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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1302 Press / Mis.

17-03

Dated 9-6-1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 9th June 1862.

No. 172. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 3rd June 1862, No. 1,223:—

Communicating report of the Collector of Kistna District regarding certain improvements to be made in the lines of communications to the Salt Pans in the above District. } (Vide Revenue Proceedings, 3rd June 1862, Nos. 33-34.)

No. 173. ORDER THEREON, 9th June 1862, No. 1,302.

Communicated to the Deputy Chief Engineer, Northern Circle, whose particular attention is requested to paragraph 6.

(Signed) W. H. HORSLEY, Lieut.-Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

No. 2,959.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 9th May 1862.

Read the following letter from G. THORNHILL, Esq., Collector of the Kistna District, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated Masulipatam, 24th March 1862, No. 49:—

1. I have the honor to forward a report on the Salt Depots of this District, by Mr. Marjoribanks, Deputy Collector in charge of the Department.

2. The report is dated 19th January, and would have been forwarded sooner, but as I was about to visit the southern part of the District, I detained it until I could myself inspect the Cotaurs of Chinna Ganjam and Nizampatam. This I was enabled to do in company with Mr. Marjoribanks last month.

3. The first seven paragraphs of the report are taken up with Statements of the quantity of Salt in Store, &c., and require no particular remark.

4. In paragraph 8, Mr. Marjoribanks points out, that the expectation that Salt would be exported by sea from Nizampatam, was not realized last year: up to this time no applications for Salt for shipment have been received; but it is probable that later in the year it may be applied for. There are considerable facilities for shipment; the stores are close to the banks of the creek, and boats can be loaded rapidly and easily. The Port is, however, but little frequented by European vessels, and it is likely that the survey, which I have already recommended* in connection with the Cotton trade, would have a good effect on the Salt trade likewise.

* Letter dated 17th February 1862, No. 29.

5. In paragraph 9, Mr. Marjoribanks shows that the system of receiving Salt into store, in excess of the proper measurement, was still in force up to last year, as shown in his report. Mr. Marjoribanks did not take charge of the Department until the storing was complete, Mr. D'Conceicao, the late Deputy Collector, having died during the storing season.

6. I trust that, during the present season, this abuse will be effectually checked; Mr. Marjoribanks is fully alive to the necessity of preventing its continuance, and so I think are the Superintendents. Two out of three of them were newly appointed last year, and were not fully aware of the orders on the subject, and were no doubt persuaded by their subordinates to adhere to the old practice, which has grown up partly from the fear of censure and suspicion, in case of heavy wastage appearing in the accounts, and partly no doubt, from interested motives on the part of the servants of the Establishment.

7. The Cudevaram has hitherto always been paid at the end of the season, and no complaints on that score have been received. The orders* of the Board on the subject, have been communicated to Mr. Marjoribanks, and the requisite measures will be taken to make more frequent disbursements, if called for by the manufacturers. It is not unusual, however, for the manufacturers to prefer taking their money all at once, at the close of the season. This was the case in the Ganjam District where I had formerly charge of two large Cotaurs.

Dated 14th February 1862, No. 1,051.

8. The rate of hire for collecting spontaneous salt appears low, and the subject will be fully considered in communication with Mr. Marjoribanks, at the end of the season, and the result communicated to the Board.

9. The Board will observe from paragraph 13 that the objectionable practice of charging purchasers with the cost of measuring out the salt, which was prevalent at Pondraka, has been put a stop to.

10. There is much justice in the remarks of the Deputy Collector in paragraph 15. The sales at different Cotaurs fluctuate very much, and it follows that when the sales at a particular Cotaur fall off for one or two years in succession, there will generally be a large store of old salt on

hand; and it becomes necessary to withhold new salt from purchasers until the old stores are expended. This causes discontent to traders, especially Brinjaries, and tends still further to divert the trade from the Cotaurs, and drive it to other places where newer salt is to be had.

11. Brinjaries sell their salt by weight, and as they buy it by measurement, of course it is to their interest to get it as heavy as they can; hence their preference for new salt which contains more moisture, and is, therefore, heavier than old.

12. In another point also the accumulation of large stores is objectionable, as it necessitates a stoppage or reduction of the manufacture, and consequent loss to manufacturers, many of whom depend largely upon their earnings in the manufacture of salt for their support. I am not, however, prepared to support Mr. Marjoribank's proposal that the store be reduced to one year's consumption. I think there would be some risk in that, but I am of opinion that one and a half year's consumption would be ample to keep in store.

