dr. Powell.—If you order cheap Scotch whisky from Europe and get German whisky, would you consider yourself cheated?

A.—I should personally think so. I should not label Irish whisky as Scotch. If instead of Jamaica Rum I got cheap rum from Hamburg under that name, I would consider myself cheated. I have always understood that Jamaica rum indicates rum which comes from Jamaica.

Mr. Procter.—Do you agree that some restriction or some revision of import duty is necessary to deal with this matter?

A.—Yes.

Báo Bahádur Setalwad.—Do you think there should be a graduated scale of duties with a higher rate for cheap liquor?

A.—It would encourage fraud. Only experts can distinguish between good and bad liquor. We would require an expert to examine and analyze everything landed. I think it would be better not to have a graduated scale. I am opposed to it. My second objection is that cheaper things will be imported. The Indian demand is one of price, more than a question of quality. I can quite conceive that letters from importers would go home asking manufacturers to reduce the quality further and send it out for consumption. I know of instances where people have written to me like this when prices change:—"Please send us whisky at the price we have hitherto paid. We are not prepared to pay more." I find this all over India.

Q.—Do you know whether essences are mixed with cheap liquors?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think they are injurious or otherwise to the constitution?

A.—I do not know.

Báo Bahádur Setalwad.—Are the essences trade secrets?

A.—It is rather an open secret.

Q.—Is it known to you?

A.—Yes, to some extent.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Inasmuch as we don't exactly know what those essences contain it follows we cannot certify their wholesomeness?

A.—If you don't know what the essences are, you cannot say whether they are wholesome or not.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Do you think that the liquor manufactured in India under direct Government control is better for people than the cheap stuff imported from foreign country over which we have no control?

A.—This is a question largely dependent on the view taken of the value of by-products. If it is held that the retention of by-products in a liquor is an advantage, then I am of opinion that country liquors are better for consumption than these cheap imported products.

Dr. Powell.—Are the by-products injurious?

A.—It is a medical question entirely.

Dr. Powell.—It is a chemical question.

Chairman.—Is it not in the interest of patent still distillers to make out that every by-product is injurious?

A.—Yes.

*Replies of Mr. T. Edmunds of Messrs. Phillips and Co.,
to questions for witnesses.*

1. Chiefly Hamburg, also from other German and French Ports.
2. As far as I am aware a good deal of this cheap rubbish is chiefly consumed by mill-hands and low class Natives, also distributed all over India by Native dealers.
3. These spirits are manufactured from 15 U. P. upwards. I believe there is a good deal of it, especially brandy, bottled by Native merchants in Bombay—this could be bottled at 27 U. P. which is evidently done. I cannot go into details of manufacture.
4. I cannot go into this as we do not distil ourselves.
5. Colouring can easily be made by adding more or less burnt sugar.
6. By adding burnt sugar for colouring matter, the wholesomeness of the liquor is not interfered with.
7. Rectified spirit is not usually drunk as it is very expensive and is not easily got at. This is chiefly stored by chemists and they only take sufficient quantity out of Customs for their immediate requirement. Rectified spirit imported is 68 O. P. and is reduced to 60 O. P. by adding distilled water. The selling rates are *wholesale* Rs. 14-8-0 per gallon and *retail* Rs. 1-12-0 per lb.
8. No. Methylated spirit is not drunk as it is a deadly poison with the present mixture added by Custom authorities.
9. Whisky as far as I know is imported in hogsheads at 2 O. P. strength and is reduced to 14·8 or 15 U. P. by adding distilled water.
10. The supply and distribution in this Presidency is chiefly done by merchants and those holding agencies for foreign liquors. Of late numerous petty houses have started selling brandy and whisky by the dozen cases and upwards and have representatives practically all over India to place their goods.
11. This is too difficult to reply.
12. As far as European houses are concerned nothing that I am aware of is bottled under 15 U. P.
13. This is not legible.
14. Labels are either sent out by the exporters direct or a selection of labels is made from their representatives here.
15. The cheap liquors are chiefly consumed by the poor and illiterate—this applies to Bombay and Mofussil.
16. I consider the consumption of these liquors is rapidly increasing and, I should say, would in time seriously interfere with sale of country liquors.
17. There seems to be no doubt to me that these cheap liquors are more deleterious to the Natives of India than the country liquor.
18. Most decidedly the origin of manufacture should be distinctly stated on labels.
19. Nothing should be imported and sold either in Bombay or Mofussil under 15 U. P. and that no whisky either in bulk or bottles should be imported less than 3 shillings per gallon.

If I may be allowed to say I think it very unfair to trade generally that there should be two strengths, one for Bombay and the other for mofussil. In Bombay spirits can be bottled and sent out with impunity up to 27 U. P., whereas if a poor trader in the mofussil has a bottle on his premises at anything under 15 U. P. everything he has is confiscated by the Abkari authorities. In my opinion there should be one universal strength for Bombay and mofussil either 15 or 17 U. P.

Replies of Mr. Dossabhoy Merwanji Umrigar to questions for witnesses.

1. The ports from which the spirits defined above come to Bombay are Hamburg, Trieste, Bordeaux, Glasgow, Rotterdam, &c.

2. Most of the spirit of this kind is intended for consumption in this Presidency. The remaining goes to places in India of which Bombay is the trading port.

3. The bases (materials) from which these spirits are manufactured are potato, beet, rye and molasses at the strength of 40 to 68 O.P.

It is believed to be manufactured in patent stills.

4. The nature of the base does not affect the nature of the spirit when distilled at high strength, except in flavour and taste.

The bases mentioned above cannot be considered as unwholesome.

5. At Home they are blended with different spirits of which they bear the name, such as Brandy, Whisky, Rum, &c.

6. These processes of blending make the spirit more wholesome as regards taste and flavour.

7. Pure rectified spirit is drunk both in Bombay and the mofussil, but at a greatly reduced strength.

It is drunk in the mofussil at the strength of 15 U. P., and in Bombay from 15° to 50° U. P. It is reduced in strength by the addition of pure water only, and burnt sugar-colour is added to give it colour.

Pure rectified spirit is sold at Rs. 14-8 per gallon, 68° O. P. The retail price of the diluted spirits at 50 U. P. is Rs. 1-2, and 40 U. P. at Rs. 1-2 per bottle and so on, according to the different strengths at which it is bottled.

8. I have no reason to suppose that methylated and denatured spirit is ever drunk. We do not know of any process that would make it potable.

9. These spirits do not undergo blending, &c. here except being diluted with pure water, and burnt sugar-colour is used to bring it up to its original colour. The importation of essences of any description is prohibited in this Presidency.

10. The system of supply is conducted by wholesale dealers in this Presidency. In some instances, the importer is also a retail vendor in Bombay; the mofussil vendors are supplied by such wholesale dealers.

11. The wholesale prices of the principal brands in Bombay vary according to strengths and quality. A wholesale * price list for reference is attached herewith.

12. The different strengths at which these liquors are sold in Bombay are from 15 to 50 U. P. in Bombay, and 15 U. P. in the mofussil. But in Bombay, liquors of less than 25 U. P. are prohibited for sale from 1st April next.

13. The retail prices of bottles are from Rs. 1-2 to Rs. 1-8. The retail prices are same as and a very little over wholesale prices in Bombay, and in the mofussil such small profit as competition can allow.

14. These liquors are sold under the labels of Brandy, Whisky and Rum, as the case may be, the labels representing the brand of liquor as imported.

15. These liquors are drunk by middle and lower classes of all communities.

16. The consumption of these liquors whether increasing in Bombay and the mofussil can be ascertained from the import records of the Customs.

In my opinion the consumption is increasing independently since the visitation of plague. Those castes which did not touch liquor have begun to use it as a preventive against the prevailing disease, and it has not increased at the expense of the country liquor.

* Not printed.

17. I do not consider these liquors are more deleterious than the country spirit manufactured in this Presidency, inasmuch as these spirits are distilled at a very high strength, hence they are freed from all the impurities and by-products contained therein.

18. I consider that the labels showing the country of origin, as required by the Merchandise Marks Act, are sufficient for retail sale.

19. I do not consider any more restrictions are desirable beyond those already in force, as more restrictions will be a burden upon the people and would also lead to dishonesty in some instances in the vend of liquors to meet the heavy license fees.

Third day's sittings, Saturday, 23rd January 1909.

No. 9.

Evidence of Mr. Dossabhoy Merwanji Oomrigar, first witness.

Examined by the Chairman—

A.—My name is Dossabhoy Merwanji Oomrigar. I belong to the firm of Messrs. D. C. Oomrigar & Co. We are a wholesale and also a retail firm. We have no "on" license, only wholesale and retail off. (Shown his price list.) These are the prices at which we supply to the trade in the mofussil, only the prices at which we supply the trade. We sometimes sell retail at those prices. Our business has not practically increased in the last 10 years, I think it is the same as it was about 10 years ago. We supply two classes of customers. We sell high-priced wines and spirits and also cheap ones. We also supply middle class brands to middle class people. The prices of middle class brands range between Rs. 1-8-0 and Rs. 2 per bottle. Our middle class customers belong to all communities. Chiefly they are Parsis, Hindus, Portuguese and Europeans. By Europeans I mean lower class Europeans and Eurasians. This branch of business has not materially increased. We bottle, but we don't blend or compound. We reduce and colour. We only do what is allowed by law. We import both in hogsheads and in bottles. We import hogsheads for the sake of economy. We import bottles to suit the taste of certain of our customers. We don't import all in hogsheads because some people have a tendency to purchase home bottles. Those bottles are what I called middle class brands, and the purchasers prefer them to be bottled at Home. Being accustomed to drink particular brands they know them and use them. We import our hogsheads for the lower class customers. I sell Exshaw No. 1 Brandy at Rs. 45 a dozen and we also sell a Fine Pale Brandy at Rs. 12-8-0 per dozen. As to the difference between these two brandies, I say that Exshaw No. 1 must be a better stuff than what we sell at Rs. 12-8-0 per dozen. What we call Pale Brandy comes from Germany. I don't know how it is made, but we know that it is rectified spirit mixed with a blend of the things that require to be blended with it. They can blend rectified spirit with real brandy, or they blend it with certain essences of brandy to give it flavour. Rectified spirit has no flavour or taste in itself.

Q.—Do you know whether they put in any genuine French brandy to give it taste of brandy or whether they put in chemicals?

A.—I cannot answer that question. They may do either. I have no information as to what they actually put in. Our lowest class customers buy Fine Pale Brandy. Similarly as regards Whisky we have a high-priced whisky at Rs. 40 per dozen and another at Rs. 15 a dozen. The Rs. 15 whisky comes from Glasgow. I think that whisky is made from grain spirit and blended with malt spirit. It is a rectified spirit blended with malt spirit.

Q.—Is gin drunk by your middle or lower class customers?

A.—No, very little. They drink rum. I have got rum in my list at Rs. 12-8-0 per dozen. It comes from Germany. It may be rectified spirit mixed with some essences or real rum. We sell also pure rectified spirit mixed with water and called dilute spirit. Dilute spirit comes under the heading of foreign rum, because natives don't understand what dilute spirit is. Whenever they want it they ask for rum.

• Q.—Is your foreign rum at 15 to 12 rupees a dozen all dilute spirit?

A.—Not all, there is some imported rum under that heading. Some time ago I received a suggestion from the Collector that in future we should not use the word rum on labels of dilute spirit. I have not got his letter here. It came to me about 2 months ago. I have got here an invoice (produces one) shewing that practically there is very little difference between the prices of imported rum and rectified spirit.

Dr. Dadachanji.—By imported rum do you mean imported from Germany or Jamaica?

A.—What we import from Germany we also call rum.

Mr. Procter.—You get all your rum from Germany?

A.—Yes, under one invoice and from one maker.

Chairman.—The invoice shows rectified spirit sold at 1s. 10d. per imperial gallon, and again there is rectified spirit sold at 2s. per imperial gallon. What is the difference?

A.—The latter is of a higher strength, about 62 O. P.

Q.—Again there is rectified spirit at 2s. 4d.?

A.—That is in drums. The invoice shows that these are practically the same as the prices of the imported liquor called rum. I think pure dilute spirit suits the taste of natives better than the imported rum because it is clean and has no smell and no flavour. I think natives, that is the class of people that come to us, don't like flavour, because I find some instances, since bottling imported rum instead of dilute spirit, of complaints being made to me from different quarters that it has got a peculiar flavour which people don't like, who are habituated to drink clean spirit. The dilute spirit does not make them more rapidly intoxicated. We sell it at 15 to 40 U. P. in Bombay. People buy this stuff at different strengths according to their requirements and according to the prices they are able to pay. Both the stronger and weaker strengths have a sale. Our middle class customers don't buy this dilute spirit. It is made for labourers and other working class people.

Mr. Procter.—Has dilute spirit always been sold as rum?

A.—Yes. It has been so sold for many years past.

Chairman.—Do you also sell it as brandy?

A.—No.

Q.—Do you know if any other firms in Bombay do that?

A.—I don't know. There is no necessity for their doing so.

Q.—Why no necessity?

A.—If you refer to our invoice, you see the prices for rectified spirit and brandy are the same. There is therefore no necessity to bottle the one for the other.

Q.—Why do you call it rum?

A.—It is the usual native name for ardent spirits. If you label it as dilute liquor people will not understand what it is, they may think it is methylated spirit for which the word *spirit* is used by them. Rum itself among natives means a strong ardent drink which they require. They want nothing beyond that. They don't care what it is made of. They don't know what it is made of. They don't like flavour.

Mr. Procter.—But there is any reason why this dilute spirit merely coloured with sugar should be called rum.

A.—I don't see any reason why it should not be called so. I think cheap rum is wholesome. We have been selling it for the last 25 years. I have not noticed, during all that time, that it has produced any bad effect.

Q.—Have you noticed any distinct results among the drunkards who take foreign spirits, and those who take country spirit? Do you think the one is as good as the other?

A.—I see no difference. Some people may like foreign liquor and some country. They choose what they like and get it.

Q.—Do the bottles coming from Europe bear labels?

A.—Yes, each bears a label with the name and the words "Made in Germany" or elsewhere. Those labels are not removed in our shop. If the label is scratched it will not be passed by the Abkari Department. The Customs don't mind passing brandy which is labelled "Made in Germany." People who drink it may perhaps read English, but they don't make any distinction whether it is made in Germany or France. There is no difference to them. Our middle class customers know English and they buy home bottles of brandy which are practically all from France. All these middle class brands valued from about Rs. 16 and 17 upwards are French made brandies. For liquor which we bottle from hogsheads we import labels from Europe in some instances. Some we get printed here. Practically only those firms that send out liquor send out labels.

Q.—You never get labels from anybody who does not supply liquor?

A.—No, not to my knowledge. We get labels from people who send us the stuff.

Q.—Does the exporter in Hamburg send you out casks of some liquid with labels of rum, brandy, whisky, and gin and you put whatever labels you like on the same liquor?

A.—No. There are different labels and there are also different casks. One contains rum, another brandy and the third gin, and the different labels apply to the different casks.

Q.—Do you invent labels of your own?

A.—Yes, for liquor of our own bottling.

Q.—There is nothing to prevent you from making your own labels?

A.—No.

Q.—You invent your own descriptions?

A.—Yes. Here is one: "Fine Pale Brandy bottled by Dhunjibhoy Cowasji Oomrigar".

Dr. Dadachanji.—Look at this brandy in your list. Is the name of the firm on the label that of a real firm?

A.—No. It is an adopted name. It is adopted by us.

Chairman.—Are most names of firms which appear on labels of cheap spirits fictitious names?

A.—Yes. Sometimes shippers at home confine certain labels to one importer and others to another, to prevent competition against one another. The same spirit coming from the same exporter may bear the names of several different firms. The names may be purely fictitious.

Ráo Bahádúr Setalwad.—The same stuff comes to different customers with different names?

A.—Yes.

Ráo Bahádúr Setalwad.—The same quality?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Then the exporter invents these names merely to make a distinction for his clients?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you yourself invent names like these for the liquor of your own bottling?

A.—We have invented a name for only one kind of brandy and that is "Charles Pauline." There is no such firm.

Q.—Why did you invent it?

A.—It is a name about which there is nothing particular. It came out of our own head.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Is it a popular name?

A.—No. There is nothing in the invented names. People don't care for the name. They want the stuff and they get it. They come and ask us "Give us a brandy for Rs. 1-8-0 per bottle." They don't mention the name of the supposed firm. We don't pass cheap brandy under the names of genuine makers.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Is it in order to show you have got different kinds of liquors that you invent these names?

A.—It is done for the convenience of the trade.

Q.—Rather than to impress customers?

A.—Yes. To the customer it is all the same whether the name of the firm on the label is a European firm or a Parsee firm or a Hindu firm.

Q.—Would you object if the Customs required a true trade description to be put on each bottle as well as the country of origin?

A.—According to the Merchandise Marks Act every bottle is required to be marked with the name of the country where the stuff is made or bottled. The bottle does not pass the Customs without that. That is quite sufficient.

Q.—There is a further matter which the Merchandise Marks Act provides for and which is not in force. It is that a true trade description should consist of the method of production of the article.

A.—I don't think the method of production of the article on the labels is necessary. The stuff comes as brandy and passes as brandy and the label bears the country of origin.

Q.—You know that the stuff that comes from Hamburg passes as brandy which is a French liquor, but it differs from real French brandy. Would you object if Government ordered that bottles of brandy that come from Hamburg should specify on the label what that brandy is made of?

A.—I would object.

Q.—Do you see any reason to object?

A.—I don't think it is desirable.

Q.—Why is it not desirable? You ought not to put obstacles in the way of people knowing what they drink.

A.—Because people don't know what they are drinking. They don't know what is potato spirit or grain or grape spirit. We can get French brandy at about the same price as German brandy.

Q.—Is it not right that the public should know what it is that they are buying in the name of brandy?

A.—The public do know that they are buying brandy, when they get what they call brandy.

Q.—Is not true brandy distilled from the juice of the grape in a pot-still?

A.—It is brandy.

Q.—Is this Fine Pale Brandy not distilled from potato or grain in a patent still?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Those are two different things?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Would you object to a true trade description being given of each?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think such description would damage the sale of your cheap spirits?

A.—I don't think it would materially, seeing the class of people that make use of it.

Q.—Then why should you object to its being labelled potato spirit for the benefit of the drinker?

A.—I don't think it is desirable that everybody should know what it is made of as long as it is brandy and as long as it is not deleterious.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Is it not necessary to protect the public from bogus labels?

A.—I don't know that the public are in any way deceived. They get the article they pay for.

Chairman.—We are told the brilliance of labels is a great attraction.

A.—Do you mean to say that such labels will fetch Rs. 3 for an inferior stuff?

Q.—Does an attractive label make some people buy one kind of cheap liquor more than any other?

A.—I don't know that labels make any difference.

Q.—Is dilute spirit generally coloured with burnt sugar to make it more attractive ?

A.—Some people prefer it coloured.

Q.—In the case of the mofussil shops do you supply bottles only ?

A.—Yes, not casks.

Q.—Who affix the labels ?

A.—We do.

Q.—None of your mofussil constituents buy bottles and label them themselves ?

A.—I don't know, not to my knowledge. Those who bottle there may.

Q.—Do you know of any practice existing in the mofussil of shop-keepers buying bottles, opening them so as to make other brands and then putting on labels ?

A.—I don't.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Do you object to the Excise Department approving and passing your labels ?

A.—I don't think there is anything special to object in the case of labels as they are.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Suppose they are to be passed by the Excise Department, have you got any objection ?

A.—I should like to know what is proposed first.

Chairman.—Do you consider that the classes which used to drink country liquor 10 or 15 years ago are now taking to foreign spirits ?

A.—There is a tendency towards that.

Q.—As to your middle class customers, are they persons who used to drink country liquor ?

A.—They may be using country liquor as well.

Q.—Would Parsees drink country liquor ?

A.—I know at least, I think, they have left off drinking country liquor to a great extent.

Q.—They seem to prefer foreign spirit ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Would the upper classes of Hindus, Brahmins, Banias and Bhatias drink country liquor ?

A.—No.

Q.—Do they buy foreign liquor ?

A.—There are very few instances, not many.

Dr. Dadachanji.—To ward off plague ?

A.—Yes.

Chairman.—They take it as medicine ?

A.—Yes, I don't say high class Hindus do that. Foreign liquor is growing to be regarded as a specific against plague. People believe it to be so.

Q.—Do you find that natives of classes which took no drinks before now go in for it as medicine against plague ?

A.—Yes, to some extent.

Q.—Largely ?

A.—Not very.

Q.—Have the lower classes who come to buy at a foreign liquor shop ceased to drink country liquor ?

A.—That is not our line. Ours is a wholesale business.

Q.—You do retail as well ?

A.—By bottles and pints : not by pugs. The lower classes don't come at all to our shops.

Q.—Is your cheapest price considerably lower per bottle or pint than the cheapest price of country spirit that is sold in Bombay ?

A.—No.

Q.—How does it compare with country spirit in price ?

A.—Country spirit, at present, is sold at Rs. 1-2-0 per bottle.

Q.—What is your cheapest price ?

A.—The cheapest brandy or rum is sold for Rs. 1-2-0 or Rs. 1-4-0 per bottle at 40 U. P., country liquor is 20 U. P. in Bombay.

Q.—Your cheapest bottle is sold at the same price, but the strength is less.

A.—Yes. And from April next the strength fixed at 25 U. P. for Bombay will make the difference in price greater. It may come up to 3 annas a bottle more.

Q.—Do you consider that after 1st April next no cheap foreign spirit can be sold anywhere in Bombay under Rs. 1-5-0 a bottle ?

A.—Yes. That will be practically the minimum.

Q.—What is the license fee for your shop ?

A.—Rs. 2,500. I think it is much higher than my business warrants. It is very high compared with the fees levied in other Presidencies. In Madras, Bengal or other Presidencies they don't pay so much as we do here, and yet they may do the same amount of business as we do.

Q.—Is the fee anything like the fee that would be obtained if the business were put up to auction like a country liquor shop ?

A.—Our business could not be put up to auction. As importers and wholesale dealers we have large outstandings upcountry, and if the business was put up to auction no business would be done. Nobody would venture to lay out capital for the sake of a year or two or three's tenure, because he could not recover all his outstandings. We have thousands and lakhs as outstandings from different constituents upcountry.

Q.—Does the license fee affect your prices ?

A.—Owing to competition these heavy fees don't fall upon our customers. They go out of our profit. The heavy fees do not make us raise our prices.

Q.—In your written answers you say that if fees were largely raised dishonesty would be practised by vendors ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What sort of dishonesty would be practised in the foreign liquor trade ?

A.—Suppose a man's fees are raised he will put inferior stuff in the bottles. Although I don't think it has been done yet they will do it. There would be a temptation for them to do it. A man has to maintain himself and family and bear his other expenses, and if you put on him this new taxation he will necessarily be tempted to do that.

Dr. Powell.—What do you mean by inferior stuff ?

A.—He will put cheap spirit in the bottles of high class brandy or whisky, &c.

Dr. Powell.—We are not dealing with high class brandies.

Chairman.—You mean they would put patent still spirit in bottles with labels bearing the names of high priced liquor ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Or would sell Hamburg liquor as Scotch Whisky ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know whether anybody does that now ?

A.—I don't know.

Q.—Do you sell in half flasks ?

A.—Yes, but from April 1st it will be stopped. That is a pity. It was for the benefit of the public. I don't see why the public should be deprived of the

privilege of getting the stuff which they like in small quantities. They like the half flasks because they are home bottled. They have got confidence in the pukka bottles from Europe. Stopping the sale will inconvenience the customers because they prefer to buy half flasks originally packed.

Q.—How many drams go to a flask ?

A.—Two drams. Customers open it in the presence of the shop-keeper and have their drink from it.

Q.—In the shop ?

A.—Yes. It would not be done in our shop as we have no retail-on license. But this will be practically stopped from April next. I don't think this is in any sense desirable in the interests of the public.

Q.—Would not a customer be discouraged from having a peg if he cannot get a flask ?

A.—On the contrary he would be encouraged to have more drink. By stopping him from having a peg from the flask you make him drink something more. If a man cannot get his half flask he will have a pint, and he will drink more than he wanted to drink. If a company of persons go to a shop and ask for a flask and the shop-keeper says he cannot give them a flask they will ask for a pint and drink more than they wanted to drink.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Do not mill-hands come in a company of three and four to the shops ?

A.—They do.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Do they generally drink from half flasks ?

A.—Middle class people, whether Mahomedans and Hindus, come in companies and drink from home bottled half flasks. They prefer those flasks to pegs from what is bottled in the bazar.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Do you think if this is prevented from April next, it would be a hardship on the consumers ?

A.—I should say so. It is not desirable in the interests of the public.

Q.—Will not many people who would have bought half flasks now go without any liquor ?

A.—I don't think so.

Q.—Would you recommend fixed fees, as you complain of your own fee being too high ?

A.—Yes, there should be fixed maximum and minimum fees according to the business done by each individual shop.

Q.—What maximum would you propose ?

A.—The maximum fixed by the Excise Committee is, I should say, reasonable although it is high.

Q.—Would you say a thousand rupees ?

A.—Yes. That was the maximum fixed by the first Abkari Commission in 1884 and it lasted for over 20 years. Then about some 5 or 7 years ago in the time of one of the Assistant Collectors that limit was broken and fees were assessed according to the new system. The Assistant Collector had an idea that those people who were making very large business should not be allowed to escape from paying high fees.

Q.—Your business is now two or three times as big as it was in 1884 ?

A.—I don't think it is.

Q.—We have got statistics of imports to show that there has been a very great increase in late years ?

A.—The statistics don't show that the profits are great. Profits made in years before 1884 were greater than they are now, because now there is too much competition.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Do you approve of a fixed scale of fees ?

A.—Yes. I should suggest that there should be a graduated scale of shops with a fixed fee for each class.

Q.—It has been suggested that all bottling should be brought under control and should be done in the Government warehouse. What do you say to that ?

A.—I don't think there is any necessity. There is no necessity at all. In the case of spirits that are bottled here there is no blending or mixing done. The law does not allow the importation of any essences. No essences have been imported for a number of years and there is no instance found of any essences being used. No blending is done. The Customs and Abkari Department do not allow it. If there had been any instance in which essences were imported the Customs would not pass them. The stuff that is bottled here is intended for the class of people who do not require any blending at all.

Q.—May there not be a great temptation in the case of this dilute spirit which the shop-keepers can alter in the semblance of whisky or anything else ?

A.—I think that will be prevented from April next. Only the importers and wholesale dealers and other people whom the Collector may think fit, are to be allowed to bottle. Others are not to be allowed to bottle. This will prevent bottling in any and everybody's godown.

Q.—Is there any supervision exercised over your private godown ?

A.—Yes. The Excise inspectors can go there. They won't find the doors locked. It is one of the conditions of the license that they should go to inspect godowns. We bottle only between sunrise and sunset. There is no restriction in the license about the hours of bottling. We cannot bottle at midnight if we liked, because the shops are to be kept open only till 9-50 p. m. We don't bottle in our shops, but the godowns are open to inspection. Nobody bottles out of business hours.

Q.—Not even a dishonest dealer ?

A.—Even if he did, what would he bottle ?

Q.—Suppose he wants to play tricks on the liquor ?

A.—What tricks can he play upon liquor that he is bottling ? Every thing that is bottled now is sold in broad daylight.

Q.—Don't you think that some malpractices may be possible ?

A.—There is nothing that would lead the importer or the bottler to be tempted to malpractices. Because he cannot bottle anything cheaper than the imported liquor.

Q.—Take the case of methylated spirit that comes in at a nominal taxation. Is there no temptation for anybody to remove the flavour of naphtha and mix that with duty paid spirit ?

A.—Remove the flavour of naphtha ? By whom can it be done ?

Q.—It has been done by Mr. Smith.

A.—That was only an experiment done by him to see whether the methylated spirit imported from Calcutta is as strongly denatured as it is in Bombay. Bombay methylated spirit cannot be mixed with country spirit so as to make it potable. The experiment was purposely done to bring the difference of the Calcutta spirit to notice. (At this stage the Chairman asked the Secretary to get one or two bottles from Mr. Smith's Office.)

Dr. Powell.—Do you deal in methylated spirit ?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Powell.—Are there any complaints about the way in which it is denatured ? Does the denaturing interfere with industrial processes ?

A.—No. As regards the extent of denaturing that rests with the Chemical Analyser. It depends upon him whether he passes it or not. The spirit can only be used when it is passed by the Chemical Analyser as sufficiently mixed with naphtha, otherwise it is rejected. The spirit mixed with naphtha is quite suitable for industrial purposes. It cannot be used in potable drinks.

Chairman.—If you object to bottling in a Government warehouse, are you prepared to submit to the restriction of hours during which you may bottle, and

to notice being given to the Assistant Collector as to the day on which you are going to bottle?

A.—We bottle every day or almost every day. The bottling is done by our coolies who also attend to the opening, examining and clearing cases from the Docks. They bottle in leisure hours. If you insist that bottling should be done under the supervision of the Abkári Department it will interfere with our business. Because we bottle on days when our coolies are not engaged in the Docks in doing the work I have just mentioned.

Q.—Could you not arrange for bottling on three days a week?

