M.R.O. 1—27,000—3-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 20

(2) Date of repair 16.3.110

3 Initials of the Reference

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Finance DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 906	Press — Mis. —
201-202.	
Dated 28 - 6 - 1873.	

11/12

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
28th June 1873.

No. 201. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th June 1873, No. 978 :—

Read again Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th May 1873' No. 807.

Read the following letter from the Hon. D. ARBUTHNOTT, Acting President of the Local Fund Board, Tanjore, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vallum, 8th April 1873, No. 122 :—

With reference to the correspondence marginally noted, I have the honour to forward, herewith, copy of a resolution of the Board of the Negapatam Local Fund Circle, from which it will be seen that the Board have altogether declined to contribute anything for the maintenance of the Vedarniem Salt Canal, as that work is subservient almost entirely to imperial purposes. I beg to request, therefore, that the Board will be pleased to move Government for the maintenance allowance (Rupees 9,000) being provided for out of Imperial Funds.

Letter to Board, 30th January 1873, No. 30.
Do. 28th February ,, ,, 60.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Local Fund Board, Negapatam Circle, dated 10th March 1873.

(16.) Read President's letter, No. 37, dated 25th ultimo, requesting that the question of the future maintenance of the Vedarniem Canal be definitively settled.

Resolved unanimously that this Board is not prepared to contribute anything to the maintenance of the canal between Negapatam and Vedarniem, which they regard as an imperial communication constructed for the purpose of carrying salt to Negapatam. The Board believe that the traffic, other than salt, on the canal is next to nothing; and do not believe that any further traffic could be expected after extending the canal to Kodikkarai.

(Signed) H. J. STOKES,
Vice-President.

In G. O., dated 24th January 1873, no. 126, the Collector was directed to report whether the salt traffic in the Vedarniem Canal pays tolls, &c. No answer appears to have been sent to this order, but the Collector now writes that the Local Fund Board have declined to contribute anything to the repairs of the canal.

2. In his letter he alludes to letters dated 30th January and 28th February 1873. The former alludes to the Manniar Locks, and the latter has not been received. Before submitting the present letter for the orders of Government, the Board will await a reply to the Government Order of 24th January.

3. The Collector will be directed by telegraph to submit his report at once.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

Read also the following letters:—

From the Hon. D. ARBUTHNOTT, Collector of Tanjore, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vallam, 13th May 1873, No. 177.

With reference to the Orders of Government, dated 24th January 1873, No. 126, Financial Department, I have the honour to report that no toll is levied on the traffic passing over the Vedarniem Salt Canal.

2. This traffic consists chiefly of salt conveyed from Vedarniem to the Government Depôt at Negapatam, and, as it is conveyed wholly on account of Government, any toll that is levied on it will have to be paid by themselves. Even if any salt were brought by traders on their own account, it is obviously inadvisable to levy any toll on it at present, thereby discouraging the traffic just at a time when the stock of salt at the Government Depôt at Negapatam is so utterly inadequate to meet the growing demand of trade, and it is found necessary to adopt special measures to replenish it.

3. The other traffic passing over the canal is very limited; it consists of small quantities of paddy conveyed from Negapatam to Vedarniem and of tobacco conveyed from Vedarniem to Negapatam. Of passenger traffic there is very little to speak of. Any toll, therefore, levied on traffic other than salt, in the present imperfectly-developed state of the canal, as a means of communication, would hardly cover the cost of the establishment which it will be necessary to entertain for collecting the toll. But at the same time it is desirable that the whole traffic passing over the canal should be registered, and, as this can be done only by means of a special establishment, the system of levying tolls on other traffic might also be tried experimentally by the same agency. Returns of the traffic passing over the canal have to be furnished for transmission to the Government of India,* and they will be of value also as furnishing data for deciding upon an extended system of tolls should it be found hereafter to be remunerative as well as expedient.

* *Vide* Proceedings of Government, P. W. D., dated 1st November 1872, No. 2574.

4. I have, accordingly, asked the Salt Deputy Collector for a table of the tolls that might be levied on traffic other than salt, as also a plan of the establishment for collecting them and for keeping registers of the traffic generally, and as soon as these are received shall do myself the honour of forwarding them for the consideration and orders of the Board and Government.

From the same Officer, dated Tritrapundi, 29th May 1873, No. 194.

Adverting to the concluding paragraph of my letter of the 13th instant, No. 177, I have the honour to submit the annexed plan for levying a toll experimentally on the traffic other than salt passing over the Vedarniem Canal.

2. The cost of the establishment proposed, it will be seen, is Rupees 56 per mensem, or Rupees 672 per annum.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
28th June 1873.

Plan for levying a Toll on the Vedarniem Canal.

1. The rate of toll to be levied is 4 Annas per ton on the registered tonnage of each boat carrying goods or passengers, and is to be levied at the starting point.

2. For this purpose four posts are to be fixed on the canal, viz., one at Negapatam, one at Velangani six miles south, one at Topetorai about two miles north of Vedarniem, and one at the southern terminus of the canal at Vedarniem. For each of these posts there will be two toll-collectors, on a monthly salary of Rupees 7 each, to be on duty alternately. They will keep a register of all traffic passing from and to the post, and collect the toll on the boats starting therefrom.