13. All Mr. Marjoribank's suggestions regarding roads are well worthy of consideration. Indeed the most important of the lines have already been to a great extent provided for: my very serious attention was drawn to the state of the communication between the Salt Depots and the interior, on taking charge of the District, and as a large sum of money was available from Local Funds, I arranged with the District Engineer to devote a considerable proportion of it to the improvement and construction of roads leading from the interior to the coast. In so doing the interests of the community at large were fully considered, as the lines selected will be equally valuable for general purposes, as for the salt traffic.

14. Mr. Marjoribanks' recommendations are as follow:—

First.—A bridge over the Fidal Swamp between Pondraka (or Buntumilly) and Masulipatam. This is a most serious obstacle to traffic, and it was arranged with the District Engineer to construct a causeway and bridge over it. A sum of 1,000 Rupees was set aside for the purpose, the causeway has been partly raised, and the bridge will, I hope, soon be commenced; the second swamp mentioned is no great impediment to traffic, and will be attended to after the more urgent wants in other places have been provided for.

Second.—Deepening the channel, from Pendurru, &c. Small repairs to this channel are made every year; but it has always been very difficult to keep it open, owing to the great drift of sand into it in the hot weather. It has been proposed by the Assistant Engineer to plant the banks with mangrove, as the most likely means of securing it from silt; it is an important line connecting the pans with the inland navigation of the Godavery District, and I shall request the further attention of the District Engineer to it.

15. The road alluded to in paragraph 20 was commenced last year, and is in two sections; the first from Argole to Gudiwadah is part of the direct road from Ellore to Masulipatam, and crosses a tract of country much inundated in the wet weather; the earth work has been completed, and the bridges are in hand: the other section from Gudewadah to Buntumilly is in the same stage of advancement. When completed, it will enable Brinjaries to approach Buntumilly without difficulty; hitherto the Kistna channels, which intersect the line, have been impassable until late in the year. The canal alluded to by the Deputy Collector is in contemplation, but the project for making it navigable has not yet been matured.

16. With regard to the approaches to Nizampatam, the most important of the two creeks, alluded to by Mr. Marjoribanks, will be attended to at once, and the other, which can be avoided by a slight detour, in due course. The canal from Bezoarah will, I hope, reach this place next year, and the road from Guntoor is under repair.

17. The road connecting Chinna Ganjam with Trunk Road No. 6 at Inkole, has been repaired, and the bridge over the Romper is being re-constructed from Local Funds at a cost as per margin. This will be a great assistance to traders, and is also a valuable line for general traffic, bridging over, as it does, a very low swampy tract, lying between the coast and the interior, and opening a communication with the Port of Motupally.

Bridge	road.
Rs.	Rs.
7,592	900.

18. The necessary improvements to the Platforms, which it may be determined to retain at Pondraka, will be made without delay. I propose to visit the Cotaur shortly and decide with Mr. Marjoribanks on the Platforms to be retained and repaired.

19. With regard to the fence proposed round the Cotaur at Nizampatam, I fear it would be very costly and only partially effective: the subject shall, however, receive further consideration.

20. I have requested the District Engineer to prepare Estimates for the alterations recommended by Mr. Clarke at Chinna Ganjam, and shall submit them for the consideration of the Board when they are ready. I fear they will, if carried out fully, entail a very heavy outlay; it will, however, be quite easy to reduce the number of storing Platforms considerably without much expense.

To Mr. Pelly paragraph 19	24th July	1860,	No.	153,
To Board,	17th January	1861,	„	15
From do.	7th March	1861,	„	1,290.
To do.	14th do.		„	62.
From do.	31st May	1861,	„	2,793.
To do.	22nd August	1861,	„	215.
From do.	10th September	1861,	„	4,910.
To do.	10th October	1861,	„	251.
From do.	5th November	1861,	„	6,069.
To do.	14th November	1861,	„	256.
From do.	6th December	1861,	„	6,784.

21. Mr. Marjoribanks urges the opening of Pans at Manganapudy, for the supply of Masulipatam and the neighbourhood: this question has already been laid fully before the Board, in the correspondence noted in the margin.

22. The Cotaur of Nizampatam was only established provisionally in 1861, and the Establishment is not yet finally sanctioned. I therefore request the Board will obtain sanction for retaining it as a permanent Depot.