A.—I don't think we can possibly do that, because we don't know when we can get our goods from the harbour. If we don't send our coolies to attend to the Dock work promptly we will not be able to clear our cases within a week's time and if the cases are left there beyond a week uncleared we shall be liable to pay extra fees. I would not have any restrictions on bottling at all. There is nothing to show that any cheaper articles can be mixed with the stuff that is being bottled here.

Q.—There is a rule in the Abkári Act by which you can deal in whole casks without a license?

A.—Yes.

Q.—You find it convenient?

A.—We have a license already. I don't know where the concession makes any difference. I should say it is for the Abkári Department to show whether it is fair that the importation should be allowed free or not.

Q.—Are you against the law as it exists now, that as long as you deal with whole casks and cases only you need not have a license? Do you know of any firms that deal in this way and take out no license?

A.—I don't know of any because men who bring out hogsheads of spirit bring them for bottling.

Q.—It has been suggested in Calcutta that liquor shops—foreign as well as country—should be Government buildings built on a model plan?

A.—I don't think that is practicable in Bombay.

Q.—What about retail-on shops? Do you think there ought to be special buildings for them?

A.—I don't know that it is possible because the licensees are sometimes required to change from one place to another.

Q.—Shops once built by Government would not be changed, if the sites were carefully selected. You know that there are restrictions in licenses about people not being allowed to drink in back parlours and secret places?

A.—They are not allowed.

Q.—Do you approve or disapprove of this restriction?

A.—You see in a city like Bombay the case is this: when one company comes into the shop it would rather prefer to be in a small compartment where they would not have to mix with another company.

Q.—And if such privacy were not allowed the company would not come at all?

A.—No. Therefore I would prefer to give them screens.

Q.—The object of Government is to discourage people from drink.

A.—I don't think that purpose could be served by preventing privacy.

Q.—Why not?

A.—People of the higher classes who don't want to be seen drinking would purchase bottles and make use of them in their private houses.

Q.—Is it not quite certain that if drinking can take place in strict privacy there is a chance that people who do not drink now, *e. g.*, people of the higher classes, would go and drink in the shops?

A.—They now take bottles and drink them in their own houses. I don't know why the poorer classes should suffer for the protection of the higher classes. I am against this restriction and also against the model shops.

Q.—As regards uniform strength, what is your view? It has been suggested that 15 U. P. should be prescribed for Bombay City as well as the mofussil as the minimum strength for all spirits.

A.—I would not prefer 15; a minimum of 15 for the better brands, is, I think, rather too high. Some brands of the better classes are imported between 15 and 20. They are used by people who are not hard drunkards.

Q.—As regards Hamburg cheap brands?

A.—I think the minimum has now been fixed at 25 U. P. That is quite reasonable.

Q.—Do you think it is more reasonable than 15?

A.—I should say so.

Q.—You object to its being made as high as 15?

A.—Yes.

Q.—It is the mofussil limit as you know.

A.—Yes. I would not have one strength for all higher and lower classes for Bombay City. I think the limit in Bombay of 25 is quite sufficient.

Q.—You would not have a uniform strength for the Presidency?

A.—Not unless Government choose to have it.

Q.—What do you think of the suggestion that there should be a graduated Customs duty—heavier on the cheaper spirits and lighter on the dearer ones?

A.—I don't know how it is practicable. I don't think it is advisable because it would simply lead to dishonest business. It may lead to forging counterfeit invoices. The actual price of the liquor may be, say 6 or 8 shillings and if it comes under the heading of cheap liquor at that price, the importer would ask the shipper to say 12 shillings or 15 shillings. It would not be fair to the trade.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Would the shippers carry out the orders of the importers?

A.—Some would. I don't speak of respectable firms sending out high class liquor: the question is about those shippers who do the cheap business.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Do you think the measure would lead to other kinds of dishonesty?

A.—I think it is not desirable at all. You would get poorer qualities of spirit because your proposal would lead to higher taxation.

Chairman.—Do you find that the taste for beer is attracting many Natives?

A.—I think there is a tendency towards it.

Q.—What classes?

A.—Natives as a whole, and to a certain extent the mill-hands.

Q.—Is your beer business increasing?

A.—We do very little business in bulk beer, because there are certain importing houses who have got agencies for different kinds of beer and they do the bulk business. We supply beer to our mofussil constituents if they require it.

Q.—Do you find the demand is getting larger?

A.—Not particularly.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Do you approve that beer should be allowed to be sold in country liquor shops?

A.—It has not been allowed.

Dr. Powell.—Do you think it is desirable?

A.—If Government allow beer to be sold in country liquor shops then they ought to allow country liquor to be sold in foreign liquor shops. I don't think there should be any restrictions. Formerly there was that case. Before the first Abkari Commission liquor shops could sell either foreign or country liquor combined in one shop.

Dr. Powell.—Why was that put a stop to?

A.—Because some suggestion was made that there should be two distinct classes of shops. I think the former system had put both kinds of business on a level because some companies of 4 or 5 people would take country liquor and other companies would take foreign liquor, and so the sales of the shop would be divided between the two classes of spirits.

Chairman.—Do you not think that under that system foreign liquor would have driven country liquor out?

A.—No. The foreign trade thrives because it has been separated and the tendency to drink foreign liquor has been growing on account of this separation.

Q.—How could the separation stimulate drinking foreign liquor?

A.—If the two liquors were still combined in one shop the sale of the shop would be divided between the foreign and country spirits.

Q.—Have men who were once addicted to foreign liquor ever changed and come round to country liquor?

A.—I don't know. I have never known such a case.

Q.—Do you know of cases where men have left country liquor and gone to foreign liquor?

A.—Yes, many. There is that tendency.

Q.—What classes buy cheap wines?

A.—Sherries are practically all sold for tinctures and for other medicinal uses. I mean they are bought by chemists. I am talking of German sherries.

Dr. Dadachanji.—You mean they are bought to make medicinal wines?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Doctors are supplied with those wines?

A.—Yes.

Chairman.—Is cheap port used in the same way?

A.—Chemists don't make use of port of a poor class. I cannot particularly say what particular classes drink cheap port. Sometimes customers buy a pint of port or a pint of sherry, but not many. We have got some habitual customers who ask for port.

Dr. Powell.—How do they compare in price with the wines of Spain and Portugal?

A.—Those are a little dearer than the sherries and ports from Germany. Chemists make use of the cheap sherry. (At this stage witness was shewn a bottle of mixed methylated spirit from Mr. Smith's office.)

Chairman.—Do you consider this mixture potable?

(Witness smelt it and made a face.)

Chairman.—Mr. Smith says coolies will drink it.

A.—They might. We brought this methylated spirit to the notice of Mr. Smith to prove that the methylated spirit that is imported from Calcutta is not so well denatured as that denatured here, and it can be sold cheaper than what we can import or manufacture. Of course, the Calcutta manufacturer, Arratton and Co., who has practically got a monopoly of the business, can sell it 4 annas cheaper here than we can import it.

Dr. Dadachanji.—They import the spirit from Java I believe.

A.—Yes, it comes from Java and is methylated in the Calcutta Custom house. Our business is done only in spirit imported by sea into Bombay.

Chairman.—I suppose this is the only spirit that comes here from Java?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you sell methylated spirit to Kolis coming from Thana and Kolaba?

A.—No. I never heard of those people buying it.

Ráo Bahádúr Setulwad.—Does your firm trade in cheap spirits or better class spirit mainly?

A.—Our firm trades in high class as well as middle class spirits. In the middle class prices range from Rs. 1-8-0 to Rs. 2-8-0 per bottle.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Do you make a larger profit from the better or the cheaper brands?

A.—The profit is practically the same on account of competition. On retail sale of a bottle of brandy or whisky we hardly make on an average more than half an anna or one anna per bottle. If you assess a heavy duty at the rate of nearly 3 annas a bottle how can the merchant afford to pay it when he has to meet his license fee, his other expenses and his maintenance charges.

Q.—If the material of this spirit were mentioned on the label, would not the purchasers know they were getting what they want?

A.—Those who cannot afford to pay Rs. 3 a bottle don't care.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Don't you think we ought to insist on the label mentioning that fact so that the purchasers would know the things from which the stuffs are manufactured?

A.—I think there would be a great objection on the part of shippers. There is no country in the world where they are compelled to state on the labels the mode of manufacture which is their trade secret.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—You think it would not be desirable to say that the stuff is made from potatoes?

A.—It is quite sufficient if the label states that the stuff is made in France or Austria or any other part of the world. The consumer knows what he buys.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—What harm would there be if disclosure of the base were insisted upon?

A.—It rests with the shippers at home.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—You don't object?

A.—I think in the interest of the trade we should not disclose how the stuff is made. I don't like the idea. I say it would not be better for trade to disclose it on the label. It may be manufactured from some wholesome article or it may be made of potato or beet or molasses. These things are not unwholesome. I don't think there is any necessity to have anything of the sort mentioned on the label.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Would there be any objection on the part of the trade?

A.—I think the trade would not like it.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Because trade would suffer?

A.—It might, but the public would not be benefited by that.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—The public would know what they are drinking.

A.—The people who come to us and say "Give me a bottle of brandy for Rs. 1-4-0" don't know what it is they are drinking, nor can they read what is written on the label, and even if they read it they don't know whether the things out of which the liquor is made are harmful or not.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—At any rate they would know that the Pale Brandy which they are purchasing is no brandy at all.

A.—They know they get what they ask for.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Any inferior stuff mixed with sugar would not be bad?

A.—I don't know. The people who buy cheap brandies don't know whether they buy brandy or rum. They only require an ardent spirit to drink. They don't buy it for taste or flavour.

Dr. Dadachanji.—They want the stuff which is "Karak" (ardent)?

A.—Yes. It is the higher classes—the educated classes—who know one thing from another and buy what suits their taste. The poorer classes would not know if you give them brandy for rum. A man of such a class does not know what it is; he is satisfied as long as he is drinking some ardent spirit.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Would you not insist that the educated classes should be safeguarded against being misled? Don't you think the interests of the educated classes would be safeguarded by true description on the label?

A.—I have already said the educated classes know what they drink.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Do you think that the educated classes would not take Fine Pale Brandy if they knew that it was no brandy at all, but merely a coloured spirit?

A.—What does he expect for Rs 1-4 or Rs. 1-6? It is passed as brandy from the Customs, and as long as it is so passed, the importer has a right to label it as brandy.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—I don't say you are doing wrong. But would it not be better for all concerned if, before it is passed from the Customs, the spirit is correctly labelled?

A.—What would be the consequence? I think there would be a strong objection.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Can you think the Customs authorities should approve and pass the labels?

A.—I don't think so.

Dr. Powell.—Do you think it right that the Customs should allow bottles to come in labelled as "Jamaica Rum, made in Germany"? Is that proper? Do you consider it is right?

A.—If it is imported as Jamaica Rum made in Germany, it is known to be rum manufactured in Germany.

Dr. Powell.—Suppose you sell Scotch Whisky made in Germany, is that a true trade description?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Powell.—Don't you think the coolie who buys a bottle for a fancy label would not buy it if he knew that the liquor was made of potato or grain?

A.—I don't think it would make any difference.

Dr. Powell.—Why should it not be sold under its proper name?

A.—People don't know how to distinguish one spirit from another.

Dr. Powell.—Don't they think they are getting something else than they actually get when they ask for brandy?

A.—They are getting brandy, but they get it of the quality suited to the price they pay.

Dr. Powell.—You object to proper labels?

A.—If you import brandies with labels of that description the middle class brandies would be practically stopped, and middle class people cannot afford to pay for high class spirits.

Dr. Powell.—Grape spirit brandies have potato or patent still spirit added to them?

A.—Yes. Middle class brandies are mainly made of patent still spirit blended with a little proportion of the real article for which they are meant, such as brandy, whisky and rum.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Don't you think that the country liquor which is made in India under direct Government supervision and control would be better than the cheap stuff that is imported, as regards which you don't know how it is manufactured?

A.—We know how it is manufactured. It is manufactured free from by-products.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Don't you think that as long as country liquor is manufactured under direct Government control it is better than this cheap stuff?

A.—Foreign is as wholesome as country liquor. There is nothing to prove that cheap liquors are unwholesome.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Have you got a distillery for country liquor?

A.—Yes, at Uran.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Do you find any difficulty in preparing country liquor like Bevda and Mowrah of the old type?

A.—It is not possible, because there are so many restrictions upon distillation now-a-days. In olden days there were no restrictions. They were spiced, they were mixed with sugary matters, they were allowed to mature and afterwards they were used. We cannot make spiced liquors in Bombay. We are not allowed to use spices in Bombay. We can do that at Uran only.

Chairman.—Don't you keep matured liquor there?

A.—There is no matured liquor there. I don't know if other distillers mature there.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Can you mature the liquor if you choose?

A.—Yes.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Most of your fee is paid on cheap liquors?

A.—No.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Why do you recommend 25° U. P. strength in Bombay. If 15 is suitable for the mofussil, why should it not be suitable for Bombay?

A.—It would be suitable for Bombay for the cheapest kind.

Dr. Dadachanji.—What proof strength is fixed for country liquor in Bombay?

A.—20 U. P.

Mr. Procter.—You said these silent spirits are blended with the different spirits of which they bear the names?

A.—Yes.

Mr. Procter.—You also say that the blending makes the spirit more wholesome?

A.—Yes.

Mr. Procter.—How do you know what they blend these spirits with?

A.—Suppose we want brandy; then in a certain portion of rectified spirit they would mix brandy in a certain proportion. A certain portion of brandy is required to be added to the spirit to make it flavoured. I don't know whether they put essences instead of brandy. I have no direct means at all of knowing what they do. Everything is done for wholesomeness and not for spoiling the liquor.

Mr. Procter.—You said that the middle classes approved of brandy which comes from France. Can you tell us what proportion of the brandy imported is drunk by the middle class? 25,000 gallons were imported last year. How much of that would be drunk by the middle class?

A.—Do you mean how much middle class brandy was imported.

Mr. Procter.—Yes. How much of that 25,000 gallons would you say was French Brandy?

A.—Half of it.

Mr. Procter.—As a matter of fact only 5,000 gallons were shipped from France last year. Therefore, probably these are not French brandies?

A.—I don't know if it is correct that only 5,000 gallons were shipped from France.

Mr. Procter.—3,700 were shipped from Bordeaux, 1,000 were shipped from Charente and 400 from Marseilles.

Dr. Dadachanji.—What quantity of brandy did your firm import?

A.—We get from France nearly 2,000 cases a year. May be a little more than that.

Mr. Procter.—More than half is shipped from Hamburg. Is that French?

A.—No.

Mr. Procter.—It was not sent to you as French?

A.—We get our bottled brandies all shipped from Bordeaux or Marseilles. As regards our importation in bulk, Hamburg stands first as regards casks.

Mr. Procter.—Is the brandy which is called a French brandy really French?

A.—If it is not French brandy, it would not be allowed to be labelled as produce of France.

Mr. Procter.—You say in answer No. 16 that the increase of foreign spirit has not been at the expense of country liquor?

A.—Yes.

Mr. Procter.—You have also said that there has been a tendency to give up country liquor for foreign spirits. Would that not be at the expense of country spirits?

A.—Sometimes people take a fancy to foreign spirit and then they revert to country spirit.

Mr. Procter.—I understand country liquor has not increased much for the last 5 or 6 years, while foreign liquor has been greatly increasing.

A.—There is an increase in foreign liquors owing to the visitations of plague during the last 10 years. Those classes who used not to drink have been compelled to take foreign spirits as medicine for plague. It is a preventive against plague.

Mr. Procter.—You said there was a tendency to give up country liquor in favour of foreign spirits?

A.—Yes. It is according to the taste of the people. If they like foreign spirit there is nothing to prevent them from having it. If they like country spirit, there is nothing to prevent them from taking that too.

Mr. Procter.—As regards labels, you say you consider the present labels sufficient?

A.—Yes.

Mr. Procter.—You don't think the labels matter at all?

A.—The present control over the labels is quite sufficient. I say the labels don't affect the trade at all. I don't think they affect the sales.

Mr. Procter.—Then it could not matter if you put on a true trade description?

A.—I don't know whether it would affect the sales. But it is impossible. Suppose we get any brand and bottle it out here. How can we say that it is a potato spirit or rye spirit or beet spirit? How can we say definitely that it is potato spirit unless the shippers declare it?

Dr. Powell.—Why not call it neutral spirit?

Mr. Procter.—If it would not affect the sale and if Government want to put on a true trade description, it would not matter if they did?

A.—Under present circumstances these cheap liquors are sold as brandies and whiskies, wherever they are imported from. I am not prepared to say what they are made of. All we know at present is that they are got out in bulk as certain liquors, but we don't know whether the brandy so imported is made of potato or beet or rye.

Dr. Powell.—You know it is not brandy.

A.—I cannot say it is not brandy. How can I say it is not brandy? As long as I get it as brandy I take it as brandy.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Can you not tell your shippers to give a true trade description?

A.—I don't think they would do it.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Can they call it brandy made from potato?

A.—I don't think they would do that.

Mr. Procter.—It seems you consider that the label does affect the sale?

A.—To a certain extent.

Dr. Powell.—Do you know that one of the large export druggists of Calcutta imports whisky essences and brandy essences?

A.—They may do it in Calcutta. I think they are allowed to do so there. The law there allows them to import essences.

Chairman.—Would you have it allowed here?

A.—There is no objection. It would improve the taste of the brands that we prepare to add essences.

Dr. Powell.—You don't think that it is impossible for importers here to mix essences with the neutral spirit from Germany which is imported?

A.—They may do it on the other side.

Dr. Powell.—It is not impossible here.

A.—No.

Replies of Mr. D. D. Baria to questions for witnesses.

1. Hamburg, Rotterdam, Bordeaux, Glasgow, London.
2. Yes, in the Presidency and also to places in India, of which Bombay is the recognized trading Port.
3. Potato, beet, molasses, rye, from 40 to 68 Over-Proof.
Unable to state for certain the method of manufacture, but is believed to be generally what is known as the patent still process, in any case it is so in South Africa, where molasses are used as the base.
4. Yes, for instance in the opinion of many, spirit made from molasses is more adaptable for potable purposes than that of potato and beet.
In the case of whisky, rye is infinitely inferior to malt.
In brandy the pure grape is preferable.
The bases mentioned cannot be considered as unwholesome.
5. By diluting and blending with a percentage of the spirits after which they are named.
In India a colouring matter of burnt sugar is added to the spirit and sold as rum.
6. More wholesome.
7. Only as stated above with burnt sugar added to the spirit from 15 U. P. to 50 U. P. By adding distilled water.
Wholesale approximate Rs. 14-8-0 per gallon at the strength of 68 O. P.
Retail 50 U. P. Re. 1 per bottle.
„ 40 U. P. Rs. 1-2 „ and so on.
8. No.
9. No, with the exception of rum as mentioned in answer to paragraph (5).
10. The system of supply is conducted by wholesale dealers.
In one or two instances the importer is a retail vendor of bottles only.
The mofussil is supplied through the wholesale houses of Bombay.
11. From Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per doz. bottles according to strength.
12. From 15 to 50 U. P. From 1st April 1909 the lowest strength will be 25 U. P.
13. From Rs. 1-2 to Rs. 1-8 per bottle, according to strength.
14. Under labels of rum, brandy, whisky, etc., as the case may be, the labels originating from the brand of liquor which the spirit represents.
15. Inhabitants of India and the poorer classes of all communities.
16. Yes, independently.
17. Do not consider these liquors more deleterious than country spirit.
Unable to give an opinion.
18. Consider that the affixment of label stating country of origin in accordance with present Merchandise Act is quite sufficient.
19. Cannot recommend the placing of any further restrictions upon the sale of foreign liquor in general nor the spirit defined above in particular than those already at present in existence.

Evidence of Mr. D. D. Baria.

(This witness gave his evidence partly in English and partly in Gujaráthi.)

Examined by the Chairman.

A.—My name is D. D. Baria. That is also the name of my firm. I am both a wholesale and retail dealer. I bottle, reduce and colour. I would object to a general warehouse for bottling. I would object on account of the expenses and trouble to the coolies. They are sometimes engaged at the docks opening, examining and clearing my packages from Europe. There is no knowing when they will be called away to do that work. When they are free from that work they look after my bottling business. I object to the proposal of a general warehouse on the score of inconvenience connected with coolies. I import both in bulk and in bottles. I import in bottles because some people ask for bottles that come from Home. As regards differences in the quality of spirits that are imported in casks and in bottles, in some cases there is a difference and in some there is no difference. There is no general superiority in the bottles. Higher class bottles cost more and the lower class of bottles cost less. Shippers send as we order. I import labels from Europe (puts in a book of labels). I also manufacture labels. Some labels cannot be manufactured here.

Q.—Is the whole of the liquor that comes out in bulk accompanied by labels from the exporters?

A.—Some exporters send labels, some don't. I never get labels without liquor. We make labels for our own brands. There are European firms who will supply labels without supplying any spirit at all.

Báo Bahádur Setalvad.—Those firms don't do any liquor business at all?

A.—No. There are manufacturers of labels and capsules.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Do you know the names of those firms?

A.—Bates & Co., Lumley & Co. and others who send inferior capsules from Germany.

Chairman.—Do you supply the mofussil?

A.—Yes. I do it entirely in bottles. I label the bottles before I send them. No shopkeeper in the mofussil labels his own bottles. I have never heard of a mofussil shopkeeper opening bottles and blending two kinds of spirit together. I sell rectified spirit. I don't sell it in the name of brandy. We call that thing brandy which comes from Europe as brandy. I sell rectified spirit under the name of rum. We dilute the spirit to 40 U. P. and add burnt sugar and call it rum. I never mix it with real rum. The process of dilution is this; the number of gallons in the cask are multiplied by 168 or 140 and we divide the result by the number of degrees. We sometimes use distilled water and some times plain water for reducing. I don't distil water myself. I don't buy distilled water. I use tap water and not well water. I have never heard anybody selling rectified spirit under the name of pale brandy. I have an on-license. I sell to consumers on the premises. Poor, rich and middle class people come to buy at my shop. Some of them drink there and some take bottles away. High class Hindus don't come to drink on the premises. Sometimes they buy themselves and sometimes they send their servants to buy. Poor Parsis come to drink on the premises, but generally Parsis don't do that. Musalmans come to buy liquor in my shop. None of them drink on the premises. Generally Boraks don't come to the shop to drink.

Q.—Used any of the people, who come to drink in your shop, to drink country liquor and have they changed their drink?

A.—Yes, some. On account of plague they take foreign liquor.

Dr. Dadachanji.—They take foreign liquor to prevent plague?

A.—Yes. Therefore, they give up country liquor.

Chairman.—Has that caused the number of drinkers to be largely increased, say doubled or trebled?

A.—I cannot say that they have increased so much. During plague they have taken to the habit,

Q.—What is your license fee?

A.—My fee for this year is Rs. 1,900. I consider it very high.

Q.—Does it compel you to sell your liquor dearer than you would otherwise have done?

A.—No, we lose our profit. I cannot raise my prices on account of competition. On account of competition we cannot make a profit. All the increase in the fee falls on our profit. I cannot approve of the idea that all on-license shops should be built by Government on a model plan. I do not approve it on account of the expense.

Q.—How would it increase the expense if Government own the shops and let them to the shopkeepers?

A.—Then Government should charge the importer a low rent.

Q.—I suppose you have to pay a very high rent?

A.—Sometimes I pay Rs. 25 per month for my retail-on and off shop at Mazagon. For my Market shop I pay Rs. 185.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Has it lately been increased by your landlord?

A.—For the last 2 years it is the same.

Chairman.—Have you any objection to the strength of 15 U. P. being prescribed for Bombay City and the mofussil?

A.—It would become very high.

Dr. Dadachanji.—How do they have it in the mofussil?

A.—Because it is compulsory there.

Chairman.—Does any customer ever mix his foreign spirit with water to make it weaker in strength?

A.—Yes. They do so when they drink in the shop, and also when they take the stuff to their houses. Generally they add water. They add it according to their taste. Sometimes they add much and sometimes they add only a little.

Q.—We are told that the general custom is that they mix half and half.

A.—Yes. Some make it half and half and some add the whole tumbler. Some add half a tumbler. They put a little water in the cheap spirit.

Q.—Does the man, who buys spirit 15 U. P., dilute it more than the man who buys at 40 U. P.?

A.—Yes, I have noticed that. In the mofussil private people get spirits from Calcutta and Madras of 25 U. P. That tells on our trade.

Q.—Have you noticed a growing taste for beer?

A.—I don't know.

Q.—Has the sale of cheap wines such as port and sherry increased?

A.—No. I sell from 100 to 150 dozen a year. They are bought by natives as well as by Europeans—chiefly by the middle and poorer classes of the latter.

Mr. Procter.—Do you sell much rum?

A.—Yes. I sell about 30 or 40 hogsheads of 60½ gallons each a year. I import it as rum. I don't make it here. I import it from Germany. I don't manufacture rum here. All that we import from Europe as rum is already blended.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Don't you dilute rectified spirit, colour it with sugar and call it rum?

A.—Yes. I label it as rum.

Mr. Procter.—(Shows witness one of his labels.) You see that label?

A.—It is Jamaica rum, imported from London. I import it from London. It is a real Jamaica rum of 25 U. P. (Witness is shown another label.) This is Jamaica rum at 15 U. P. (A whisky label is shown to the witness.) This comes from Glasgow.

Dr. Powell.—In bottles or casks?

A.—In hogsheads. (Witness is shown another label.) This is 40 U. P. rum. Burnt sugar is added to this. It is sometimes added, if it is pale.

Dr. Powell.—Do you put burnt sugar in this? (Shows witness a label.)

A.—No. Sometimes if we put much water into it, then we have to add burnt sugar to make it red.

Mr. Procter.—Are not these diluted spirits?

A.—No. They are rums from Europe.

Mr. Procter.—Not diluted spirits coloured by you?

A.—No. If I have not got rum I colour dilute spirit and call it rum.

Chairman.—(Shows witness his price list.) Don't you make some rum yourself out of rectified spirit coloured in your own godown?

A.—Yes, until recently, when the Collector asked us not to call the stuff rum. We always now import rum. Sometimes if I have not got rum I take dilute spirit and call it rum. I do that when my stock runs short.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—But that is not rum?

A.—It is rum here. Dilute spirit plus colour is called rum.

Mr. Procter.—Is this rum? (Shows a name in the price list to the witness.)

A.—It is Jamaica rum. I invented the name. It is a fictitious name. (Witness was shown two other names in the list.) These are also fictitious names. For the sake of our trade we do these things. Because, if I put on my own label people will not like it.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Though the qualities are the same the label is different?

A.—Yes.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—You think labels bring you greater prices?

A.—No. We have these labels in order to have a monopoly of certain names.

Dr. Powell.—People are attracted by the labels?

A.—Yes.

Chairman.—(Referring to witness's book of imported labels.) Those are the labels imported from Europe?

A.—Yes. They are from the original maker, that is from the manufacturer of the spirit.

Q.—Will you mark on your price list all the labels which are of your own invention?

A.—Yes. (Does so.)

Mr. Procter.—Are these genuine labels? (Shows some from the book to the witness.)

A.—No, these are all fictitious names. These are not real names.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Your book of labels comes from Scotland?

A.—Yes. They use fictitious names for the whiskies.

Mr. Procter.—Is that a real name (shows the name of Gillespie).

A.—No. (Refers to another label.) This one shows the name of the real manufacturer.

Chairman.—All these labels are invented by the European firm?

A.—Yes.

Mr. Procter.—He has taught you how to make your labels?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Powell.—People who buy the stuff prefer it for the label?

A.—No. You see, the distiller always asks us, tell us if you prefer such and such a label? We say 'yes,' because, we want no competition in the labels. One label comes to me alone. If the same label went to another merchant then there would be competition in that brand. I might be selling the stuff for Rs. 15-6-0 and the other man might sell it for Rs. 15-4-0, and draw away my customers.

In that way competition would go on if there were same labels used by all the dealers. These different labels are used to avoid competition. The same as in piece-goods.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Do exporters of labels invent labels for you?

A.—Yes.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—You send orders and they send you nice labels?

A.—Yes. They send us groups of labels to choose from. Different labels are sent by the same maker to different shops, in order that the public may not understand that it is the same thing that they are buying at different prices at different shops.

Dr. Powell.—If you said on the label of your dilute spirit ‘coloured spirit,’ would not the public buy?

A.—No.

Dr. Powell.—You mix spirit with water and burnt sugar and call it rum; would not people buy it yet if you called it ‘neutral spirit’?

A.—No. They would not buy if we state on the label that the stuff in the bottle is ‘neutral spirit.’

Dr. Powell.—Why should you call it rum?

A.—Inferior spirit is always called rum in India.

Dr. Powell.—Why call it rum, when it is not rum? Would not people buy it unless it is called rum?

A.—Many people are writing ‘Diluted spirit,’ on the labels.

Dr. Powell.—People will drink that?

A.—Yes. They consider it is rum and drink it.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Have you got a distillery at Uran?

A.—No. I don’t consider country liquor is superior to this cheap German spirit.

Q.—Country liquor is prepared under the Excise supervision?

A.—I don’t know if it is superior to the cheap foreign spirit.

Q.—Why not? The one is under supervision, and as to the other we don’t know how it is prepared and what are its ingredients?

(No answer.)

Q.—You know the one is prepared in Europe and the other is prepared under Excise supervision?

