M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1001 Press Mis.

231. 232

Dated 12 — 5 — 1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 231. Read the following letter from T. CLARKE, Esq., Member of the Board of Revenue:—

Submitting his Report on the inspection of the salt works of South Arcot District. } (Here enter 4th July 1864.)

No. 232. ORDER THEREON, 12th May 1865, No. 1,001.

Separate Revenue, No. 18
Salt.

1. In this letter Mr. T. Clarke reports the results of his inspection of the salt works in the South Arcot District.

2. The District possesses a sea-board of 60 miles, and owing in a very great measure to the existence and good management of a Local Road Fund, is "intersected with well-planned roads kept in admirable order." Mr. Clarke states that earth-salt is manufactured in the District.

Paragraph 6.

He alludes to a case in which a quantity of this salt was recently seized in the houses of thirty-six men, in no less than five villages, and remarks that "the Police and "subordinate Magistracy are not sufficiently alive to the magnitude of the evil, or the "necessity of putting a stop to this illicit traffic," and that "unless they evince determination to check it, the one by seizing and the other by punishing all who may transgress the law by manufacturing and selling earth-salt", he sees "no prospect of the salt revenue of this District attaining its legitimate standard." These remarks will be communicated to the Magistrate of the District and the Inspector General of Police, for such explanation as they may respectively wish to offer on the subject. Mr. Reade will also report how the case alluded to by Mr. Clarke has been disposed of.

Paragraph 7.

3. Mr. Clarke also apprehends that smuggling takes place from the pans to some extent; but this he ascribes more to the situation of the pans and platforms than to the inefficiency of the guarding establishment. His recommendations to correct this state of things will receive consideration under each Division.

Paragraph 9.

Village.	Average amount of salt manufactured for the last 10 years.	Average amount sold.
Mercanum	3,09,793	2,45,282
Gundalum	24,401	31,575
Teagavally	21,328	22 289
Killay	21,985	22,045

4. The salt works of this District are divided into four divisions, viz;—

Mercanum,
Gundalem,
Teagavally, and
Killay.

The Government will notice Mr. Clarke's observations on each of these Divisions separately.

Paragraphs 11 and 12.

* 1. Mercanum Proper.
2. Kondadu.
3. { Urani. Anumanday. Nadoocoopam. Tirucanur.

5. MERCANUM.—The Mercanum Division comprises three stations*. The quality of the salt manufactured at all of the places is very superior, care being taken to retain the brine in the reservoirs until it becomes very saline. The salt is much liked by inland traders as it bears carriage well, the crystals being large, solid, and white.

Paragraph 13.

6. Mr. Clarke found that the heaps in this Division were neither arranged with regularity on the platforms, nor sold in the order of their position. The Government are surprised to learn that such irregularities as these have been possible, and have not been prevented by the Collector or the Deputy Collector. As Mr. Clarke truly remarks, "this power of selling salt as it suits the fancy of the Superintendent is highly irregular and may be abused to the injury of the Government and the trade." The Collector, Mr. Reade,

will see that the Standing Rules on the storage and sale o[illegible] are observed at every station, and indeed he is much to blame for not having done this before.

Paragraphs 14 to 42.

7. In these paragraphs Mr. Clarke describes the situation, &c., of the platforms and pans. The works at Mercanum Proper extend along a line of five miles, and the platforms though well raised are so narrow, that not more than one heap can be stored across them. They are wholly without moat, hedge or protection of any kind, and are close to a much frequented road. Mr. Clarke states that it would be impracticable to devise any defence for so extensive a line of works, except at a very disproportionate expense. The Kondadu pans and beds lie on the other side of the back-water close to the Tindivanum road, and are similarly unprotected. The Urani salt works are about four miles south-west of Mercanum, and one of the three platforms on which the salt is stored is a mile distant from the other two. The Anumauday works are a mile south-west of Urani. The Bandipolliem pans are two miles North of Anumauday and on the other side of the river. The Devacotta pans, which belong to the village of Nadoocoopum, are a mile east of Bandipolliem, and the Tirucanur works lie a mile further on towards the east.

8. The salt beds attached to the several platforms are at some distance from them, and it is impossible for the Police patrolling the platforms on dark nights to see persons carrying away the Salt which has been placed on the ridges to dry.

9. The position of the pans and platforms, as above described, renders efficient management and guarding impossible. Mr. Clarke therefore proposes

First.—That the Carambalam pans at Mercanum, which were newly formed in 1823, as well as those of the four outlying villages should be closed.

Second.—That instead of the long line of narrow platforms now existing at Mercanum, four good broad platforms, each capable of holding one lac of Indian Maunds, should be formed for storing salt made on the Sheikal Allam or old beds; that these platforms should be placed at regular distances along the line of pans; and that they should be protected by a good broad moat, bank, and hedge, and be accessible only by gates on the north and south.

Third.—That the Kondadu pans should be defended by a good moat cut from the creek and carried all round the works, which should be entered at a gate just opposite the centre platform. Two of the platforms at this place to be retained and enlarged so as to hold one lac of Maunds each. The Government approve of these suggestions. The reduction in the number of places of manufacture, which will be the result of carrying out the first suggestion, will not render it difficult to meet the demand for salt at Mercanum. The average annual sales, taking the figures for the last ten years, have been 2,46,281 Indian Maunds. The sales of Fusly 1273 amounted to 2,70,996 Maunds from exceptional causes. Assuming that as much as three lacs of Indian Maunds may be sold yearly hereafter in this division, the reduced number of pans will admit of a quantity sufficient to meet two years' consumption being manufactured. Mr. Clarke states that the Sheikal Allam beds could, with ease, produce three lacs of Maunds, and that the beds at Kondadu could also, if enlarged and well worked, produce from two lacs and a half to three lacs of Maunds. Mr. Reade will place himself in communication with the Officers of the Public Works Department for the preparation of the requisite plans and estimates to give effect to the second and third suggestions.

10. Mr. Reade will also communicate with the Superintending Engineer of the Division, with respect to connecting the Chunambat pans with the Kondadu and Mercanum works by a good passable road, as suggested in paragraphs 43 and 44 of Mr. Clarke's Report.

11. The proposals made in paragraphs 45 and 48, viz., to build a new salt Cutcherry on one of the new platforms of Mercanum or Kondadu, and to transfer the present Cutcherry to the Mercanum Sub-Magistrate are approved. The Superintending Engineer will be instructed in the Public Works Department to have the

necessary plan and estimate prepared. As stated by Mr. Clarke, a separate Cutcherry at Chunambet is unnecessary; the collections made at that place should be remitted every evening to Mercanum.

Paragraphs 49 and 51.

12. The reduction proposed in the Salt Establishments at Mercanum and Chunambet should be made as soon as the changes now authorized are carried out, except in the case of the Shroff and the Assistant Superintendent at Chunambet, whose services, Mr. Clarke states, can be dispensed with at once. Mr. Reade will provide for them elsewhere on the first opportunity. The Inspector General of Police will be consulted before the Police Guards are reduced.

Paragraphs 55 to 59.

13. These paragraphs relate to the supply of salt to the French Government, under the Conventions of 7th March 1815 and 1818, and to the supposed prevalence of smuggling across the frontier. The Collector will be requested to report fully on these subjects especially on the latter which the Government are aware has engaged his attention.

14. The attention of the Board of Revenue will be called to Mr. Clarke's remarks in paragraphs 60—63, about the insufficiency of the number of salt weighing machines supplied for the Mercanum division, and they will be requested to provide the number* proposed in paragraph 63, inclusive of those already available. The unserviceable machines, alluded to in paragraph 76, should be repaired.

Mercanum	6
Kondadu	4
* Total...	10

15. The Collector will take steps to provide shelter for these machines, as suggested in paragraph 64.

16. Mr. Reade's attention will be called to Mr. Clarke's remarks in paragraph 65, about the possibility of reducing the number of inferior servants at Mercanum hereafter, and the necessity of care being taken to see that the patronage of such offices is not abused.

Paragraphs 63 to73.

17. The want of a road between Pondicherry and Mercanum is forcibly pointed out in these paragraphs. The quantity of salt sold at Mercanum to bandymen who have brought their carts from Pondicherry, amounts to Indian Maunds 78,650 a year, representing a net revenue of Rupees 1,08,144, and the Government do not doubt that a good road between these two places would much increase the trade. The cost of the road, which will be 20 miles long, is roughly calculated at Rupees 90,000 to 1,00,000, and this large expenditure is required on account of the necessity of carrying the metal for a great distance. But the probable increase in the sales of salt fully justifies the expenditure, and orders will be issued from the Public Works Department for the preparation of the necessary estimates for entry if possible in the Budget for 1866-67.

The small per-centage of wastage, viz., one and one-third per cent. is very satisfactory.

18. As the results of the experiments made with the salt weighing machines will form the subject of a separate report from Mr. Clarke, they will not be specially noticed here.

Paragraph 77.

19. Under the circumstances stated by Mr. Clarke in this paragraph, the Government must withdraw the permission given in their Order, dated 15th April 1864, No. 637, as a temporary measure for the exercise of magisterial powers by the Salt Deputy Collector. Mr. Reade well instruct Mahomed Esuff Saib to give his sole time and attention to the Salt Department.

Paragraphs 78 to 81.

