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REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE EXCISE DEPARTMENT IN THE PROVINCE OF BOMBAY FOR THE YEAR 1939-40.

Note.—Throughout the report, the figures in rectangular brackets wherever placed in juxta-position to those given for the year under report, refer to the previous year (1938-39).

CHAPTER I.

Administrative Changes.

The following were the principal features of the Excise system during the year 1939-40 :---

(1) The rationing system was continued for country spirit except in the Fixed Fee Areas mentioned at item (12) below. The total ration for the Province was the same as for the previous year, the district being the unit of rationing. This ration was distributed by Collectors, the annual ration for each shop being fixed at the beginning of the year and adjustments made from time to time between shops as required. No monthly ration for shops was fixed, except for certain shops on the borders of Prohibition Areas and Dry Areas.

(2) The system of double auction sanctioned for the disposal of licenses for the retail sale of country spirit, opium and hemp drugs in the previous year was discontinued. Attempts were made to dispose of all such licenses first by auction. Wherever no bids were offered, or the bids offered were inadequate, the licenses were disposed of by tender or negotiation. The only exceptions to this system were shops affected by prohibition measures introduced into the areas referred to in item (13) below, and those country spirit shops in fixed fee areas mentioned in item (12) below. Shops affected by Prohibition were continued to the existing licensees, or failing that disposed of by auction or negotiation up to the date from which prohibition schemes were given by selection for fixed fees. (Government Resolution, Revenue Department, No. 9685/33, dated 5th January 1939.)

(3) All toddy licenses, except those licenses which were affected by prohibition measures, were disposed of for the toddy year ending 31st July 1940 by auction first. In cases where there were no bids or the bids offered were inadequate, the licenses were disposed of by tender or negotiation. (Government Resolution, Revenue Department, No. 946/39, dated 10th July 1939.)

(4) The monthly instalment system for the recovery of license fees in respect of all classes of excise licenses, except foreign liquor and NO-II Bk D 16-1