23. The sales since the commencement of the Fasli amount to Indian Maunds 17,191, and it is a very great convenience to the inhabitants of the surrounding country, as there is no other Depot between Pondraka and Chinna Ganjam, a distance of 80 or 90 miles. It has been established so short a time, that it is impossible to decide whether it will, or will not, become a place of great export by sea; but there cannot be a question that there will be very large sales for Inland consumption, when the canal from Bezoarah is completed, and I trust the Government will, therefore, consent to make it a permanent station.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. A. MARJORIBANKS, Esq., Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department, Kistna District, to G. THORNHILL, Esq., Collector of the Kistna District, dated Buntumilly, 18th January 1862, No. 4.

1. In obedience to the orders of the Board of Revenue conveyed in their Sub-Secretary's Memorandum to you, dated the 20th September last, I have the honor to submit the following report of my proceedings for the information of Government.

2. On receipt of your letter, dated 26th June last at Vinukonda, I lost no time in proceeding to Chinna Ganjam, where I assumed charge of the Salt Department on the 9th of the following month. The manufacture and storing of salt of Fasli 1270 were brought to a close at all the Salt Cotaurs of this District a few days previously, and I regret I had not the opportunity of personally observing the process of manufacture, nor the mode of storing. I can, therefore, say but little as to the way in which these operations were conducted. The duty then which remained for me to perform was to examine a few of the heaps recently stored at each of the Cotaurs in order to test the correctness of storage, and to pay the salt manufacturers their hire, the details of which are given further on.

3. The Dittams or annual engagements taken from the manufacturers and the quantity of salt stored at each of the Cotaurs in Fasli 1270 (1860-61) will be seen in the following Statement:—

Cotaurs.	Description of Salt.	Quantity remaining at the beginning of Fasli 1270.	Dittam of the Fasli 1270.	Quantity stored in Fasli 1270.	Increase.	Decrease.
		Ind. Mds.	Ind. Mds.	Ind. Mds.	Ind. Mds.	Ind. Mds.
Pondraka or Buntumilly.	Manufactured....	2,25,070	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Spontaneous... ..	4,36,731	3,00,000	2,09,933	.....	90,067
Chinna Ganjam	Manufactured....	8,78,255	2,00,000	2,08,472	8,472	.....
Nizampatam.	Do.	...	2,00,000	76,860	.....	1,23,140

4. At Pondraka or Buntumilly no manufactured salt was made in Fasli 1270, because the quantity of that description on hand at the commencement of the said Fasli was considered sufficient to meet the usual demand for two years, and it was hoped that a large quantity of spontaneous salt, would be gathered and be available should any extraordinary demand arise.

5. The decrease of 90,067 Maunds in swamp or spontaneous salt below the quantity fixed for collection, is owing to much of this salt produced last year being of so inferior a quality that a large portion of it was destroyed under the orders of the late Deputy Collector. The Superintendent estimates the quantity of salt so destroyed at 1,82,400 Maunds.

6. The quantity manufactured at Chinna Ganjam last year was considerably below the average, but it was deemed ample, with the large stock remaining, to meet ordinary demands for two years. The manufacturers evinced great reluctance to make a small quantity of salt as it would not pay them so well in proportion as a large quantity would. I believe the whole of last year's salt was gathered in one crop, and much of it was of an inferior description.

7. At Nizampatam only a little more than three-eighths of the quantity engaged to be manufactured was stored. I ascribe this failure more to the fact of the pans at this place having been left unworked for the last four years than to any want of exertion on the part of the Ryots. The quantity of salt produced at Nizampatam appeared to me equal if not superior to any made at Chinna Ganjam.

8. The expectation that large quantities of salt would be exported from this Depot on private trade has not yet been realized. Only one application was made in last year for exporting salt, but it was afterwards withdrawn owing to the lateness of the season, for the vessel proceeding to Calcutta.

9. My proceedings at Chinna Ganjam commenced with the examination of heaps and the payment of Cudevaram to Ryots. The same course was then pursued by me at Nizampatam, and afterwards at Pondraka. The following table shows the out-turn of the heaps of Fasli 1270 (1860-61) examined by me:—