20. GOONDALUM.—This Division is thirty-seven miles south, of Mercanum, and about four miles from the Collector's Office at Cuddalore. It is divided into three stations, named in the margin. The Goondalum works are formed on a sandbank in the Cuddalore back-water, which is very small and admits of but little salt being made. The largest quantity ever made there in one year was 306 Garces. The two platforms at this place are liable to be flooded, and they are wholly unapproachable in the wet weather, as the road is then usually under water. The Pachyancoopum pans are about 100 yards distant from Goondalum. The Cuddalore Canal having been carried through them, there remain only ten pans producing about 2,000 Indian Maunds of salt. The salt taken from these pans is stored on a platform at some distance and not easily accessible in the wet weather. About 1½ mile from Pachyancoopam lie the works of Coodicaudoo, and a creek has to be crossed in order to reach them. This creek, though fordable in the dry season, can only be crossed by a boat in the wet season. The extent of ground under occupation here is small, but it might be increased.

Goondalum, Pacheyancoopum, Coodicaudoo.

Paragraph 85.

Paragraph 82.

21. To remedy the evils above described, Mr. Clarke suggests

First.—That the platforms at Goondalum and Coodicaudoo should be demolished, and the space so recovered converted into pans.

Second.—That the salt made at Goondalum, Patchyancoopum, and Coodicaudoo should be carried by boat to Old Town and stored there.

These proposals are approved of. The Collector will take the necessary measures for carrying them out.

22. The Government learn from Mr. Clarke's remarks, that in this Division also the heaps are sold irregularly, and that bad salt has been received at Coodicaudo o. The Government have frequently pointed out the necessity of rejecting all such salt, and they expect that the Deputy Collector of the Salt Department will carefully watch his subordinates and promptly notice any dereliction of duty in this respect. The sale of the heaps, in the order in which they are placed, should be immediately commenced.

23. TEAGAVULLY.—At this place there are two platforms and two sets of pans about a quarter of a mile apart from each other.

One of these platforms can only be reached by boat, and it is not protected by a hedge or any kind of defence. Mr. Clarke states, that these works are so much out of the way, and are so inaccessible that he should have supported the recommendation repeatedly made to close them but for the consideration that the area of land available for making salt at Goondalum is so limited as to make it impossible to meet the demand for salt by the manufacture of that station alone. The supply indeed so frequently fails, that traders and the inhabitants are obliged, at much inconvenience and loss of time, to go to Teagavally for salt. The making of bridges and roads to the platform would be very expensive, Mr. Clarke therefore proposes

First.—That Teagavally be closed as a place of sale, but retained as a place of manufacture; the salt being conveyed to Cuddalore (Old Town) by water.

Second.—That the quantity of salt now made at Teagavally be largely increased by opening fresh pans.

Third.—That the establishment be reduced by allowing each of the manufacturing places of Goondalum, Coodicaudoo and Teagavally one Superintendent with a few Vettyans.

Fourth.—That the pans at these places be surrounded with a good ditch and hedge, so that by this defence, and by insisting that all the salt should be removed to the drying ground before sun-set the guarding establishment may be reduced.

These suggestions are approved, and they should be carried out as soon as possible; but the Government cannot permit the use of prickly-pear for hedges. The Collector is authorized to rent buildings in the Old Town of Cuddalore at a cost not exceeding Rupees 10 per mensem for storing the salt which may be sent from the several pans, as also for the salt Cutcherry. The hired building at Goondalum should be given up; but the Teagavally Cutcherry should be retained for the present. If after sufficient trial the arrangements now sanctioned are found to be the best that can be adopted permanent buildings will be provided.

24. The Deputy Collector should take steps, without delay, to improve the quality of the salt manufactured in the Teagavally Division, which is stated to be inferior, and here also the Government observe that bad salt has been received contrary to orders. The attention of the Collector will be drawn to paragraph 100 of the Report wherein Mr. Clarke notices the inefficiency and carelessness of the Superintendent and his Assistant, with the view that they may be transferred to other employments and their places supplied by better men. As remarked in paragraph 122, the success of the new depot will depend upon the efficiency and character of the men to be employed in it, but other departments equally require good servants, and the men referred to should be otherwise punished.

25. The changes in the several establishments in all the Divisions above alluded to, and the consequent financial result, are clearly shewn in the Statement annexed to paragraph 123 of the Report. The pay of the Superintendent of the Chunambat Division is proposed to be reduced from Rupees 60 to 30. Instead of making it so low, the Government would fix it at 50 Rupees. With this exception, the Statement of the revised establishments shewing an annual saving of Rupees 7,375 is sanctioned. The following is an Abstract of the annual cost of the present and proposed establishments:—

	Present.	Proposed.
	RS.	RS.
Mercanum	10,158	6,722
Chunambat	4,740	2,250
Gundalam and Teagavally	6,150	4,701
	21,048	13,673
Saving		7,375

26. KILLAY.—This station is 2½ miles south of Porto Novo. The Salt Cutcherry is about a quarter of a mile distant from the works and platforms. Three of the platforms of this Division are detached from the rest. One lies a few hundred yards west of the works of Killay Proper, and the other two at the distance of 1½ mile. None of these have any hedges or other material defences around them, and three of them are situated near the road from Porto Novo to Chellumbrum. Mr. Clarke states that it is very desirable to carry a moat, bank, and hedge round each of these works, as the whole place is very unsafe, being surrounded by cultivation, villages and topes; and this proposal is approved. Mr. Reade will procure the necessary estimates.

27. The pans are very straggling; but Mr. Clarke says that it is impossible largely to increase them in any one locality and so concentrate the works. He remarks, that one of the platforms might be given up, and others enlarged; but speaks rather doubtfully on the point. Mr. Reade will be requested to report on paragraph 133 of the Report through the Board of Revenue.

28. The attention of Mr. Reade will be called to paragraphs 134 to 135, bringing to notice the inferior quality of the salt made at Killay, and the inefficiency of the servants employed at that place.

29. The remark in paragraph 137, that by commencing the manufacture earlier in the season the supply of salt might be made more steady and larger, should receive the Deputy Collector's special attention.

30. The Collector will take steps to have the road from the ferry near Porto Novo to the Cutcherry put in order.

Paragraph 139.

31. The attention of the Board of Revenue will be requested to paragraph 141, pointing out the insufficiency of the number of weighing machines allowed to the Killay Division.

32. The Board of Revenue will be requested to explain with reference to paragraph 143 why weighing has not yet been introduced into the Tanjore District.

33. The Government are glad to receive from Mr. Clarke a favorable testimony of the intelligence and activity of the Deputy Collector, Mahomed Esuff Saib.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To Mr. T. Clarke.
„ the Board of Revenue.
„ the Inspector General of Mofussil Police.
„ the Collector of South Arcot.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Political Department.

Exd. R. H. Lee.

From T. CLARKE, Esq., Member of the Board of Revenue;
To J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

SIR,

In continuation of my former Proceedings, I have now the honor to submit a report on the inspection of the salt works of the South Arcot District.

2. This District possesses a sea-borde of 60 miles in length, and is about 80 miles in breadth. Its population is stated to be 11,28,430.

3. The District is intersected with well-planned roads kept in admirable order, so that it is practicable to drive over almost all parts of it, both in its length and breadth, with ease and comfort. The roads in this District even surpass those of Ganjam. The sums expended during the last ten years in making and maintaining District communications, as may be seen from the subjoined Statement, amount to Rupees 3,86,319, being 11⅝ per cent. on the revenue derived from salt during the same period. The communications are not yet complete to the south; about 20 miles remain to be metalled. This work the Collector proposes to complete as funds are available. It will be observed that in the ten years the salt revenue in this District has doubled itself, and that the increase of revenue within that period amounts to Rupees 12,65,624, or more than three times the amount, Rupees 3,86,319, expended on the roads.

STATEMENT *showing the charges incurred under the head "District Road Fund" in the South Arcot District from the Official year* 1854-55 *to* 1863-64.

Years.	New works and repairs, &c.			Establishment.			Contingent.			Total.			Salt Revenue.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P	RS.	A.	A.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
1854-55	7,330	11	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,330	11	3	2,06,400	3	0
1855-56													2,70,371	14	6
1856-57	27,693	2	9	2,079	7	0	1,098	10	3	30,871	4	0	3,36,212	5	3
1857-58	56,585	8	11	4,421	13	3	756	7	3	61,763	13	5	2,48,710	6	4
1858-59	26,205	9	6	2,881	8	5	...	...	...	29,087	1	11	3,94,346	3	1
1859-60	32,457	0	5	3,221	2	3	...	...	...	35,678	2	8	1,83,169	10	9
1860-61	59,724	6	0	3,845	3	3	22	12	0	63,592	5	3	3,97,711	0	1
1861-62	54,582	3	11	4,860	0	0	...	...	...	59,442	3	11	4,35,626	4	0
1862-63	43,933	10	5	5,653	0	0	43	9	10	49,630	4	3	4,44,066	0	10
1863-64	47,936	11	9	955	8	10	31	11	4	48,923	15	11	4,13,010	15	0
Total...	3,56,449	0	11	27,917	11	0	1,953	2	8	3,86,319	14	7	33,29,624	14	10
							Average...			38,632	0	0	3,32,962	0	0
													or 11⅝ per cent.		

4. The subjoined tables show the quantity of salt ordered, made, and sold during the last ten years in the several salt divisions attached to this District, and the price which it costs the Government to bring it to market.

A

STATEMENT showing the cost to Government of Salt per Garce and per Maund before sale in the South Arcot District, on an average of ten years from Fasli 1263 to Fasli 1272.

MERCANUM.

