

COLLECTION OF PAPERS

RELATING TO THE

EXCISE ADMINISTRATION OF INDIA.

S1540

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1890.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
FINANCE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

EXCISE ADMINISTRATION OF INDIA.

No. 1020, dated the 7th February 1890.

RESOLUTION—By the Government of India in the Finance and Commerce
Department.

Ordered that the papers mentioned in the following list, relating to Excise administration in India, be published for general information in the Supplement to the *Gazette of India*.

E. J. SINKINSON,
Secretary to the Government of India.

LIST OF PAPERS.

No.	Letters.	Subject.	Page.
1	From the Government of India to the Secretary of State, No. 29, dated 4th February 1890.	Remarks on the Debate in the House of Commons on 30th April 1889 on the Excise Administration of India . . .	9—53
	Appendices to ditto	55—100
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8	To Secretary of State for India, No. 159, dated 16th June 1888, and enclosures.	Furnishes the report called for in Despatch No. 63 (Revenue), dated the 18th August 1888, and describes the situation, both past and present, in regard to drinking and the opium traffic in Burma. Indicates the orders issued for regulating and controlling the traffic in intoxicating liquors and opium	258—272
9	From Secretary of State for India, No. 64 (Revenue), dated 9th August 1888.	In reply to Despatch No. 150, dated 16th June 1888, accepts generally the conclusions arrived at by the Government of India as to the excise administration in Upper Burma; but requests that due attention may be paid to the injunctions given in a previous Despatch against creating or stimulating a demand for liquor	272
10	To Secretary of State for India, No. 213, dated 11th August 1888, and enclosure.	In reply to Despatch No. 28, dated the 19th April 1888, reports the instructions issued in connection with previous Despatches on the excise question and the steps now being taken by the Governments of Bengal and the Punjab to entrust their excise superintendence to special officers. Remarks on the success of the excise systems in Madras and Bombay, and adds that a further communication will follow regarding the defects of the outstill systems, the extent to which they are employed, and the reasons in each case for employing them in preference to the central distillery system	272—274
11	From Secretary of State for India, No. 76 (Revenue), dated 30th August 1888.	With reference to a question in the House of Commons regarding the licensing of liquor shops near tea-gardens in Darjeeling and an alleged protest against the Government excise policy by tea-planters, requests to be informed of the action taken by the Local Government in the matter	274
12	To Secretary of State for India, No. 250, dated 16th October 1888, and enclosure.	Acknowledges receipt of Despatch No. 76 (Revenue), dated the 30th August 1888, and forwards correspondence with the local authorities on the subject of the Despatch. Adds that, in view of the information contained in the correspondence, it does not appear necessary to give any instructions to the local authorities in the matter. Remarks on the grave objections to the adoption of measures for altogether suppressing the sale of liquor in India or for abandoning the system of subjecting liquor shops to the necessity of obtaining licenses	274—284

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13	To Secretary of State for India, No. 22, dated 22nd January 1889, and enclosures.	In continuation of Despatch No. 212, dated the 11th August 1888, forwards Mr. Buckland's report on the excise systems of Madras and Bombay and Mr. Westmacott's report on the outstill system in the Hooghly and Howrah districts. Recommends, for the reasons stated, the appointment, as an experimental measure, for three years of a special officer to be charged with the duty of controlling the excise administration of Bengal, and introducing from time to time such improvements as experience may show to be necessary. Explains the cause of the evils in the outstill system, and indicates the orders issued for its more effectual control	284—286
14	To Secretary of State for India, No. 23, dated 22nd January 1889.	Transmits memorials from certain Associations in Bengal, urging the abolition of outstills and the introduction of a system of local option as regards the establishment of liquor shops, and states that the opinion of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal on the memorials will be sent in due course. Promises a further report on the character and extent of the outstill system in the various provinces	286 & 287
15	From Secretary of State for India, No. 13 (Revenue), dated 31st January 1889, and enclosures.	Forwards for consideration five letters laid before His Lordship by a Member of Parliament, complaining of the liquor traffic and drunkenness in Assam. Remarks generally on the Excise Administration Report of Assam for 1887-88, the excise system in force in Darjeeling, and the complaints of tea-planters against it. With reference to the conflicting accounts regarding excise administration in the tea districts, suggests that a very careful inquiry be made into the facts and into the need for change in the excise administration of these districts. Asks for a copy of the instructions issued in the matter at an early date	287—290
16	To Secretary of State for India, No. 55 (Revenue), dated 19th February 1889, and enclosures.	Furnishes the information promised in Despatch No. 213, dated the 11th August 1888, regarding the nature of the outstill systems as administered in the several provinces of India, and the extent to which they are in operation in each case. Remarks generally on the various excise systems of the several provinces, the difficulties in excise administration resulting from the interlacing of Native and British territory, and denies the accusation that consumption of liquor has been encouraged for the sake of revenue	290—330