Name of Cotaur.	No.	Name of Platform.	Date of storing.	Amount of original store.	Out-turn.	Excess.	Wastage.	Date of examination.
				No. of Heap. Ind. Mds.	Mds. S.	Mds. S.	Mds. S.	
			1861					1861
Chinna Ganjam	6	Ganjam Doddi..	June 6th	49 1,200	1,278 0	78 0	0 0	July 12th
	7	Haji Doddi.....	do. 11th	59 1,200	1,244 28	44 28	0 0	do. 13th
Nizampatam..	1	Knox Doddi.....	do. 14th	29 1,200	1,255 20	25 20	0 0	do. 19th
	3	Reid Doddi.....	do. 14th	44 1,200	1,247 22	47 22	0 0	do. 20th
Pondraka.....	3	Kotamparra Modava...	March 28th	10 1,200	1,230 0	30 0	0 0	Sept. 5th
	1	Cherkumilly parrah Modava.	June 24th	24 1,200	1,201 20	1 20	0 0	do. 6th

It will be seen that an excess was found in all the heaps, a result which could only have been caused from over-storing. The explanation given by the Superintendents regarding this excess is not satisfactory. Judging from the good character for honesty and business-like habits which these servants bear, I am not inclined to think that over-storing has been permitted by them from any improper motives or from lax supervision, but rather from a fear of being held accountable for the great wastage that is sure to occur if no over-storing took place and the salt be long on hand, as will probably be the case in Chinna Ganjam and Pondraka where much old salt is in store. I may here remark that the heap No. 44 of Fasli 1270 salt, sold at Nizampatam between the 12th and 21st December 1861, only five months after I had examined it, lost in that short time M. 47 S. 22, being the whole of the excess discovered by me in the said heap on the 20th July last. Still the Superintendents should not have under any circumstances over-stored salt. It is in opposition to the Rules, and is open to abuse. I have strictly warned the Superintendents against a repetition of this very objectionable practice, and I trust I shall not have occasion to remark upon such conduct in future. My particular attention will be directed to this subject when the time arrives for storing this year's salt.

10. The disbursements on account of Cudevaram were made to the manufacturers in my presence at the respective Salt Kacheries except to a few who were unable to attend from unavoidable causes. I am glad to say that the parties appeared satisfied, and no complaints were made to me, beyond a request for an increase in the rates of hire for which they could assign no sound reason. The case of the coolies who collect swamp salt at Pondraka might, however, be taken into consideration. These men at present receive Rupees 2-3-4 per garce of 424 Mercals, and though this rate is double that which they got some years ago, yet as the task of collecting swamp salt is a very trying one, happening as it does in the very hottest time of the year, where no shelter whatever nor a drop of good water can be had within a convenient distance, an increase in the present rate might be allowed. The late Deputy Collector Mr. D'Conceicao, who had many years experience in this Cotaur, suggested in his report to the Collector, dated 17th June 1860, No. 23, that the hire for collecting swamp salt might be raised to 3¼* Rupees the garce. Before offering my own opinion on the subject, I should like to watch the collection of salt during the next season.

* Or 1 an Anna per Maund.

11. The following Statement shows the number of manufacturers and coolies and the amount of hire paid them for the salt delivered into store last Fasli, as well as the dates on which the payments were made by me:—

Cotaurs.	No. of manufacturers.	Quantity delivered in Store.	Rate of Cudevaram per garce of 424 Mercals.	Amount of Cudevaram.	Of which advanced by Superintendents.	Disbursed by the Deputy Collector.	On what dates.	Balance left to be disbursed by Superintendents.
		Maunds. S. C.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.
Chinna Ganjam.	209	2,08,472 16 0	7 8 0	13,029 8 5	500 0 0	11,854 9 0	1861 9th July 10th 12th 13th	674 15 5
Nizampatam.	182	76,860 36 0	7 8 0	4,803 12 10	163 7 0	4,640 5 10	Do. 20th 22nd	0 0 0
Pondraka.	464	2,09,933 20 0	2 3 4	3,863 5 8	1,209 10 1	2,653 11 7	Augt. 3rd 5th 13th 17th	0 0 0

12. The rate of Cudevaram paid up to Fasli 1269 at Chinna Ganjam was Rupees 7-7-0 per garce, irrespective of the charges for forming and thatching the heaps, which amounted to 8 Annas per heap, and were debited separately in the accounts. As it appeared from Mr. Pelly's Circular, dated 12th May 1860, No. 277, that these petty charges should be included in the Cudevaram, the late Deputy Collector, with the concurrence of the Collector, increased the Cudevaram rate to Rupees 7-8-0 per garce, inclusive of the petty charges above referred to. As this change has given the manufacturers a profit of two Annas per heap, they have of course gladly acquiesced. The grass for thatching heaps is as usual supplied by the Circar.