Faslis.	Quantity of Salt ordered to be made.	Quantity received into store.	Sales.			Price paid by Government for salt.	Cost of storing.	Cost of Measurers.	Fixed Establishment.
			Home.	Inland.	Foreign.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	IN. MDS.	IN. MDS.	IN. MDS.	IN. MDS.	IN. MDS.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
1263.....	4,40,400	7,84,681	10,687	81,426	79,876	74,923 3 0	6,443 6 2	222 5 10	3,581 8 0
1264.....	3,60,000	1,23,908	4,990	92,631	69,796	12,094 3 4	1,047 15 11	259 0 7	3,581 8 0
1265.....	...	...	4,955	1,24,793	89,230	... ...	... ...	173 10 10	3,581 8 0
1266.....	5,52,000	5,55,945	58,313	1,44,517	97,559	58,060 5 5	4,569 1 11	315 1 1	3,581 8 0
1267.....	72,000	5,831	39,908	1,11,080	53,481	693 7 4	48 6 0	260 13 8	3,581 8 0
1268.....	4,44,915	11,285	52,024	2,61,984	1,15,958	1,137 14 7	91 4 7	343 3 10	3,581 8 0
1269.....	7,62,000	7,15,654	50,384	47,325	41,275	75,539 13 7	5,851 2 4	139 7 9	3,581 8 0
1270.....	6,12,000	3,79,635	78,385	1,70,736	49,316	41,300 2 0	3,032 10 3	330 15 7	3,365 8 0
1271.....	7,20,000	5,20,995	70,590	1,26,227	69,523	56,278 0 4	4,293 5 0	271 5 4	3,365 8 0
1272.....	5,54,000	...	85,991	1,32,954	46,911	... ...	... ...	266 10 5	3,365 8 0
Total...	45,17,315	30,97,934	4,56,227	12,93,673	7,12,925	3,20,029 1 7	25,377 4 2	2,582 10 11	35,167 0 0
Average...	4,51,731½	3,09,793⅘	45,622 7/10	1,29,367 3/10	71,292½	32,002 14 6	2,537 11 7	258 4 3	3,516 11 2

STATEMENT showing the cost to Government of Salt per Garce and per Maund before sale in the South Arcot District, &c.—(*Continued.*)

MERCANUM.—(*Concluded.*)

Faslis.	Temporary Establishment.	Police Guards.	Saderwarid.	Repairs to salt works.	Sundries.	Total Cost.	Cost per Garce.	Cost per Maund.
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
1263..	... ...	... ...	126 0 0	630 0 0	49 14 9	85,976 5 9	13 2 0	0 1 9
1264...	319 1 0	... ...	126 0 0	266 0 2	36 8 0	17,730 5 0	17 0 6	0 2 3¼
1265...	247 12 5	... .	126 0 0	1,055 11 9	33 0 3	5,217 11 3	... ...	... ...
1266...	... ...	... ...	126 0 0	... ...	73 10 4	66,725 10 9	14 6 0	0 1 11
1267...	... ...	... ...	126 0 0	... ...	160 15 8	4,873 2 8	100 0 0	0 13 4
1268...	... ...	... ...	126 0 0	... ...	44 4 0	5,324 3 0	56 9 0	0 7 6½
1269...	350 8 4	.. ..	126 0 0	... ...	98 15 0	85,687 7 0	14 6 0	0 1 11
1270...	290 5 10	... ...	126 0 0	... ...	35 14 0	48,481 7 8	15 5 0	0 2 0½
1271...	... ...	394 8 0	126 0 0	125 0 0	267 1 0	65,120 11 8	15 0 0	0 2 0
1272...	... ...	936 0 0	126 0 0	731 4 0	509 5 3	5,934 11 8	... ...	... ...
Total...	1,207 11 7	1,330 8 0	1,260 0 0	2,807 15 11	1,309 8 3	3,91,071 12 5	... ...	... ...
Average...	120 12 3	133 0 9	126 0 0	280 12 9	130 15 2	39,107 2 10	15 0 0	0 2 0

GUNDALUM.

Faslis.	Quantity of salt ordered to be made.	Quantity received into store.	Sales.			Price paid by Government for salt.	Cost of storing.	Cost of Measurers.	Fixed Establishment.
			Home.	Inland.	Foreign.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	IN. MDS.	IN. MDS.	IN. MDS.	IN. MDS.	IN. MDS.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
1263... ...	36,000	30,098	15,195	861	4,568	2,009 2 0	31 0 1	3 4 0	1,090 8 0
1264... ...	30,000	31,061	20,446	589	2,232	2,073 2 0	35 4 0	0 4 0	1,098 8 0
1265... ...	31,800	13,255	21,330	604	2,328	1,018 9 2	32 5 5	5 4 0	1,090 8 0
1266	42,000	32,413	30,470	6,249	...	2,019 8 0	30 0 0	... ...	1,090 8 0
1267	42,000	21,117	21,056	1,879	...	1,409 9 4	37 12 0	... ...	1,090 8 0
1268... ...	42,000	11,419	20,995	4,914	590	762 3 10	28 7 0	... ...	1,090 8 0
1269... ...	48,000	48,960	53,378	244	9,381	4,080 0 0	40 0 0	... ...	1,105 0 0
1270... ...	48,000	27,744	28,709	4,791	562	2,312 0 6	30 0 0	... ...	1,204 8 0
1271... ...	48,000	18,300	20,315	2,666	...	1,525 0 0	20 0 0	... ...	1,204 8 0
1272... ...	72,000	8,640	26,169	12,836	2,400	720 0 0	14 0 0	... ...	1,204 8 0
Total...	4,39,800	2,44,007	2,58,063	35,633	22,061	17,929 2 10	298 12 6	8 12 0	11,261 8 0
Average...	43,980	24,400 1/5	25,806 1/5	3,563 3/5	2,206 1/5	1,792 14 8	29 14 0	0 14 0	1,126 2 4

GUNDALUM.—(*Concluded.*)

Faslis.	Temporary Establishment.	Police Guards.	Saderwarid.	Repairs to salt works.	Sundries.	Total cost.	Cost per Garce.	Cost per Maund.
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
1263...	... ...	... ...	24 0 0	60 5 0	... ...	3,218 3 1	12 13 0	0 1 8½
1264...	... ...	... ...	24 0 0	40 0 0	4 5 0	3,277 7 7	12 8 0	0 1 8
1265...	... ...	... .	24 0 0	47 11 0	0 9 7	2,208 15 2	20 0 0	0 2 8
1266...	... ...	... ...	24 0 0	... ...	... ...	3,164 0 0	11 11 6	0 1 6¾
1267...	... ...	... ...	24 0 0	... ...	... ...	2,561 13 4	14 6 0	0 1 11
1268...	... ...	... ...	24 0 0	... ...	4 0 0	1,909 2 10	20 0 0	0 2 8
1269...	... ...	... ...	24 0 0	... ...	1 6 3	5,250 6 3	12 13 0	0 1 8½
1270...	... ...	... .	24 0 0	... ...	... ...	3,570 8 6	15 5 0	0 2 0½
1271...	... ...	164 8 0	24 0 0	... ...	... ...	2,938 0 0	19 3 6	0 2 6¾
1272...	... ...	164 8 0	24 0 0	... ...	3 10 10	2,130 10 10	29 6 0	0 3 11
Total...	... ...	329 0 0	240 0 0	148 0 0	14 0 3	30,229 3 7	... ...	... ...
Average... ...	... ...	32 14 4	24 0 0	14 12 9	1 6 5	3,022 14 9	14 13 6	0 1 11¾

TEAGAVALLY.

Faslis.	Quantity of salt ordered to be made.	Quantity received into store.	Sales. Home.	Sales. Inland.	Sales. Foreign.	Price paid by Government for salt.	Cost of storing.	Cost of Measurers.	Fixed Establishment.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	IN. MDS.	IN. MDS.	IN. MDS.	IN. MDS.	IN. MDS.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
1263... ...	60,000	35,631	7,027	5,835	...	1,985 10 7	21 3 8	... ...	920 13 0
1264... ...	48,000	42,180	22,490	9,057	...	2,350 10 6	24 4 7	... ...	920 13 0
1265... ...	60,000	9,759	29,976	16,720	...	543 14 1	28 8 1	... ...	920 13 0
1266... ...	60,000	29,160	13,667	7,179	...	1,625 1 0	13 8 6	... ...	920 13 0
1267... ...	60,000	12,105	17,190	11,060	...	674 9 8	9 9 8	... ...	920 13 0
1268... ...	60,000	5,691	6,985	4,659	...	317 2 1	3 6 3	... ...	920 13 0
1269... ...	54,000	37,367	5,702	...	...	3,113 14 6	29 0 2	... ...	924 10 11
1270... ...	36,000	22,571	11,882	5,284	...	1,880 15 0	20 0 0	... ...	950 13 0
1271... ...	36,000	6,529	22,063	10,069	...	544 1 0	9 6 0	... ...	950 13 0
1272... ...	48,000	12,225	13,179	2,800	...	1,018 12 0	15 10 0	... ...	950 13 0
Total...	5,22,000	2,13,218	1,50,161	72,663	...	14,054 10 5	174 8 11	... ...	9,301 15 11
Average...	52,200	21,321⅘	15,016$\frac{1}{10}$	7,266$\frac{3}{10}$	...	1,405 7 5	17 7 3	... ...	930 3 2

TEAGAVALLY.—(*Concluded.*)

Faslis.	Temporary Establishment.	Police Guards.	Saderwarid.	Repairs to salt works.	Sundries.	Total cost.	Cost per Garce.	Cost per Maund.
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
1263...	... ...	... ...	39 0 0	... ...	209 5 1	3,176 0 4	10 10 0	0 1 5
1264...	... ...	... ...	39 0 0	6 15 9	50 2 3	3,391 14 1	9 8 6	0 1 3¼
1265...	... ...	... ...	39 0 0	... ...	63 6 11	1,595 10 1	19 6 0	0 2 7
1266...	... ...	... ...	39 0 0	... ...	69 1 4	2,667 7 10	10 15 0	0 1 5½
1267...	... ...	... ...	39 0 0	... ...	42 0 0	1,686 0 4	16 11 6	0 2 2¾
1268...	... ...	... ...	39 0 0	336 6 0	42 0 0	1,658 11 4	34 13 6	0 4 7¾
1269...	... ...	... ...	39 0 0	31 0 0	42 0 0	4,179 9 7	13 7 0	0 1 9½
1270...	... ...	... ...	39 0 0	... ...	42 0 0	2,932 12 0	15 10 0	0 2 1
1271...	... ...	115 0 0	39 0 0	... ...	42 0 0	1,700 4 0	31 4 0	0 4 2
1272...	... ...	115 0 0	39 0 0	175 4 0	26 2 5	2,340 9 5	22 15 0	0 3 3¾
Total...	... ...	230 0 0	390 0 0	549 9 9	628 2 0	25,328 15 0	... ...	... ...
Average...	... ...	23 0 0	39 0 0	54 15 4	62 13 0	2,532 14 3	14 3 6	0 1 10¾

KILLAY.