A.—In Europe the distillers make the spirit under supervision I believe.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Have you any objection to a bonded warehouse where bottling, blending and reducing would be carried out?

A.—Yes, on account of the trouble.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Otherwise you have no objection?

A.—We should have to be present when the Excise officers are present.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Suppose bottling is allowed on only stated days and at stated hours in your own godowns. What then?

A.—We should have to wait for the excise inspector.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Suppose a time is fixed for his visits?

A.—It would inconvenience our coolies who have to go to remove cases from the docks.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Have you any objection to the labels having a correct trade description?

A.—If shippers gave false descriptions we should get into trouble.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—If the Customs authorities required that before they pass the bottles the bottles should bear a correct trade description, would you have any objection?

A.—I don’t think it is necessary.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Have you any objection ?

A.—I don't think it is necessary.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—If such a thing is done do you foresee inconvenience or trouble or objection ?

A.—I have objection on the score of the labels. They will have to be changed.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—All the objection you have is as regards the change of labels.

A.—Yes.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Do you think shippers will give false description ?

A.—How can I say ? They will keep their trade secrets. They won't be willing to disclose their trade secrets.

Replies of Mr. B. Rustomjee to questions for witnesses.

1. From London, Liverpool, Hull, Bordeaux, Marseilles, Rotterdam, Hamburg, Trieste, Java, &c. They are manufactured in England, Scotland, Ireland, Austria, Germany, Holland, Russia, France, Java.

2. It is both for consumption in the Presidency and a very fair proportion is exported to Territories beyond the Presidency, *i.e.*, to the Punjáb, the Central Provinces, the United Provinces, Nizám's State, &c.

3. From inferior kinds of grapes, malt, barley, oats, rye, wheat, artichokes, beetroot, carrots, cane-sugar, malted-rice.

The process of distillation is the usual one by the patent still, *i.e.* :—

The mashing,

The cooling,

The fermentation,

and

The distillation.

The spirit so distilled varies in strength from 40 O. P. to say 70 O. P.

4. Being distilled at very high strengths all the impurities are removed and the base does not affect the nature of the spirits; these spirits are quite wholesome.

5. The spirits are generally blended with small quantity of superior liquors of which they take the name.

6. No, on the contrary they make the spirits more agreeable and palatable.

7. Pure rectified spirit is drunk not only in Bombay but all over. It is first reduced. The strength of so-called reduced spirit varies from 15 U. P. to 50 U. P. It is reduced in the usual way by the addition of good filtered water, and to give it a colour pure burnt sugar is added. The rectified spirit at the strength 68 O.P. sells at Rs. 14-8-0 per gallon, and by the bottle reduced it sells at Rs. 1-2-0 to 1-6-0 per bottle, according to strength.

8. Of recent years I have not heard of methylated or denatured spirit being drunk. But the sale of this class has been daily increasing, which would lead one to suppose they were so drunk, but when one takes into account the various industrial uses to which the spirit is now being put, the increased import and sale may be in a way accounted for.

9. The spirits imported in bulk at Over-Proof strength do not undergo any other treatment beyond being reduced at strengths varying from 15 U.P. to 50 U. P. by the addition of water, and if the colour is not quite suitable to the Market requirements, pure burnt sugar is added to bring it to the proper colour.

10. The distribution is done by the Importer, who, in most cases is also a retail vendor. The mofussil dealers as a rule make their purchases from these '*Importer—Retail Vendors.*' There are however a very few Importers who supply the mofussil dealers also, but almost 90 per cent. of their trade is done locally with the Importers and the Retail Vendors; there are also several dealers in the mofussil who import some of their requirements direct from foreign Ports.

11. Herewith attached* is a wholesale price list of an Importer, who is also a Retail Vendor. The small retailers hardly make a profit in known brands of annas 4 to 8 per case over these wholesale prices. The competition is so very keen.

12. The strength varies between 15 and 50 U. P., but after the new strength regulations are applied, I think most of the spirits will sell at about 20—22 U. P. This is same as is the case in Great Britain under the sale of Food

* Not printed.

and Drugs Amendment Act of 1877. By this Act, Brandy, Rum and Whisky must not be sold weaker than 25 U. P. and Gin 35 U. P. But Importer—Retail Vendors here are compelled to keep in their stock spirits at 2 strengths, viz., 15 U. P., and the lower strength. The 15 U. P. strength they are obliged to keep to meet the requirements of their Licensed customers in the Bombay Presidency, where by the Abkari rules spirits of lower strength than 15 U. P. cannot be sold.

This is a distinct hardship both to the Importer here and also to the Licensed Dealer in the Mofussil when you take into account that Licensed Dealer in the mofussil in the Bombay Presidency has to pay to the Importer here a higher price on account of the high strength, whereas private consumers can get their requirements from retailer here of the lower strength at cheaper rate. Furthermore, the regulations about strength not being uniform in all India the dealer in Bombay has to work at a distinct disadvantage. In Bombay it is decided to keep the limit of strength at 25 U. P. The Bombay Market supplies as far as Punjab, Central Provinces, United Provinces and even Madras and Nizam's States. These Provinces take spirits of a strength of 50 U. P. and under, and as Calcutta, Madras and Karachi can meet their wants in this respect this trade would be lost to Bombay. If the wording of the License granted to Importers—Retail Vendors were so altered as would permit of their selling spirits of *any strength* beyond the Presidency and for all the Presidency the strength were kept 25 U. P. it would make matters easier.

13. As mentioned in paragraph 11, difference in price between wholesale and retail in most cases of known brands is not more than annas 4 to 8 per case. It is the same in Mofussil, except for the difference in freight. In this question reputed quarts of 8 drams are mentioned, but I beg to point out that all over the world the reputed quarts vary from anything over 23 ozs. to 26½ ozs. These bottles are everywhere acknowledged. Even the very best spirits, such as Exshaw No. 1 Brandy, Hennessys Brandy, &c., are being imported in bottles of 25 to 25½ ozs. It would be difficult and harassing to the trade were it attempted to fix the limit of reputed quarts at 26½ ozs or 8 drams.

14. Labels on bottles of imported bottled goods generally bear some name and the country where it is manufactured. Locally bottled goods bear similar labels with an additional label to indicate the name of the bottler.

These labels are generally sent out from Home according to the shippers' ideas and in some cases they are designed to the special requirements of the Importer.

15. The cheap spirit is drunk by the lower classes of all communities, both here and in the mofussil.

16. The consumption of these liquors is increasing. It is increasing independently of the country spirit.

17. These spirits are quite wholesome and are no more deleterious to the consumer than is the case with the country liquor.

18. The labels as at present used are quite a sufficient guide to the purchaser. The consumer of the cheaper class exactly knows what to expect to get when he calls for a drink. It is usual for this class of consumer, (except of whisky and gin), when they call for rum to expect some strong spirits. To them rum is the same, whether it is cheap brandy or cheap diluted spirit. If a dealer were to go out of his way and give him real Jamaica or Vatted rum when he calls for rum he would absolutely refuse to drink it on account of its flavour. This has actually happened many times.

As regards whisky and gin the consumers are a distinct class who usually know the taste, and these products are usually defined as such on the labels.

19. The restrictions already in force are great and, in my opinion, one or two of these require modification which, whilst not doing any harm to the revenue or conducing to increased drinking, will remedy some of the hardships under which the public suffer, specially the prohibition of the sale of half flasks and the removal of smaller quantities for consumption from retail bars, refreshment rooms, hotels, etc.

It is not quite clear to me how the new assessment is proposed to be applied and to what class of license. Bombay, besides being a large consuming centre, is also a big distributing one for Western and a good part of Northern and Southern India. Here the importer is also a retail vendor, hence the trouble. There being no separate and distinct license for importers, some firms import and sell liquors without taking out any license as they sell original packages. I would propose that there should be a distinct and separate license for all importers with a nominal fee, as at Karáchi. The present form of wholesale license (No. V) given to some of the importers is not suitable. The importer license must only permit the importer to sell what he originally imports in quantity not less than one package, permitting the importer to replace breakages and refill casks to their capacity before delivery. The fee for this should be nominal. The wholesale license should permit of sale up to a pint or two half flasks at a time and permit of bottling and compounding. The fee for this may range anywhere from Rs. 100, with a fixed maximum according to sales. If the scale as proposed is sought to be applied to this license it will add to the selling price and will lead to the public buying cheaper stuffs, which is not desirable.

Bombay, 20th January 1909.

B. H. J. RUSTOMJEE.

No. 11.

Evidence of Mr. B. H. J. Rustomji.

Examined by the Chairman :

A.—I do wholesale trade in Bombay. It is under the name of the firm called B. H. J. Rustomji. Mine is an entirely wholesale, not retail. By wholesale I mean by cases only. I supply the mofussil. I supply to people outside the Presidency especially. I supply to Secunderabad, Hyderabad and other places. My trade in the mofussil is very small. I supply Bombay and the mofussil in bottles only. I don't send casks to other provinces. I have heard most of the evidence given by Messrs. Oomrigar and Baria. I don't agree with the whole of what they said. I don't think there would be any special objection to the Government having a general warehouse, but I don't see that there would be any necessity for it, looking at the class of spirits that are bottled in the bazar. They are of such a peculiar character that I don't know that any restrictions you put upon them would be useful. They cannot do anything worse. I mean the bottlers cannot do anything worse. The only thing to insist on is a correct description on the label, which is already done.

Chairman.—No. The labels only show country of origin.

A.—The cheaper class of brandy and rum and whisky that is bottled and imported from Germany is described as such, by the exporters; so the sellers don't do any harm in describing them as such. As they are imported as such, importers are entitled to describe them as such. That is from my point of view.

Q.—Do you agree with the two last witnesses that there should be no enforcement of a trade description of liquor, including the source of production on the label?

A.—It is difficult to say what is brandy, rum or whisky, as there is so much doubt as to the true definition of these liquors. There are different standards of definition. Commissions are sitting year after year and they don't decide what is brandy, whisky and rum. You can get brandy from France for 50s. a case and you can get brandy from France for 5s. Both are brandies. The recent Commission that sat on whisky has not laid down any specific description. They merely said it is a spirit distilled from malt and grain.

Q.—I imagine the Commission did not want to go against the trade. Do you object to true definitions?

A.—What would be gained by it?

Q.—Purchasers would know what is brandy, etc.?

A.—Brandy is what is described as brandy. French brandy would be called French brandy and German brandy would be called German brandy.

Q.—Suppose in a certain liquor there is 75 per cent. of neutral spirit and 25 per cent. of brandy, do you see no reason why the bottle should not be labelled "Neutral Spirit flavoured with 25 per cent. Brandy?"

A.—How can the facts be ascertained? From whom would you get that information?

Q.—Might it not be enforced on the manufacturers?

A.—The shippers that send out goods here take them from different manufacturers. The manufacturers supply the shippers in original casks at 68 O.P. The stuff is blended and manipulated before it comes out here.

Q.—Do you think that the shipper does not know what the liquor is made of?

A.—No, because it passes through so many hands for blending, etc., before it comes to him.

Q.—Are there three parties—distillers, blenders and shippers?

A.—Yes.

Q.—The distiller knows the base, and the blender knows what he puts in could not the shipper get the true trade description of the stuff?

A.—He could only describe it as spirit from his own knowledge. What guarantee is there that anything else he might say would be true? As far as I know, the last Commission that sat on cheap foreign spirit in England could not come to a decision on this point. I don't think you can put all that on the label. Spirits sometimes come from the London market, where the shippers sometimes buy them in auction-sales. German exporters send them to England and they are there stored in bond. How would the shippers in London know the true trade description of the liquor they got in that way? The manufacturer has sold it to his agent and our shipper buys it from that agent. How then are you going to apply for the trade description in such a case? There is no law in England to enforce anybody giving it.

Q.—So you think the only practicable description is the country of origin?

A.—Yes. I don't say these spirits are not perfectly wholesome. All I say is, there is no necessity for any restriction.

Q.—You would not drink them yourself?

A.—I prefer not to drink cheap spirits. I don't drink them because I am not used to them. These are matters of taste.

Q.—It is not a matter of headache?

A.—No. Cheap spirits don't give headaches. It is a mistaken idea to believe that they give headaches. In a whole glass of rectified spirit you don't find one grain of fusel oil.

Q.—Do you say from your own knowledge that this stuff gives less headache than say a good whisky?

A.—When it is matured.

Q.—Are you speaking of better class liquors?

A.—Yes. When a man gets stuff of lower price he must take the consequences.

Q.—Do you say this cheap spirit—rectified spirit—gives less headache because it has few by-products in it?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know from experience that it does not produce headaches?

A.—I have not heard of any such bad effects. I have seen the Spirit Commission's report, which I have read. Two doctors in that report say that it produces no deleterious effects.

Q.—By whom were the doctors retained?

A.—They were retained by Government. They pass among the highest authorities in England.

Q.—Did they give their views on the point of by-products?

A.—The question was about bonding cheap spirits, whether they should be kept in bond for 2 or 3 years before they are exported. The doctors said there was no necessity because then they were not as wholesome as when they were raw. Personally, I have not observed bad effects from cheap liquors. I don't know the effect of cheap foreign spirit as compared with that of country spirit. You cannot make that comparison, because country spirit is drunk by a different class of people to that which goes in for cheap foreign liquor. Formerly poor people used to take country spirit but now-a-days when they begin to earn a little more they go after foreign spirit.

Q.—Have more classes taken to foreign drink?

A.—Yes, with increasing prosperity they like to get better spirits. They think the taste of country liquor is not so good.

Q.—You don't know, do you, whether people in Europe use essences or genuine spirits for blending and compounding?

A.—I know that unless they use essences, the cheaper class of spirits could not be made at the price.

Q.—Do you think the Hamburg rum and brandy are essenced?

A.—I cannot give a definite answer, because for a case of brandy or other spirit the price is almost the same as that of neutral spirit, or it is a matter of a difference of a penny or half a penny a bottle. The cheap spirit that comes here as brandy is distinctly flavoured.

Q.—You know the Fine Pale Brandy?

A.—Yes, it is exported from Hamburg. It is practically the same as rectified spirit. If it is more flavoured that may be due to the sugar. They could not afford to mix genuine Brandy with it, because it would be too expensive.

Q.—Have you a license under the A'bkári Act?

A.—Yes. I deal in spirits in casks and I deal in bottles by the dozen. I do no bottling now. I used to do a lot before.

Q.—At present under the A'bkári Act a man who deals in whole casks or cases only need not take out any license. Do you think he should?

A.—My opinion is that all importers of liquor, whether they sell wholesale or retail, should be forced to take out a license. There are several firms in Bombay who do a large liquor trade; they import liquor and supply it without a license in whole original cases, but if they want to break a case they have to take out a license.

Q.—Will you give me the names of those firms? It is perfectly legal, but I would like to know the people who are interested in this question?

A.—I cannot give you that information. It can be got from the Customs.

Q.—How many are they?

A.—Many. Perhaps twenty.

Q.—Do you know anything about the retail-on trade?

A.—I have nothing to do with the Bombay retail-on trade. Consumption of beer is increasing. I import beer in casks and bottles. Consumption of beer is increasing among the lower classes of natives. It is not among mill-hands. Some Parsees and Mahomedans and some Goanese are taking it, because it is now brought in casks and put on the bar. This was not the case before. I don't import cheap wines.

Mr. Procter.—In your evidence you said these spirits are generally blended with superior spirits at home?

A.—Yes, sometimes.

Mr. Procter.—But you have just told us they could not afford to blend with genuine spirit?

A.—They cannot so blend the cheap classes of spirit that come from Hamburg.

Mr. Procter.—Do you think most of the cheap liquors from Hamburg are not blended with genuine spirits?

A.—I should not think so. I should say not, on account of the prices.

Mr. Procter.—You don't favour any restrictions by the Excise Department because the spirits are so bad that they could not be made worse?

A.—They are not bad. I did not say they were bad. I said that they are so low in price, and how can they make cheaper spirits still.

Mr. Procter.—Might they not adulterate?

A.—How could they adulterate to make them cheaper.

Mr. Procter.—They could not make them worse than they are?

A.—I did not say they are bad. How could I say that. I say they could not adulterate them. There is nothing cheap to adulterate them with.

Mr. Procter.—Why could they not use methylated spirit?

A.—They would not be drinkable.

Mr. Procter.—Mr. Smith says people drink it with greed when mixed with mhowra liquor ?

A.—I don't know that.

Mr. Procter.—You say they could not be adulterated ?

A.—No.

Mr. Procter.—We are told by other gentlemen if we increase the duty, adulteration would take place. With what ?

A.—With a cheaper article.

Dr. Powell.—What cheaper article could be imported? Could you not import a cheaper article ?

A.—No. Rectified spirit is the cheapest of things. Beyond diluting it you cannot make it cheaper.

Dr. Powell.—You don't think importers do harm to the public by bringing in foreign neutral spirit and calling it rum ?

A.—It is drunk by a class of people who drink it, because they want to drink something ardent. If you give that class a better liquor, it will not take it. That is my personal experience. I imported from France brandy in casks and I imported Demarara and Jamaica rums, and supplied them to the public, but I had to fall back on the ordinary stuff made of dilute spirit, because these people would not take the real Jamaica rum even if I offered it at the same price. If they want Jamaica rum they will take it, but 50 out of 100 would not take it on account of the smell. The consumer wants something that is ardent, without flavour.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Do you think the ardent spirit does no harm ?

A.—No, that is not the case. But they prefer it, because it is ardent. Drinking is on the increase compared with what it was 10 years ago.

Mr. Procter.—Are there any people who drink cheap foreign liquor now, because there are more facilities for getting it ?

A.—Cheap foreign spirits have always been procurable. They are increasing very much, because the lower class people drink more than they used to. There is no harm in making 15 U. P. the standard in Bombay, if it were the same everywhere. The new standard of the Bombay Presidency would deprive Bombay of its trade of Upper India and the Punjab.

Dr. Powell.—If people merely want ardent spirit, why do you label it Jamaica rum ?

A.—It is not labelled Jamaica rum.

Dr. Powell.—Is not a great deal labelled Jamaica rum ?

A.—No.

Dr. Powell.—Well it is labelled rum ?

A.—Yes. What is labelled rum, is rum, but German rum is not labelled Jamaica rum.

Q.—Why should you not sell ardent spirits without labelling them rum ?

A.—For lower classes ardent spirit is rum. If they ask for rum and if you give them any other ardent stuff they will take it as rum. For the convenience of this class people import spirit which is not genuine rum but they are quite free to call it rum.

Dr. Powell.—There must be some object in labelling it as rum.

A.—Because the man who asked for rum expects to get rum and he takes it as rum, whether it is rum or not.

Dr. Powell.—Why not call it by a different name ?

A.—Government now allow rectified spirit to be called dilute spirit only.

Dr. Powell.—Will people take it if it is labelled so ?

A.—Yes, if it is labelled dilute spirit.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Can you distinguish brandy prepared from grape juice from the one prepared by synthetical processes?

A.—It is absolutely impossible for laymen to do it, and very difficult for experts.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Is it not necessary to have a true trade description?

A.—It would do no good.

Chairman.—To protect the public?

A.—How will you protect the public? French brandy of all prices comes as brandy. It is brandy, whether it is poor French brandy or rich French brandy. You can't draw any line.

Dr. Dadachanji.—It is only the prices that can attract the customers?

A.—Yes.

No. 12.

Evidence of Mr. F. J. Kathoke of the firm of J. F. Kathoke, 4th witness.

Examined by the Chairman, he said :—

A.—I am a wholesale and retail-off dealer. I have heard what the three gentlemen have said. I agree with Mr. Rustomji. I agree with everything he said. I don't bottle here nor do I import any casks. I get my liquor all bottled from home. I get my liquors labelled in Europe. I don't import any labels. I should advise that bottling should be done in bond under A'bkári supervision. I am certainly in favour of a warehouse.

Q.—Why is it that the other members of your profession object to it?

A.—Of course, if I say anything I would be charged with defamation.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Why do they object?

A.—It must be for their own benefit.

Chairman.—How so?

A.—I will explain. Just now Mr. Baria showed you a lot of labels. The stuff for him does not come of one quality, and we cannot say if they are bottled of the same quality or of other quality.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Would you exact that casks and labels should not come separately?

A.—I say that labels are coming from England and besides any amount of labels are made in Bombay, and, of course, consumers cannot find out whether the thing is a better stuff or is adulterated.

Mr. Procter.—From labels?

A.—Yes.

Chairman.—A label may come from England describing something else as Scotch Whisky?

A.—Any words can be put on the label according to the advice given by the dealers here. I think labels ought to be controlled in the warehouse.

Q.—We are told no malpractices take place without a warehouse?

A.—It would be the best thing to the consumer if the liquor is bottled in the warehouse under the supervision of the A'bkári Commissioner of Bombay. Then there would be no complaints to the effect that adulteration is going on.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Do you say that adulteration is going on? Is it going on?

A.—I must admit it.

Dr. Dadachanji.—It would be stopped if the bottling is done in a bonded warehouse?

A.—Yes.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—To preclude the possibility of adulteration going on?

A.—Yes.

Mr. Procter.—Do you say it is going on?

A.—Of course, I should say it is going on. As an instance, take people who are using port wine under the doctor's advice. Do you think the cheap port which they use is as good as the one that is sold for Rs. 3-8-0?

Q.—What do you suspect? Is it port wine bottled in Bombay you are speaking of?

A.—Yes, generally port wine.

Q.—What they do to make it so cheap?

A.—There is some sour claret out of which port wine is made.

Dr. Dadachanji.—What is sour claret?

A.—It is one which cannot be sold.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Which cannot be used as claret?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What do they mix it with ?

A.—If you want me to open everything—

Dr. Dadachanji.—We want all the particulars.

Ráo Bahádúr Setalwad.—As long as you tell us correctly why do you fear ?

A.—It will come in the papers and the traders will all come bawling against me. They mix it with black grapes.

Dr. Dadachanji.—They make port so ?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Dadachanji.—With more alcohol added ?

A.—No.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Is there any blood got from the Bandora slaughter-house for that purpose ?

A.—No. Blood is generally used to make the port wine clear. They put blood in it to make it clear. Blood is used for that.

Mr. Procter.—Is any other adulteration done in Bombay ?

A.—I cannot say. I am not an A'bkári Inspector.

Mr. Procter.—Do you think so ? Is it your opinion ?

A.—I have no information.

Chairman.—Do you believe that adulteration takes place with other things besides port wine, say brandy ?

A.—It is rather impossible to say. Because it is difficult to prove it.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Do you suspect it ?

A.—I cannot say.

Dr. Powell.—What is the cheapest spirit which you import ?

A.—I don't import any very cheap spirit at present. To meet competition I have imported lately brandy which is cheap for 6/8d. a dozen bottles in France.

Dr. Powell.—Do you import any rum ?

A.—No. I do import Jamaica rum which is 16/ per dozen. It comes from Leith and Glasgow.

Chairman.—Who are your clients mostly ?

A.—Mostly European gentlemen, big respectable natives and Railway Co-operative Stores. I have got my shop in Parsi Bazaar Street next door to the shop where Chubb's locks are sold. I supply to the mofussil shop-keepers. I don't supply them with cheap Hamburg spirit. I am only supplying to the mofussil customers rum bottled by Messrs. Oomrigar and Baria.

Q.—Have you an agency from Messrs. Oomrigar and Baria ?

A.—No. I buy from them at a certain rate and by charging for a profit send the thing to my customers.

Dr. Powell.—Do you approve of this rectified spirit being coloured in Bombay and diluted and then sold ?

A.—No. I would not allow it to be called rum. I had a talk with an A'bkári Inspector about this subject, about 6 or 8 months ago. There are two names given to this rum—one is called Imported Rum and the other is called Indian Rum. This word "Indian Rum" was suggested by the then Assistant Collector, Mr. Almon, about 8 or 10 years ago. He was the first man to give this name to this spirit.

Dr. Powell.—"Rum" ?

A.—Yes, No. 1 and No. 2. Whenever people come to ask for rum, we show them this rum. I don't think it is right to call it rum. It should be called spirit. If it is sent from Germany as rum we cannot object to its being called rum.

Dr. Powell.—And if they call it Scotch whisky ?

A.—Even Scotch whisky comes from 6/ per dozen.

Dr. Powell.—From Germany?

A.—I have not imported any German whisky myself.

Dr. Powell.—Do you think it right that it should be imported?

A.—Of what strength? Strength should be known: perhaps, they may send 40 U. P.

Dr. Powell.—Suppose it is called Scotch whisky and you know it is neutral spirit coloured with essences?

A.—It depends upon the consumer to complain.

Dr. Powell.—You have no objection to its being called Scotch whisky even if it is not Scotch whisky from Scotland?

A.—We cannot object if it is admitted by the Custom House.

Dr. Powell.—If you made it in Bombay it would be wrong?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Powell.—It is not wrong for Germany to make it?

A.—No. We cannot complain unless it is found out by the Customs House authorities.

Dr. Powell.—If it is called French brandy?

A.—We cannot object. We have simply to do our trade. If the Customs don't allow it we cannot order any more in future. The poor class of people drink anything that is given to them.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Do you consider that country spirit prepared under the supervision of Government officers is superior to the cheap foreign spirit?

A.—Yes, of course, by all means it is better.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Why?

A.—People prefer to drink that which is better; when the poor class of people after leaving work go home they take something, either country liquor or brandy. If a man asks for a pint of brandy he can get it for 8 annas of the cheapest kind. If he goes to ask for country *Bevda* he gets it for 14 annas. He cannot drink a quarter of the pint of country spirit because the thing is strong.

Dr. Dadachanji.—What is the effect on the human constitution of foreign spirit and of country spirit?

A.—I don't know, I can't say because I am not dealing in country spirit.

Dr. Dadachanji.—You can speak generally.

Chairman.—Why do you say a pint of the foreign spirit would be better?

A.—Because the strength of the pint of brandy is nearly 45 or 50 U. P.

Dr. Powell.—Water won't hurt him?

A.—He can drink the whole pint without water because it does not go in the head and he asks for more.

Dr. Powell.—Does good spirit turn his head?

A.—Good spirit won't give headache. Mhowra will give headache; if he goes beyond his abilities he will spoil his health.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Taking price for price, the one is inferior to the other?

A.—Yes.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—What do you say as to a uniform standard of strength for Bombay and the mofussil?

A.—There should be a scale of one strength—15° U. P. or 25° U. P. If the strength is 25 for Bombay City and 15 for up-country we cannot compete with other Provinces. I would not object to a uniform strength for India. As regards fees I have to make a confession about that. It is mentioned here (refers to the question paper issued to him by the Committee) that in Bombay they are going to raise the rate from Rs. 1-8-0 to 2 a dozen. At present I may say that I have been paying Rs. 900 as fee. My license is No. V wholesale. If you increase my present fee to Rs. 2 a dozen I am unable to do my business. I can tell you, Sir, that the profit that we are making is from 8 annas to 12 annas

'a case either of spirit or wine, not of beer. If we sell a bottle we only make 8 pies as profit. Now suppose a person comes and takes a quarter dozen we are obliged to give him at the rate for the dozen. Then, Sir, remember that we have to pay our income-tax and expenses. If with all this Government wish to make our fees Rs. 2 on spirits, Rs. 1 on wine and annas 8 on beer, then it is rather impossible for us to carry on our business. This is owing to the excessive competition. Suppose our fee is increased as it is proposed to be done, then we shall be obliged to raise the price 4 annas on a bottle and then the consumers will grumble to pay.

Q.—They would pay?

A.—Only those who are able will do it. Then the profits of Government would be reduced because importation would be less.

Mr. Procter.—How many cases do you sell in a year?

A.—I have two or three agencies. I sell about 6,000 cases in a year.

Mr. Procter.—Then your profit is only Rs. 3,000 a year?

A.—Generally, sometimes; if you take into consideration my wholesale business only it is so. I am a money-lender and an estate holder as well. Being in this trade for about 40 years since I was of 16 years of age, I don't like to go into another line of business.

Mr. Procter.—Does not this business pay you?

A.—No. I only keep it from respect to my old firm. It is in existence for the last 75 years in Bombay. We have been dealing with lots of European gentlemen and Co-operative Stores. Having carried on this business up to the present day I do not like to go into any other line.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Your general profit comes to about 8 annas a case?

A.—Yes. In former time I used to make good profit. When for about 15 years the license fee was very low I used to make good profits.

Chairman.—It is not the license fee but the competition that has cut you down?

A.—In those days the duty was less, the profit was more, and the expenses were less. Now-a-days expenses are more and profits very low.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Would you favour the idea of having a trade description on bottles?

A.—If we instruct our home shippers they would give us some sort of statement, but we have to depend upon them.

At this stage witness was allowed to go, but before he left the room, Mr. Dosabhoj Merwanji Oomrigar, accompanied by Mr. D. D. Baria, who had heard the evidence of the witness, approached the Chairman and Members of the Committee and addressed them thus:—

Sir, before Mr. Kathoke goes away, may I be allowed to ask him a question whether he can give any solitary instance of the description he gave as regards cheap wines, that is, with reference to diluting or mixing or colouring. He said that blood is added and that grapes are added to make port wine. I want to ask him whether this is practical in Bombay under the strict observation of the A'bkári Department. Can he give any solitary instance of what he stated? He simply libelled the trade, and it is because he is not bottling here. His remarks should not be allowed to pass unnoticed.