3. The toll-collector at each post will give a ticket for each boat which has paid toll, and it will be delivered at the reaching point as a voucher in proof of the toll having been paid.

4. Any loaded or passenger boat that reaches any of the four posts without such ticket will be liable to pay double toll at the reaching point.

5. Printed forms of ticket with the Salt Deputy Collector's seal will be supplied to the toll-collectors, and the number of forms issued will be accounted for by the latter.

6. The collections made by the toll-collectors will be paid into the Salt Superintendents' Cutcherries, the toll-collectors at Negapatam and Velangani paying into the Negapatam Salt Superintendent's, and those at Topetorai and Vedarniem into the Vedarniem Salt Superintendent's Cutcherry.

7. The toll-collectors will further be respectively subject to the control of the several Salt Superintendents.

8. They will be required to furnish ready-money security, in the sum of Rupees 100 each, for the due and faithful discharge of their duties.

Submitted to Government with reference to G. O., dated 24th January 1873, No. 126.

2. The salt carried on the Vedarniem Canal is carried on behalf of Government, and if tolls are levied they must be paid by Government. The rest of the traffic is very slight, and as it is only struggling into existence the levy of tolls on it would be unwise.

3. The Negapatam Local Fund Board decline to pay for maintaining the canal on the ground that it is of no value as a means of communication, except so far as Government salt is concerned. Their position seems to the Board to be sound.

4. It will perhaps be best to impose tolls on boats carrying salt *only*. Funds will thus be obtained from the allotment for salt for maintaining the canal as is done in the case of Cochrane's Canal. If more is required it should be supplied, in the Board's opinion, from Provincial Funds.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department.

28th June 1873.

No. 202. ORDER THEREON, 28th June 1873, No. 906.

Communicated to the Revenue Department.

2. The canal appears to be almost solely used for conveying salt on Government account from the Vedarniem works to the Negapatam Depôt, but this would seem to afford no reason why the traffic should not be tolled as in the case of Cochrane's Canal. The Board of Revenue might be required to report on the suggestion.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.
Board of Revenue.

Ent. J. Wright.

Govt. of India Records

FINANCIAL.

To

The REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

&c. &c. &c.

Dated June, 1873.

Read,

G. O., dated June 1873, No. 806.

JUNE,

Nos. 201-202.

No. 807.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 15th May 1873.

Read the following letter from the Hon. D. ARBUTHNOTT, Acting President of the Local Fund Board, Tanjore, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vallum, 8th April 1873, No. 122:—

WITH reference to the correspondence marginally noted I have the honour to forward, herewith, copy of a Resolution of the Board of the Negapatam Local Fund Circle from which it will be seen that the Board have altogether declined to contribute anything for the maintenance of the Vedarniem Salt Canal as that work is subservient almost entirely to imperial purposes. I beg to request, therefore, that the Board will be pleased to move Government for the maintenance allowance (Rupees 9,000) being provided for out of Imperial Funds.

Letter to Board, 30th January 1873, No. 30.
Do. 28th February ,, ,, 60.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Extract from Proceedings of Local Fund Board.

IN G. O., dated 24th January 1873, No. 126, the Collector was directed to report whether the salt traffic in the Vedarniem Canal pays tolls, etc. No answer appears to have been sent to this Order, but the Collector now writes that the Local Fund Board have declined to contribute anything to the repairs of the canal.

2. In his letter he alludes to letters dated 30th January and 28th February 1873. The former alludes to the Manniar Locks and the latter has not been received. Before submitting the present letter for the orders of Government the Board will await a reply to the G. O. of 24th January.

3. The Collector will be directed by telegraph to submit his report at once.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

To the Acting Collector of Tanjore.

Ed. A. S. Rodgers.

20 May 1873

1873.

Board of Revenue
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 15TH MAY 1873, No. 807.

Encl.

Received

M A Y.

No. 807.

Vedaraniem Salt Canal—in Tanjore District.—With reference to Collector's report of Local Fund Board having declined to contribute towards repairs of—, his reply awaited to Government Order inquiring whether salt traffic in the canal pays tolls, etc.

Rec. 10th/73

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 10th June 1873

Read Board's Proceedings dated 6th May 1873 No. 807
Read the following

No. 177

From

The Honorable D. Arbuthnott
Collector of Tanjore

To,

J. Grose Esquire
Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras

Sir,

With reference to the Orders of Government dated 24th January 1873 No. 126 Judl. Public Department, I have the honor to report that no toll is levied on the traffic passing over the Vadaraniem salt Canal.

2. This traffic consists, chiefly of salt conveyed from Vadaraniem to the Government Depôt at Negapatam, and as it is conveyed wholly on account of Government any toll that is levied on it will have to be paid by themselves. Even if any salt were brought by traders

on their own account, it is obviously inadvisable to levy any toll on it at present, thereby discouraging the traffic just at a time when the stock of salt at the Government Depôt at Negapatam is so utterly inadequate to meet the growing demand of trade and it is found necessary to adopt special measures to replenish it.