Faslis.	Quantity of salt ordered to be made.	Quantity received into stores.	Sales. Home.	Sales. Inland.	Sales. Foreign.	Price paid by Government for salt.	Cost of storing.	Cost of Measurers.	Fixed establishment.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	IN. MDS.	IN. MDS.	IN. MDS.	IN. MDS.	IN. MDS.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
1263... ...	30,000	32,299	4,216	7,839	.....	2,237 5 6	45 2 2	... ...	799 9 0
1264... ...	30,000	25,383	12,005	12,136	.....	1,758 4 9	62 12 9	... ...	799 9 0
1265... ...	24,000	11,127	13,712	11,993	.....	770 12 3	49 5 10	... ...	799 9 0
1266... ...	42,000	39,195	13,183	12,834	.....	2,712 15 10	21 10 8	... ...	799 9 0
1267... ...	42,000	18,514	16,530	15,607	.....	1,282 7 4	76 2 5	... ...	799 9 0
1268... ...	42,000	3,577	9,541	9,958	.....	247 12 3	36 0 1	... ...	799 9 0
1269... ...	42,000	41,177	3,532	.....	.....	3,431 6 6	6 15 4	... ...	799 9 0
1270... ...	42,000	28,654	15,428	14,299	.....	2,387 13 3	80 1 0	... ...	871 9 0
1271... ...	42,000	9,371	17,374	14,458	.....	780 15 0	55 11 4	... ...	871 9 0
1272... ...	60,000	10,557	8,795	7,011	.....	879 12 0	18 3 6	... ...	871 9 0
Total...	3,96,000	2,19,854	1,14,316	1,06,135	.....	16,489 8 8	452 1 1	... ...	8,211 10 0
Average...	39,600	21,985	11,431¾	10,613½	.....	1,648 15 3	45 3 3	... ...	821 2 7

KILLAY.—(*Concluded.*)

Faslis.	Temporary Establishment.	Police Guards.	Saderwarid.	Repairs to salt works.	Sundries.	Total cost.	Cost per Garce.	Cost per Maund.
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
1263...	... ...	... ...	42 0 0	... ...	3 3 1	3,127 3 9	11 9 0	0 1 6½
1264...	... ...	... ...	42 0 0	... ...	... ...	2,662 10 6	12 8 0	0 1 8
1265...	... ...	... ...	42 0 0	... ...	... ...	1,661 11 1	17 13 0	0 2 4½
1266...	... ...	... ...	42 0 0	... ...	... ...	3,576 3 6	10 15 0	0 1 5½
1267...	... ...	... ...	42 0 0	... ...	... ...	2,200 2 9	14 6 0	0 1 11
1268...	... ...	... ...	42 0 0	... ...	... ...	1,125 5 4	37 10 6	0 5 0¼
1269...	... ...	... ...	42 0 0	... ...	... ...	4,279 14 10	12 5 6	0 1 7¾
1270...	... ...	... ...	42 0 0	... ...	... ...	3,381 7 3	14 1 0	0 1 10½
1271...	... ...	164 8 0	42 0 0	... ...	... ...	1,914 11 4	24 6 0	0 3 3
1272...	... ...	164 8 0	42 0 0	... ...	... ...	1,976 0 6	22 8 0	0 3 0
Total...	... ...	329 0 0	420 0 0	... ...	3 3 1	25,905 6 10	... ...	... ...
Average...	... ...	32 14 5	42 0 0	... ...	0 5 1	2,590 8 8	14 1 0	0 1 10½

STATEMENT showing details of the cost of manufacture of Salt in the South Arcot District, from Fasli 1270 to 1272, inclusive.

Depôts.	Quantity of Salt ordered to be made.	Quantity received into store.	Price paid by Government for Salt.	Cost of storing.	Cost of Measurers.	Fixed Establishment.	Temporary Establishment.	Police Guards.	Saderwarid.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	IN. MDS.	IN. MDS.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Mercanum.. ...	18,86,000	9,00,630	97,578 2 4	7,325 15 3	868 15 4	10,096 8 0	290 5 10	1,330 8 0	378 0 0
Gundalum.. ...	1,68,000	54,684	4,557 0 6	64 0 0	... ...	3,613 8 0	... ...	329 0 0	72 0 0
Teagavally. ...	1,20,000	41,325	3,443 12 0	45 0 0	... ...	2,852 7 0	... ...	230 0 0	117 0 0
Killay.	1,44,000	48,582	4,048 8 3	153 15 10	... ...	2,614 11 0	... ...	329 0 0	126 0 0

STATEMENT showing details of the cost of manufacture of Salt in the South Arcot District, &c.—(*Concluded*).

Faslis.	Repairs to Salt work.	Sundries.	Total cost.	Cost per Garce.	Cost per Maund.	Average annual manufacture of the District.	Average annual Huzur charges after appointment of Salt Deputy Collectors.	Increase by column 19 to cost per Maund.
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	IN. MDS.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Mercanum	856 4 0	812 4 3	1,19,536 15 0	15 10 0	0 2 1	3,48,407	4,277 8 6	0 0 $2\frac{1}{3}$
Gundalum	... ...	3 10 10	8,639 3 4	18 12 0	0 2 6			
Teagavally	175 4 0	110 2 5	6,973 9 5	20 0 0	0 2 8			
Killay	... ...	... ...	7,272 3 1	17 15 6	0 2 $4\frac{3}{4}$			

5. It will be seen that the sales, both Home and Inland, have varied very much during the years which compose the decade at the several places of manufacture. These variations are in a great measure to be attributed to the insufficiency of the supply; but it is also explained that they arise from the fluctuations of trade and state of seasons.

6. I believe that earth-salt is manufactured in the District. Only a few days ago 11 Indian Maunds of Salt were seized in the houses of thirty-six men in the villages of Modayoor, Cullapuleyoor, Eroomalee, and Amaree. The head of the village and other influential Ryots were concerned in this offence. The Police and Subordinate Magistracy are not sufficiently alive to the magnitude of the evil, or the necessity of putting a stop to this illicit traffic; and unless they evince determination to check it, the one by seizing and the other by punishing all who may transgress the law by manufacturing and selling earth-salt, I see no prospect of the Salt revenue of this District attaining its legitimate standard.

7. I believe also that smuggling takes place from the pans to some extent. It would be very surprising if it did not. It is impossible the Police can efficiently guard the numerous straggling pans and platforms committed to their charge, which are not protected by any material defences, and are located in places where thefts can easily be carried on.

8. The consumption of Salt in this flourishing and improving District amounts, by the sale accounts of the District, to 9¾ lbs. per head; but in addition to the Salt sold in the District for consumption amounting to 1,30,343 Indian Maunds in Fasli 1272, 10472 Indian Maunds of Salt were sold in the same year in the Madras District for consumption in South Arcot, and 14,253 Indian Maunds in Tanjore for the same purpose. These quantities raise the amount of Salt consumed in the District to 11⅓ lbs. per head. Besides this, a good deal of Salt is sold in the District which has been brought down from Madras by rail, and which finds its way into this District along the whole line of its western border.

1. Mercanum, 4 miles from the confines of the District, and 2½ miles from Chunambet.
2. Gundalam, 37 miles from Mercanum, and 4½ from the town of Munjacoopum.
3. Teagavally, 5 miles from Gundalam.
4. Killay, 22 miles from Teagavally, 2 miles from the town of Porto-Novo, and 9 miles from the confines of the District.

9. The Salt works of this District are divided into four Divisions, which are to be found at the places and distances indicated in the margin.

10. I will proceed to notice the works and submit my suggestions in respect to them in the order in which they occur above.

11. 1ST, MERCANUM.—The works of this Division are sub-divided into three stations. The first consists of the works of Mercanum proper; the second those of Kondadu; and the third those of, first Urany, second Anumanday, third Naducoopam and fourth Tiroocanoor.

12. The Salt manufactured at all these works is made from water drawn from a large backwater which commences near Tempaukam, and is a very fair article, as may be seen by the specimens sent. It is much liked by inland traders because it bears carriage well. It is a large, hard, solid, white crystal. It is manufactured in the same way as the Salt of Cheyur and Chunambet. Brine of a fair strength is baled from the backwater into channels which convey it into reservoirs where it is retained for several days. This concentrated brine is then let into Salt beds of some capacity to about two to three inches deep. It is let in every other day from thirty to forty days; at the end of this period the bed is found covered with either a fine thick crust of pure, good Salt, or with two or three layers of it. The Salt is taken from the beds by the hand; the labourers break the crust and take off large pieces of it which are afterwards broken up and stored. The Salt is left to dry for three or four days on the ridges, and is then removed to the platforms where it is kept for a month or more, when it is stored.