Chairman.—We will take your statement as an addition to your former statement.

Mr. Dosabhoj.—If you please. If the matter comes to be published to-morrow in the papers, what would people think of the bottlers? It is a stain upon the reputation of bottlers here. It is not just on the part of Mr. Kathoke to say what is not true. He ought not to say anything of things of which he does not know anything. He has not the slightest idea of bottling. He does

not know what is diluting and bottling. (Turning to Mr. Kathoke).—You cannot give an answer. (Turning to the Chairman).—Everything goes to show that if such a thing is done it is very damnatory to the trade.

Chairman.—I understand you don't admit Mr. Kathoke's allegation.

Mr. Dosabhoj.—I think Mr. Kathoke's particular object in making this statement is that if it gets published it will create a bad impression upon the public about the trade.

Mr. Baria said he associated himself with what Mr. Oomrigar had said.

Chairman.—We note that Mr. Oomrigar and Mr. Baria don't agree with the statement made by Mr. Kathoke.

Mr. Kathoke.—Do you think, Sir, I have spoken of these gentlemen? I said it is a difficult thing to prove.

Mr. Dosabhoj.—It is a general statement; no one is privileged to make a general statement of this kind.

(Messrs. Kathoke, Oomrigar and Baria withdrew.)

No. A.—7191 of 1908-09.

Bombay, dated 20th January 1909.

From

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

To

THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS, SALT, OPIUM AND
ABKARI, BOMBAY, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE
ON CHEAP FOREIGN LIQUORS.

Sir,

With reference to your No. 7094, dated the 31st December 1908, forwarding a list of questions for the Committee on Cheap Foreign Spirit, I have the honour to say that, so far as questions Nos. 1 to 15 are concerned, I shall have no evidence to give. The information I have collected on these matters corroborates the answers given by the Assistant Collector; those answers have been made with my approval, and I have nothing to add to them.

2. On the last four questions I have the following remarks to make:—

Q. 16.—I attach a statement that I have had prepared showing the consumption of foreign and country liquor in Bombay City during the last 10 years. It will be seen that while the consumption of country liquor has increased by 12·7 per cent. in the last quinquennium as compared with the quinquennium ending 1902-03, the consumption of foreign spirit has increased by 34·7 per cent. over the same period. The consumption of country spirit however still averages $7\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of gallons (of all strengths) per annum, as compared with 138,000 gallons of foreign spirit.

Unfortunately, figures are not available to show the class of foreign liquor that is being imported in increasing quantities. Information gathered from the shopkeepers points to the increase being chiefly in cheap "brandies" from Germany, "whiskies" from Scotland, and in rectified spirit. The liquor shopkeepers do not, however, admit that the lower classes of native drinkers are deserting country liquor and taking to foreign liquor. Among various explanations I have heard of the increase in consumption of foreign liquor are the following:—

(a) The supposed virtue of "brandy" as a specific against plague has led to its introduction among classes who had never drunk foreign liquor prior to 1896.

(b) There has been an increase of drinking among higher caste Hindus (e. g. Banias), who adopt the "civilized" liquor of the European in preference to Mhowra or Toddy spirit.

(c) Foreign spirit leaves little or no smell or taste in the mouth; this is no inconsiderable advantage when a man is ashamed that his friends or family should know that he drinks.

(d) Foreign spirit can be imported and retailed in wired and capsuled bottles with attractive labels at a trifle over the price of the same quantity of Mhowra spirit. The ordinary price for a quart bottle of cheap foreign spirit in Bombay is Rs. 1-2-0, but in some shops it is sold as low as *one rupee, i. e.*, the price of a bottle of country spirit.

The considerable increase in European population in Bombay during the last 10 years is another factor which ought not to be overlooked. The number of European residents in Bombay according to the census of 1900-1901 was 12,273, while in 1905-1906 the number was 14,374 (an increase of nearly 17 per cent.).

The increase in the trade of the port moreover brings every year a larger and larger number of thirsty sailors to Bombay.

Q. 17.—I have no information on this head.

Q. 18.—I do not see how *correct* descriptions of foreign spirit are to be enforced, in the absence of any test by which the base of the spirit can be discovered. The country of origin might be insisted upon as a part of the description, *e. g.*, "Brandy" from Germany should be labelled "German Brandy". But this would not protect the customer from being imposed upon in all cases, *e. g.*, large quantities of the cheapest spirit are imported "as Whisky" from Scotland, and these spirits would continue to pose as "Scotch Whisky".

The practice has been in Bombay to label as 'Rum' the stuff that is made here from rectified spirit and water. (It is also sometimes labelled "Dilute Spirit"). The Bombay bottlers would have a grievance if they were not allowed to use the term "Rum" to describe their compound when the German exporter has his choice of "Brandy," "Whisky" and "Rum" for a precisely similar compound.

On the whole I am of opinion that the simplest plan would be for the label to show—

- (1) the name of the country where the spirit was made ;
- (2) the name of the liquor (as described by the bottler) ;
- (3) the strength of the spirit ;
- (4) the name of the place where the liquor was bottled.

All labels (whether on imported bottles or on liquors bottled in Bombay) should be subject to the approval of the Excise Department; and a clause to that effect should be entered in foreign liquor licenses.

Q. 19.—Hitherto bottling has been permitted to all holders of foreign liquor licenses in Bombay. From 1st April next it will be confined to holders of wholesale licenses. Another restriction that will come into force from 1st April next will be the prohibition of the sale of foreign liquor of less strength than 25° U. P. This will bring the *minimum* price of foreign liquor up to Rs. 1-4-0 per quart bottle, and will make it approximately dearer than country spirit.

Another restriction coming into force on the same date will be the prohibition of the sale of foreign liquor for consumption off the premises in less quantity than one pint. This will stop the increasing sale of 1 and 2 dram flasks.

I would watch the effect of these changes for a year or two. If the consumption of cheap foreign liquor continues to increase at a greater pace than that of country liquor, I would raise the tariff duty on foreign spirit. I do not think it is possible to distinguish between different classes of foreign spirit in adjusting the tariff. All sorts will have to bear the increase; but its effect will of course be more apparent on the price of the cheap than on that of the dear liquor.

Other methods of restricting the sale of foreign liquor are (1) to reduce the number of shops, and (2) to increase the license fees. A little has been done towards reducing the number of *on* licenses in the last 2 years, while the fees have been considerably enhanced for both *on* and *off* licenses as will appear from the following table :—

				Number of Hotels.	Number of Refresh- ment rooms.	* Number of retail off Foreign liquor shops.	Total number of licenses in columns 1 to 3.	Total fees received from these licenses.
								Rs. s. p.
1890-91	...	...	...	17	34	76	127	41,041 10 8
1900-01	...	...	...	15	41	77	133	66,460 0 0
1906-07	...	...	...	14	41	76	131	79,175 0 0
1907-08	...	...	...	14	41	73	128	84,628 10 8

* In this list are included firms holding both retail off and wholesale licenses.

Licenses for consumption *on* the premises (other than at hotels and refreshment-rooms) are sold by auction. The number of such licenses stood at 49 in 1907-08 and was reduced by one in the present year. The intention is to reduce these licenses gradually as opportunity offers.

That the profits to be made from the sale of foreign liquor are already small as compared with those for country liquor is apparent from the figures paid for the shops at the auction held in March last. Whereas 49 country liquor shops were sold at an average price of Rs. 5,385, 8 foreign liquor shops averaged only Rs. 1,337 apiece.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
G. W. HATCH,
Collector of Bombay.

FOREIGN LIQUORS.

First Quinquennium.

	Years.	Gallons.*
Consumption of brandy, whisky, gin, rum and rectified spirit.	1898-99 ...	128,187
	1899-00 ...	111,717
	1900-01 ...	103,780
	1901-02 ...	97,062
	1902-03 ...	71,119
Total for the first quinquennium ...	.....	511,865
Average annual consumption of brandy, whisky, gin, rum and rectified spirit during the first quinquennium.	.....	102,373

Second Quinquennium.

	Years.	Gallons.*
Consumption of brandy, whisky, gin, rum and rectified spirit.	1903-04 ...	85,886
	1904-05 ...	94,925
	1905-06 ...	196,618
	1906-07 ...	152,753
	1907-08 ...	159,359
Total for the second quinquennium ...	.....	689,541
Average annual consumption of brandy, whisky, gin, rum and rectified spirit during the second quinquennium.	.....	137,908

* All strengths sold.
Increase per cent. 34.7.

COUNTRY LIQUOR.

First Quinquennium.

	Years.	Gallons.*
Mhowra and toddy spirit combined consumption.	1898-99 ...	706,880
	1899-00 ...	671,503
	1900-01 ...	639,764
	1901-02 ...	685,820
	1902-03 ...	729,538
Total for the first quinquennium ...	.....	3,433,507
Average ...	.....	686,701

Second Quinquennium.

	Years.	Gallons.*
Mhowra and toddy spirit combined consumption.	1903-04 ...	743,349
	1904-05 ...	760,962
	1905-06 ..	811,278
	1906-07 ..	754,848
	1907-08 ...	801,893
Total for the second quinquennium ...	.....	3,872,227
Average ...	.....	774,445

* 60° U. P. and 25° U. P. together.
Increase per cent. 12.7.

Supplementary note by Mr. G. W. Hatch.

I. *Hotel Licenses* number 14. They are assessed from year to year on a sliding scale according to the sales. They pay from Rs. 2,750 down to Rs. 400. (Average Rs. 1,168.)

II. *Refreshment Licenses* number 40. They are assessed from year to year on a sliding scale according to sales. They pay from Rs. 2,400 down to Rs. 500. (Average Rs. 895.) Refreshment Room Licenses in the native town compete with the liquor shops sold by auction. Practically they are merely liquor shops. They have been granted from time to time to people who have rendered assistance to Government or the Police (*e. g.*, after the riots of 1893).

III. *Liquor shops sold by auction* holding licenses for sale both on and off the premises number 48.* They are sold by auction. Prior to 1907-08 they were sold for 3 years with option to renew for further period of 6 years on payment of a fee fixed on assessment of sales. In March 1908, 8 shops were auctioned for one year only, with option of renewal for 2 further years on payment of auction bid for each year. The shops auctioned in 1908 fetched prices varying from Rs. 3,050 down to Rs. 700. (Average Rs. 1,337.) The other shops are all now under assessment calculated roughly on the basis of sales. It has not been possible to adopt the basis of sales exactly because the Excise Department is not able to rely on the figures given by the licensees. They pay from Rs. 1,360 down to Rs. 420. (Average Rs. 759.)

IV. Licenses for *retail off* sale only number 35. They are given to grocers and chemists at fees fixed on a consideration of sales. During the last two years an attempt has been made to make the fees approximate to a rate of Rs. 2 per dozen of spirit sold. The fees vary from Rs. 575 down to Rs. 100. (Average Rs. 242.)

V. Licensees holding *wholesale and retail off* licenses together number 32.* They pay fees varying from Rs. 225 to Rs. 2,500. (Average Rs. 576.) These fees are based on a consideration of the magnitude of the business. When the business is chiefly wholesale the fee is lower than when it is chiefly retail. The fees are varied from year to year on a consideration of the amount of the sales in the previous year. The system is not very satisfactory, and I propose to introduce fixed fees in the case both of IV and V. I also propose to introduce a fixed fee in the case of *bond fide* refreshment-rooms (such as Cornaglia). The refreshment-rooms in the native town might be absorbed into the same class as the liquor shops (No. III above). But this can only be done as the original grantees die out.

*Of these 28 are privileged and cannot be sold by auction during the life-time of the grantees.

* In addition to these there are 12 pure wholesale, paying fees ranging from Rs. 400 down to Rs. 100.

Fourth Day, Monday, 25th January 1909.

No. 13.

Evidence of Mr. G. W. Hatch, Collector of Bombay.

Examined by the Chairman :—

Q.—According to your calculations the consumption of foreign spirit is increasing much faster than that of country spirit in Bombay?

A.—Yes. Nearly three times as fast.

Q.—You cannot distinguish how far that increase has taken place in cheap German spirits and other classes of liquor?

A.—No. My figures are based on the sales recorded in shops, and they don't distinguish.

Q.—Some witnesses say that foreign spirit is preferred on account of the fact that it contains no flavour or scent. Have you any information about that?

A.—Yes, it is correct. As a rule foreign spirit does not leave any taste or smell in the mouth. When a man drinks country spirit, people know that he has drunk it; his friends and relations know when he comes home that he has been drinking. When he drinks foreign spirit he does not suffer in that respect. Two or three shop-keepers whom I asked said that people who drink the dilute spirit like it because it is "*naram*." That means it is not ardent. On the other hand many people say that what they want is ardent spirit.

Q.—Have you come to learn of people drinking methylated spirit in Bombay?

A.—No. I have had enquiries made. I asked the Assistant Collector to make private enquiries. The enquiry he has made shows that methylated spirit might be made potable. I have not heard of methylated spirit being bought to be drunk by the Kolis of Thána.

Q.—As regards the suggestion that there should be a warehouse in Bombay for bottling, a general warehouse in which all the operations with regard to spirits and wines should be under supervision, do you approve of that?

A.—I think we might have a warehouse, but I would let the bigger bottlers like Phipson and Oomrigar still run their own warehouses under supervision—where their business is big enough to justify it.

Q.—You would have all these operations conducted under regular supervision?

A.—I see no objection. It would prevent any abuse that might arise. I don't believe that there is anything illicit going on in Bombay as regards bottling. But there is a danger in future if there is no proper supervision.

Q.—Did you hear what Mr. Kathok said about port wine?

A.—I was not present, but I read it in the papers.

Q.—Do you think there is any foundation for that?

A.—No, it is purely imaginary. The Excise establishment has never had any reason to think that any such blending takes place.

Q.—Is there no temptation for these neutral spirits to be doctored by importers and sellers into the semblance of wines and other liquors?

A.—If they want to sell it as brandy or whisky they can get it much cheaper as such in bottles or hogsheads from Europe. I don't see really where temptation arises. An importer can get brandy in hogsheads as cheap as he can get rectified spirits.

Q.—Do you know whether the stuff that is called brandy and which comes in hogsheads differs in any way from dilute spirit which has been coloured with burnt sugar, or whether it has any brandy flavour?

A.—I cannot say.

Q.—It has been said that all these Hamburg liquors are nothing but the same neutral spirit coloured according to the liquor it is intended to imitate. You don't know whether it is so?

A.—I don't know.

Q.—Do you consider it would be safe to let things remain on their present footing without any restrictions at all as to bottling or colouring?

A.—I think we might restrict bottling by imposing heavy bottling fees so that we could keep the operation in the hands of responsible firms only. I don't at present see what we can do to keep people from drinking rectified spirit under the names of brandy or whisky. It seems to me impossible. It has been going on for a long time.

Q.—Do you see any objection to its being allowed to go on?

A.—I cannot say I do.

Q.—Would you object to a spirit being called rum when it is merely coloured with sugar?

A.—In Bombay when people ask for "rum" they expect to get dilute spirit coloured with burnt sugar. They have been calling it "rum" for the last 20 or 30 years.

Q.—You don't think it practicable to take any steps to define what is genuine rum, brandy, whisky and gin?

A.—The difficulty is this: I don't see where to draw the line. I imagine liquor containing 50 per cent. of malt whisky would be properly described as whisky. I don't understand how you can enforce true descriptions. Even if you fix the percentage of grape spirit or malt spirit required to constitute a true brandy or whisky at a certain figure, you could not expect shippers to conform. You would simply put a premium on dishonesty.

Q.—Assuming that these Hamburg brandies and rums are merely neutral spirits coloured, would not the Chemical Analyser in Bombay detect that?

A.—I understand that he could not.

Q.—He could not detect whether there is any actual brandy put in the stuff?

A.—I believe not. I referred one or two instances of this sort to the Chemical Analyser and he declined to help us altogether.

Chairman.—Can you send bottles of whisky, rum and brandy all of the cheapest brands imported, which are supposed to be merely neutral spirits coloured, and ask him to give us an analysis?

A.—Do you wish me to do so?

Q.—Yes.

A.—I will do that. How would you like the question to be put to him—to say what they contain?

Chairman.—I should put the question like this: "Can you tell by analysis whether this is pure neutral spirit merely coloured or whether it contains any infusion of genuine whisky, rum or brandy, or any chemicals to give the flavour of these liquors?"

Q.—In case a general warehouse was established there would be a considerable expenditure in rent, and also, I suppose, you would require an extra establishment?

A.—Yes, but I have not considered that question in detail.

Q.—Mr. Smith said the establishment should consist of a Supervisor and two inspectors, the Supervisor's salary being Rs. 300 a month and that of the two inspectors 150 each per month. Do you think something like that would be required?

A.—I think so.

Q.—Do you know what the rent of this warehouse would be? You might take the Port Trust warehouse next-door to this office.

A.—That is Mr. Smith's suggestion. I have not considered that matter yet.

Mr. Procter.—It is a bonded warehouse ?

A.—Yes.

Chairman.—Whatever the expenses would be they would be covered by the extra fees that you would levy for bottling ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you against allowing in Bombay the system that prevails in Calcutta and Madras, whereby importers may import essences and compound and blend ?

A.—The trade in Bombay is done without essences, and I don't see any need for us to allow them to go further than they are doing at present. I am against it.

Q.—There are two kinds of foreign shop licenses which are sold by auction—retail-off and retail-on ?

A.—Yes. Except the privileged shops held on life tenure these licenses are sold as they fall in. Last year 8 out of 38 were sold by auction. These were given both licenses, off and on.

Q.—Do you consider that retail off and on shops should be separated ?

A.—I do not think it necessary.

Q.—Has a refreshment-room got both an on and off license ?

A.—It has a special form of license. We allow refreshment-rooms to sell both off and on.

Mr. Procter.—Are fees of retail-on shops assessed on sales ?

A.—Yes, and of retail off also.

Chairman.—Is the refreshment-room license No. 2 in your list usually in the hands of privileged persons ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Of long tenure ?

A.—Yes. Practically it is a vested interest. People who have always shown themselves to be of good behaviour are allowed to carry on the business continuously.

Q.—Do you consider that as these incumbents disappear, the number of refreshment-rooms should be decreased ?

A.—Yes. They might be reduced considerably. There are some that are genuine refreshment-rooms, and they should not be disturbed. I mean places like Mongini's. Many are merely liquor shops. Even in the Fort some of the places that have refreshment-room licenses are mere public houses.

Q.—Should these two categories be distinguished by giving the one refreshment-room licenses and the other retail-on licenses ?

A.—We require refreshment-rooms to keep food, and in these places you will find biscuits and a few hard boiled eggs. They do this to satisfy the department.

Q.—Altogether there are 88 shops that allow consumption on the premises—40 of them are refreshment-rooms and 48 both on and off. Do you think so many necessary ?

A.—No, I don't think we need as many as 88 such shops in Bombay. The ward committees were established to diminish the number, but their recommendations can only be carried out slowly owing to the three years' auction period and the privileged shops. Out of the 48 retail shops, 9 only came up for auction this year. We managed to reduce one. The committee wanted more to be reduced and this will be done in time. Thus in C Ward they wanted 3 to be reduced at once. There was only one in that ward which came up for auction and we reduced that. Two years hence there will be a large number coming up for auction, then there will be no objection to reduce more.

Q.—Do you think that the total number might be reduced by half for *on* purposes? Don't you think that 40 or 50 *on* shops would be enough for Bombay as there is such a large number of country liquor shops?

A.—I would rather not risk any figure without going carefully through the matter. I have got a large scale map which shows the location of all the shops in Bombay, and as reduction depends largely on distribution, I would not like to say that the number can be reduced by half without a further study of the map. We have a great number of shops in the Fort. There is room for considerable reduction.

Q.—You have 118 off licenses. Are they not too many?

A.—Yes. But I find difficulty in refusing off licenses to grocers. We find companies started as swadeshi groceries who want licenses. The only new licenses I have given during the last 2 years have been retail-off licenses to newly established grocer's shops.

Q.—Do swadeshi establishments take out foreign liquor licenses?

A.—Yes. I think there are two swadeshi companies that have got such licenses. One is opposite the Victoria Terminus. I find it difficult to refuse these retail-off licenses to people who do grocer's business.

Chairman.—Has not there been a movement in England against grocers' licenses?

A.—I believe so. I may say that the number of foreign liquor shops has not increased, but decreased during the last 20 years.

Q.—But I suppose each shop does a very much larger business than it was doing 25 years ago?

A.—I should presume so.

Q.—You would not accept the annual auction system to be applied to foreign liquor shops?

A.—I don't like the auction system at all. It leads to too much speculation and rash bidding.

Q.—Do you consider that the fees charged on shops which are not auctioned are as high as could reasonably be taken?

A.—I think so. They have been heavily assessed during the last 2 or 3 years.

Q.—Do you consider that measures should be taken to make the cheapest kinds of foreign spirits more expensive than they are now?

A.—I should like to see it done.

Q.—Do you suggest any way?

A.—I think the only satisfactory way would be to increase the tariff duty on spirits. Something also can be done by limiting the minimum strength.

Q.—It has only been limited to 25 U. P. in Bombay. Would you like to make it 15?

A.—The practical effect of raising the minimum strength from 25 to 15 would not be very much. To make 1 dozen bottles of 50° U. P. dilute spirit requires 1 gallon of proof spirit costing Rs. 8-10-0 (with duty). To make 1 dozen of 25° U. P. dilute spirit requires 1½ gallons of proof spirit costing Rs. 12-15-0. To make 1 dozen of 15° U. P. dilute spirit requires one and seven-tenth gallons of proof spirit costing Rs. 14-10-0. The raising of the duty by Re. 1 per gallon would make the price :—

			Rs.	a.	p.
Of 1 gallon proof spirit	...	...	9	10	0
Of 1 dozen 25° U. P.	...	...	14	7	0
Of 1 dozen 15° U. P.	...	...	16	5	0

I have taken Rs. 1-10-0 as the average for cost price per gallon proof spirit.

Q.—What is the strength of liquor natives use for pegs to be drunk in the shop? Do they dilute with water or soda water?

A.—They dilute with water or sodawater when they buy the higher strengths. But usually a man goes to a shop and drinks brandy or whisky from 25° to 50° U. P. without diluting. In the mill districts where dilute spirit is largely drunk you find at the back of shops a drum of rectified spirit which the shopkeeper turns into bottles containing $\frac{1}{2}$ water and $\frac{1}{2}$ spirit. His customers take their pegs out of these bottles.

Mr. Procter.—Not further diluted?

A.—No.

Q.—Is drinking evenly divided between off-drinking and on-drinking?

A.—I cannot get any satisfactory evidence on the point, but some shopkeepers tell me they do their business in on-drinking more than in off-drinking.

Q.—Are you able to say whether there is any difference in the effects of country liquor and foreign liquor?

A.—I don't think there is any material difference. But I have seen people in the neighbourhood of country liquor shops in a state of intoxication, while I have never seen this in the case of foreign liquor shops.

Q.—Have you had under observation the classes which frequent foreign liquor shops?

A.—Not specially. Individuals of all classes may be noticed. Occasionally I have seen Mahomedans coming to buy.

Q.—Is it a common thing to see natives of castes or classes who are prohibited by their religion from drinking frequenting the shops? Have you observed that yourself?

A.—My observation has not been wide enough to enable me to answer.

Q.—In Calcutta a Committee has recently proposed that Government should build model premises for all "on" shops, at any rate. What is your opinion?

A.—I don't like the idea of Government building liquor shops.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Is there any difficulty in enforcing the license condition as regards back doors?

A.—It is difficult as regards the man who has got an unexpired license without the condition. We can become more and more strict when we renew licenses. When new licenses are granted there would be no difficulty whatever in making the shopkeeper conform exactly to what is laid down regarding the removal of partitions, etc. We should simply refuse a license if the man did not comply.

Q.—You find it easy to close the back entrances and side windows?

A.—We have already done that. Our difficulty is about partitions. Licensees cannot always knock them down. The landlords won't allow them to do so. In such cases we leave that point over till the tenure of the licenses expires. On the next occasion we should not renew the license unless they found another shop.

Q.—Have you any reason to believe that much quiet drinking goes on in concealment behind the partitions or in back rooms?

A.—I don't know. The shopkeepers don't admit it. I understand from foreign liquor shopkeepers that they don't bid high prices as their profits are so small. Their profits are small because their business is mainly in off-sales. There are a few shops in the mill districts dealing in rectified spirit and water and their sales are ten times as great as those of other foreign liquor shops.

Q.—Would you abolish any of these foreign license forms in Bombay?

A.—No, but refreshment-rooms that are not real refreshment-rooms should be amalgamated with the retail on shops.

Q.—What about the fees for the genuine refreshment-rooms ?

A.—Different places should be assessed differently according to circumstances. For instance, Mongini does only a small liquor business and he should not be assessed at a high figure. I would prefer to have a fixed fee for these places. I don't think we need give these people the trouble of keeping daily accounts. There should be fixed fees for different grades of shops of all kinds ; the minimum should be 500.

Q.—And the maximum ?

A.—I have not quite made up my mind about it. I have been working out a statement to show what our present fees amount to and what we should lose.

Q.—Would Rs. 1,000 be a great deal too low for "on" shops ?

A.—For on-shops Rs. 1,000 would be too low as a maximum ; but it might not be for off-shops. I should prefer to keep genuine refreshment-rooms on a separate basis and give the smaller ones licenses for Rs. 500.

Q.—You would make a distinction between them and refreshment-rooms like Green's, I suppose ?

A.—Yes. We should not look upon such places as being of the same class as Mongini's. Green's is the largest business of the kind. It pays Rs. 2,400 and has an all-night license. Mongini is not of the same class. It is a very small business. He gives you principally tea and refreshments. He also gives drinks, but his liquor business is small. I should compute that there are about half a dozen genuine refreshment-rooms in Bombay. They might be assessed on their merits, but with fixed fees without making them keep daily sale books. As regards the other kinds of shops I like the proposal of the Excise Committee for a minimum fee of Rs. 100 per month. I think that would be suitable.

Q.—Can you suggest a maximum ?

A.—I am not prepared to fix any maximum. The important thing is to get rid of the daily accounts. I would have fixed fees for off-shops. For on-shops I am doubtful about fixing the fees.

Q.—You would not continue the auction system ?

A.—No, I would prefer tenders.

Q.—Is it not open to the same objection as the auction system ? Would not speculators out-tender one another in much the same way ?

A.—There might be something of the kind, but not to the same extent.

Mr. Procter.—What is your objection to auctions ?

A.—You find people bidding a great deal more than the shops can pay.

Mr. Procter.—Would not that apply to tendering ?

A.—Not so much. In connection with auctions I have seen fierce competition to drive men out.

Q.—You would have a fixed minimum fee but not a maximum ?

A.—I think so, for on-shops at any rate. People would tender so much above the minimum.

Mr. Procter.—You would do away with auctions altogether ?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Dadaoahaji.—Can you do away with auctions as regards country liquor shops ?

A.—Personally I am against auctions, but I have not here any facts or figures by me to support my views.

Chairman.—Are you aware of any abuses that may crop up if fees were raised materially on foreign liquor shops ? Can you point out any evil likely to arise from the raising of the fees ?

A.—No, I cannot.

Q.—Is there much scope for the licensees cheating either the public or the Government ?

A.—They can cheat the public, but I do not believe they can cheat Government.

Q.—How will they manage?

A.—By selling stuff which is not what it professes to be, and by giving dilute liquor in short measurement.

Q.—With regard to the question of section 16 of the Abkari Act, we were told yesterday that there are probably 20 or 30 people who deal only in whole casks and cases and take out no licenses under the section. Who are these dealers?

A.—I have not looked up that point. But of those who deal in this way several have written to me and asked for licenses to enable them to open the cases.

Q.—Don't you consider that everybody who deals in liquor at all ought to take out licenses?

A.—I am certainly of that opinion. I think the Excise Committee told us we ought to change our Act in that respect.

Q.—Do you think there are many European firms who would be affected by this change?

A.—I don't know the number but there would be a very trifling fee for the licenses. Importers are exempted from licenses in such cases only when they never break bulk. To open a single case they must take out a license. I think Lyon and Company pay us a fee of Rs. 100 to enable them to open cases and take out bottles, usually broken bottles, from the cases. Most of the wholesale dealers, I think, have got licenses for this reason.

Q.—Then it will make very little difference to the people who do this sort of business if the law is amended?

A.—I think it will make little difference.

Q.—Do you consider the hours of sale ought to be altered in the case of any foreign liquor shops?

A.—Most have to close at 9-30 p. m. which requires no alteration. But we still have some on-shops of the first class, privileged shops selling up to 11-30 p. m. who can't be interfered with.

Q.—Barring the privileged shops, do you think 9-30 unduly late?

A.—I think that for refreshment-rooms 9-30 is a little too early.

Q.—Real refreshment-rooms which sell refreshments?

A.—No. I mean those that are really drinking bars. In the Fort I have had to give permission to the refreshment-rooms to sell liquor till a later hour on payment of extra fees. Practically all refreshment-rooms now sell liquor till a late hour on payment of late closing fees. These places cater for Europeans, *i. e.* sailors, and so on.

Q.—You think that in the Fort the refreshment-room hours ought to be extended rather than curtailed?

A.—I should like to extend them.