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17	From Secretary of State for India, No. 31, dated 14th March 1889.	With reference to Despatches Nos. 22 and 23, dated the 22nd January 1889, sanctions the appointment of an Excise Commissioner for Bengal for three years. Requests that the seven Associations who memorialised His Lordship concerning the outstill system in Bengal may be informed that their memorials have been received and are under careful consideration by the Government of Bengal. Expresses confidence that the Government of India will strictly adhere to the principles of excise administration laid down in Despatch No. 28 (Revenue), dated 19th April 1888	330 & 331
18	From Secretary of State for India, No. 38 (Revenue), dated 28th March 1889.	In reply to Despatch No. 55, dated the 19th February 1889, remarks on the possibility of mitigating the evils of the outstill system, and draws attention to the successful working of the central distillery system in Madras and Bombay	331
19	To Secretary of State for India, No. 157, dated 25th May 1889, and enclosures.	With reference to Despatch No. 67, dated the 5th March 1889, forwards, with remarks, the reports of Local Governments as to the precautions taken and the extent to which deference is paid to the wishes of the residents of the neighbourhood before a license is granted to a shop for the sale of liquor, and indicates the action taken by the Government of India in the matter	331-332
20	From Secretary of State for India, No. 52 (Revenue), dated 16th May 1889.	Forwards copy of a Debate in the House of Commons on the excise administration of the Government of India resulting in a Resolution condemning it. Criticises the Resolution, and indicates the instructions that may with advantage be issued to the several Local Governments in connection with it	352 & 353
21	To Secretary of State for India, No. 209 (Revenue), dated 6th July 1889.	Acknowledges Despatch No. 52 (Revenue), dated 16th May 1889, and forwards a copy of the instructions issued to Local Governments in the matter	353
22	From Secretary of State for India, No. 67 (Revenue), dated 18th July 1889.	Acknowledges Despatch No. 157, dated the 25th May 1889, concerning the outstill system of excise in Bengal and the advisability of introducing some form of local option in granting or continuing licenses for liquor shops. Expresses a hope that the reform of excise administration in Bengal will be materially accelerated, and concurs with the opinion expressed on the question of local option. Commends the rule observed by the Punjab Government in the matter of licensing shops	353 & 354

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23	To Secretary of State for India, No. 323, dated 15th October 1889, and enclosures.	Acknowledges receipt of Despatch No. 67 (Revenue), dated the 18th July 1889, regarding the outstill system in Bengal and the advisability of introducing some form of local option in granting licenses for liquor shops. Corrects a serious misapprehension in the Despatch as to the extent to which the Bengal Government has given effect to the recommendations of the Excise Commission, and specifies the towns in which the central distillery system is in force in Bengal. Forwards a Resolution on Mr. Buckland's report of his inquiry into the excise systems of Bombay and Madras, and adds that the Government of Bengal has decided to adopt the system of excise considered desirable by Her Majesty's Secretary of State	354—358
24	To Secretary of State for India, No. 340, dated 22nd October 1889, and enclosures.	Forwards the report of the Bombay Government of the results of an experimental excise system tried in the Thana and Kolaba Districts which dispensed with the guarantee of a minimum revenue—a condition usually attached to the grant of monopolies in the Bombay Presidency as illustrative of the difficulty of raising the excise duties on country spirit in India to a rate approximating to the tariff rate leviable on imported foreign spirit	358—382
25	From Secretary of State, No. 113, dated 21st November 1889.	In reply to Despatch No. 323, dated the 15th October 1889, communicates remarks regarding the changes introduced as ordered in the Bengal excise system	382 & 383

Despatch to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, No. 29, dated 4th February 1890, regarding Excise Administration.

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