13. The heaps are not placed with any regularity on the platform, nor are they sold in any order. This power of selling the Salt as it suits the fancy of the Superintendent is highly irregular, and may be greatly abused to the injury of the Government and the trade.

14. The Mercanum, Urany, and Anumanday works are on the southern bank, those of Kandadu, Tiroocoonoor, and Naducoopam on the northern bank, of a creek which is formed from the back-water.

15. The Mercanum proper works extend along a line of about five miles. In front lie the pans, which are flanked by an almost continuous line of platforms forming a crescent behind them. The platforms though well raised are very narrow, and are not able to receive more than one heap laid lengthwise across them.

16. The pans are divided into the Sheikal, occupied or old pans; and the Carambalam, waste or new pans.

17. The pans of the Sheikal Division supply seven platforms, and those of the Carambalam nine platforms.

18. The Sheikal pans were in existence when we assumed the country; the Carambalam pans were formed in 1823, the Government bearing Rupees 2,156, or nearly two-thirds of the expense of forming these pans, and the people, Rupees 1,148, or one-third of it.

19. This long line of platforms is capable of holding 537 heaps or 5,370 Garces. These platforms are wholly without any hedge or protection of any kind, and are close to the road. It is obvious that it would be impracticable to devise any defence for so extensive a line of works, except at a very disproportionate expense.

20. In the rear of some of the platforms there is a quantity of low brushwood; and villages, houses and topes are not far from others. In one place the pans almost touch the road. A large quantity of Salt was lying out on the ridges of the pans to dry when I visited the works.

21. I enclose a rough plan of the Mercanum works. Two high roads, much frequented, pass near the pans and platforms.

22. The Sheikal pans are able to produce about 4,00,000 Indian maunds of Salt, and the Carambalam pans a similar quantity.

23. At the end of the Mercanum works and on the other side the creek lie the Kondadu works. The stream bounds the Kondadu works on the south-east; a jungle on the north-east and north; on the west lies the road leading to the platform; and on the south is the Tindevanum road. Both these roads are good, well raised, metalled roads, and were in fine order when I saw them.

24. The whole of the Kondadu swamp south of the northern platform is not occupied. I suppose that not more than half or one-third is turned to account. The existing pans can produce 1,20,000 Indian maunds of Salt; if the whole enclosed area were well worked three times that quantity might be produced.

25. There are six platforms attached to the Kondadu pans; one in the south-west corner, three in the centre, and two to the north; viz, one in the north-west, and one in the north-east corner. The pans and the beds are not protected by any defence, and some of the pans reach almost to the Tindevanam road at the south.

26. At the distance of about four miles from Mercanum in a south-westerly direction lie the Salt works of the outlying village of Urani. These works contain three platforms with Salt beds attached to them. The first two platforms near each other are called the Palacadoo platforms; another a mile off is called the Attee Coopam platform; a mile to the south-west of the Attee Coopam platform are the Anumanday Salt beds and platform.

27. Across the river about two miles directly north from the Anumunday platform are the Bandipolliem pans and platform, and one mile to the east of Bandipolliem are the Devicotta pans and platform, both belonging to the village of Nadoocoopam. One mile to the east of the Devicotta platform are the Tirucanur pans and platform.

28. The subjoined table shows the number of pans attached to each platform in this division; the average quantity of Salt obtained from them in a year; the capacity of each platform; and the quantity of Salt stored in each at the date of my visit.

STATEMENT showing the number of plaforms attached to the Mercanum Division; their capacity; the number of pans attached to each; the quantity of Salt stored at each platform; and the average quantity obtained a year from the several sets of pans.

Stations.	Platforms.	Capacity of each platform.		Number of pans attached to each platform.	Quantity of Salt stored at each platform.	Average quantity obtained from the several sets of pans, each year for ten Faslis.
		Length.	Breadth.			
	Sheikal.	Yds.	Yds.		In. Mnds. S. C.	In. Mnds.
1. Mercanum ...	Umarancadu... ...	325	13	25	26,535 22 10	
	Soorapanaick... ...	492	14	56	36,658 0 12	
	Arasalam...	562	14	41	34,272 37 11	
	Royasoorian... ..	660	13	50	54,132 13 8	
	Sookavasee.....	98	24	17	17,028 30 0	
	Bagavathay	332	16	25	17,330 15 2	
	Pooliencall...	107	24	12	8,100 24 0	
				226	1,94,058 23 11	1,71,726
	Carambalan No. 1.	270	12	18	23,022 18 2	
	„ 2.	369	12	23	19,078 12 6	
	„ 3.	330	15	20	17,055 0 0	
	„ 4.	312	12	20	6,644 0 0	
	„ 5.	333	12	19	4,800 0 0	
	„ 6.	370	15	23	... ...	
	„ 7.	312	16	20	4,800 0 0	
	„ 8.	219	15	10	2,400 0 0	
	„ 9.	189	11	15	... ...	
				168	77,799 30 8	1,71,726
2. Kondadu.....	Marcalam			394	2,71,858 14 3	3,43,452
	Vadacalam.....	104	14	33	6,219 0 0	
	Do. Malepuram.	82	30	21	5,115 0 0	
	Carambalam	86	13	10	3,218 0 0	
	New Carambalam.	58	32	56	3,300 0 0	
	Do. Malepatty...	220	14	20	13,766 0 0	
		96	13	19	8,600 0 0	
				159	35,218 0 0	50,741
3. Urany... ...	Palacadoo...	85	80	39	45,730 0 0	
	New Platform ..	65	15	10	10,035 0 0	
	Authecoopam.....	105	22	22	16,629 25 0	
				71	72,394 25 0	37,601
4. Annumunthay.	Annumunthay ...	125	45	41	20,589 0 0	44,597
5. Nadoocoopam.	Thercalam..... ...	130	50	86	23,074 0 0	
	Vadacalam...	115	36	80	11,234 0 0	
				166	34,308 0 0	29,458
6. Therucanur..	Therucanur.....	135	25	33	7,995 0 0	7,185
				864	4,42,362 39 3	5,13,034

29. The platforms and Salt were all unprotected; a few dry thorny bushes had been just placed round the several platforms; but the pans were wholly unfenced, and were situated at about from quarter to half a mile from the platforms. The road from Pondicherry passes between the pans and the platforms on the southern side of the river.

30. The works at Urany and the other three villages of Anumanday, Naducoopam, and Tiroocanoor have often been closed, as may be seen by the subjoined Statement. I have not been able to learn satisfactorily what causes have led to these pans thus being temporarily given up; but I believe the malpractices of the manufacturers, the isolated and jungly position of the works, and failure of water were the chief reasons which have prevented these works from being more continuously used, especially as a sufficiency of good Salt could always be made at Mercanum without these drawbacks.

STATEMENT *showing how often the Salt works at Urany, Anumunday, Nadoocoopum and Tirucanur have been closed.*

FASLI.	URANY.		ANUMUNDAY.		NADOOCOOPUM.		TIRUCANUR.	
	Dittum.	Manufacture.	Dittum.	Manufacture.	Dittum.	Manufacture.	Dittum.	Manufacture.
1251	7,200	6,720	....	...	6,000	3,120	2,400	960
1252	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1253	9,600	102	9,600	600	9,600	...	7,200	...
1254	9,600	7,600	9,600	2,280	9,600	7,200	7,200	1,920
1255	6,000	...	3,600	...	6,000	...	2,400	...
1256	6,000	...	3,600	420	6,000	...	3,600	...
1257	6,000	19,740	3,600	9,010	6,000	13,380	2,400	4,680
1258	18,000	15,660	9,600	4,200	1,320	7,170	6,000	3,000
1259	15,600	6,210	6,000	1,140	8,400	5,520	6,000	1,920
1260	15,600	...	6,000	...	8,400	....	6,000	...
1261	15,240	3,480	6,000	780	9,600	240	6,000	30
1262	14,400	...	6,000	...	9,600	...	6,000	...
1263	15,600	45,060	18,000	22,200	...	...	...	...
1264	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1265	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1266	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1267	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1268	18,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1269	24,000	29,295	24,000	16,395	36,000	19,530	6,000	4,185
1270	24,000	39,000	24,000	19,500	36,000	34,080	6,000	8 730
1271	24,000	37,050	24,000	20,295	36,000	34,650	6,000	8,640
1272	24,000	...	24,000	...	36,000	...	6,000	...

31. In 1858 these works were again opened. In that year no Salt was manufactured, but in the next year out of an order for 90,000 Indian Maunds, 69105 Indian Maunds were manufactured.

32. There are no roads or approaches to these pans or platforms; the expense of making the necessary roads has been estimated to cost Rupees 10,000.

33. Two Constables are detailed to patrole each of the platforms belonging to these villages at night. The Salt beds attached to the platforms are visited if suspicion arise. The beds are at some distance from the platforms, and the ridges are covered with Salt put out to dry. It is here the thefts take place, and it is impossible the Police on the platforms can see persons carrying away Salt from the beds on a dark night; and I believe the rumours which are prevalent in regard to the malpractices in these villages are not without foundation.

34. One Salt Superintendent and three Assistant Superintendents are appointed to the works of the Mercanum Division. One Deputy has charge of all the works of Mercanum proper; one of the works of Kondadu; and one of the works of Urany and the three adjoining villages.

35. This year 3,60,000 Indian Maunds of Salt have been ordered to be made at Mercanum proper, 90,000 Indian Maunds at Kondadu, and the same quantity at the other four villages.