Q.—And as regards retail-offs and retail-ons in the native town which cater for natives?

A.—I think they may follow the same time as the time for country liquor, *i. e.*, 9-30. I don't think that is too late an hour in Bombay where people don't leave the mills till 8 o'clock.

Q.—Do you want the mill-hands to go to the foreign liquor shops?

A.—They do go there. Foreign liquor shops are largely patronized by them in the native town.

Q.—Do you think he is better there than in the country liquor shops?

A.—I would merely give the foreign liquor shop the same hour which the country liquor shops have.

Mr. Procter.—Is it 9-30 standard time?

A.—Yes, we changed it from 9 o'clock when standard time came in. We ought to have made it 9-30 if we wanted to give them the same hour as they had before.

Q.—Have you anything to say about beer?

A.—I have got some figures about beer. The sale of beer is increasing enormously in Bombay. These figures show in gallons the increase of the sale of beer in Bombay during the 5 years ending 1907-08:—

Year.	Fermented liquors.	
	Foreign.	Indian.
1903-1904 ...	57,728	7,251
1904-1905 ...	75,926	1,579
1905-1906 ...	106,876	2,274
1906-1907 ...	157,419	769
1907-1908 ...	156,045	609

Dr. Powell.—Among what classes is beer drinking increasing in Bombay?

A.—I am told all classes drink it.

Dr. Powell.—Europeans included?

A.—I don't know whether there is an increased consumption of beer among Europeans, but all classes of natives who drink liquor now drink beer. Many Parsees drink beer.

Chairman.—Is the beer mostly German?

A.—Yes, Pilseners and light beers.

Q.—Reverting to spirits, do bottles, which come out from Europe, bear the country of origin when they are exposed in shops, do the labels show that?

A.—Yes, in the great majority of cases—99 out of 100 it is on the labels already. In other cases it is stamped in large letters across the label.

Dr. Powell.—No extra label is attached on which these words occur?

A.—No. The words are stamped across the labels.

Chairman.—But bottles that are filled in Bombay don't show any indication of origin?

A.—No.

Q.—Do you think it makes any difference to the purchaser whether the labels give the country of origin or not?

A.—No, what the purchaser wants is cheap liquor.

Q.—And they don't care whether the liquor is bottled in Bombay or in Hamburg?

A.—I think a good many of them prefer the liquor that comes bottled from Europe. They notice the difference in labels to that extent and many of them prefer the "Vilayati Daru."

Q.—Do the high class people drink cheap spirit?

A.—I think they do. I mean natives. I don't know if any European of any class buys this cheap spirit.

Q.—Have you anything to say about the importation of labels that come out from firms which do not export liquor with them?

A.—The labels to be put on bottles bottled in Bombay might be brought under the supervision of the Excise Department, so that we could see what the labels are and object to them, if necessary. That would be a part of the bottling operation.

Q.—Do you think the Excise Department should prescribe certain principles for labels as regards a true trade description of the mode of production and the base? Suppose you had a whisky produced from neutral spirit or manufactured from grain in Glasgow and merely broken down with water to moderate strength and bottled out here, would you allow the bottler to put on the bottles of that

whisky a label like one we have seen, calling it "King Edward's Own Best Scotch Whisky"?

A.—I should certainly object to that. I should insist on an absolutely plain label such as that which Phipson puts on every bottle bottled by himself in Bombay. His label says "Scotch Whisky, bottled by Phipson and Co.," and nothing else. I certainly think we ought to insist on labels of spirits from Hamburg and bottled in Bombay showing that the stuff is bottled by so and so.

Q.—Would you go further and say that the labels should show what the spirit is manufactured from—whether from potato or grain or rye or barley?

A.—I don't think that is practicable. We should not get true information. We should only put a premium on dishonesty. Supposing we sent the stuff to the Chemical Analyser he cannot help us to say what is in the bottle.

Q.—Your system would practically involve prohibition of the importation of labels, that is, labels which don't accompany the liquor from the manufacturers?

A.—Yes. The Excise Department would pass certain labels for certain kinds of liquors and allow no others.

Dr. Powell.—Would you allow spirits which come here from Hamburg to be called Scotch Whisky?

A.—Not, if it is bottled in Bombay. It ought to be labelled German whisky or whisky from Hamburg. In fact I saw a label this morning with words "Fine Old German Whisky."

Dr. Powell.—Is it wrong to call the stuff that comes from Germany whisky?

A.—I would allow the bottlers to call it what they like.

Dr. Powell.—Rum or whisky?

A.—Yes. Provided they don't call it *Jamaica* rum or *Scotch* Whisky. If they put the name of the country it comes from they can give it any name they please—brandy, whisky or rum.

Q.—Do you think it would affect the trade if they had to put on the label diluted spirit instead of rum or the name of any specific liquor? Do you think purchasers would object to it?

A.—I imagine there are a certain number of people who want brandy, others rum, and so on. Those who want the genuine stuff are prepared to pay higher prices than those who will take anything. If it is represented on the label where the liquor comes from the better brands are sufficiently distinguished from the others.

• *Dr. Dadachanji.*—You would like to fix the minimum strength at 25 U. P.?

A.—Yes. I don't know what the minimum is in Calcutta and Madras. I think there ought to be a uniform strength all over India?

Chairman.—We are informed that the Government of India are considering a uniform rule.

Witness.—There is one point I wish to add with regard to labels. I think Mr. Patterson said that if you insist on the country of origin, that would be sufficient guarantee of quality. He said—taking the case of brandy from France—it would be for the French authorities to see what brandy went in the name of France. I have seen some bottles of brandy of the very cheapest kind labelled as being shipped from Bordeaux by a French Company. It was marked "Produce of France", and yet it sells at the rate of Rs. 1-12-0 per bottle. The label was in conformity with the Merchandise Marks Act.

Q.—You approve of the prohibition which is coming into force from April on the sale of any quantity less than a pint in a retail-off shop?

A.—Yes, I do.

Q.—Do you think the small flasks caused enhanced consumption?

A.—There is a considerable consumption of such flasks. The traders make a good profit from flasks because their size is not fixed. I should like to have fixed a standard size for all bottles and pints, but I found it practically impossible.

All brandy bottles for instance are smaller than whisky bottles even in the best firms.

Q.—Are the inequalities in size balanced by inequalities in prices ?

A.—It probably comes to that in the end. The firms that supply cheap liquors have their bottles usually small, but in course of time their customers find out the difference between one size and another.

Q.—Have you noticed whether the bottles that come out from Europe vary as much as those of the local bottlers ?

A.—They vary a great deal. The bottler in India uses such bottles as he happens to have. The smaller he can get the better for his purpose.

Dr. Dadachanji.—If bottles vary, is it necessary to show the capacity of bottles on labels ?

A.—It might be done. There is no objection.

Mr. Procter.—You said you did not believe anything about the adulteration of port ?

A.—Yes.

Mr. Procter.—Is port manufactured in Bombay ?

A.—It is bottled in Bombay.

Mr. Procter.—Mr. Kathok said they made it from sour claret and black grapes. Are you sure that is not done ?

A.—I have no knowledge and no information of that sort. I never came across such a thing.

Dr. Powell.—If labels were put under Excise supervision, would there be any chance of the dealers altering the labels afterwards ? Why should they not be so altered ?

A.—In the shops ?

Dr. Powell.—Yes.

A.—It might be done even now ; but it is not likely. Anybody can get hold of good labels now and put them on his bad liquor.

Dr. Powell.—Then there would be no advantage in having labelling done under Excise supervision ?

A.—The bottles with such altered labels would come under the notice of our inspectors, and they should be able to detect the alteration.

Dr. Powell.—You would have to take action in that case ?

A.—Certainly. As a matter of fact I don't think bottlers generally would object to the labelling being done in the warehouse. Mr. Baria might object, because it would put an end to his fancy designs.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—If such a practice, as we heard of, were going on in bottling port, your Department would not know it ; would it not be done in such a manner that your Department should not know of it ?

A.—Some people might attempt it. It would be their object of course to keep their operations secret. But I don't believe they would succeed in keeping them from our knowledge.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Is it possible to add sour claret to black grapes or blood from the slaughter house ?

A.—Certainly it is possible.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Without the mixture being detected by the ordinary consumer ?

A.—Oh no, the consumer would certainly detect it. I don't know who does consume this cheap port.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Take an ordinary consumer, a man of ordinary intelligence ?

A.—He would not consume the cheap port sold in Bombay. I don't know whether it is bought only by the lowest class of natives.

Dr. Dadachanji.—It is said they use it for medicinal purposes?

A.—I do not know.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Do you think it would be better to prevent any possibility of deceit going on to have all bottling under supervision?

A.—I have said I think it would be better to have all bottling under supervision. It is under supervision already to a certain extent. Our inspectors can visit all bottling places without giving any warning of their coming. They do pay surprise visits.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Do you think bottling should be under a still greater supervision than at present?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Does bottling take place in private godowns?

A.—A large number of people now bottle in their own godowns.

Dr. Dadachanji.—We were told yesterday that there should be a greater supervision on spirits. Do you agree?

A.—Yes, though it will be expensive.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—If the big firms are allowed bottling in their own godowns, would officers of your Department be present?

A.—Yes. The bottling will have to be done at definite hours in the presence of inspectors.

Chairman.—What do you think of the objections made by some firms even to supervision in their own godowns on the ground of inconvenience of coolies?

A.—I don't think that is a satisfactory objection. I heard all Mr. Oomrigar said on that point.

Q.—Even in your warehouse could you prevent people from putting "Fine Pale Brandy" as the label of a bottle which does not really contain brandy, but rectified spirit doctored a little?

A.—Unless the Chemical Analyser tells us what is in the bottle, I am afraid we cannot prevent it; there is no practical remedy for it. I will ask Captain Dickinson, who is the Government Analyser, to analyse a few bottles and inform the Committee of the result.

Q.—I believe the Department prosecuted in 1893 a man who brought some casks of port wine from Hamburg on the ground that it was not port?

A.—Yes. We failed in the prosecution, and there has been no prosecution since.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—I suppose there was some difficulty in establishing whether that was or was not port?

A.—I find a difficulty in following the reasoning of the Magistrate. The case seems fairly strong when read. I think the legal point on which he thought the prosecution failed was that they could not prove that the wine was not Spanish Port which had come round by way of Hamburg.

No. 14.

Evidence of Dr. H. H. Mann, Principal of the Agricultural College, Poona, and Member of the Poona Temperance Association.

Examined by the Chairman :

Q.—What do you wish to tell the Committee ?

A.—I have come here first, because we have paid special attention to the subject, secondly we have very definite ideas with regard to the restrictions that should be put on the sale of liquor, and thirdly because we want that special investigation should be made as regards sales in Poona.

Q.—You have been asked to give evidence by the Poona Temperance Association ?

A.—Yes. I and Mr. Gokhale come at their request.

Q.—What are your views on the subject ?

A.—Will you take the paper, question by question ?

Q.—Certainly. Do you want to say anything about No. 1 ?

A.—No. Nor about No. 2 or No. 3.

Q.—About No. 4 ?

A.—The nature of the base does not affect the nature of the spirit at high strengths.

Q.—At any over proof strength ?

A.—As long as the spirit is distilled up to any over proof strength in a patent still.

Q.—Why does the patent still produce this effect ?

A.—Patent still spirits do not retain impurities.

Q.—What impurities do you mean ?

A.—I particularly mean fusel oil and furfural. I am certain that these two things are mischievous in any proportion.

Q.—When a patent still has distilled a spirit to a strength of 60 O. P., it is getting near pure alcohol ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—And pure alcohol is an immediate poison ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Then what about the strength at 60 O. P., is it not poisonous ?

A.—It is extremely poisonous, but the impurities I have mentioned are still more poisonous.

Q.—So that you think spirit at 60 O. P. and broken down to any potable strength is better than pot still liquor distilled up to 25 U. P. ?

A.—Yes, provided no other material is added to the former.

Q.—Have you any reason to believe that anything is added ?

A.—I know it is. I know it is done with spirits that come to the Bombay Presidency.

Q.—Are these things added in Europe ?

A.—No, they are added in India. I came across a brand of whisky in Poona the other day which I know contains fusel oil. It is exactly the same brand which is sold in Calcutta where it was analysed. It seems to have come from Hamburg.

Q.—It may have come out bottled in Hamburg ?

A.—It is extremely unlikely.

Q.—Or it may have come in a cask² from Hamburg already made up with essences ? Do you think that it did not ?

A.—No. It is possible it may have come in that way.

Q.—Our Customs figures show that half the cheap liquor imported into Bombay has already been doctored in Europe.

A.—That may be the case in Bombay. It is different, I believe, in Calcutta.

Q.—You have never heard of any essences being imported into the Bombay Presidency and used here?

A.—I have not heard of any such case.

Q.—As regards the essences that are used in Europe, have you any knowledge about them?

A.—No.

Q.—Do you think there is anything deleterious in them?

A.—No, I have not been able to get at the material except that it contains a considerable amount of fusel oil.

Q.—You find that in patent still spirits?

A.—It has been found by analysis, but I did not make the analysis myself.

Dr. Powell.—Can you not get essences from reputed chemists in Europe such as Dickon Brothers and others?

A.—You can certainly get them.

Dr. Powell.—Have you any knowledge that they are injurious?

A.—I have none.

Chairman.—In your view the spirit of wine brought into this country at 60 or 68 O. P. and simply broken down to 15 or 50 U. P. with water and then coloured with burnt sugar is better than the cheap imported spirit called rum, brandy, etc.?

A.—Most assuredly. The former cannot contain many impurities. The latter may. Country spirit contains much. I have seen mowra spirit distilled in a pot still containing 600 grains of fusel oil per gallon at proof strength. The impurities in cheap foreign brandy, etc., in which essences have been used are about equal to those of Jagri spirit, say 200 grains of fusel oil per gallon and somewhat less than those of country spirit distilled from mowra which may have 400 grains. Rectified spirit is better than the stuff which has got essences in it.

Q.—Does not the absence of ethers excluded by the patent still damage the internal organs?

*A.—I don't think so. Their absence would make the spirit less tasty. Absence of ether affects flavour but not wholesomeness.

Q.—Referring to question 8 have you ever found any trace of country spirit being mixed with methylated spirit?

A.—No. I have not found any case in the mofussil of anybody blending or otherwise manipulating foreign spirit.

Q.—Referring to question 12 have you anything to say?

A.—They are always reported to be of 15 U. P.

Q.—Have you any reason to believe that any weaker spirit is sold in mofussil shops?

A.—I have no evidence on that point. If you care, I will analyse a number of bottles in Poona as a test.

Chairman.—That will involve you in the expense of buying bottles, but if you care to undergo it the Excise Department would be glad to have the information.

A.—Yes, I am willing to undertake it.

Q.—With regard to question 13 (retail prices), have you anything to say?

A.—In Poona City the bottle is sold at Rs. 1-4-0 but in the Cantonment is absolutely so cheap that the soldiers say they get a reputed quart bottle for 14 annas.

Mr. Procter.—Of 15 U. P. strength?

A.—Yes.

Chairman.—To your knowledge are soldiers buying this Hamburg spirit?

A.—To my knowledge certainly.

Q.—Largely?

A.—To a considerable extent. They are not allowed to buy personally and so they send their servants. When a soldier is short of cash and has not got enough to pay in the canteen he sends his servant to buy the cheapest spirit in the bazar. It is taken to the barracks.

Q.—Do you consider it worse than what they would get in the canteen?

A.—Yes. They cannot get any such spirit there. First class Scotch Whiskies do not contain more than 70 or 80 grains of fusel oil. I did not discover the names of shops from which soldiers are buying bottles at 14 annas.

Q.—Referring to question 14 have you any suggestions regarding labels?

A.—Restrictions are absolutely necessary with regard to labels. I would propose the following, the labels should shew :—

- (1) The name of the base;
- (2) The name of the country of manufacture;
- (3) The strength of the liquor;
- (4) The names of the importers; and
- (5) The place where the stuff is bottled.

Q.—You are aware that it is only the manufacturer who can name the base. Do you see any way of securing an accurate description either on the labels or in the invoices?

A.—I don't think you can go beyond what the manufacturers say.

Dr. Powell.—There is no way of testing accurately whether it is right or wrong?

A.—No.

Dr. Powell.—Do you think it material to know what the base is?

A.—Yes, for if the spirit is known to be made of certain materials it will hinder the public from drinking it.

Mr. Procter.—Do you think that would affect the sale in the case of liquor bottled in Bombay?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Powell.—You would prefer to take this rectified spirit with burnt sugar and water added to it to taking genuine Scotch Whisky containing 60 grains of fusel oil per gallon?

A.—The difference in that case is not very material.

Dr. Powell.—Would you not prefer to taking the Scotch Whisky though it has got some fusel oil?

A.—Yes. I suppose one would prefer to take the quantity containing 60 or 70 grains.

Q.—Apart from the chemical analysis, can you say what the effect of neutral spirit is on the constitution of drinkers compared with that of genuine whisky matured for 7 years?

A.—No. I have made no observation of the effects of different kinds of spirit on the constitution, brain and stomach. Soldiers said that this spirit causes them to suffer from "Fighting drunkenness". That is the way they describe it.

Q.—How do they describe the effect of more expensive liquor?

A.—They say it makes them go to sleep jolly.

Q.—Does not that show that the cheap liquor is the more pernicious?

A.—The cheap liquor they get is the liquor that has been doctored with essences.

Dr. Dadachangi.—Do you know if these cheap liquors affect the blood vessels ?

A.—Yes, and the essences may emphasise the effect of the alcohol. Pure alcohol 74° O. P. may be merely diluted with water to become potable.

Q.—Do you think pure alcohol with a mixture of water ceases to be pernicious ?

A.—I am certain alcohol of whatever strength is injurious. I may emphasise the difference between high class spirits and cheap spirits. I say both are injurious ; but cheap spirits are more injurious because more impurities are put into them.

Q.—Have you analysed the rectified spirit which is drunk in Bombay, and which has been brought out at 68° O. P. and then broken down by the addition of water to potable strengths ?

A.—No. I cannot say whether it contains any fusel oil or other impurities.

Q.—Unless it has been doctored it would not contain fusel oil ?

A.—It might contain some trifling proportion.

Q.—Would it then compare favourably with other spirit ?

A.—Provided it is diluted sufficiently.

Q.—If broken down to 25° U. P., do you consider it a more wholesome drink than anything else in the market ?

A.—Yes, a more wholesome form of spirit.

Q.—I suppose you don't drink any spirit yourself !

A.—No.

Q.—You would not recommend people to drink that if they had to drink spirits ?

A.—Yes, as medicine. That is the only condition on which I would ever recommend the drinking of spirit.

Q.—With reference to question 15, who are the classes of persons who chiefly drink cheap foreign liquor ?

A.—Our enquiries in Poona enable us to say that it is drunk almost entirely by the lower middle classes, I mean the classes above artisans to whom this liquor has become a mere matter of fashion, partly, I believe, because of the extremely imperceptible smell it gives. We find them taking this liquor and refusing country liquor. A type of these classes in Poona is the Sonár caste. They are not one of the higher classes but are a lower middle class.

Q.—Do Brahmins and other persons of classes to whom drink is altogether forbidden take to foreign spirits ?

A.—It is very difficult to answer that. It is very difficult to get the information. I have been in Poona for about a year. Consumption is not increasing in Poona. It is rather decreasing. I cannot tell you why ; I would not like to hazard any opinion.

Q.—Foreign liquor is sold dearer in Poona than country spirit ?

A.—Yes, but I don't think it is that that makes the difference. Apparently people who drink country liquor want country liquor, while others want foreign spirit.

Q.—Do you find that plague has had any effect in inducing natives to drink who never drank before ?

A.—Yes, I can certainly say that from my experience in a good many parts of India. I am told it has been so in Poona, but this is purely hearsay. I consider that spirit is taken more as a precaution against plague than as a medicine. I don't think there is any thing in the popular idea that natives who take to drink would be less liable to take plague. I think it is pure delusion on the part of the people who may drink spirits on this ground.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Are you aware of statistics as regards the effects of alcohol as a measure against plague ?

A.—No.

Dr. Dadachanji.—I have got a report from the Bombay Branch of the Temperance Association wherein are included the opinions of various medical men showing distinctly that alcohol has no effect whatever on plague.

Chairman.—Coming to question 17. Have you any experience as to whether foreign spirit is more deleterious than country spirit?

A.—It is interesting to get the actual opinion of people who drink. They certainly seem to think that foreign spirits are less injurious than country spirits. I have heard it suggested—it is merely a suggestion—that in cases where there is more mortality it is due to the fact that the spirit is drunk undiluted; country spirit is drunk undiluted. But when they do not dilute foreign spirit it has a strong effect upon them. Purchasers in Poona dilute foreign liquor. They do it considerably. They do it at the time of drinking. Spirit of 15° U. P. they drink considerably diluted.

Q.—As to question No. 19 what restrictions would you put on foreign liquors in general and cheap spirits in particular?

A.—There should be a prohibition to sell cheap liquor (that is any liquor which is sold for less than two rupees a bottle) on credit. We would stop all retail-on sales for these liquors. Such spirits should not be sold on credit except to a purchaser who wants to buy a dozen bottles. Except for such purchases credit sales should be stopped. If a customer takes half a dozen bottles, he must pay cash. We would not allow on-sales at all. There is not very much on-sale in Poona.

Q.—I may mention that Government has already abolished on-sales in the mofussil from the 1st April. There will be no on-sales of foreign liquor in future.

A.—I am very pleased.

Q.—Have you any further recommendations to make?

A.—Our Committee has instructed me to ask for still further limitations of shops, particularly in the Cantonment. In the city there are only three foreign liquor shops.

Chairman.—You have got your Local Committee. Reductions are being made on its recommendations.

A.—Then our next restriction would be to stop credit sales and sales to minors. Further we feel that all blending of foreign liquor should be done in bond and under supervision.

Chairman.—We don't permit any blending in this Presidency.

A.—I mean any manipulation of liquor whatever. Bottling should be done under supervision. Labelling also should be done under supervision. All these should be under Excise supervision whether done in a general warehouse or in private premises.

Rdo Bahádur Setalwad.—Supposing the Excise officers attend on stated days at the bottlers' godown, would that suffice?

A.—It is perfectly satisfactory if everything is done under Excise supervision.

Chairman.—Have you got any specific recommendation as to the raising of duty on foreign liquor? It is now Rs. 7.

A.—You may put another rupee to raise the price. The extent to which spirit can be adulterated has almost reached the limit at which an increase in price can tend to make the liquor more injurious, so that an increase of duty must lead to an increase in price without much changing the quality.

Q.—With regard to shop licenses there will in future be only one kind, namely retail-off without distinction between wholesale and retail. Have you any recommendations about licenses?

A.—Another point which we are instructed to raise before the Committee is with regard to licenses being assessed on sales. We generally agree with such assessment of duty on sales, but should object to any attempt to introduce the auction system with reference to any class of foreign liquor shop.

Q.—You object equally to the auction and assessment systems. Would you have fixed fees?

A.—Yes, provided the fixed fees are not substantial. They should be merely nominal fees. We don't object to fixed fees of that kind.

Q.—Why do you object to substantial fees?

A.—We think that both high fees and the auction system are direct inducements to sell as much as possible.

Q.—Won't the nominal fixed fee allow a man to sell cheaper?

A.—Yes. My point is that you should generally assess on sales, but you might have nominal fees in addition to the assessment on sales.

Q.—Have you anything to say as to the adequacy of the present assessment on sales?

A.—The fee being at Rs. 1-8-0 per dozen is not high enough. Our feeling is that as the sales in Bombay have considerably increased that is a ground for an increase of fees.

Q.—Do you consider that if the fee is raised any higher it would extinguish the seller's profit?

A.—No. I think practically the whole increase would have to be borne by the customer.

Q.—So the dealer will have to raise his prices?

A.—Yes, nearly to the amount of the increase in the assessment. We have made interesting calculations and we find that the shopkeepers' profits are now very small.

Q.—Where there is a material competition, some shops would go under?

A.—Yes. We confined our calculations to spirits. We did not consider other classes of liquor. I have nothing to say about wines. The consumption of beer is increasing, but I have not paid very much attention to these other liquors.

Q.—Do you welcome the increase in sales of beer?

A.—It would be an advantage to see beer take the place of spirits. I would certainly welcome the decline of spirit sales and increase of beer sales.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Because it contains less alcohol?

A.—Yes.

Mr. Procter.—Which beer is chiefly used in Poona?

A.—Chiefly local beer from the Kirkee brewery.

Chairman.—It is a very wholesome beer?

A.—I believe so, as beers go.

Mr. Procter.—You say consumption is decreasing?

A.—The consumption of cheap foreign spirits is decreasing in Poona and Kirkee. I think to a certain extent the decline in the consumption of cheap foreign liquors in Poona must be attributed to the temperance movement. All the shopkeepers say so.

Mr. Procter.—The sales are going down without the further restrictions you recommend?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Powell.—The result of your analysis of the neutral spirit was that you found fusel oil or other impurities.

A.—I had found certain impurities.

Q.—Is it very much freer from impurities than genuine brandy?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Then you would say that this neutral spirit when mixed with simple water and burnt sugar would be less injurious than brandy?

A.—Most assuredly.

Dr. Powell.—Supposing the cheap whiskies and brandies contain practically the same neutral spirit with a small quantity of good or average whisky and brandy added to it, then the quantity of fusel oil in them should be low?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Powell.—In the analyses you referred to before you have made out a very large proportion of fusel oil in country liquors. How do you account for that? Were your analyses numerous?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Powell.—Practically all foreign spirits in Bombay, according to your view, would be less harmful than country spirits even when genuine liquor was added?

A.—Most surely. I may add that the quantity of fusel oil is an indication of the presence of pernicious elements in spirit even though it is not the only one of these pernicious elements.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—You say the bases should be specified on the labels of cheap spirits?

A.—Yes.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Supposing importers have shown false bases, is there any means of detecting them?

A.—No. I thought that argument would be used against me. I think it is a very strong argument.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—What is the good of making it compulsory to declare something, the falseness of which you cannot detect?

A.—Perfectly, I can see the point. I think you must trust the importer.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Could an analyst make out whether Hamburg Fine Pale Brandy contains rectified spirit only or whether it is really brandy?

A.—Surely, he could tell that.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Can a chemist say whether anything is brandy, whisky or rum?

A.—No. He would not undertake to distinguish whisky and brandy, except by smell or taste, but he can tell whether the material is merely rectified spirit or whether it had other things in it. He could not tell what the rectified spirit was distilled from, whether grain or grapes.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—You think that a lot of liquor is essenced in India?

A.—I do.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—What kind of essences are used?

A.—People who are actually engaged in the trade say that in the dilute rectified spirit they mix the requisite quantities of essences of whisky, brandy, &c.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—That is in places where essences are allowed to be imported?

A.—Yes.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—On this side of India where essences are not allowed, what do they do?

A.—I don't know.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Yesterday we were told that port is manufactured here by bottling sour claret with black grapes and by the use of blood brought from Bandora Slaughter-house. Is it possible?

A.—I don't think blood is used.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Not for purification?

A.—I would not suppose that blood was used. Sour claret is possible. Grapes are quite possible.

Dr. Powell.—Have you been to Germany?

A.—Yes. Country liquors there are distilled under Government supervision absolutely. Everything in Germany is done under Government supervision. You can do nothing there without such supervision.

Chairman.—Is not this spirit distilled in private premises from potatoes and grain which are unfit for other use?

A.—No, it is distilled very largely on the premises of beet-sugar manufacturers. Wherever spirit is distilled, it is distilled under supervision. There is a Government Inspector. I am not quite sure whether the Government Inspector continually resides on the distiller's premises.

Mr. Procter.—As an analyst you could not distinguish between whisky and brandy, the one being a grain spirit and the other a grape spirit?

A.—No, by mere analysis, I think, I could not undertake to distinguish the two.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Can you distinguish brandy prepared from grapes and brandy prepared from potatoes?

A.—No, I could not. I may say that the character of the base does not affect over proof spirit, distilled in a patent still, and spirit from damaged grain or potatoes is as good as any other.

Dr. Powell.—Damaged grain is merely grain that is sprouting. Does not all distillation from grain involve its being made to sprout?

A.—Yes. The bad constituents of damaged grain are entirely eliminated in distillation. They make the grains sprout before they can make spirit of it. The constituents that make alcohol are usually starch and cellulose and the starch is converted by acids into sugar.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Do you think you could make brandy from ethyl alcohol?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Dadachanji.—And whisky also can be prepared from ethyl alcohol?

A.—Yes. It is very injurious.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Do you know that ethyl alcohol can be prepared from calcium carbide? Do you think you could make whisky from that?

A.—I do not know that ethyl alcohol can be made from calcium carbide. If so it must be a recent development and it is very injurious.

No. 15.

Evidence of Mr. L. B. Gokhale, of the Poona Temperance Association.

Examined by the Chairman—

A.—I am Secretary to the Poona Temperance Association. I am a resident of Poona. I wish to speak first as regards questions 7 and 8. I think in the Mofussil rectified spirit is not used at all for drinking purposes. I have not known it so used in Poona or the Deccan. Rum is drunk in Poona, but it is not purely rectified spirit. It is cheap liquor coloured and brought from Bombay. I cannot say whether anything more than colouring is done to it. As regards question No. 8, methylated spirit is also to my knowledge not used for drinking purposes in the Deccan. I never heard of its being mixed with mhowra spirit to become potable. I have enquired if it is sold in the bazaar and I found that shopkeepers don't sell it. It is only a few who sell it. It is used for other purposes. I think licenses for methylated spirit should not be necessary. In Poona, there are only one or two places where you can get methylated spirit, and this is very inconvenient.