3 The other traffic passing over the Canal is very limited in extent. It consists of small quantities of paddy conveyed from Negapatam to Vadarannium and of tobacco conveyed from Vadarannium to Negapatam. Of passenger traffic, there is very little to speak of. Any toll, therefore, levied on traffic other than salt, in the present imperfectly developed state of the Canal as a means of Communication, would hardly cover the cost of the establishment, which

it will be necessary to entertain for collecting the toll. But, at the same time, it is desirable that the whole traffic passing over the Canal should be registered and as this can be done only by means of a special establishment, the system of levying tolls on other traffic might also be tried experimentally by the same Agency. Returns of the traffic passing over the Canal, have to be furnished for Government of India, and they will be of value also as furnishing data for deciding upon an extended system of tolls, should it be found hereafter to be remunerative as well as expedient.

Vide Proceedings of Government P.W.D. dated 1st November 1871 No 2874

4 I have accordingly asked the Salt Deputy Collector for a table of the tolls that might be levied on traffic other than salt, as also a plan of the establishment for collecting them and for keeping

keeping registers of the traffic generally, and as soon as these are received, shall do myself the honor of forwarding them for the consideration and orders of the Board and Government.

I have &c

Tanjore Collector's Office
Vallum 13th May 1873

(Signed) D. Arbuthnott
Collector

No 194

From,
The Honorable D. Arbuthnott
Collector of Tanjore

To,
J. Cross Esquire
Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

Sir,

Adverting to the concluding para of my letter of the 13th Instant No 177, I have the honor to submit the annexed plan for levying a toll experimentally on the traffic, other than salt, passing over the Vadaraniem Canal.

2. The cost of the establishment proposed, it will be seen, is Rs 56 per mensem or

Rupees 672 per annum

Plan for levying a toll on the Vedáraniyam Canal

The rate of toll to be levied is a anna per ton on the registered tonnage of each boat carrying goods or passengers, and is to be levied at the starting point.

2. For this purpose, four posts are to be fixed on the Canal viz; one at Nagapatam, one at Velungannie, six miles South, one at Sopelora about 2 miles North of Vedaraniem and one at the Southern terminus of the Canal at Vedáraniem. For each of these posts there will be two toll Collectors on a monthly salary of Rupees 7 each to be on duty alternately. They will keep a register of all traffic passing from and to the post, and collect the toll on the boats starting therefrom.

3. The toll Collector at each post will give a ticket for each boat which has paid toll, and it will be delivered at the reaching point

point as a Voucher in proof of the toll having been paid.

4. Any loaded or passenger boat that reaches any of the four foot without such ticket, will be liable to pay double toll at the reaching point.

5. Printed forms of ticket with the salt Deputy Collectors seal, will be supplied to the toll collectors and the number of forms issued will be accounted for by the latter.

6. The collections made by the toll collectors will be paid into the salt Superintendents Cutcheries, the toll Collectors at Negapatam and Vilangaie paying into the Negapatam Salt Superintendents and those at Tapetorai and Vedaranium into the Vedaranium salt Superintendents Cutcherys.

7. The toll collectors will further be respectively subject to the control of the several Salt Superintendents.

8. They will be required to furnish ready money security in the sum of Rupees each, for the due and faithful discharge of their duties. I have &c

Tanjore Collectors Office
Point Calimere, Tribunpundi
Taluq 27th May 1873

(Signed) D. Arbuthnott
Collector

Submitted to Government with reference to Government Order 24th January 1873.

The salt carried on the Vedaranium Canal is carried on behalf of Government, and if tolls are levied they must be paid by Government. The rest of the traffic is very slight and as it is only struggling into existence the levy of tolls on it would be unwise.

The Negapatam Local Fund Board decline to pay for maintaining the canal on the ground that it is of no value as a means of communication, except so far as Government

Government salt is concerned. Their petition seems to the Board to be sound.

It will perhaps be best to impose tolls on boats carrying salt only. Funds will thus be obtained from the allotment for salt for maintaining the Canal as is done in the case of Cochrane's Canal. If more is required it should be supplied, in the Board's opinion from Provincial Funds.

[True Copies & Extracts]

Forde
Secretary

To,
The Chief Secretary to Government
Financial Department
with Board's Proceedings 16th May 1870
No 807 with its original enclosure

1873
Financial Department

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Dated 10th June 1873
Desp.h 10 — " — "
Received 14 — " —
on 2.

No 1042

Submitting to Govt
with remarks letters
from Collr of Tanjore
regarding levy of toll
on traffic over Vedar
= aniem Canal.

The Revenue Department
Board of Rev

Forwarded 25th June 1873 with 905/2

I would
like it in
the same
way as Colonel
Arbuthnot's
Report

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

Financial.

To The Revenue Dept: per

No. 3

Dated June 28
Recd: Read

G. O. 28 June, 1873, No. 906.

Nos. 201. 202.

Requesting the Bd. of Rev. to report on the suggestion to toll the traffic over the Vedaranium Canal in the Tanjore Dt. notwithstanding that it is almost exclusively used for conveying Salt on Govt. Acct.