13. The purchasers of salt at Pondraka used to be taxed at two Annas per garce of salt sold to them, to pay for coolies employed to assist the measurers at the sales. As I considered this unfair to the traders, and the practice being at variance with that observed at the other Depots where similar charges are debited to Government, I directed that it should be discontinued from July last, and the charge, when unavoidably incurred, met from the permanent fund, as I have already reported to you by Yadast on the 10th July 1861, No. 72.

14. During my visits at the different Depots, I make it a practice of frequently attending the sales and repressing every tendency on the part of the measurers to give over measure. The Superintendents are constantly reminded by me of a strict discharge of their duty in preventing irregularities at the sales, and in all other matters.

15. Under the orders of the Board a supply of salt equal to two years' consumption should always remain in store. By this arrangement the trader seldom or ever gets new salt, however much he may desire it, unless the rules are departed from, and old salt is left unsold for years deteriorating, and wasting away. Our foreign traders, the Brinjaries especially, get very much discontented, and consider it a great hardship that they are obliged to purchase old salt when they want the new, and it is not till after repeated refusals to sell them new salt that they will reluctantly take the old. To remedy this, I respectfully beg to suggest that the manufacture in this District at least, may be so conducted as to ensure a supply of salt equally to one year's consumption being always on hand, which will enable us to sell a proportion of new salt with the salt of the previous Fasli, and thus satisfy the traders. This plan will not, I think, endanger the revenue unless two successive bad seasons occur, which is improbable. On the other hand there will be a saving to Government from less wastage owing to the shorter time that salt will, under the proposed plan, remain in store. At present we have salt of four Faslis both at Chinna Ganjam and Pondraka, as shown in the margin, and I am doing my best to have the old salt disposed of as quickly as possible.

Fasli.	Year.	Salt remaining on the 13th January 1862. At Chinna Ganjam	At Pondraka.
		In. Mds.	In. Mds.
1267	1858	92 717	22,431
1268	1859	8,358	44,214
1269	1860	4,02,67[illegible]	2,19,160
1270	1861	2,08,472	2,01,952

16. The following Statement shows the quantity of salt proposed by me, with your concurrence, to be manufactured in the current Fasli. The amount of spontaneous salt likely to be gathered is not shown in the Statement as it cannot be correctly estimated, but I have directed the Superintendent to collect as much of it as can be obtained of a good quality :—

Cotaurs.	Average sales on the last 5 Faslis.	Sales in last Fasli 1270.	Quantity remaining at the beginning of Fasli 1271.	Dittums taken in Fasli 1271.
	Ind. Mds.	Ind. Mds.	Ind. Mds.	Ind. Mds.
Pondraka.....	Manufactured.... .. 73,945	1,22,794	99,192	200,000
	Spontaneous.... ... 1,97,584	2,01,943	4,35,823	.....
Chinna Ganjam..... ...	Manufactured..... 3,13,784	3,01,548	7,76,833	200,000
Nizampatam....	Do.	.....	76,860	100,000

17. The usual engagements have been taken from the Ryots, and arrangements for manufacturing salt are in progress, but I regret to state that the unseasonable rain, which fell between the 8th and 10th instant at all the Cotaurs, will retard operations very much.

18. As regards the lines of communications to the salt pans, the following improvements appear to me very desirable, and will I am sure be followed by an increase in the revenue.

19. For Pondraka I would recommend,

(1.) A bridge across the Jinjairoo Tidal swamp on the road leading from the town of Masulipatam to Buntumilly.

About 5,000 bullocks annually cross and re-cross this swamp with salt for consumption in the town of Bunder alone, and it is distressing to see the poor beasts struggling in the mud and water. The Revenue Ryots, as well as the inhabitants of the villages on either side, will also hail this improvement as a great boon. There is another swamp on the same road called the Kakurlomudi swamp, but this is neither so muddy nor so wide as the other, and can be easily bridged during the hot weather when it will be perfectly dry. The Ginjeroo swamp being a tidal one, is seldom or ever quite dry.

(2.) Deepening the channel from the village of Pendurru as far as to make it navigable for the numerous small Dhonies resorting to the Buntumilly stores for salt from the Godavery District.

Years.	Number of Dhonies. Large.	Small.	Quantity of salt. Mds.	s.	
1857	25	1,839	20,310	...	..
1858	14	1,344	15,322	20	..
1859	19	643	8,132	20	..
1860	39	559	8,413	..	..
1861	212	1,234	30,285	...	..

The number of these vessels which have come to Buntumilly during the past five years, is shown in the margin. The channel is so shallow in some places that the Dhonies, though only half laden, have to be pushed over the shallows by main force.