Q.—You have only to pay a rupee for the license ?

A.—Shopkeepers generally don't take the trouble to take out licenses for that purpose. I should say there is a considerably large demand for it in Poona for burning purposes. I would like to say something about Question No. 15. Cheap foreign liquors are used by the lower middle classes, such as artizans, who get daily wages, people who earn ordinarily Re. 1 a day, and whose religion does not prohibit them from using liquor, such people now take especially to foreign liquor.

Mr. Procter.—Hindus ?

A.—Tailors, goldsmiths and other classes of Hindus.

Chairman.—Are all the drinkers Hindus ?

A.—No. There are Mahomedans also, and Goanese and Native Christians who drink cheap liquor. There are no high class Hindus included in this class. I think the use of foreign liquor is decreasing among them.

Q.—Is there any secret drinking among high caste Hindus ?

A.—There is very little. I find that drinking is going down in the Deccan among the higher classes.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Why has it gone down ?

A.—I don't know particularly.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Owing to the efforts of the Association ?

A.—This Association is of recent date. I find the decline has been going on for 10 or 12 years. I believe statistics shew the decrease. I have taken the figures for the Poona District only. I find liquors also are going down for the last 12 years.

Mr. Procter.—It is not only among the higher classes but among the lower classes as well ?

A.—I should say among the lower classes it is quite the other way.

Mr. Procter.—Is the drinking going up ?

A.—Yes. Country liquor is being drunk largely, very largely. It is going up among the lower classes.

Chairman.—Have you any reason to suppose that foreign spirit is taking place of country spirit among the lower classes ?

A.—I should think so. It is quite a fashion now-a-days with people to take foreign spirit. Foreign spirit is coming more in fashion because they can take it with less fear of detection.

Q.—Suppose that no special restrictions were put on foreign spirit and taxation was raised on country spirit, do you think that in the course of some years there would be a general transference of customers from country spirit to foreign spirit ?

A.—I should think so. I think these country-spirit drinkers would go in for foreign liquor. They are attracted to foreign spirit because it has less smell than country spirit. They say country liquor smells very badly. Foreign stuff does not smell so badly. That is one of the reasons why people go in for it. Smell leads to detection. At any rate, among Hindus and Mahomedans one smelling of liquor is not looked upon with favour; drinking liquor is rather looked upon as a degradation in society. Whether religion allows it or not it is looked upon as a degradation. Therefore people generally don't take the liquor that smells.

Mr. Procter.—They want to keep their drinking secret?

A.—Yes. Even among people who are allowed by their religion to drink, such as Sudrás and other lower classes, people would not like that it should be known that they drink unless they are confirmed drunkards.

Q.—Is there much drunkenness?

A.—Yes, among the lower classes. Sometimes when these people begin to drink they take to liquor so much that they become drunkards.

Chairman.—Do drinkers of foreign spirits dilute them with water or soda water?

A.—It is only those who are in high circles that practise dilution. The lower classes sometimes drink foreign spirits neat. That is one of the evils of these foreign spirits. The lower classes don't use water both with country and with foreign spirits.

Dr. Dadachanji.—When taken neat country spirit gives tremors?

A.—Yes. That is the popular belief. They say foreign spirit does not.

Chairman.—Have you ever personally noticed the different effects of country spirits and foreign spirits on natives who drink them?

A.—I do not see any difference. Both sets of people are almost in the same state from drinking. The effects are almost the same.

Q.—Do you think that the man who has taken to foreign spirit is more tempted to increase the quantity of drink than one who drinks country liquor?

A.—That is equally the case with people who drink foreign spirit and country spirit. They don't stop at a particular point. In fact, many of them ultimately become confirmed drunkards.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Still you say consumption is decreasing?

A.—Yes, on the whole it is decreasing. I have got figures for ten years and I find that all over there is a material decrease in foreign liquors.

Mr. Procter.—Is it the natives or the soldiers that drink less?

A.—As regards soldiers, they drink fermented liquors.

Mr. Procter.—Don't they drink spirits also?

A.—Yes, they do. There are also liqueurs and wines included in these figures that I have got.

Chairman.—Where did you get your figures from?

A.—From the Abkari Administration Reports. I find there is a decrease in foreign liquors of all kinds. As for country liquor in Poona, in 1900 they drank 83,000 gallons and in 1906-1907 they drank 131,000 gallons.

Dr. Powell.—The use of country liquor is increasing?

A.—Yes, while all other spirits have diminished.

Dr. Powell.—Why then do you say that ultimately foreign spirit would oust country spirit if equally cheap?

A.—Yes, if you put them on the same level as regards price. I should say that if cheap foreign spirits are increased in price they will altogether disappear from the bazaar.

Chairman.—What steps would you take to increase their prices?

A.—I should say that taxation be increased from Re. 1-8-0 to Rs. 2-8-0.

Q.—You mean the license fee assessment rate per dozen?

A.—Yes.

Q.—You would not put any extra duty at the port of importation ?

A.—That would be a very difficult task. I don't think that would be a satisfactory method, because it would depend on invoices.

Chairman.—The 'customs duty is not *ad valorem* but fixed per proof gallon.

A.—Then the duty might be raised. I would also suggest a warehouse for cheap liquor where it should be blended and watered.

Q.—Can you suggest any reason why the consumption of country liquor should be increasing ?

A.—I believe plague is responsible for the increase in country liquor to some extent. They think the liquor gives them protection.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Are there any *swadeshi* shops in the Deccan that sell cheap foreign liquor ?

A.—No. People that sell *swadeshi* articles do not sell foreign liquors.

Dr. Powell.—Is foreign spirit cheaper than country liquor ?

A.—It is not in the Déccan. It is dearer. There is a difference of 3 or 4 annas in the price of a bottle.

Dr. Powell.—With a difference of 3 annas between them, foreign spirit is very markedly diminishing and country spirit is equally markedly increasing; with such a small difference why should you be of opinion that the one will oust the other ?

A.—If they are brought on the same level as regards price I think many people of the lower classes will prefer foreign spirits when they know that they can get them for the same price as country liquor. They will go in for cheap foreign liquor because it is a more fashionable drink. If you increase the difference of price, country spirit will increase in demand on account of the difference. A few annas to a poor man mean much.

Q.—If you had these attractive foreign liquor bottles on show in the country spirit shops it would not be long before everybody would be drinking foreign liquor ?

A.—Certainly not.

Q.—Have you any other suggestion ?

A.—As regards question No. 18, I consider that a correct description of foreign spirits of all kinds on labels should be made a condition of retail sale.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—What do you mean by a correct description ?

A.—I would like the bottler to say the

1. Strength.
2. The original place of manufacture.
3. Whether it was bottled or in any way dealt with in Bombay or not.
4. Base.
5. Name of the manufacturer.

These particulars should be made compulsory by the retail licenses.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Is there any means of finding out whether the correct base is stated ?

A.—I believe there is. At any rate you will have a definite statement by the importer.

Chairman.—You would exclude from labels all fancy names such as "King's Own" and "Queen's Own" ?

A.—I should not have such things on the labels. The labels should bear only the plain facts I have mentioned.

Mr. Procter.—Whom do you want to protect ?

A.—The ignorant drinker.

Mr. Procter.—The ignorant drinker cannot read English ?

A.—No. He tries to ascertain the contents of a bottle by holding it up and looking at its label to which he may have taken fancy.

Mr. Procter.—Do you want to have your particulars mentioned on the labels in Maráthi ?

A.—It is not necessary. Many of the people who have taken to these foreign liquors have a smattering of English. They are in mills or factories where they pick up bits of spelling. And one man can read a label to a whole company.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Can you tell me what is the lowest price of cheap foreign liquor bottled in Poona ? Can it be sold for less than Re. 1-8-0 per bottle ?

A.—It can be sold for Re. 1-7-0. I was told by a shopkeeper that he could sell a bottle for Re. 1-7-0 or perhaps Re. 1-6-0. That might be for a smaller sized bottle.

Q.—Have you further measures to suggest ?

A.—There should be a further restriction on the sellers of cheap foreign liquors, *viz.*, sales on credit of cheap foreign stuff ought to be stopped.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—You endorse Dr. Mann's statement ?

A.—Yes. I would stop credit. As regards cheap foreign liquors I should stop it totally. No cheap liquor should be allowed to be sold on credit. By cheap liquors I mean those below Rs. 18 per dozen.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—What about a regular customer who would take half dozen bottles at a time ?

A.—Even in such cases credit should not be allowed for the benefit of others.

Chairman.—Anything else ?

A.—Sales to minors should be stopped. Female servants also should not be allowed in the shops. In short, all those restrictions that apply to country liquors should be made applicable to foreign liquors. I should say that many people who have been using cheap liquors do not get proper liquors. They say that foreign stuffs are brought to Bombay and there diluted with water and then sent out so that they can be sold cheaper. There should be a rule that all bottling and reducing should be done under Government supervision only.

Mr. Procter.—Is there much drunkenness in Poona in these foreign liquor shops ?

A.—Not in the shops. There is no drinking in the shops.

After Mr. Gokhale had left the room Mr. D. D. Baria handed to the Chairman an invoice to shew the prices of the cheapest liquors that he gets from Europe. His point was that there was no necessity for manufacturing adulterated ports here, as alleged by Mr. Kathok, as very cheap ports could be had from Europe.

He said :—This invoice shews that I cannot make cheaper stuff than I can buy in Europe. This is to prove that no admixture is made on this side because we can get equally cheap wine from Europe. Therefore there is no necessity to make any admixture here. This is to prove that wines can be imported so cheap as to allow us to sell them at the lowest figure and yet make a profit.

Mr. Procter.—These Spanish ports are imported from Hamburg ?

A.—Yes, there are big firms, these that export them.

Mr. Procter.—Do you say the wines are shipped from Spain to Hamburg ?

A.—Yes.

Chairman.—Why do the Spaniards send it to Hamburg ?

A.—Because Hamburg is the biggest exporting port and because it would cost us much more if we were to get it here direct from Spain. Freight would be nearly double.

Dr. Powell.—No ship runs between this and Spain except through Gibraltar ?

A.—Yes.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—If you adulterate, you can make more profit ?

A.—What is the use of adulterating when they come here so cheap as to pay us ?

Mr. Dossabhoy Merwanji Umrigar (who was standing by Mr. Baria).—We could get port as cheap from London.

Messrs. Umrigar and Baria then withdrew.

Outline of Mr. Connell's evidence on 26th January 1909.

1. The reason of the increase in drink is because wages are increased, and people are working under high pressure they require some stimulant at the end of the day's work.

2. Drunkards are not sufficiently punished when put before the Magistrate, so that it has discouraged the police from charging them.

3. No wines and spirits are sold in the natural form. The finest brandies, champagne and wines are all flavoured and strengthened by the addition of sugar to the wine so as to produce spirit enough to make a marketable article. Silent spirit has been the making of the whisky trade; pure malt whisky is unsaleable. The result of the enquiry of the Commission appointed in 1887 by the British Government and the recent one in 1907 has left the subject of the use of silent spirit alone and the law on the matter is as it was before.

4. By increasing license fee, the licensee suffers, as it is impossible to raise price of spirits. By increasing the price of the liquor sold in bars, the demand for liquor by bottle is increased, as people find it cheaper to buy a bottle of spirit. This leads to excess in drinking, as there are no restrictions, and the formation of clubs is increased.

5. The rise of the duty charges has lowered the quality of the spirits imported into India, thereby compelling the general masses to drink an inferior spirit. It has also reduced the sale of high class spirits.

6. By importing spirits in bulk into Bombay the quality of the spirits imported is very much improved, as they receive the benefit of the sea voyage and the heat of the climate, which matures them more rapidly.

7. By preventing the blending of spirits in India we are simply putting the business into the hands of foreigners, who out of a cask of rectified spirits can make any spirit required, by simply adding the particular flavour desired and colouring—brandy, whisky, gin, etc. The same thing could be done in India and our own people would gain the profit.

Alcohol is the only known substance which kills germs and at the same time stimulates the human frame.

Fifth day, Tuesday, 26th January 1909.

No. 16.

Evidence of Mr. James Connell, proprietor of the Victoria Hotel (situated near Prince's Dock), who volunteered to give evidence.

Examined by the Chairman—

A.—My name is James Connell. I am proprietor of the Victoria Hotel near Prince's Dock. I import and sell foreign spirits. I bottle them myself. I also reduce them. I don't import from Hamburg, except that once I got a cask of claret from that port.

Q.—The Committee deals with cheap wines and spirits—silent spirits which are mixed with essences or infused with brandies, whiskies and rums. Do you deal in any such spirits?

A.—No.

Q.—Do you consider your license fee too high?

A.—Yes. I started with Rs. 400 twenty-eight years ago; now I am paying Rs. 1,450. My business has not increased. I am not doing the same business as I was doing formerly. I am doing less business.

Q.—Is your fee assessed on sales?

A.—I don't know. I simply get a notice to say that I shall have to pay so much. I have no further information.

Dr. Dadachanji.—They don't examine your books?

A.—Yes, but they don't tell me the reason.

Ráo Bahádúr Setalwád.—Do you keep a daily sale book?

A.—Yes. What rate of assessment they apply I don't know.

Q.—Are men who were ordinarily drinking good foreign spirits, now drinking inferior liquors?

A.—They are drinking the same spirits but of inferior qualities.

Q.—What class you are referring to?

A.—My own customers. They are Europeans. I am importing my whisky from Scotland. I am importing brandy direct from Cognac. Those are genuine spirits. They are not silent spirits.

Q.—When you say your customers are drinking inferior spirits, what inferior spirits are you referring to?

A.—Spirits that are less in age, but of the same quality as spirits imported for big clubs like Western India. The quality of spirits depends upon age. I know nothing about the classes that drink silent spirit. In a sense everybody drinks silent spirit because even in the best whiskies there is some silent spirit. A small proportion of silent spirit exists in all whiskies, but in our whiskies it has been matured. The voyage and climate help to mature them.

Q.—You know there is a very large sale in Bombay of spirit which is not matured at all?

A.—Yes, but I don't sell those spirits. I don't know about the classes who drink them.

Q.—You say importation in bulk improves the quality of spirits imported owing to the sea voyage and the hot climate which mature them more rapidly. When raw spirit is exported at once to Bombay will the voyage or the climate make any material difference?

A.—Not in perfectly raw spirits.

Q.—Are you in favour of allowing blending in India ?

A.—Yes. I don't blend myself, nor do I want to blend. I might do it if it was allowed. I have never attempted blending myself. I say it ought to be allowed for the benefit of the local trade, and not the foreign trade, who now have the benefit.

Q.—Do you know if any blending takes place secretly in Bombay ?

A.—No. I should not think there was much temptation to malpractices. If the stuff was adulterated when bottling and reducing takes place without supervision, that won't pay in the long run, because people won't buy it. (Adds:—) I read in the papers that you had asked a question of some witnesses whether spirits have any effect on plague. I think the witness did not know how to answer the question. I say spirit is a germicide. It stimulates the heart without lowering and destroying the system and is largely used by the Medical Profession, notably the St. George's Hospital.

Dr. Dadachanji.—How do you know that spirit is a germicide ?

A.—It can be proved by preserving a dead snake. A snake can be preserved indefinitely if you put it into a bottle of spirit. Spirit also stimulates the heart, and is an antiseptic.

Q.—I suppose you have no objection to bottling being done in a Government warehouse ?

A.—Except inconvenience and extra expense I see no other.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—What inconvenience ?

A.—You would have to keep the cask standing in the warehouse for some time, the bottles carted to the warehouse and carted back. Loss of time.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—In the case of respectable firms that inconvenience might be avoided by sending the inspector on stated days and at stated hours to their godowns. Would that meet the inconvenience ?

A.—Yes. Then I would have no objection. After a cask is reduced you have to allow it to stand for a week. I don't know if there are any malpractices when silent spirits are bottled here. I read about the port yesterday. I don't think there are any such malpractices. No blood is used in purifying, but the white of eggs is used.

Mr. Procter.—Are you dealing only in better class spirits ?

A.—Yes. I have to deal with respectable people who don't want the cheaper qualities. I could not sell anything under Rs. 2-8-0 a bottle and I could not sell above that price. I could not sell them a bottle worth Rs. 3. I might sell as low as Rs. 2-2-0. I hold nothing under Rs. 2-2-0. I don't think that rectified spirits which are sold so cheap do any harm if they are matured. If they are not matured they do harm as all raw spirits do.

Chairman.—What harm do raw spirits do ?

A.—They contain alcohol which is different from the one that benefits the human system. I have not myself noticed the effects of raw spirits on people.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—You said you get brandies from France. Is any essence put in them ?

A.—I am importing brandy which is labelled and invoiced as pure grape spirit.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—You import whole casks ?

A.—Yes.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—Do you know anything of this brandy which is labelled Fine Pale Brandy ?

A.—We English merchants won't allow anything but genuine spirit of the grape to be labelled as brandy. If anybody is known to do it he should be prosecuted. If a cask is labelled as Pure Grape Spirit then it represents genuine grape spirit. The brandies which come from Germany contain rectified spirit and are flavoured by brandies containing flavours.

Rdo Bahádur Setalwad.—Do you think it would be better for the public and the Government if a correct trade description is put on labels?

A.—It would not matter. In the case of natives they go by prices. In the case of Europeans they go by the results of the liquor next morning.

Rdo Bahádur Setalwad.—But if they knew what the liquor was actually made of, would they still buy it?

A.—They might.

Rdo Bahádur Setalwad.—Do you suggest any improvement in the present labels?

A.—I don't know that anything need be done. If a customer wants a cheap brandy he gets it. If he wants dear brandy he will get it.

*Budwar Peth, City Poona,
12th January 1909.*

To

THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS,
SALT, OPIUM AND ABRARI,
Bombay.

Sir,

As suggested by you in your memorandum No. 7693 of 1908, I beg to submit my replies to the questions asked regarding cheap foreign liquor.

1. Cheap foreign liquor is imported into Bombay from Hamburg and other German, Dutch and French ports, where it is manufactured.

2. I have heard that some of the spirit which comes to Bombay is sold in the Bombay Presidency and the rest goes to other presidencies and Central Provinces.

3. I have heard that these spirits are manufactured from potatoes, beetroots and corn, of 68 O. P. proof. I personally do not know how these spirits are manufactured?

4. I cannot answer the fourth question.

5. These spirits are converted into the appearance of the liquors whose names they take by mixing burnt sugar into them and by diluting them with pure water. Thus the spirits take the colour of the liquors under whose names they are sold.

6. According to my opinion the above processes are not at all unwholesome.

7. Pure rectified spirit is neither drunk in Bombay nor in the mofussil. Unless it is diluted it cannot be consumed. Its strength is reduced to 15 U. P. by diluting it with pure water. I do not know at what wholesale price rectified spirit is sold in the mofussil but the retail price is Rs. 2-10-0 per bottle. In the mofussil it is sold for medical purposes only. The wholesale price of pure rectified spirit is Rs. 14-8-0 per gallon.

8. To the best of my knowledge methylated spirit is never drunk.

9. These spirits are imported into Bombay Presidency at high strength (about 68 O. P.), and in order to make them consumable they are diluted with pure water. They are then coloured with burnt sugar. They are then filled in casks and kept therein for a few days. They are then bottled.

10. These spirits are generally supplied by the manufacturers to their agents who supply the public as well as the Bombay and mofussil vendors. The agents who are licensed vendors sell these spirits wholesale as well as retail.

11. The lowest wholesale price in Bombay of the cheap brand is Rs. 12-8-0 per dozen bottles. The highest is Rs. 20 per dozen bottles.

12. In mofussil it is sold to the public, when its strength (proof) is 15 U. P. In Bombay it is sold at different strengths, generally from 15 to 35 U. P.

13. In Bombay the wholesale and retail prices of all Europe liquors are the same. In mofussil the lowest retail price of cheap brand is Re. 1-9-0 per reputed quart and the highest is Re. 1-12-0 per quart. In this price (in mofussil) the Government license fee of annas two per quart is also included.

14. There is not one kind of label for one brand. Different agents use different sorts of labels. The agents create and use these labels according to their fancy and whims.

15. In Bombay as well as in the mofussil these spirits are drunk by the low and middle class people.

16. On account of equal taxation for higher and cheap brands the consumption of cheap brands is increasing in Bombay as well as in the mofussil. According to my opinion this increase in the sale of cheap brands has no effect upon the sale of country liquor, because people who are in the habit of drinking country liquor do not drink Europe liquor.

17. I consider that these spirits are less deleterious to natives of India than the country liquor.

18. I deem it advisable that the label should contain the correct description of foreign spirits. It must also shew of what strength it is, and the country where it is manufactured. Imaginary labels should not be allowed.

19. No more restrictions are necessary. The restrictions already existing are burdensome.

I beg to remain,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

SHERIAD ARDESHIR.

No. 17.

*Evidence of Mr. Sheriarji Ardesir, liquor seller of Poona City,
Examined by the Chairman in Gujardti.*

A.—I am one of the biggest traders in foreign liquors in Poona. Hindus, Mussalmáns and Goanese are the classes of people that chiefly come to my shop.

Q.—What class of Hindus? Bráhmans or mill-hands?

A.—All classes—high class, middle class and lower class people. Mostly servants come to our shop. Therefore we cannot say who are the real purchasers. Those who buy high class spirits are called by us high class customers. They buy bottles and pints. They don't drink in the shop. I have no retail-on license. I cannot open a bottle.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Do you sell wholesale?

A.—Yes. But I can sell in single bottles and pints.

Chairman.—Do mill-hands come and take away bottles from your shop?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you anything to say about your license fee?

A.—It is too high. My business has not increased. At first I had a license of Rs. 75. It was raised to Rs. 300, then to Rs. 500, and now I am paying Rs. 1,800. My business has not increased, but decreased.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Your fee is assessed according to your sales?

A.—Yes.

Chairman.—How long is it since you were paying Rs. 75?

A.—I believe it was 10 years ago that I used to pay Rs. 75. Then I took over the license from Messrs. Phillips & Co.

Q.—When did your business begin to decline?

A.—I increased my prices owing to high fees and therefore my business has fallen off. There are two other shops selling foreign liquor in the city.

Q.—Do all these three shops sell at the same rates?

A.—No.

Q.—Why not?

A.—We have our rates according to our expenses. Our rates depend on our licenses also. I have to pay Rs. 60 rent because our stock is very large. Other people have to pay a small rent. My cheapest liquor is sold at Re. 1-8-0 per bottle.

Q.—Do the other two shop-keepers sell cheaper?

A.—There is no great difference. There may be a difference of one or two pice or an anna. The other two shops do not undersell me. All three of us do not sell at exactly the same price, but at about the same price. The sales are increasing in the Poona foreign liquor shops during the last 5 years. Sales of the better qualities are diminishing. Sale is increasing generally, but the sale in superior qualities is diminishing because people take to cheap things rather than to dear things. The number of my customers is not increasing. It is decreasing every year. Those who remain are not buying more liquor now than they did before. Big people get their stock direct from Bombay.

Ráo Bahá'tur Setalwad.—Sale is increasing and the number of customers is reduced. How do you mean?

A.—For cheap foreign liquor the sale is increasing, but for superior stuff rich folks order their stock from Bombay and thus we dealers suffer.

Chairman.—During the last 10 years has the habit of drinking foreign liquor spread among natives who took no drink before?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Are high class natives taking to drink foreign liquor to any large extent in Poona?

A.—Middle class people drink more; by middle class people I mean those who earn Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 per month. I don't bottle. I used to bottle rum when Mr. Ghaswala used to manufacture it in Poona. Now I bring bottles from Bombay from the shops of Messrs. Oomrigar, Baria and H. J. Rustomji. I sell the bottles as they come. I don't affix new labels, or change original ones.

Q.—Do you sell methylated spirits of wine?

A.—Yes. I don't do it for drinking purposes. I don't make dilute spirit. Rectified spirit is sold for medical purposes and for scents. You can get a bottle of it for Rs. 2-10-0. You can get brandy at a much cheaper rate. A bottle of rectified spirit worth Rs. 2-10-0 is pure rectified spirit of 68 O. P. It is not used for drinking purposes. I consider that foreign spirits are less deleterious than country liquor, because country liquor has a bad smell and has copper rust in it. Even the lowest class of people would like to drink European spirits. They think the spirit mild and like to drink it. The three reasons why European liquor is preferred to country liquor by people are :—

1. It has no smell,
2. It does not contain copper, and
3. It is European.

Q.—Is either foreign or country spirit taken with water?

A.—No one is in the habit of putting water in country spirit, but some mix water with foreign spirit.

Q.—Does anybody bottle any foreign liquor in Poona?

A.—I think Messrs. Cursetji & Sons may be bottling, but they may be bottling high class spirits. Those spirits are for Europeans.

Dr. Powell.—Do you say the sale of country liquor is decreasing?

A.—No. It is neither increasing nor decreasing.

Dr. Powell.—Do Bráhmaus take liquor from your shop?

A.—I cannot answer that question. Customers' servants come and they also personally come. I believe that Messrs. Baria and Oomrigar in their godowns only mix water and sugar with spirit for colouring it.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Do you sell port wine?

A.—Yes. I get it from Bombay.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Do you think there is any adulteration?

A.—No. I don't know whether sour claret is added to port wine.

Ráo Bahádur Setalvad.—For what purpose do your customers buy port?

A.—For medicine and for drinking purposes.

Chairman.—Do you sell beer?

A.—Yes. We sell it in bottles. The sale of beer is increasing year by year. Hindus and Mussalmáns drink it.

Q.—Do mill-hands and higher classes drink beer?

A.—Men of all classes drink it. High class people drink high class beer and lower classes drink lower class beer. The habit of beer-drinking has spread among all classes.

No. P.-2100 OF 1908-1909.

Camp Ahmednagar, 18th January 1909.

From

THE ASSISTANT COLLECTOR OF EXCISE,
Poona, Sátára and Ahmednagar ;

To

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. LOGAN, I. C. S.,
Commissioner of Excise and Chairman of the
Committee on Cheap Foreign Liquor.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your No. 7694, dated the 31st December 1908, together with a list of the questions on which the Committee desire my evidence, and in reply thereto I have the honour to report as follows :—

2. The evidence which I am prepared to give on the questions forwarded by you is the following :—

1. Never having served in Bombay I am unable to answer this question fully, though I am informed by persons interested in the trade that the spirits in question are received from ports in Germany, France and Austria. I am not cognizant of the names of all the places in these countries where such spirits are actually manufactured, but Mr. Dinshaw Hormasji Guy of Ahmednagar, who is the only licensee in my jurisdiction who imports the spirits under reference in bulk direct, obtains his supplies from Hamburg (Germany), Milano *via* Trieste and Cognac and Charente (France). I am also informed that a cheap kind of spirit (designated brandy) is manufactured in and largely exported from Russia, but at and from what place I have been unable to ascertain.

2. This is rather a difficult question to answer, but I am inclined to believe that the greater portion of the receipts are for consumption in the presidency, though a large portion of the same are exported for sale and consumption in other Local Provinces and some of the surrounding Native States. I am prepared to prove my statement in this connection by statistics of imports and sales from 1903-1904 to 1906-1907, taken from the Excise Administration Reports for those years.

3. The evidence which I am prepared to give on this point is purely that which I have obtained by reading literature on the subject. So far as my knowledge extends I would observe that all substances in nature which contain sugar in any of its forms are susceptible of undergoing vinous fermentation and may therefore be used as sources of alcohol. It is thus obvious that the variety of organic substances, especially of the vegetable kingdom, from which alcohol may be elaborated, is almost endless, and in practice it is found that numerous sources are employed. So far as I have been able to ascertain I find that much of the commercially distilled cheap foreign spirit sold in the presidency market as brandy, rum, etc., is principally distilled from the fecula of potatoes, though I believe that some other bases, such as beets, carrots, Jerusalem artichokes, saw-dust and cereals, are also sometimes used. The spirits under reference, I am informed, are exported to Bombay at strengths of from 40 to 70 O. P. I have seen one invoice in the possession of Mr. Dinshaw Hormasji Guy of Ahmednagar, in which the strength of the spirit exported was given as 68 O. P. As regards the method of manufacture, I believe the spirit is distilled by patent stills capable of a large outturn daily, but what the exact process of manufacture is I am unable to say. I believe that in addition to distillation the spirit also undergoes a process of rectification by which some volatile impurities are removed, after which process the base of the spirit cannot be determined by chemical analysis, provided rectification has been properly carried out. Such spirits are then termed "silent" or "featureless," and after being coloured and flavoured with a variety of essences to represent brandy, rum and gin, are exported to India for sale.