36. By the end of June 3,69,360 Indian Maunds had been made at Mercanum, 50,400 at Kondadu, and 66,000 Indian Maunds at the other villages.

37. It is believed that the whole quantity ordered will be made before the season closes. There are at present in store at the Mercanum Division 3,34,202 Indian Maunds, and the quantity already made raises the quantity in store to 8,19,962 Indian Maunds.

38. The ordinary sales, taking an average of ten years, are 2,46,281 Indian Maunds. The sales of the year Fasli 1273 just closed, which was a very exceptional one, amounted to 2,70,996 Indian Maunds. The stock of Salt both at Chunambet on the north, and the remaining stations at the south of the District, had been sold early in the Fasli, which led to a run being made on the Mercanum stores; besides 74,280 Indian Maunds had been dispatched out of an order of 1,20,000 Indian Maunds to the Stores at Gundalum, Teagavally, and Killay.

39. There are still 54,240 Indian Maunds of the quantity of Salt ordered to be made this year to be received; considering the stock now in hand it appeared to me unnecessary that this year's supply should be further increased at Mercanum. I have ordered the Superintendent therefore to be careful not to take more Salt than would at the close of the Fasli year meet two years' consumption.

40. Considering the capacity of the Sheikal Allam beds which could with ease produce 3,00,000 to four lacks of Indian Maunds, and that the beds of Kandadu could also if enlarged and well worked produce from two lacs and a half to three lacs of Indian Maunds, it appears to me that the Carambalan pans, as well as those of the four outlying villages, might with much advantage be closed.

41. Instead of the long line of narrow platforms now existing at Mercanum, I would propose that four good, broad platforms, each capable of holding one lac of Indian Maunds of Salt, be formed for the Sheikal Allam beds; that these platforms be placed at regular distances along the line of these pans; and that they be protected by a good broad moat, and bank and hedge, and be accessible only by gates on the north and south. The moat should be carried in front of the pans on the northern side.

42. The Kondadu pans too admit of being easily defended. A good moat might be cut from the creek and carried round the works, which should be entered at a gate just opposite the centre platform. Two of these might be retained and enlarged so as to hold each a lac of Maunds of Salt. This would allow of 6,00,000 Indian Maunds of Salt being stored at Mercanum, which is more than two years' average sales. The ground within the space indicated above could easily produce from 5,00,000 to 7,00,000 Indian Maunds of Salt. Supposing three lacs to be in store the ordinary order would be three lacs each year; but in case of emergency this amount might be increased to seven lacs, a quantity which would meet any extraordinary demand.

43. There is a good road from the Tindevanam road to the Kondadu platforms. By extending this road two or three miles the Chunambat pans might be united with ease to the Kondadu and Mercanum works. It may, however, be found from the nature of the ground between Kondadu and Chunambat that it would cost less to take the road to connect these two places round by the old coast road.

44. A good passable road should connect these two places, or it will be difficult for the Deputy Collector properly to supervise the works at Chunambat.

45. The Mercanum Salt Cutcherry is now in the village, at some distance from the works. It is an old bomb-proof building, ill adapted for a Salt Cutcherry. A new Cutcherry should be erected on one of the new platforms of Mercanum or Kondadu.

46. By adopting this arrangement not only would a large saving to Government be effected by reduction of guards and Salt establishment, but a greater degree of efficiency would be attained.

47. It would not in this case be necessary to erect a Cutcherry at Chunambat, as was proposed in my report on the Salt works to the south of Madras; the collections made there might easily be carried every evening to the new Salt Cutcherry, which would not be so far distant from Chunambat as the platforms of Urany and the other outlying villages are from the present Salt office.

48. The present Salt Cutcherry might be made over to the Mercanum Sub-Magistrate, who is in want of an office; and at a small outlay the building might be well adapted for a Magistrate's office.

49. There are at present in charge of the Mercanum works one Superintendent and three Assistant Superintendents, besides three Clerks and a Shroff. One Superintendent and two Assistants with their allowed Staff would be ample, while a reduction might be made in the guards, of two Head Constables, two Deputies and twenty-one Constables in the fixed guard, and two Constables in the extra guard. A saving of about 3,498 Rupees a year would then be made, and this, not at a sacrifice of efficiency, but with every probability of effectually increasing the means of guarding the Government property.

50. An estimate has been submitted for making a road and approaches to the platforms of the outlying villages amounting to 10,000 Rupees. This estimate would be cancelled if my proposals are acceded to, and the money spent in connecting the Chunambat works with those of Mercanum, and in extending the platforms.

51. At Chunambat too, the establishment might be reduced by dispensing with the Shroff and the Assistant Superintendent at once, and with one Head and one Deputy Constable as soon as the new Cutcherry is erected; and when the platforms are reduced and the moat completed round the works, the Constabulary guard might be reduced from twenty-six Constables to six.

52. From the subjoined table it will be seen that since the appointment of Mahomed Yusuf at the end of Fasli 1269 to the special charge of the Salt Department, the Home sales of the Mercanum storeshave increased very largely, the sales of Fasli 1273 being 92¼ per cent. in excess of those of any year within the decade previous to his appointment.

Faslis.	Home sales at Mercanum.
	In. Maunds.
1264... ...	4,990
1265... ...	4,955
1266... ...	58,313
1267... ...	39,908
1268... ...	52,024
1269... ...	50,384
1270... ...	78,385
1271... ...	70,590
1272... ...	85,991
1273... ...	1,12,117

53. As in other Districts the sales of Fasli 1271 were affected by the rise in the selling price of Salt; but in the following year they exceeded the sales of any previous year, and in the year just closed are 30½ per cent. in excess of those of Fasli 1272.

54. The inland sales do not show such satisfactory results; but these have no doubt been seriously affected by the Railway which has thrown Salt into places which up to its extension westward had been supplied from the Mercanum stores. The places of inland sale are Salem, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Madras, North Arcot, and Mysore.

55. The following statement shows that the indents for Salt from the French Government of Pondicherry have been yearly increasing. The present year they amounted to 57,600 Indian Maunds. The population of Pondicherry is stated by a census return of 1861 to be 1,25,992, which would make the consumption of Salt by each person to be 37⅔ lbs. It is clear that these indents are therefore larger than is "requisite for the domestic use and consumption of the "inhabitants of the French settlement" of Pondicherry, as is provided for by the Convention entered into between our Government and that of Pondicherry.

Faslis.	Quantity of Salt supplied to the French Government of Pondicherry each year.
	Indian Maunds.
1264... ...	32,718
1265... ...	40,732
1266... ...	44,860
1267... ...	28,931
1268... ...	43,909
1269... ...	50,326
1270... ...	43,279
1271... ...	46,912
1272... ...	49,200
1273	57,600

56. The French keep up inland depôts on the very confines of our Territory, and it is certain that our inhabitants purchase largely at these depôts.

57. There appears to have been some discussion as to the price at which the French Government should be charged for the Salt supplied to them.

58. This matter seems to be fully and clearly disposed of by Articles 1 and 2 of the Convention of the 7th March 1815, which provides "that the delivery is to be made at the price "which the British Government shall have paid for the said article."

59. The price our Government pay is Rupees 15-7-0 for 120 Indian Maunds, weighed out by the machines lately issued from the Madras Mint. The French Government claim to receive 424 Mercals of Salt for Rupees 15-7-0, while 120 Indian Maunds of Mercanum Salt, weighed out by the machines, only amounted from 355 to 391 Mercals.

60. At the four outlying villages containing seven platforms, Kondadu containing six platforms, and the long line of platforms at Mercanum, I found only five serviceable machines.

61. With these machines 12,000 Indian Maunds of Salt were daily to be received into store; sales amounting to 700 Indian Maunds of Salt were daily to be carried on; and 2,400 Indian Maunds were daily to be shipped for transport to the southern pans of the District, and for the use of the French Government. It is quite obvious that the present number of machines is utterly inadequate to the requirements of so large a station. Seven machines were supplied to this division; but only five of them, as I have said above, are fit for use.

62. If the works are to be kept up at the present standard, I think two machines should be granted to each of the outlying villages, four to Kondadu and eight to Mercanum proper.

63. If the outlying villages and part of Mercanum works should be given up as recommended by me, I think six machines to Mercanum and four to Kondadu will be sufficient for this division.

64. Some shelter should be provided for the machines. If left out on the platforms exposed to the action of the weather they will all soon be destroyed. Valuable and delicate machines of this kind require both much care in housing them and delicacy of handling.

65. There are six Measurers, five Peons, and twenty-three Vettyans allowed to the Mercanum division. This number of inferior servants will be greatly reduced if the alterations suggested by me are carried out. At present servants of the Brahmin and other superior castes are employed as Measurers and Vettyans. The Deputy Collector assures me that they are very active men, and perform all the duties required of the Measurer and Vettyan. Care must be taken that the patronage of these minor offices is not abused, and men employed in them who cannot and will not perform the duties required of them.

66. The Deputy Collector is very anxious that the road between Pondicherry and Mercanum should be repaired and placed in good working order. It is very heavy throughout, and in the monsoon is flooded in many parts.

67. This road is now very little used, except I believe by traders who having brought produce from the westward and disposed of it at Pondicherry proceed to Mercanum for a return load of Salt; to go to the Gundalum pans would subject them to a circuit of seventeen miles, while the salt manufactured at this latter place is not to be compared with that made at Mercanum, and the supply at Gundalum is at present very limited and could not meet any very large demand.

68. It is computed that the number of bandies which go from Pondicherry to Mercanum for Salt amounts during the first eight months of the year to twenty-five per diem. These carts would carry away in a year 78,650 Indian Maunds of Salt, representing a net revenue of Rupees 1,08,144.