20. A road is being made from Puttagunta to Buntumilly, and I have no doubt it will prove useful to the Brinjaries when completed. It is also I believe in contemplation to connect the Buntumilly salt stores with the Bunder channel by means of a branch channel from Pamarroo, and if this be practicable and the channel cut, there will be another outlet for our salt trade from this Depot, and the channel will also be the means of affording a plentiful supply of good water to the Brinjary cattle in the hot weather.

21. For Nizampatam I would recommend that the approaches to the salt creek called Nuthadiravoo on the road leading to Nizampatam from Bapalla, and the approaches to another salt creek called Nangodyravoo on the road leading from Repalli to Nizampatam may be raised, especially at the first mentioned creek where the road is exceedingly muddy. It would be desirable also to replace the present worn out old palmyra ferries at these places with plats (Ballakotlu) so that carts and cattle might be easily taken across.

22. At Chinna Ganjam a good road from Inkollu leading to the pans is nearly finished, and the bridge at Cadavacooduru is about being substantially rebuilt. Nothing further in this way seems to be necessary here.

As regards improvements at the Cotaurs themselves, I find at Pondraka that none of the are protected by a hedge, and excepting the platforms on which manufactured salt is e others are not sufficiently raised, in fact in some places there are no platforms at all, lt is stored on high ground. I cannot but think this must increase the salt wastage. that no time may be lost in raising such of the platforms as are necessary, and in surall with a substantial hedge and ditch with gates to the entrances.

I would also reduce the number of platforms or places on which salt is now usually stored o 21 as follows :—

Names of the Platforms.	No.	To be kept.	To be closed.
Manufactured.			
Striramulu	1	1	...
Sitadevi	1	1	...
Lakshmanasvamy	1	1	...
Vignesvarudu	1	...	1
Anjaneyasvamy	1	1	...
Spontaneous.			
Chinna Pondraka Range.			
Kotamparra	1	1	...
	2	1	...
	3	1	...
	4	...	1
Barrankoolapaya	1	1	..
	2	1	...
	3	...	1
	4	...	1
Savitipaya	1	1	1
	2	...	1
Lavilapilly	1	...	1
	2	1	...
	3	1	...
Cottaparra	4	...	1
	5	1	...
	1	...	1
Peda Pondraka	2	...	1
Yendapilly Range.			
Cherukumilly	1	1	...
	2	...	1
Gollavany Doddy	1	1	...
	2	...	1
	3	1	...
	4	...	1
Perisettitota	1	...	1
	1	1	...
Ganadlupati	2	...	1
	1	1	...
Doddy Moodava	2	1	...
	1	...	1
Kommalapudi	2	...	1
	3	...	1
	1	1	...
Gunnamparra	2	...	1
	3	1	..
	41	21	20

g this proposal I have kept in view the distance of the beds and swamps from the platich distance I think should not exceed on an average a quarter of a mile.

25. Nizampatam Cotaur is a well concentrated Depot. There are at present four platforms here. As the salt stored last year on No. 4 platform has been disposed of, I have directed the Acting Peshkar not to store any more salt upon that platform this year, but to store on only the other three, which might by and by be reduced to two, one for exportation, and the other for Home and Inland sales. I regret to say there are many facilities at this Cotaur for smuggling during manufacturing time, owing to the nearness of the villages, and the accessibility to the pans. To prevent this I beg to propose that a strong hedge be raised round the platforms and pans and the groups of small Palmyra trees between the platforms and for a quarter of a mile on all sides of them be removed. The alterations proposed to be made at the Chinna Ganjam Cotaur by T. Clarke, Esq., Member of the Board of Revenue, and recently sanctioned by Government leaves me nothing to say in this place regarding the said Cotaur.

26. Before concluding this report, I would respectfully beg to express my hope that sanction may be accorded for opening a new place of manufacture at Manginapudy near Masulipatam. It will be a great boon to the inhabitants of Masulipatam and carts coming with grain, &c., into the town will have the opportunity of returning to the country with a load of salt.

27. I would not at the same time advocate the closing of the pans at Buntumilly. The proposed branch channel from the Bunder canal to these pans, and the rapidly increasing sales to the Godavery District renders the retention of the manufacture here also very desirable.

28. I trust the Board and yourself will kindly pardon the delay which has occurred in the submission of this report, arising from my anxiety to make myself well acquainted with the state of the different Cotaurs under my charge before I expressed my views regarding them.