4. This question is one on which I express an opinion with much reluctance, as any opinion I may venture must naturally be only personal and one which I am not in a position to substantiate. Then again, knowing as I do the opinion expressed by Major Bedford on this subject—an opinion no doubt given after very careful analysis—any opinion given by me must be taken as one arrived at after reading discussions on this subject. Personally, like Major Bedford, I am inclined to believe that the base, except when liquor is turned out at a very low strength, does not, to any great extent, affect the spirit, nor do I consider any of the bases used, except perhaps saw-dust, as unwholesome, provided at the time of use they are in good condition. What in my opinion would affect the nature of the spirits is the elimination of their natural by-products by distilling them to high strengths and then re-introducing the by-products in an artificial form by deleterious flavouring essences and colouring matters. In making this statement I admit I am open to correction, but, as before stated, my opinion on this question is personal and one which I am not prepared to support by proof.

5. I have had no actual experience of the subject under reference, but from what I have read and been told I believe the process followed is the addition of essences (flavouring and otherwise) to the spirits before export.

6. Please see the last portion of my answer to question 4.

7. If it is intended by this question to ascertain whether or not rectified spirit void of all artificial by-products is sold in the mofussil (I can give no opinion about Bombay), my answer is in the negative, but if by pure rectified spirit it is meant spirit fortified with artificial agents so as to represent brandy, rum, etc, my reply is in the affirmative, as Mr. Dinshaw Hormasji Guy of Ahmednagar imports such spirit (designated brandy, rum, etc.) at O. P. strengths, reduces it to 15 U. P. by adding water, then bottles and sells it.

8. Not in my jurisdiction and to my knowledge.

9. Please see my reply to question 7 as well as paragraph 8 of my No. P.-1917, dated the 19th December 1908. My reply to this question refers to my charge only: I can give no information about Bombay or other districts.

10. I cannot answer this question so far as Bombay and other districts are concerned, but as regards my own charge I would observe that Mr. Dinshaw Hormasji Guy of Ahmednagar, who holds a foreign liquor license form No. 13 (wholesale), *i. e.*, by a quantity not less than a full corked and capsuled reputed pint (4 drams) bottle, imports cheap foreign spirit of O. P. strengths in bulk direct, and after reducing the same to 15 U. P., bottles and sells it to other foreign liquor licensees of Ahmednagar and the surrounding districts, as well as to private customers, in any quantity not less than a pint. Other licensees in my charge obtain their supplies from D. D. Baria, D. C. Oomrigar and other firms in Bombay, but what kind of licenses the Bombay firms possess I am unable to say.

11. I am in possession of the price lists (wholesale) supplied to the trade by most of the important Bombay firms, and in answering this question before the Committee I will be guided by the same. So far as my own jurisdiction goes I would refer you to paragraph 2 of my letter quoted in my reply to question 9.

12. In Bombay the minimum strength for whisky and brandy has been fixed at 25 U. P. and 35 U. P. for gin. In the mofussil the minimum strength fixed for all such spirits is 15 U. P.

13. As regards Bombay and other districts I cannot say, but in my jurisdiction the retail selling price of all such spirits ranges from Re. 1-6-0 to Re. 1-8-0 per reputed quart of 8 drams.

14. Under various kinds of elaborately got up labels. Most of the labels are prepared in Bombay and put on the bottles by the importers. In my charge Mr. Dinshaw Hormasji Guy of Ahmednagar gets his labels from Bombay and puts them on the bottles himself. Frequently two different labels, *e. g.*, "Superior Old Brandy" and "Fine Pale Brandy," are placed on bottles which have been filled with the spirit from one and the same consignment.

15. Please see the reply given in paragraph 5 of my No. P-1915, dated the 19th December 1908.

16. So far as my own charge is concerned, please see reply given in paragraph 5 of my letter referred to in my answer to question 15. As regards Bombay and other districts, I cannot express any opinion. Though the sales of country liquor up to 1907-08 showed a steady increase yearly from 1904-05, yet I am inclined to believe that the increase would have been greater were the cheap foreign spirit not obtainable, as in that case, many of the present consumers of the foreign spirit, such as the Native Christians, Goanese and Marathas, would have bought the country spirit, as their financial condition is not such as would enable them to indulge in the superior and dearer classes of foreign liquors.

17. In connection with this question, please see paragraph 8 of my letter referred to in my reply to question 15. In addition I would add that Major Bedford himself admits that in the case of the cheap foreign spirit, there is a danger of the same being made unwholesome if the artificial by-products, added after distillation, be of a spurious kind, and since we have no control over the manufacture, etc., of such spirits and it is asserted by Major Bedford that such essences (superior) are costly enough to tempt the manufacturers or others to substitute a spurious article for the same, I am inclined to credit the country liquor as being the more wholesome at least, until such time as the compounding, blending, etc., of the cheap foreign spirit is brought under efficient local excise control.

18. Please see paragraph 7 of my letter referred to in my reply to the preceding question. To the same I would add that since the cheap foreign liquor is nothing more nor less than rectified spirit diluted and artificially flavoured and coloured, I would suggest, if possible, that a condition of its retail sale should be, that it be so designated on the label in English and the Vernacular of the district in which it is sold.

19. Please see paragraph 6 of my letter No. P-1915, dated the 19th December 1908, to which I would add that in my opinion the sale of such spirits at any one time in quantities less than a reputed 8 dram or quart bottle, should be absolutely prohibited by the insertion of a clause in all future foreign liquor licenses to that effect. This would have the effect of reducing much of the sale among the poorer classes most of whom purchase the reputed pint or 4-dram bottle.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

D. S. PROCTOR,

Assistant Collector of Excise,
Poona, Sátára and Ahmednagar.

No. 18.

*Evidence of Mr. D. S. Proctor, Assistant Collector of Excise,
Poona, Satara and Ahmednagar.*

Examined by the Chairman :

A.—Foreign liquor sellers in the Poona Cantonment, Poona City and Kirkee include wholesale and retail licensees and their number is 17. There is no true wholesale shop (like Baria or Oomrigar of Bombay) in Poona. Of these 17 shops one goes next April and two more will go between that date and the 1st of April 1911. I don't think that the remaining number 14 is really excessive for the area and population. I should not recommend any further reduction at present. I think the customers of most of these shops are natives. I should say there are 8 shops in the Cantonment that sell Hamburg spirit. I should not say a large proportion of European customers go to those shops. I should not say soldiers go there. Such shops depend almost entirely on native custom. By natives I mean Parsees, Native Christians and others.

Q.—Every class of Natives ?

A.—Yes. I don't know what is the native population in the Cantonment. I should say both middle class and well-to-do natives, including Brahmins, Native Christians, Goanese and Marathas go to these shops. When I say Marathas I mean both of the artisan class and of the mill-hand class. These people buy bottles. Drinking on the premises of these shops is not allowed. Drinking on the premises is not allowed anywhere in my charge except at Cornaglia's in the Poona Cantonment and Messrs. Cursetjee's at Kirkee. I should not like retail-on licenses to be given within my districts. I consider if they are not allowed it may keep down a certain amount of drinking. Cornaglia's and Cursetjee's are the only places where drinking is allowed on the premises. I have seen several natives in the former shop, such as Parsees, Brahmins, Mahomedans and Bhatias. I have seen them drinking openly. I have seen the Bhatias drinking openly in the shop. I have not seen Natives there in large numbers, I have seen one or two. Probably a dozen in the season. In other charges which I held as Inspector I have not seen drinking on the premises of foreign liquor shops. So far as my experience goes, the practice of drinking on the premises does not exist in the mofussil in the charges which I have hitherto held. The Railway Co-operative Stores have retail licenses with the on clause, but drinking on the premises does not exist in them on a large scale. According to my calculations of shop sales in my charge the consumption of foreign liquor has considerably decreased during the last few years. Since 1904-05 and 1905-06 it shows a big decrease. I think the decline began in the first year when the new system of assessing license fees was introduced. Taking the Ahmednagar District, the sale in the year previous to that was 30,988 gallons. In 1905-06 the sale fell to 10,912 gallons. I am not aware that any shops were shut in consequence of this drop. In 1906-07 from 10,912 gallons it fell to 5,894 gallons. The sale this year will probably be less than 5,000. The sale is still decreasing. In the Sátára District the sale in 1904-05 was 7,374 gallons. In 1905-06 it was 5,012. In 1906-07 it was 4,542 gallons. In Poona in 1904-05 the sale was 22,412 gallons. In 1905-06 it was 20,560 gallons. In 1906-07 the sale was 18,761 gallons. The figures I give for the Poona district are of potable spirits only. I am dealing with potable spirits alone. I think this decrease is partly real and partly due to falsification of accounts to evade license fees. Personally I should say about 50 per cent. is due to falsification. Of the other 50 per cent. 10 per cent. decrease is a *bond fide* decrease and 40 per cent. is due to some people bringing their liquor direct from Bombay on account of the high prices due to license fees. I cannot say how far the temperance movement has affected the sales, because I don't know its effects yet. I should not say the decline is all due to the increase in tariff duty and the enhanced fees.

Dr. Powell.—Do you think the accounts are falsified 50 per cent. ?

A.—Yes, I should not think they falsified accounts 10 years ago. There was no reason for them to do so, but they do it now. The system of assessment of fees is an inducement to falsify accounts.

Chairman.—Do you consider that any people who used to drink country spirit are now going in for foreign liquor in your charge ?

A.—I think a few may be doing so in the Ahmednagar District. If you take the strength, license fee and tariff duty you will find that as compared with country liquor foreign spirit really comes a fraction cheaper if it is bought in Bombay. Upcountry customers may send to Bombay for 15 U. P., and get it very cheap, because the Bombay wholesale trader may send them 40 U. P. and that would not be detected because the customers have no hydrometer to test the liquor. When you get liquor from Bombay which is 40 U. P. it is a little cheaper than country spirit. Probably in Poona people are changing from country spirit to foreign spirit to some extent. This is done probably by Native Christians and coolies knocking about the camp. It is also done by well-to-do Marathas. Domestic servants, syces and people of that sort drink cheap foreign liquor when they can afford it; otherwise they take country liquor. My total experience of the Excise Department extends over nine years.

Q.—During those nine years have you seen any risk of foreign spirit coming to compete with country spirit to such an extent that there may be a serious transfer of customers from the one to the other ?

A.—Personally I think that in a couple of years or so foreign spirit will begin to have an advantage, a great advantage, over country liquor. That will be the result if bottling in Bombay is allowed to go on without the direct supervision of Excise Officers. According to the present system of bottling any man can use elaborately attractive labels and so attract customers of country liquor to foreign spirits. Plague is also said to have a great deal to do with the transference of customers from country liquors to foreign spirits.

Q.—How do you think that permission to bottle in Bombay serves to give advantage to foreign spirit over country spirit ?

A.—I have pointed out in my written replies that Bombay wholesale dealers, although they are restricted to supply only 15 U. P. to the mofussil, do supply 40 U. P. or any other strength and charge the same rate as for 15 U. P. to private customers. I cannot say whether this is done to any large extent, but there is a great temptation for the Bombay dealers to do so. I should say there are a good number of people in the mofussil who send orders to shopkeepers in Bombay for Fine Pale Brandy and other extremely cheap brands.

Q.—Would not these people in the mofussil having some intelligence distinguish between 15 U. P. and 40 U. P. ?

A.—I don't think they would go to the trouble of testing it, because they drink it clandestinely.

Q.—Do drinkers of foreign spirit dilute it with water ?

A.—As a rule persons who openly drink foreign spirit in the mofussil drink it neat, except the very well-to-do classes. I have seen servants drink it neat.

Q.—As regards the temperance movement in Poona, did the temperance people last April attempt to picket foreign liquor shops as well as country liquor shops ?

A.—I believe Mr. Sheriar Ardesir was picketed by the temperance people. He complained about it. One or two other foreign shops in the City were picketed, but not to a great extent. I don't know why they made that distinction ?

Q.—Do you consider the fees on foreign liquor shops, as they now are, are sufficiently high ?

A.—No, Sir.

Q.—Why ?

A.—Because I think that fees ought to be raised on foreign liquor shops in order to prevent competition between cheap foreign liquor shops and country liquor shops. The still-head duty being raised on country liquor shops they have to pay 4 annas more per gallon from 1st April next and as the duty rises, the country liquor shops cannot keep their advantage over foreign liquor shops.

Q.—Do you think that the increase should be in the form of fees or in the form of customs duty?

A.—I should think that it should be in both. I would abolish the tariff duty entirely and charge increased duty on a sliding scale. I mean I would abolish the tariff duty and tax cheap foreign liquor in the warehouse as it is passed out in the same manner as we do with country liquor. The advantage would be that exporters would not be hit and it is not likely that they would send inferior liquors.

Q.—Does not the exporter make whatever the importer demands?

A.—No, so far as I know.

Q.—If there were a general demand by importers for still cheaper liquors surely the exporter in Europe would conform to that?

A.—Yes, I dare say.

Q.—You heard Mr. Sheriarji complaining that his license fee has risen from Rs. 75 to Rs. 1,800 and that it was far too severe? Do you consider his complaint was unfounded?

A.—Personally I do.

Q.—He could bear a much heavier fee without being entirely ruined?

A.—He could bear it provided there was no competition between the different foreign liquor shops. He would have to charge a heavier fee for his liquor in order to recoup his license fee, but so would the others if their fees were also raised.

Q.—You would raise the fee on everybody so that no one shop would have an advantage over another?

A.—Yes, exactly.

Q.—Might you not raise the fee so much that there would be no profit left at all and the shop would have to be shut?

A.—I should think that we should raise it till we get cheap foreign liquor sold at Rs. 2-0-0 per bottle. This would be enough provided we don't further increase the tax on country liquor.

Q.—Why are you so anxious to see country liquor protected against foreign spirit?

A.—Personally I don't see why we should allow foreign liquor to come into competition with country liquor, which is a genuine indigenous article. My own opinion is that cheap foreign spirit is inferior to our country liquor. That is only a personal opinion of mine. I have formed it by reading different articles on the subject. I have read on the subject in English papers that there is a great danger of noxious essences being used in silent spirits before they are exported to Bombay. I don't say they actually have used them. I think it is necessary to see that they are not used and, therefore, we should have our Customs warehouse to look after blending and breaking down under Customs supervision. Breaking down is now done in wholesale shops with water which is either very filthy or is unfiltered. I have got a bottle from the only man in my charge who bottles, Mr. Dinshaw Hormasji Guy. (Shows a bottle containing liquid of brandy colour with about two inches of sediment.)

Dr. Powell.—What is the strength of that?

A.—It is 49 U. P.

Chairman.—Was this bottle exposed for sale?

A.—No. I filled the bottle myself out of the remains of a cask of cheap brandy which Mr. Dinshaw Hormasji Guy of Ahmednagar has been bottling. In this bottle the sediment appears to be owing to dirty water.

Q.—Did you take this bottle from the cask after they had finished bottling?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Was that liquid purposely left in the cask because it was not clear?

A.—It may have been. When I stirred it up in the cask I noticed that Mr. Guy was rather nervous. When I asked him what was in it, he took a syphon and brought out the stuff in this dirty condition. He wanted to show that it was only dirty water, but it would be all right when the sediment was settled. I tested the other bottles taken from the same cask and found they were 15 U. P.?

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—No customer would accept that brandy bottle?

A.—No.

Dr. Powell.—How is it that this is 49 U. P. and the other bottles out of the same cask were 15 U. P.?

A.—He said he had put in water to draw the remaining spirit out of the cask. My idea is that he intended to add some portion of this to a new consignment when it arrived. I also found he had one or two other casks in which the spirit was very weak 80 U. P. He had put water in empty casks in order to draw the spirit out of the cask. Practically there was no spirit left in them before he put in the water.

Dr. Powell.—Did he say he used unfiltered water?

A.—Yes. He said the sediment came from that.

Dr. Powell.—It is not any substance from which colouring matter is extracted?

A.—Not that I am aware of. He told me it was ordinary sediments, and I know they are using unfiltered water.

Chairman.—Is he the only man who bottles in your charge?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you consider that distilled water should be prescribed for use in reducing?

A.—I think in the interests of the general public it ought to be.

Dr. Powell.—If there were disease germs in the water would not the alcohol be sufficient to kill them?

A.—That is a point on which I cannot say anything. I believe alcohol might be strong enough to destroy the germs in water, but medical men would be better able to speak on this point.

Chairman.—You and your inspectors test bottles of liquor in foreign liquor shops to make sure that it is not below 15 U. P.?

A.—Yes. I have always found it 15 U. P. In the case of high-priced whiskies I don't insist upon that strength. A bottle of whisky at lower strength is sold at Rs. 2 or more a bottle. I do not know that any of the Hamburg cheap silent spirit is sold as high as Rs. 2 per bottle. The cheapest figure at which foreign spirit is sold in Poona is Rs. 1-6-0 or 1-7-0 a bottle. The highest price I have seen is Rs. 1-12-0. It depends upon the customers.

Q.—Do you mean that the same bottle might sell at Rs. 1-6-0 or at 1-12-0 according to the customer?

A.—No. There would be some difference in price according to the purchasing power of the customer, perhaps an anna or two. A bottle sold for Rs. 1-7-0 contains, I believe, 7 drams. An eight-dram bottle of country spirit at 25 U. P. is sold at Rs. 1-2-0 in Poona City and Cantonment. Rs. 1-2-0 is the maximum price. That is not the smallest quantity of country liquor that is sold. From the 1st April they can obtain half a dram. At present the minimum is one dram.

Mr. Procter.—What would be the price of a dram?

A.—Annas 2-3 in Poona City and Cantonment.

Chairman.—Have you any measures to suggest, besides what you have mentioned, *viz.*, restrictions as regards bottling and the raising of license fees?

A.—I should also abolish pint bottles. Most of the very low class people buy in this quantity, and I would discourage that.

Q.—You find millhands buying pints of foreign spirit?

A.—Yes, in Poona.

Q.—If the sales of pints were abolished would people cease to go to shops or would they buy bottles?

A.—I should think their purchasing power would preclude them from buying more than they do now.

Q.—Do you consider there would be any hardship on any class by the prohibition to sell pints?

A.—Personally I don't think so, because the people who go in for pint bottles would not complain if they had to take to country liquor.

Q.—Have you had under observation the different effects of foreign spirits and country spirits upon drinkers?

A.—I have questioned men who have been addicted to foreign spirit. They tell me it causes a burning sensation in the throat and that it also causes diarrhoea and dysentery. It depends upon their constitution whether they suffer worse effects. Sometimes a man who drinks foreign spirits suffers very much from its effects the next morning, whereas the man who is addicted to country liquor does not complain of these things so much.

Q.—Is it because the drinkers of foreign liquor drink more of it?

A.—I cannot say; it is probably due to the difference in strength or possibly the foreign liquor is not quite so matured as country liquor. People say they drink foreign spirit because it is a great treat and it is the Saheb's drink. They think they are getting the identical drink that the Saheb is getting.

Mr. Procter.—When a man drinks a bottle country liquor, what does he pay for it?

A.—The bottle of country liquor is cheap and ordinarily works out at Re. 1 or Rs. 1-2 in Poona District. People are willing to buy cheap foreign liquor at a little extra cost, because they think they get the Saheb's liquor. The public has a mistaken idea about cheap foreign liquors.

Mr. Procter.—A man getting Rs. 10 or Rs. 15 a month cannot afford to drink foreign liquor, can he?

A.—Once they get addicted to it they will have it by some means or other.

Mr. Procter.—Is there any credit system in buying bottles?

A.—Yes, though the shopkeepers won't admit it. It is not prohibited under the license.

Q.—Does almost every foreign liquor shop sell also some good liquor?

A.—Yes, many sell liquors of the higher classes. I don't think men like Sheriar sell much good spirit. I have not got his price list, he does not publish any. He sells 800 dozen or more of inferior spirits within a year. He has some spirit of a genuine sort such as you might find in Treacher's or Phillips'. He does some business in high class spirits but on a small scale. I don't know if any Europeans deal with him.

Q.—We were told yesterday by a witness that soldiers often send to foreign liquor shops to get cheap spirit in the Barracks. Do you know whether this practice exists at all?

A.—I believe it is quite true that liquor is carried into the Barracks.

Q.—Can't they get it from the canteens?

A.—I believe private soldiers are not allowed to have spirits in the canteens. They can only get beer there. It is only the Sergeants' Messes that sell spirits. I am not quite sure whether they sell rum to private soldiers. I don't know who drink the Commissariat rum. Mr. Ghaswala used to supply rum to the military when he had a distillery.

Q.—Have you any suggestions about labels?

A.—As regards labels I think they should have the description of the liquor, the selling price, the name of the exporter and place of export, and the name of the Bombay bottler. All these things should be in English and in the vernacular of the district in which the liquor is sold.

Mr. Procter.—Do you think the labels really matter?

A.—Yes, they do. Upcountry they are a great attraction to natives, for their colour and prettiness.

Mr. Procter.—How could you change that?

A.—I don't know. But I should like that all the above things be put in the vernacular so that the man who buys the bottle knows what he is getting to drink. Most of the millhands can read the vernacular.

Dr. Powell.—Even chemists cannot distinguish between genuine and spurious brandy, whisky, gin or rum?

A.—At any rate the man who buys the bottle ought to be satisfied that he is getting what he expects.

Dr. Powell.—We are unable to detect by analysis whether anything is brandy or whisky or rum. The chemist cannot tell by analysis whether brandy is distilled from potatoes or from any other substance. Then how are you to tell that a true description has been put on the bottle? It would be impossible to check the statement or to prove any offence against the man who makes that statement on the label.

A.—In Ahmednagar in Mr. Dinshaw's case, he told me himself that he had one cask which he had brought at 68 O. P. and out of which he made both Fine Pale Brandy and Superior Old Brandy. They were exactly the same. He is at liberty at present to call his liquor anything he likes. This can be prevented if on the label it is required to specify the real nature of the spirit. I think the term brandy or rum or whisky would be a misnomer for any of these Hamburg spirits. I should have the thing called by the proper name of spirit, foreign spirit or duty-paid spirit.

Mr. Procter.—Do you think that would affect the sales?

A.—I think it would.

Dr. Powell.—You said you read a good deal about the manufacture of spirit?

A.—Not a very great deal.

Dr. Powell.—You know that this silent spirit is all made by the patent still process?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Powell.—Do you know that after that process no chemist can tell what base the spirit comes from whether grape juice or potato or grain, and that practically it contains no impurities?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Powell.—In answer to question 17 you say that cheap foreign spirits are more deleterious than country spirit. On what ground do you say so? Had you this dirty water (refers to the bottle which was brought from Mr. Guy's cask) in your mind when you wrote that?

A.—Yes. I also assume that the essences used are not wholesome.

Dr. Powell.—What are the essences? Have you read about noxious essences?

A.—It is quite possible to use noxious essences which are sold cheaper than superior essences.

Dr. Powell.—The neutral spirits that come to Bombay cannot have essences added to them in Bombay. Nothing is added except burnt sugar and water. Would you consider that such neutral spirit is more deleterious than country liquor?

A.—I did not say definitely that it is more deleterious. What I said was "In addition I would add that Major Bedford himself admits that in the case

of the cheap foreign spirit, there is a danger of the same being made unwholesome if the artificial by-products, added after distillation, be of a spurious kind."

Dr. Powell.—I am sorry I was reading somebody else's answer.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Your minimum limit for the mofussil is 15 U. P. and for Bombay ?

A.—For Bombay it is 35 U. P. for gin and 25 U. P. for all other spirits.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Would you have a uniform strength for country spirit also ?

A.—I hardly think we should have uniformity of strength for the whole Presidency as people require different classes of liquor. The Bhils in Khandesh drink 60 U. P. In my jurisdiction they drink nothing but 25 U. P.

Dr. Dadachanji.—You are not in favour of prescribing one uniform minimum limit for foreign liquor either ?

A.—I don't see that there would be any benefit but at the same time there is no objection, provided the strength fixed is not low, so that it could be sold cheaper than the country liquor.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Do shop-keepers in the mofussil complain that customers buy direct from Bombay ?

A.—Yes. Unless bottling is done in a warehouse, the Bombay merchants might supply private customers in the districts with spirits of 40 U. P. Private customers buy direct from Bombay owing to the high assessment of fees in the mofussil by Government.

Dr. Powell.—You said that foreign spirit is not as matured as country spirit. To what extent is country spirit matured ?

A.—It depends upon the demand on the distillery. At Mundhwa we have got 16 large vats, of a total capacity of 26,000 gallons. We take them in turn and will not issue from a new one until the vat previously opened is emptied. The interval between the first and last turns is about 3 weeks.

Dr. Powell.—You can hardly call that maturing.

Mr. Procter.—In fixing the strength at 15 U. P. how is it advantageous to the consumer ?

A.—He gets a stronger spirit.

Mr. Procter.—Is that not a disadvantage ?

A.—It depends on whether cheap foreign spirit is injurious. If it is injurious then it is a great disadvantage. If it is not injurious then there is a great advantage.

Mr. Procter.—Is there any objection to fixing a weaker minimum ?

A.—Then on account of the lower price foreign liquor would compete with country liquor.

Q.—Would foreign liquor that is reduced to 40 U. P. be more wholesome than country liquor ?

A.—Absolutely it would be less intoxicating. I don't think it would do any harm.

Q.—You don't know what are its effects on the man's constitution ?

A.—No.

Dr. Powell.—You said some complained there was a burning sensation ?

A.—They considerably object to the burning of the throat. My own cook complained bitterly to me the other day. At Christmas time he went to indulge in fine Pale Brandy and he felt very bad as an after effect. He then came to me and complained and asked if I could not take the shop-keeper's license away. I said he was foolish to buy such liquor. These are the sort of examples that come to me in the course of my work. Probably what one man would consider burning another man may not.

Rao Bahadur Setalwad.—You say there should be a description of the contents of the bottle on labels ?

A.—Yes.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—What do you call brandy?

A.—If anything is not real brandy I should call it spirit, duty paid spirit. I should not call spirit flavoured with essences brandy.

Ráo Bahádur Setalwad.—How would you prevent the exporter from calling it brandy?

A.—That is for the Chemical Analyser to suggest.

Dr. Powell.—Most of the brandies that are drunk are mainly silent spirit mixed with a certain proportion of essences. I mean most of the brandy that is drunk even in higher circles and in clubs and messes and hotels.

A.—So I am told.

Dr. Powell.—You could not prohibit them from being called brandies? Where would you draw the line if you cannot detect the base here?

A.—The exporter can well define what is brandy or whisky.

Dr. Powell.—We all know what they ought to be.

A.—There are British brandies which are really fortified spirits flavoured with essences.

Dr. Powell.—A great proportion of brandies that are sold by big merchants are admitted to be silent spirit, with a certain proportion of brandy mixed with them.

A.—Yes, but they are not the cheap spirits I am referring to.

Dr. Powell.—No, but where would you draw the line to exclude them?

A.—I should make it a matter of price and draw the line at Rs. 2 a bottle. I should insist upon cheap spirit being bottled in 8-dram bottles. At present you have the liquor in bottles that are rarely of 8 drams. They are often only 7. Some of them are $7\frac{1}{4}$ and some $7\frac{1}{2}$. If the manufacturer is tied down to one size of bottles he would give bottles of the requisite size. I have no idea of the comparative sizes of the bottles of Bass's beer and Pilsener's beer.

Dr. Powell.—How would you tie them to fixed sizes?

A.—If it was stated in the license that the license-holder has to sell in bottles of a certain measure, he would be tied down to the specified sizes.

(Outline of the evidence of Mr. V. Xavier, Excise Inspector,
Poona City and Cantonment.)

No. 709 OF 1909.

18th January 1909.

To

THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS, SALT, OPIUM AND ĀBKĀRI,
Bombay.

Sir,

In reply to your memorandum No. 7692, dated 31st ultimo, I have the honour to submit a brief outline of the evidence I am prepared to give before the Committee.

1. The ports from which spirits defined as brandy, whisky, etc., actually manufactured and imported into Bombay either direct in casks, are from Hamburg and other German and Dutch ports, or from thence to some port in England or Scotland, where it is bottled, and fictitious and imaginary labels put on. These consignments are then imported into Bombay. Without difficulty these spurious stuffs are made to compete with higher classes of English and French brands.

2. Most of these spirits are consumed in Bombay but a certain amount is exported to the Central Provinces and Hyderabad (Deccan); and a small quantity also is sent to Madras.

3. The bases (materials) used for the manufacture of these brands is beet-root deposits, *i. e.*, at first sugar is manufactured out of beet-root and from the useless deposits spirit is extracted, varies from 10 to 60 O. P. which when diluted and mixed with certain other ingredient essences, goes under the name of whisky, brandy or rum.

Spirits, we learn, are also manufactured from potato fecula and barley and other grains, unfit for human consumption.

4. Brandy manufactured as explained above is in my opinion unwholesome; as good brandy can only be manufactured from distilled wines; whereas now the Indian market is flooded with imitation brandies manufactured from beet-root or other grain. The aroma and colour are in some cases due to the distillers of these cheap brands adding volatile products. In some cases, distillers purchase proof (or silent) spirit and mix it with the refuse of wine (port) adding water and extracting a spirit which they foist on the public as brandy. Whisky is a spirit first introduced by the Scotch distilled from grains. At the present period whisky is also manufactured from potatoes and barley. I am of opinion that whisky manufactured from potatoes is not good and wholesome like that manufactured from grains as only the fecula of potatoes are used.

5. Regarding the 5th query, it is believed that a scientific knowledge of appliances from laboratories, is brought to bear, which imparts the required artificial appearance and colour, and removes any obnoxious odours. I am not aware of chemicals used, but there is no doubt that they tend to disguise the smell. In place of chemicals, ordinary bottlers (who receive spirits in bulk and spirits over proof) use burnt sugar, caramal colour sold by Bertie Smith and Stephen and Howels of Bombay.