69. It is asserted by the Deputy Collector that if the road were put in good order the number of carts resorting to Mercanum from Pondicherry would be largely increased, and that they would proceed to the pans the whole year through, instead of going to them for only eight months. The Collector has addressed to me the enclosed letters on the same subject.

70. From a conversation I had with Mr. Graham, the Sub-Engineer in charge of the range, I learnt that the chief expense of making this road would arise from the difficulty of obtaining metal, which would have to be carted from very great distances. He estimated the expense of making a good road for twenty miles at from 90,000 to 1,00,000 Rupees, of which from seventy to eighty thousand Rupees would be required for metalling.

71. The annual net revenue of the Mercanum Division amounts to Rupees 2,73,180. Large therefore as the outlay for the road is, it appears to me that the merchants and consumers who create the revenue are entitled to greater consideration than they now receive. I am therefore disposed strongly to recommend that the road be made. I have no doubt that a good road will tend to increase our revenue and to add materially to the comfort of the people of the interior of the District by cheapening the price of Salt to them.

72. It will be seen that Mr. Reade, the Collector, has not succeeded in inducing the French Government to promise to take any further share in this undertaking than to intimate their readiness to consider the practicability of granting so much land as may be required to construct the road through the French territory, and to form and keep that portion of the road in good working order.

73. The Collector anticipates, and I think with good grounds, that the construc ion of the road would "greatly facilitate and increase the coast trade, and especially give an impetus to "our Salt sales at Mercanum."

Faslis.. ..	In Mds.	S.	
1270	1	17	per 100 I. Mds.
1271	2	0	do.
1272	2	0	do.
	3) 5	17	
	1	15, or 1½ per cent.	

74. The wastage of Salt at the Mercanum Division is small. It amounted during the last three years to an average of Indian Maunds 1-15 per 100 Indian Maunds.

75. The Salt is large-grained, hard and well-formed, and is not easily affected by the atmosphere. There should therefore be but small wastage with such Salt.

76. I was unable to examine a heap of Salt at Mercanum, the state of my health and of the weather, with the distance of the stores from any sort of shelter, prevented my doing so. I examined the machines and found ony five fit for use; others were either broken or out of order and need repair. The following table gives the result of my experiments with the machines.

Experiments made with Salt Weighing Machines. Mercanum, 15th June 1864.

Number of Machine	Quantity of Salt weighed.	Quantity found by measurement.	Equivalent of one Garce.	Number of Rupees found equal to the one Maund weight.
	Indian Maunds.	Mer. Mea.	Mercals.	Rupees.
No. 92 ...	6	19 4	390	3,195
„ 55 ...	6	17 6	355	2,300
„ 62 ...	6	18 6	375	3,000
		16*th Jnue* 1864.		
No. 53 ...	6	19 0		
„ 24 ...	6	18 4	380	3,300
			370	2,800

77. With reference to the Order of Government, dated 15th April 1864, No. 637, I found that no cases had been referred to the Deputy Collector for trial by him since he had been invested with Magisterial powers. The Head Quarters of the Assistant in whose division Mercanum lies, is only twenty miles distant from that place, and his range is not a very extensive one. I am very much opposed to the Salt Deputy Collectors being appointed Magistrates. Their own proper duties are generally sufficient to occupy their time and attention at present. To many minds these duties are not so agreeable or interesting as Magisterial investigations, and consequently they are neglected in favor of the more pleasant work. It can seldom occur that parties in a case occurring at Mercanum, and which cannot be disposed of by the Local Native Magistrate, would have to travel more than twenty miles. It is better that they should travel twice this distance than that the Deputy Collector should be tempted to neglect his work. The pans, stores, and sales at both ends of the District require constant activity and real supervision, and these cannot be given if the attention of the Deputy Collector is taken up at one extreme of the District.

78. GUNDALUM.—The second Salt Division in the District is Gundalum. The Head Quarters of this Division is thirty-seven miles south of Mercanum, about four miles from the Collector's office at Cuddalore, and is close to the old Town of Cuddalore.

Goondalum.
Pacheyancoopam, about 100 yards off.
Coodicadoo, 1½ miles.

79. The Gundalum Division is divided into three stations as found in the margin.

80. The Gundalum works are formed on a sand bank in the back-water of Cuddalore. The bank is very small and admits of but little salt being made. 36,776 Indian Maunds, or 306 Garces of Salt is the largest quantity that has been made at Gundalum proper as may be seen by the accompanying Statement:—

Statement showing out-turn of Salt in Gudalum proper from Faslis 1263 *to Fasli* 1272.

Fasli.	Dittum.	Quantity received intto Store.	
	In. Mds.	In. Mds.	S.
1263... ...	24,000	24,684	0
1264... ...	24,000	24,490	20
1265	24,000	12,110	20
1266... ...	30,000	23,220	0
1267... ...	30,000	16,762	20
1268... ...	30,000	9,187	20
1269... ...	36,000	36,776	10
1270... ...	36,000	19,863	30
1271... ...	36,000	14,355	0
1272... ...	48,000	6,447	0

81. The whole of the available ground at Gundalum has not been turned to account, but the unoccupied portion is very little.

82. About 100 yards from Gundalum are what are called the Pacheyancoopam pans. The Cuddalore Canal has been carried through these pans, so that only a few remain on the bank of the Canal. There are ten pans which can only produce about 2,000 Indian Maunds of Salt.

83. The Salt made at Gundalum and Pacheyancoopam is very fair. The Deputy Collector has been endeavoring to improve it, and has succeeded; but there is yet room for improvement. Specimens of it are sent.

84. There are two platforms at Gundalum capable of containing 1,08,000 Indian Maunds of Salt.

85. These platforms are liable to be flooded. A good road has been made to connect the platforms with the mainland; but the platforms are wholly unapproachable in the wet weather, as the road is then usually under water.

86. The Salt taken from the Pacheyancoopam pans is carried to a platform just opposite them. This platform is not nearer the pans than the southernmost of the Gundalum platforms, nor is it more accessible in the wet weather.

87. About six miles from the Collector's Cutcherry by the road, and 1½ in a direct line from Pacheyancoopam, lie the works of Coodicadu. The works lie about quarter of a mile off from the southern high-road. A creek has to be crossed to reach the works. The Cuddalore backwater runs on one side of the works, and a creek from it on the other. The creek though fordable in the dry season can only be crossed by a boat in the wet.

88. The quantity of ground under occupation at Kudicadu is small, the pans might be increased. They are only twenty-four in number, and might easily be increased to double or treble that number. There is one platform in the middle of the pans. The Salt I saw collected on the platform of this year's produce was pretty good. Some of it however should have been rejected.

89. Very little Salt was manufactured at this Division last year, owing to the very unfavorable character of the season. The whole stock was sold in September. In Fasli 1268 also the whole stock failed early in the year.

90. From the Statement attached to paragraph 4 above will be seen the quantity of Salt ordered to be manufactured during the last ten years; that received into store; and the sales at the Gundalum Station.

91. This year at the time of my visit, out of a dittum of 72,000 Indian Maunds 12,000 Indian Maunds only had been made. It is hoped that the whole quantity ordered will be completed before the close of the season. Frequent showers of rain, together with the enforcement of the rule of receiving none but good Salt, had, it was alleged, prevented more Salt being made. I believe the last reason has been the chief cause of the very small out-turn. The Superintendent might perhaps have succeeded better with greater determination and zeal; but it is better to secure a good Salt than to have a large quantity of the rubbish that has been so often received under the name of Salt. It is to be hoped that the Deputy Collector will not relax in his efforts to ensure the receipt of only really good Salt. Some of that last received would seem to indicate that the servants had begun to weary of their efforts to ensure strict attention to the orders which they had been endeavouring to enforce.

92. In March last Salt was sent from Mercanum to replenish the stores at Gundalum and the Southern stores. Out of 500 Garces, or 60,000 Indian Maunds ordered to be sent to Gundalum, only 47,520 Indian Maunds had been received at the date of my visit Of this quantity 15,162 Indian Maunds have been sold. The wastage in these heaps just stored amounted to about five-eighth per cent. I believe this arose almost entirely from the differences in the machines. I examined a heap with the two machines supplied to the Gundalum store, and found the deficiency about 5 per cent.

93. The wastage at Gundalum reaches $3\frac{1}{12}$ per cent. which is higher than at the other Divisions, though below the prescribed quantity. This large wastage is owing to the inferior quality of the Salt hitherto received, and may perhaps be attributed to improper measuring.

91. I examined a heap of Salt at Gundalum, and tested the machines in use at that station. The result of my examination is given below.

Experiments made with the Salt Weighing machines at Gundalum on 22nd June 1864.

No. of machine.	Quantity of Salt weighed.	Quantity found by measurement.	Equivalent of one Garce.	No. of Rupees found equal to the one maund weight.
	In. Mds.	Mer. Mea.	Mercals.	
No. 60 ...	6	17 2	345	Rupees 3,260
,, 90 ...	6	17 2	345	,, 3,150

95. The heaps are stored very irregularly and sold so also.

96. It appears to me that looking at the great necessity for always keeping a large stock of Salt at Cuddalore, the limited space of the existing pans, the liability of the platforms to be flooded and their inaccessibility during the rainy weather, as well as to the distance traders coming from the western parts of the District to Cuddalore now have to go to Coodicadu and Teagavally to get salt, that it would be better to demolish the platforms at Gundalum and Coodicadu, and to convert the space so recovered into pans. The Salt made at Gundalum, Patcheyancoopam, and Coodicadu might all be easily carried by back-water and stored at old Town. The boat hire for carrying the Salt these distances would not be great. The Salt when in store would be better and more easily guarded than it can be now, and the facilities which this arrangement would offer to purchasers would lead to largely increased sales. By converting the space now covered by platforms into pans a larger quantity of Salt could be manufactured.