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1. Ordered to be submitted to Government, with reference to their Order, dated 3rd August 1860, No. 1,291.

2. Mr. Thornhill submits with the above letter, which conveys his own remarks, the Salt Administration Report of his Deputy Mr. Marjoribanks. Mr. Marjoribanks was only appointed to the charge of the Salt at the close of the last manufacturing season, and he appears at once to have set about making himself thoroughly acquainted with the working of the Department to which he was attached.

3. There had been no manufacture of Salt at the Pondraka or Bantumilly Pans during the year, and the collection of spontaneous Salt had fallen very much below the estimate, a very large proportion of that which was generated turning out on inspection to be worthless. At Nizampatam the manufacture did not reach even the half of the estimated quantity, which Mr. Marjoribanks ascribes to these Pans having been for long left without manufacture. The Chinna Ganjam Pans, however, rather exceeded the estimate, the dittum having been two lacs of maunds and the manufacture upwards of two lacs and eight thousand maunds.

4. The Board quite concur in the propriety of the spontaneous Salt found to be inferior having been destroyed instead of collected. The quality of the Salt should be invariably the first consideration, and after that the quantity may be taken into account, though the Board fear that the former is too often sacrificed to secure the latter.

5. It appears that the demand at Nizampatam for Salt for export did not realize expectation as but one application was received, though the depot is particularly well situated for the purpose. The Collector, however, anticipates an increased demand this year, and considers that if the improvements of the port suggested by him were carried out, the trade of the place would be much increased. Every effort should be made to let it be known that Salt for export is to be had at Nizampatam, and that there are peculiar facilities for its shipment.

6. The abuses connected with the measurement into store, which no doubt existed previous to Mr. Marjoribanks' appointment, are by no means creditable to the Department, and the Board rely upon the Deputy Collector to put an effectual stop to such practices, which give vast opportunities for fraud.

7. The disbursement of the Kudivaram to the manufacturers and of the cooly hire for the collection of the spontaneous Salt was made by Mr. Marjoribanks, and he states that the late Deputy Collector proposed to raise the rates given for the latter purpose from Rupees 2-3-4 per garce to Rupees 3-12-0 per garce, or ½ Anna per maund. The Board, however, see no reason for an increase, if the price paid is regulated by the ordinary labor rates of the District; if below these a higher rate must of course be paid; and the Collector is requested to report further on the subject.

8. The alteration in the rate of Kudivaram, noticed in paragraph 12 of the Deputy Collector's report, was quite unauthorized as the question is now under the consideration of Government, and their decision on the matter should have been awaited.

9. The practice described in paragraph 13 also is altogether unjustifiable as the purchasers are not justly liable to any expenses of measurement. The Deputy Collector has rightly prohibited the exaction from them of 2 Annas per garce for this purposes for the future. His exertions to prevent any irregularity in measurement also have the Board's approval.

10. The result of the Board's orders that a supply equal to two years' consumption should be kept in store, is stated to be that large quantities of old Salt remains on hand, and that the Brinjaries, if compelled to receive old Salt, prefer purchasing from other pans. The new salt weighs heavier than the old, and the retail sales of the Brinjaries are all made by weight; hence their preference for the former article. The Board have no objection to a slight modification of the orders in question, and if a supply equal to 1½ years' demand is kept in store, as proposed by the Collector, it will be sufficient. They observe, however, that the objection raised by the Brinjaries will be met by the introduction of Government sales by weight, which they trust will not be much longer delayed.

11. The manufacture to be undertaken in the present year appears to be sufficient, and the Board are glad to observe that the suggestions of Mr. Marjoribanks for the improvement of the means of approach to, and egress from, the Salt Pans have been under the consideration of the Collector and the District Engineer. Care must be taken, however, that the local Funds are not expended in objects which, though of much importance as far as the imperial revenue derived from Salt is concerned, are not calculated to benefit the District in other respects.

12. The reduction in the number of platforms, and the improvement of those existing, has received Mr. Marjoribanks' attention, and the Collector will himself take the matter into consideration when he has time to make a personal inspection. The Board attach considerable importance to the reduction of the number of platforms to the narrowest limits possible. The greater the number of storing places the greater are the facilities for fraud, and the greater the expense for guarding. There would be no objection to the distance between the platforms and the beds being considerably increased.

13. The Collector requests that the Cotaur at Nizampatam, which was only provisionally established in 1861, be now permanently sanctioned, and the Board support this recommendation as the distance between the Cotaurs of Pondraka and Chinna Ganjam is very considerable, and it is desirable that there should be a Salt Depot between these two places; besides which, when the canal from Bezoarah is completed, it is likely that a considerable demand for Inland consumption will arise.