6. Whether the chemicals used for disguising the smell and colouring liquor are unwholesome—I am not in a position to state; the burnt sugar used is not unwholesome.

7. Pure rectified spirit is consumed in Bombay as well as in the mofussil, commonly sold as tariff paid rum. In Bombay the strength varies from 15 to 35 U. P. and in the mofussil at 15 U. P. The prices of these spirits vary according to the name and label from Rs. 12 to Rs. 15 per dozen bottles. (By one dozen bottles I mean one and three-fourths of a gallon.) I do not

know of any appreciable difference, between the wholesale and retail prices in Bombay but in Poona they are sold at Rs. 18 and 19 per dozen.

8. To the best of my knowledge and belief, methylated spirit and denatured spirits, are never drunk in Bombay or in the mofussil; consequently no restrictions are necessary.

9. To save freight the foreign spirits are imported into Bombay at high strength, and in a raw condition and necessarily water is added to them as also some chemicals or burnt sugar to remove their impurities and give the proper colour. Copper sulphate or blue stone is also used to settle the sediment. The casks are then allowed to stand for sometime and then bottled and put out for sale.

10. The mofussil license retail holders are supplied by Bombay wholesale license dealers, who are also retail vendors in Bombay.

The following three firms, Messrs. Treacher and Co., Cursetjee and Sons, Messrs. Phillips and Co. in Poona get their spirits in bulk and bottle the same. The first two mentioned firms, though they get their spirits in bulk, do not colour or compound the same, they only add ordinary water to reduce the strength. Messrs. Phillips and Co. is the only firm that add distilled water to reduce the strength of the spirits brought by them.

11. The wholesale as well as the retail prices in Bombay vary according to the name, strength and label; from Rs. 12-8-0 to Rs. 20 per dozen, each dozen bottles equivalent to one and three-fourths of a gallon. The labels play a very significant part as far as the prices are concerned, for in the imagination of the poor ignorant buyers, a plain label means an inferior stuff, and consequently all sorts of fictitious labels, imaginary exporting houses, spurious analytical certificates carefully worded so as to escape punishment, but at the same time, to impose upon the ignorant purchasers, and similar other devices are resorted to. I have seen price lists of European firms publicly undertaking to put on labels of buyer's own choosing, provided he takes at least 25 casks.

12. In Bombay from 15 to 35 U. P., in the mofussil 15 U. P. only. The labels under which these brands are chiefly sold are:—

I.—Fine Pale Brandy. II.—Fine Pale Foreign Brandy, Sp. Hatchet and Company. III.—Vini Galle and Company, 3 and 4 stars. IV.—Old Brandy, Swan Brand, etc.

13. It is very seldom that liquors bottled in Bombay and several brands imported direct are of eight drams. But for its size, it would be impossible to offer it at the present rates. The firms who bottle in Bombay have gone so far as to use bottles seven of which will not make a gallon, flasks fourteen of which will be sufficient to hold a gallon.

14. Very often these labels originate in the imitation of those of some well-known brand, sometimes historical personages, crowned heads and notable places and of famous authors, for example, Sir Walter Scott and others, and the members of the Cabinet enjoy the unenviable distinction of shining on the bottle and captivating the public.

15. These spirits are generally drunk by natives and the middle class of Europeans, *viz.*, those drawing small salaries and unable to purchase superior brands.

16. From the statistics and license fees it will be presumed that the consumption of these liquors is decreasing in the mofussil and not increasing at the expense of country spirit. As owing to the increase of tax on foreign spirit in the mofussil, the Poonaites in some cases send for the monthly supplies from Bombay which can be had at trademan's rates. In such cases they have only to pay railway charges but the majority of persons getting their monthly supplies from Bombay, either ask some friend to bring them, or if business calls them to Bombay, they bring the supplies themselves whereby they save railway charges. A glance at the Railway books will prove that many a gentleman in good position imports his liquors directly from Bombay.

17. Yes, I am of opinion that these liquors are more deleterious to natives of India than the country spirit manufactured at the distilleries of this

Presidency, for the liquors sold and purchased by the poorer and ignorant class of natives is rectified spirit diluted, well compounded and coloured to imitate brandies and whiskies, which are actually the extracts of refuse. The mowra spirit manufactured in India is more wholesome. Besides the Natives of India never water the country liquor. When they take to foreign spirits according to their habit they never dilute them and the high strength consequently injures their health.

18. I am of opinion that the present vague terms (made in France), (bottled in Scotland) (8 Am-de-vie) (Champagne Cognac) (Fine old Scotch) are quite meaningless. A correct description should be distinctly enforced. Fictitious names of firms, imaginary labels should not be allowed to be used.

19. In 1905 the Government levied on mofussil dealers the new assessment of license fees, *viz.*, Rs. 1-8-0 per dozen bottles of spirits. But up to the present moment, it has not provided against loopholes which to a certain extent frustrate the object of the Government. The new tax in my opinion encouraged dishonesty and people took advantage of it immediately. As in Bombay there is no difference between wholesale and retail prices, the tax levied in the mofussil is an additional fee, the public of the mofussil who can afford to purchase their month's supply send them direct from Bombay and thereby get them free of tax. I know of instances of persons who club to get and get a case or two at a time, whereas a poor man who wants a pint or bottle and purchases it locally pays indirectly the license tax.

As you know, Sir, there is nothing to prevent them from doing so. This distinction between the licensed vendors of Bombay and mofussil is extremely objectionable for it throws allurements in their way and tries their honesty. Since my taking charge here, there has been one case of this kind where the licensee lost his license. This is not only a case of loss to licensees of the mofussil. It is not a question of convenience of the public. It is a matter of legitimate loss of revenue to Government and gain to the wholesale dealers of Bombay and the rich public of the mofussil. With due deference, I would therefore beg to suggest that the functions of the importers and retail dealers should be separated. All foreign liquors should be stored in a bonded warehouse. Only a licensed dealer should be allowed to purchase liquors from them; any spirit passing out should be taxed at the present prescribed rates, *viz.*, from a Bombay dealer Rs. 2, for the mofussil Rs. 1-8-0. The delivery book should have triplicate passes one to be retained at the warehouse, one to be given to the owner and the third sent to the Collector of the District to which the consignment has been sent. This in my opinion will prove beneficial not only to the licensees of the mofussil but also to the public, and let Government have their legitimate rights. It will also prevent fraud.

In conclusion I would beg to suggest in case the above views are not approved of, that the following additions to the present license conditions be added as a further check on the foreign liquor licensees :—

(a) No person holding license shall compound or bottle spirits, unless he holds separate license authorizing him to do so.

(b) The licensee is prohibited from bottling foreign spirits or fermented liquors or rectifying or compounding foreign spirits, purifying, colouring whole or flavouring, mixing any material therewith or adding water to reduce liquor brought in bulk (unless he holds a separate license for (i) bottling, (ii) compounding, which are only issuable to holders of wholesale licenses).

(c) Every receptacle containing foreign spirits or foreign fermented liquor, manufactured, coloured or compounded in India and received or kept for sale must be conspicuously labelled or branded with the words "Foreign spirit or fermented liquor manufactured in India." All foreign spirit or foreign fermented liquor imported in bulk and bottled, received or kept for sale must bear a printed label showing clearly the country of manufacture, the name of the bottler as entered in his license and place of bottling.

(d) The licensee shall not change any label or in any way tamper with capsules of cask of any foreign spirit or fermented liquor not bottled by him.

(e) All spirit and fermented liquor sold or kept for sale shall be of good quality and unadulterated, nothing shall be added to them either to increase their intoxicating power or for any other purpose.

(f) That all licensees be given a separate license for bottling and register their labels before placing them in the market, that no licensee can affix two kinds of labels to any one cask he may be bottling from (or two different labels to one kind of liquor).

(g) No licensee shall absent himself for more than 15 days without appointing an agent with a power-of-attorney. Such agent shall not be appointed without permission and approval of the Collector of the District.

(h) That the liquors sold in foreign liquor shops be sold only in bottles of eight drams each (6 of which make a gallon).

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
V. E. XAVIER,
Excise Inspector,
Poona City and Cantonment.

No. 19.

Evidence of Mr. V. E. Xavier, Excise inspector, Poona City and Cantonment.

Examined by the Chairman—

A.—I have heard what Mr. Proctor said. More or less I agree with him. I would suggest that there should be a warehouse in Bombay and bottling should be done in the warehouse in the presence of Excise officers and that a fee of Rs. 2 per dozen should be charged for the same. If that is done the present prices of liquor would rise and spurious brands would die out naturally. I say that restrictions on bottling in Bombay, namely, that bottling should be done under Excise supervision, would cause the class of spurious brands to naturally die out. By spurious brands I mean brands that are not genuine.

Q.—Can you give us any definition as to what should be called a genuine brandy and what should not be called a genuine brandy? What is a spurious brandy?

A.—Fine Pale Brandy is not a genuine brandy, because I don't believe it has been manufactured of grapes. Phillips' and Treacher's brandies are of higher brands. I have no special knowledge of wine business, but I remember once seeing an invoice for brandy sold here some 50 years ago, which came out to India and was sold at Rs. 70 per dozen. It was taken to the mofussil and was sold there at Rs. 120 per dozen. What I mean to say is if we take into consideration the low priced brandy that comes out here, which includes the duty and other charges like freight, and compare that price with the price of this brandy of 50 years ago, the present stuff must be inferior.

Q.—If the chemists say they cannot by analysis distinguish between a genuine brandy and one that is simply a silent spirit, how are you going to achieve the distinction which you want to effect by bottling restrictions, between the stuff which is to be allowed to be called brandy and the stuff which is not to be allowed to be called brandy? Who is to decide it? The Chemical Analyser won't.

A.—An expert must be employed.

Q.—Are you going to depend on the taste of an expert?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you realise the difficulty is in getting definite results from the Chemical Laboratories?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any recommendation about silent spirit? Have you any view about silent spirit being more unwholesome than genuine whisky or brandy?

A.—Beyond the recommendations made by Mr. Proctor I have nothing to add.

Q.—Have you made any observations, in all your experience, as to the effects of this stuff on people? You must have seen plenty of people drinking foreign spirit and plenty of people drinking country spirit? Have you taken notice of any difference in the results of these two things?

A.—I cannot say I have. I have not made a study of it.

Q.—Do you say there is no drunkenness from foreign spirits in the mofussil?

A.—There is some drunkenness among the lower classes of people and the Goanese and Madrasses.

Q.—Do you see open drunkenness among them?

A.—You will not see them knocking about drunk. They buy their bottles of cheap liquor and they go to what they call their *Coors* or Clubs. They take the liquor there and drink it. I think there are two such clubs in Poona. There are also Hindu clubs.

Q.—Are they genuine clubs and not public houses under another name?

A.—No, no liquor is sold there. The members buy their own liquor and take it to the clubs. The people who go to the clubs are all members.

Q.—Do you keep a proper supervision over them to see that no non-member ever goes there and is served ?

A.—Outsiders can't buy there. Members buy from the foreign liquor shop and go to the club and drink it there. They never drink the stuff diluted. They never dilute it.

Q.—Have you never known of natives diluting foreign spirit ?

A.—When I served in Bombay I had that experience that they never diluted. Not even foreign spirits are diluted by them. They always drink it neat.

Q.—We are told that in Bombay they frequently dilute ?

A.—I am talking of 15 years back. On the whole I have got 18 years' experience in this Department. In all these 18 years the sale of foreign spirit has been growing. There are some classes of people who are coming over from country spirit to foreign spirit. Those classes are Marattas and even some Bráhmíns. I say that in early times it was a common thing for Bráhmíns to drink country spirit. Lately they are taking to foreign spirits. There are clubs and eating-houses where they take liquor. There are eating-houses in Poona to which the Bráhmíns go and take liquor with them.

Q.—Are there any other high caste natives doing the same thing, such as Banias ?

A.—Banias in Poona are in very small numbers.

Q.—Are the high class Hindus also large customers in shops for bottles ?

A.—Some are. Since the restriction on back doors they send their servants for foreign liquor or they take it away with them and drink. I have heard that the sale of bottles is increasing owing to people not drinking in shops. Consumption of foreign liquor is increasing throughout all classes. Many of these mofussil people club together and send for consignments from Bombay, or if a guest comes to them he is asked to bring a consignment with him. The statistics of shop sales in the mofussil are no guide whatever to actual consumption. You must depend upon general statistics of import.

Mr. Procter.—Is it cheaper to buy from Bombay than to buy from a shop in Poona ?

A.—When they get a case from Bombay they get it at wholesale price.

Dr. Dadachanji.—You say in your written answer that provision should be made against certain loopholes. What are those loopholes ? You say "In 1905 the Government levied on mofussil dealers the new assessment of license fee, viz., Rs. 1-8-0 per dozen of spirits. But up to the present moment it has not provided against certain loopholes which, to a certain extent, frustrate the object of the Government" ?

A.—If the liquors that are ordered from Bombay were bought in Poona the price would be higher owing to the license fees in Poona. The loophole is that people can send for consignments from Bombay and get them much cheaper. That is the only loophole. I cannot say whether there is any other.

Chairman.—How can you stop this particular loophole ?

A.—All foreign liquors should be stored in a bonded warehouse in Bombay. Only a licensed dealer should be allowed to purchase liquors from bond. Any spirit passing out should be taxed at the present prescribed rates, viz., from a Bombay dealer Rs. 2 per dozen and for the mofussil Rs. 1-8-0. The delivery book should have triplicate passes, one to be retained at the warehouse, one to be given to the owner and the third sent to the Collector of the District to which the consignment has been sent. None but licensed vendors should be allowed to remove liquor from the warehouse.

Báo Bahádur Setalwad.—At present casks are allowed to be taken without any license. Do you think that those who take away casks should have licenses ? Everybody dealing in liquor should take out a license ?

A.—I think the trade should be divided between bottlers and wholesale and retail dealers. Unless the bottlers are divided from the sellers I don't think there would be any real good in restrictions on bottling.

Q.—Take the case of Mr. Oomrigar. His business is that of an importer and also of a wholesale and retail dealer. How could his business be divided?

A.—If he has a wholesale license he should restrict himself only to that.

Chairman.—In the alternative of a bottling warehouse what regulations do you propose?

A.—I have suggested them at length in the last paragraph of my written statement.

Chairman.—What would you do in a concrete case of Mr. Oomrigar, who does three kinds of business? He is an importer, he is a wholesale dealer and he is a retail dealer? What would you do to his business under your regulations?

A.—I would not let him have a retail shop.

Mr. Procter.—Why not?

A.—Because he would be able to bottle liquor of one strength for Bombay and of another strength for the mofussil. In his account-books he does not say he bottles so many dozen bottles for Bombay and so many dozen bottles for the mofussil, and there is no check on his sending weak strength to the latter. We can never derive an accurate information from their bottling books. No regular account can ever be obtained from a bottler. If the bottling were done in a warehouse no doubt you could get accurate accounts.

Mr. Procter.—If it was done in his own warehouse under supervision?

A.—Unless we have our own inspector always present we cannot rely on the bottler.

Chairman.—You mean bottling should be done only in prescribed places where an inspector can always be present?

A.—Yes.

Mr. Procter.—Do you think that they should put the strength on the labels?

A.—If they do it for the mofussil why should they not do it for Bombay? If there was one strength for the whole of India then there would be no necessity to mention the strength on labels.

Dr. Powell.—In answer to question 9 you say "Copper sulphate or blue stone is also used to settle the sediments"?

A.—That is simply to throw the sediments down. There is a certain amount of sediment in the spirit, but not in silent spirit.

Dr. Powell.—You say in the same answer "Foreign spirits are imported into Bombay at high strength and in a raw condition and necessarily water is added to them as also some chemicals or burnt sugar to remove their impurities and give the proper colour." Are you aware that they are not allowed to add anything but burnt sugar?

A.—I don't think there has been any restriction on bottling.

Chairman.—Under the A'bkári Act, it would be an offence to use chemicals. On what grounds you say they put in chemicals?

A.—There are some chemicals used I believe.

Dr. Powell.—You say in the same answer copper sulphate is used to settle the sediments. Have you ever known of copper sulphate being used in Bombay?

A.—I cannot personally say. It is only from hearsay. I know nothing about it myself.

Dr. Powell.—What chemicals you know have been added in Bombay?

A.—I only know of burnt sugar.

Dr. Powell.—In the same answer you say "To remove their impurities". What are those impurities?

A.—Rectified spirit is quite a pure spirit with only alcohol and water. Silent spirits have no colour.

Dr. Powell.—And practically have no impurities?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Powell.—Then why do you say “To remove their impurities,” if there are no impurities to remove?

A.—I say from hearsay. I have no personal experience.

Dr. Dadachanji.—Sulphate of copper is used as a coagulant?

A.—Yes.

Dr. Powell.—In answer to question 17 you say “I am of opinion that these liquors are more deleterious to Natives of India than the country spirit manufactured at the distilleries of this Presidency.” Neutral spirit has simply burnt sugar and water added to it. How can it be more deleterious?

A.—Because the natives drink it neat.

Dr. Powell.—Is not mowra liquor stronger?

A.—No, it is weaker by 10 degrees.

Chairman.—Both in Bombay and in the mofussil?

A.—I was talking of the mofussil.

Q.—Do you know what is the highest strength at which alcohol can be swallowed?

A.—I have once seen a man drink spirit of 20 O. P. He drank it neat. He could get it down his throat. The effect of it was that on finishing his work that morning he did not come back to work in the evening. It was a small quantity.

Mr. Procter.—What were the effects the next day?

A.—There were no effects the next day. He came back to work. He was a hardened drinker.

Ráo Bahádur Setalvad.—Do you agree with Mr. Procter as to the competition between cheap foreign liquor and country liquor?

A.—I am for country liquor.

Mr. Procter.—You would put heavy fees on cheap foreign liquor because it competes with country liquor?

A.—I would. We know how the country liquor is made, and of what it is made. Of foreign liquor we know nothing. I cannot say that the effects of foreign liquor are worse than those of country liquor on drinkers because I have made no observations. I have no such experience. I would restrict the drinking of cheap foreign liquor. It is an inferior stuff which is sold in the bazar. Europeans and Eurasians, who cannot afford to buy better stuff, do drink this Fine Pale Brandy. I really think these cheap foreign liquors are worse than country liquors. I have made no observations of the effects produced upon the human constitution by cheap foreign spirits and cheap country liquor on account of my frequent transfers. I had 15 transfers in 18 years. I am appointed to a district and before I get an opportunity of watching the effects of drinking in it I am transferred to another district.

*Replies of Mr. Byramjee Bezonjee, Liquor Seller, Poona Cantonment,
to questions for witnesses.*

1. Either direct in casks from Germany to Bombay, or from thence to some port in Great Britain, whence it is brought to Bombay so far as my information goes. I have never imported this during my business period of 32 years.

2. I do not know of this.

3. So far as I hear, from refuse of beetroots, potato peels and cheapest grain.

4. I do not know this.

5. I do not know this.

6. I do not know this.

7. Pure rectified spirits when diluted is consumed both in Bombay and mofussil, and comparatively speaking, it is consumed more in the mofussil for the reason, that, there are certain spiced varieties of country liquor allowed to be sold in Bombay, which is not only drunk by the poor but by the middle classes with willingness, but similar spiced country liquor is not sold in the mofussil.

8. I do not know of any instance of its being drunk.

9. To save freight, the spirit is imported into Bombay at over proof, and water is added to reduce it to the required strength.

10. The mofussil license holders and the mofussil public receive their stock from the importer, who is in a few cases also a retail vendor.

11. The wholesale as well as the retail prices in Bombay of the cheap brands vary according to strength, *viz.*, Rs. 12-8-0 for 40° U. P. and Rs. 15 to Rs. 15-8-0 for 15° U. P. Each dozen bottles is equivalent to $1\frac{2}{3}$ gallons.

12. In Bombay from 30° to 40° U. P. and in the mofussil 15° U. P. only. I think at least 20° U. P. is necessary to bring out the proper flavour. For the following reasons, a change is necessary:—

(a) The Natives of India accustomed to drink country liquor, as received from the seller never put water in it for there is a belief amongst the natives who use the cheap foreign liquor, that diluted liquor causes paralysis, and when they take to foreign cheap liquor according to their habit, they never dilute it. Howsoever good the stuff may be the high strength of spirit must tell upon their health.

(b) The mofussil public ignorant of the difference in strength get their stock from Bombay, because it comes much cheaper and thus evade the local license tax, which they would have to pay, if the purchase was made from a local dealer.

13. It is seldom that the liquor in question comes in bottles of 8 drams, and *but* for this small size bottles, it would be impossible for the bottlers to offer it at the present rates. The ordinary bottle containing a lesser quantity than 8 drams is sold in the mofussil from Rs. 1-8-0 to 1-9-0 per bottle.

14. The brandies are sold under the labels of "Fine Pale Brandy", "Jules Alfred & Co.'s Fine Pale Brandy," etc., etc., and the rum under the label of "Tariff duty paid Foreign Rum."

15. These spirits are drunk by the poor and the lower middle classes of natives, etc., namely, persons whose monthly income ranges between Rs. 25 to 60.

16. On account of the increase in the import duty and the local license tax, the consumption of this cheap spirit, when taken as a whole, is increasing at the expense of superior Europe liquor.

17. As stated above in answer to question 12 the undiluted spirit at 15° U. P when compared with country liquor at 25° U. P. must naturally be injurious. Country spirit is more wholesome than cheap foreign spirit.

18. I cannot answer this.

19. In Bombay there is no difference in rate between the retail and the wholesale prices and consequently a poor man, who requires a pint or a quart at a time purchases it from a local shopkeeper and thus pays the required license tax, whilst a rich man who requires six bottles and over gets them from Bombay and thus evades the license tax, nay even those who require 3 bottles each club, together and get a dozen bottles from Bombay without the payment of the local license tax. This absence of distinction between the shopkeepers and the public is extremely objectionable. Any and every mofussil licensee, established clubs, messes and Army Institutes must be exempted from the local license tax of Bombay.

*Replies of Mr. Jehangir Cawasji Mukadam, liquor-seller, Dhulia,
to questions for witnesses.*

Imports are usually as follows :—

1. Brandy from France, whisky from Holland, and cheap spirits from Hamburg. In the mofussil, we also get in Bombay bottles of brandy, whisky and rum and also Old Tom locally bottled from hogshead.

2. From my experience I am able to state these cheap brands of spirits are sold not only in Bombay, but throughout the Bombay Presidency and other Presidencies.

3. Country spirit in India is manufactured chiefly from mowra, dates, toddy and jagri.

4. The after-effects of taking spirits manufactured either from dates or from jagri appear to cause a heaty sensation into the system, while that of from toddy or mowra is not so, and is preferable to consumers.

5. To the best of knowledge and belief cheap spirits are mixed with different kinds of essences and named after them.

6. It depends upon the quality of essences used. Most cheap essences are more or less injurious.

7. I have not known of pure rectified spirit being consumed in the mofussil, but in Bombay it is drunk by diluting water in it.

8. No.

9. Not known.

10. In most cases the importers are retail vendors and they supply the mofussil customers who open an account with them, and the goods are sent on indent either by goods or by passenger trains as the demand requires.

11. Wholesale prices of spirits are as below :—

Vide Appendix No. 1

12. With the exception of V. O. B. whisky by Phipson which is about 10 U. P. the rest are all between 14 and 15 U. P.

13. Prices of principal brands at which retailed in the mofussil are as follows :—

Vide Appendix No. 1.

14. From enquiries I have learnt that spirits which are bottled in Bombay obtain their labels and capsules from the firms who send their consignment and they are labelled by them here. But those brands which are bottled in Europe come with labels from there.

15. In the mofussil the superior brands of liquors are drunk by Europeans and educated Natives. While the inferior brands, chiefly brandy, rum and old-tom, by "Kunbis," "Sonars," "Weavers", dyers and labourers in general.

16. The increase of consumption of cheap spirits depends chiefly on the crops and the financial conditions of the ryots. It is also consumed by them on festival occasions and marriage ceremonies. From my experience I can state that natives who consume cheap spirits do so more as a matter of pride in treating their friends and guests, and this is done only when their purse is full. What they look to is cheap "Bilaiti daroo" irrespective of quality. I do not think the country spirits suffer materially on account of this in any way.

17. Natives who drink superior brands of liquors are the wealthy and educated class, to them English liquor is not injurious as they do not as a rule indulge in country spirits; but the poorer class who drink it, drink country spirits usually and to them it may prove deleterious if taken in large quantities or habitually drunk.

18. It would be advisable to have proper labels put on the brands to prevent frauds being practised on shopkeepers in the mofussil. Consumers of cheap spirits are drawn by fancy labels and other outward shows of the bottle, for they are an illiterate lot and are usually guided by the shopkeeper's opinion.

19. I would suggest as a check to prevent fraud being practised by some shopkeepers who try to defraud Government revenue by showing false (low) sales to introduce a system by which the shopkeepers' monthly indent can be checked with the railway receipts, and by forwarding the firm's duplicate invoice. At present this is not done and therefore the inspecting officers have no means whereby to ascertain what the actual receipts during the month of the shop were. It would be no secret to state that some unscrupulous shopkeepers do practise fraud in this respect by showing less sales than that actually take place, and it is difficult, nay impossible, to detect it unless those facilities are given to the officers named above.

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 Bahádúr 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 $1\frac{3}{4}$ 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
Do. Sp. Hatchet & Co.'s	...	...	Do. ...	15	8	0
						Bottled in Bombay.
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. Hatchet & 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. quarta.	14	0	0
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 ...	4	2	0
Do. do. No. II ...	2	12	0
Do. Hennessy's * * *	4	2	0
Do. H. Denis Mounic	2	12	0
Do. Pinet Castilion & Co.'s	2	10	0
Do. Bisquit Dubouchie & Co.	2	10	0
Do. E. Cusnier's, 25 years old	2	12	0
Do. do. 11 do.	2	8	0
Do. A. Maret & Co.'s * * *	2	5	0
Do. Commandon & Co.'s * * *	2	4	0
Do. George Alfred * * *	2	1	0
Do. F. Dessendier & Co.'s	2	2	0
Do. F. H. Brown's Camel	2	2	0
Do. Fine Pale Queen Brandy	1	9	0
Do. Sp. Hatchet & Co.'s	1	9	0
	} Bottled in Bombay.		
Whisky, Carlton 11 years old ...	3	6	0
Do. Cockburn & Campbell	3	0	0
Do. John Jameson's (Irish)	3	2	0
Do. Napier Johnstone	2	14	0
Do. Kidd and Shadbolt	3	0	0
Do. Daniel Crawford	2	8	0
Do. Buchanan Blend House of Commons Whisky, Black and White	3	0	0
Do. Andrew Usher's Special Reserve	2	9	0
Do. do. Glenlivet ...	2	6	0
Do. John Dewar Special Whisky	2	10	0
Do. do. Extra Special ...	2	12	0
Do. do. White Label ...	3	4	0
Do. Phipson's Club No. 2	3	8	0
Do. do. V. O. B.	2	10	0
Do. Huntley Blend	2	4	0
Do. John Haig & Co.'s Glenlivet	2	10	0
Do. J. and W. Hardie's Antiquary	3	6	0
Do. John Crabbie & Co.'s Scotch Whisky	2	2	0
Gin, J. and J. Noilet ...	2	12	0
Do. Boord & Sons ...	2	4	0
Old Tom, Boord & Sons ...	2	4	0
Rum, John Crabbie & Co.'s Jamaica Rum, gold label ...	2	8	0
Do. John Crabbie & Co.'s Jamaica Rum, white label ...	2	6	0
Do. Hatchet & Co.'s Jamaica rum...	2	0	0
Do. Bombay bottled No. 1	1	8	0
Port, Phipson's Club ...	3	12	0
Do. Cutler & Palmer's Invalid	2	8	0
Do. do. do. Spanish	1	6	0
Do. Page and Sandeman's Invalid	2	0	0
Do. Gilbey's Spanish	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	Ra. s. 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. ...	15 0	
" Phipson's V. O B.	Do. ...	26 12	
" Huntly Blend	Do. ...	28 8	
" John Crabbie & Co.'s	Do. ...	22 12	
" Napier Johnstone	Do. ...	21 0	
Gin :—Boord & Sons	Do. ...	31 0	
Old Tom :—Boord & Sons	Do. ...	21 12	
Rum :—Bombay Bottled No. 1	Do. ...	21 8	
Port :—Cutler Palmer's Invalid	Do. ...	15 0	
" Do. Spanish	Do. ...	26 8	
" Gilbey's Spanish	Do. ...	13 8	
Vermouth :—French N. P.	Do. ...	12 0	
Ginger Wine :—John Crabbie & Co.'s	Do. ...	15 8	
		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 Satdna, 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.	a. 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
Whisky :—					
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
Rum :—					
Imported	}	...	...	1	10 0
Bottled by Umrigar & Co.					
Old Tom :—					
Bernards	...	...	...	2	0 0
Boord's	...	...	...	2	4 0
King Charles	...	...	...	2	4 0
Gin :—					
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 Mohurrum 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.

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.]

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 *bevoda*, (*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 *bevoda* 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.

*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.

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.

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.