14. The improvements which Mr. Marjoribanks suggests at this Cotaur, are well worthy of consideration, and he is requested at once to remove the groups of trees which are stated to intervene between the several platforms.

15. The District Engineer has been requested to prepare the estimates for the improvements at the pans at Chinna Ganjam proposed by Mr. Clarke, and the Board await their receipt, and trust that Mr. Thornhill may have over-estimated the expense of carrying them out.

16. The Deputy Collector urges the re-opening of the pans at Manganapudy, and the Collector supports his proposal, referring to the previous correspondence which has passed on the subject. The proposal was first mooted by Mr. Knox in his letter to Mr. Pelly, where he suggested that the pans at Bantumilly should be closed, and new ones opened at Maganapudy, and there is no doubt that the latter place is much more conveniently situated, so far as the inhabitants of the Town and District of Masulipatam are concerned.

17. The correspondence quoted by Mr. Thornhill, however, shows that the principal purchasers at Bantumilly are Brinjaries, for whom the pans at Manganapudy would not be equally convenient, and Mr. Thornhill proposes that the stores for spontaneous salt should be continued at the former place, the manufacture and the sale of manufactured salt being transferred to Manganapudy, and the Board consider that the latter proposal should be adopted.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to G. Thornhill, Esq., Collector of the Kistna District.

Exd. J. Wright.

1862. Department.

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 9th *May* 1862.

Despatched.

Received. 5th May 1862.

No 2,959.

Submitting letter from the Collector of the Kistna District forwarding with his own remarks the Salt Administration Report of the Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department, with the Board's remarks thereon and recommendation for permanent sanction for the Cotaur at Nazampatam.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue :—

Submitting letter from the Collector of the Kistna District forwarding with his own remarks the Salt Administration Report of the Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department, with the Board's remarks thereon, and recommendation for permanent sanction for the Cotaur at Nizampatam. } (Here enter 9th May 1862, No. 2,959.)

ORDER THEREON, 3rd June 1862, No. 1,223.

1. The Government are glad to find that Mr. Marjoribanks has discharged his duties so much to the satisfaction of the Collector and the Board.

2. The practice of storing more than the prescribed quantity in each heap so as to reduce the apparent rate of wastage must be stopped. The Government cannot admit such an excuse, as ignorance of such a well known rule, and the Superintendents must be dismissed if the practice is continued. The Board will see that these orders are obeyed.

3. The Government are not disposed to allow the stock to be reduced to eighteen months' consumption. The occurrence of two successive unfavorable seasons is not unusual, and such a contingency must be provided for. The objection urged by the Brinjaries to old salt is that bulk for bulk it weighs less than new salt, which contains more moisture, and as their sales are by weight while they buy by measure they necessarily gain more on new than on old salt. The proper remedy is, as the Board remark, the substitution of weighing for measuring at the stores, not the reduction of the stock. The Government are not aware that salt deteriorates in quality by being kept for two or three years, if it does a higher rate of discount should be allowed on old than on new heaps. They trust that the Board are doing all in their power to expedite the substitution of weighing for measuring.

4. The Government have lately passed orders on Mr. Pelly's suggestions regarding the rate of "kudiváram."

5. The Board can make the necessary arrangements in accordance with the recommendations, contained in paragraphs 13 and 17 of their report, when replying to Government Order dated 5th May 1862, No. 976.

6. Paragraphs 13 to 20 of Mr. Thornhill's report will be communicated to the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

A. J. Arbuthnot

Ag. Chief Secretary to Government.

To the Honorable C. Pelly.
" Board of Revenue.
" Department Public Works. *with Bd's Pro.*

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Ceylon 1862. Department
Pro: No 1729 / 29 June
No 1729

Pro: Madras Govt
in the Revenue Department

Dated 3rd
Recd 5th } June 1862
Answd:
No 1233.

Communicating Reports of the Collectors of Madura Districts regarding certain improvements to be made in the Lines of Communications & two Petitions in the above District.

No 1302-9 June.

W.A. an order

172 173

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No 1302

No 1302

Communicated to the Deputy Chief Engr N.C. whose particular attention is requested to para 6.

Chepauk
9th June 1862.

13 Copies.

Do The Dy Chief Engr N.C. with 5 Copies of the Revenue & 1 Copy of the Despatch

X 87