The distances of Gundalum from the place of storage would be about 300 yards. Pacheyancoopam would be about quarter of a mile. Coodicadoo two miles.

97. TEAGAVALLY.—At Teagavally there are two platforms and two sets of pans called Manavary and Cumblimodu. They are about quarter of a mile apart, Manavary being on the east, and Cumblimodu on the west bank of the back-water. The high road to the south runs about quarter of a mile from the Manavary pans and quarter of a mile from the Cumblimodu pans and parallel with them.

98. The Manavary platform can only be reached by a boat, and between the platforms and the pans runs a deep broad moat. This should be extended round the pans which are very straggling. There are thirty pans only attached to this work. The platform, which is not defended by any hedge or defence of any kind, is capable of containing sixty heaps. At the date of my visit there were on the platform six heaps of Salt received from Mercanum. 200 Garces were ordered to be sent to this depôt, but up to the 15th June 63 Garces only had been received.

99. 4,095 Indian Maunds of Salt had been manufactured this season, and placed on the platform, but none had been taken into store, as only one machine was allowed to this platform, and it was in constant requisition for sales and for storing the Salt received from Mercanum.

100. The Salt manufactured this year, with the exception of a very little, was very inferior. The Superintendent and his Assistant clearly did not understand their business, and were careless and negligent in the performance of it.

101. The Cumblimodu works consist of thirty-eight pans and a platform capable of containing forty heaps. There was no Salt in store here, 3,630 Indian Maunds had been manufactured and placed on the drying ground. The Salt was of very inferior quality. The greater part of it should have been rejected.

102. These works are in a very out-of-the-way place. There are no approaches to them, and one can only be reached by a boat; a deep river running between the mainland and the platform.

103. The sales at Teagavally average 22,283 Indian Maunds a year, of which two-thirds or 15,016 Indian Maunds are for Home consumption, and only 7,267 Indian Maunds, or the remaining fourth, are for inland consumption.

104. The Teagavally Depôts are so much out of the way and are so inaccessible that I should have strongly supported the recommendation repeatedly made, of closing these works altogether, but for the consideration that the area of land available for making Salt at Goondalum is so circumscribed that it is impossible at that station to meet the demand made on it for Salt. The supply at Goondalum so frequently fails and is so very precarious that merchants frequenting the market and port of Cuddalore are often obliged to go to Teagavally for their return load of Salt. I believe that often between the end of one manufacturing season and the opening of the sales of the ensuing one, Salt cannot be obtained at Goondalum, and both traders and inhabitants of the Old and New Town of Cuddalore have at much inconvenience and delay to go to Teagavally for it.

105. Captain Foord, the late District Engineer of Cuddalore, strongly advocated the bringing the Teagavally Salt by water to Cuddalore, as both a cheaper and more desirable plan than that of opening up the Teagavally stores by making bridges and roads to the platforms. I believe that on the ground firstly, of greater economy; secondly, more efficient supervision; and thirdly, of more fully providing for the public convenience, it is desirable that Teagavally should be closed as a place of sale, but retained as a place of manufacture.

106. One of the Teagavally stores is on the eastern side of a broad, deep stream, and can only be reached by a boat; the other is in the midst of heavy sand-drifts.

107. About 1,00,000 Maunds of Salt could be manufactured in a year at Teagavally, and this quantity might be largely increased by opening fresh pans.

108. The sales at Cuddalore would greatly increase if the supply of Salt there were certain and sufficient, while any large outlay in making Teagavally accessible would not lead to any appreciable increase of the sales at that out-of-the-way place.

109. There is a large trade between the western part of the District and Cuddalore, and the roads connecting those parts of the District are very good. If a return load of Salt could always be procured in old Town, none of the traders employed in bringing produce to Cuddalore would return with empty bandies to their houses as they now do.

110. The road from Teagavally to the westward is circuitous and indifferent.

111. A garce of Salt might be carried by water from Teagavally to Cuddalore at from 1 to 1½ Rupee a Garce, and the time occupied in carrying down the Salt during the prevalence of the south winds would be about two hours. If the Salt were started early from Teagavally it might be stored at Cuddalore the same day.

112. The expenses of the present establishments at Goondalam and Teagavally are given below:—

GUNDALUM.

Division Establishment.

	RS.	A.	P.
1 Superintendent			
1 Shroff	50	0	0
2 Measurers	10	0	0
2 Peons	12	0	0
1 Vettyan	12	0	0
	5	0	0
	89	0	0

Station Establishment.

1 Assistant Superintendent	15	0	0
3 Vettyans...	15	0	0
	30	0	0

Police Guards.

1 Head Constable...	20	0	0
2 Deputy do.	21	0	0
19 Constables...	123	8	0
	164	8	0
Total...	283	8	0

TEAGAVALLY.

Division Establishment.

1 Superintendent	50	0	0
1 Shroff	10	0	0
2 Measurers	12	0	0
2 Peons	12	0	0
1 Vettyan	5	0	0
	89	0	0

Station Establishment.

1 Assistant Superintendent	15	0	0
2 Vettyans...	10	0	0
	25	0	0

Police Guards.

1 Head Constable	20	0	0
1 Deputy do.	10	8	0
34 Constables	84	8	0
	115	0	0
Total...	229	0	0
Grand Total...	512	8	0

These though insufficient for the present works might be greatly reduced if the alteration suggested above is carried out. One Assistant Superintendent with a few Vettyans at each of the manufacturing places of Goondalam, Coodicadu, and Teagavally would be sufficient for the manufacture of Salt at these places.

113. By surrounding the pans of these places with a good moat, ditch, and prickly-pear hedge, and by requiring that all the Salt should be removed to the drying ground before sunset, a temporary guard of twenty-seven Constables, and one Head and three Deputy Constables to be kept up for the whole of the manufacturing season would be ample. These men could be employed in escorting the boats, patrolling the pans and drying yards during the day and night.

114. The Collector believes he could have for the small rent of about from 7 to 10 Rupees a month, a large set of godowns in the old Town of Cuddalore. The whole of the Salt required for two years' consumption could be stored in the out-buildings attached to the stores, while the building in the centre might be used as a Salt Cutcherry.

115. The Gundalum Salt Cutcherry is held in a Choultry belonging to a Pagoda situated close to the Gundalum pans; a part of this building is rented at 5 Rupees a month. Part of the building is occupied by the family of the Salt Superintendent, and part is taken up for the stores of the Pagoda. The building is not suited to a Salt Cutcherry. If the Salt store is removed to the town, to the building referred to above, the Cutcherry might be held in the centre building.

116. The Teagavally Cutcherry is about three miles from the works. If the building in the town be rented, and the Teagavally Salt be brought to old Town, the Teagavally Cutcherry might be sold.

117. The average cost of covering and storing the heaps of salt stored at Gundalum and Teagavally amounts to Rupees 30 and Rupees 18 respectively a year. This sum with the rent now paid for the use of the building occupied as a Cutcherry at Gundalum would more than meet the rent of the building proposed to be rented in old Town.

118. The establishment necessary to be entertained at the proposed depôt in old Town would be one Superintendent, two Clerks, one Shroff, two Measurers, two Peons, two Vettyans, and a guard of one Head Constable, and six Constables.

119. The reduction in the establishment would cause an annual saving of 582 Rupees.

120. If Teagavally and Kudicadu be retained as places of sale, it will be absolutely necessary to bridge two streams, and make three approaches to the platforms at those places. This would involve an outlay of about 80,000 Rupees at the least. The annual maintenance of these works, as well as of the platforms would be saved by carrying the Salt to Cuddalore.

121. On the other hand there will be the carriage by boat of 420 Garces of Salt from Teagavally, 83 Garces from Coodicadu, and 250 Garces from Goondalum. The estimated cost of the carriage of this Salt is Rupees 1,361-8-0 as may be seen in the subjoined Statement:—

Charges for carriage of salt from Gundalum and Teagavally by water to the Depot in the old Town of Cuddalore.

			RS.	A.	P.
* 250	Garces conveyed from Gundalum, at 4 Annas per Garce		62	8	0
* 83	Do. do. Coodicadu, at 1 Rupee per Garce		83	0	0
† 420	Do. do. Teagavally, at 2 Rupees per Garce		840	0	0
753	Cost of landing at 8 Annas per Garce		376	0	0
		Total...	1,361	8	0

* These quantities are the average sales a year at their respective stations.

† This is the estimated quantity which *can* be manufactured at the station.

122. Our sales at old Town would be much larger than the combined sales at the present stores if we could secure a more regular and sure supply of Salt at Cuddalore; and to this the efforts of the Deputy Collector and Superintendent should be zealously and earnestly given. There is no doubt that more Salt could be manufactured, and that of a far better sort than is now done; but in order to effect this desired end the Assistant Superintendents should be men who understand the work and will take an interest in it.

123. The financial results of the changes proposed by me at Mercanum, Gundalum, and Teagavally are shown in the accompanying Tables:—

Statement showing the Financial results of changes proposed in the Salt works of Mercanum, Gundalum and Teagavally.

MERCANUM.

Present Establishment.	Salary. Per month.	Salary. Per annum.	Proposed Establishment.	Salary. Per month.	Salary. Per annum.	Saving per annum.
	Rs. A.	Rs. A.		Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.
Division Establishment.			*Division Establishment.*			
1 Superintendent ... 100 0 0			1 Superintendent. 120 0 0			
1 Clerk 20 0 0			1 Clerk 20 0 0			
2 Do. at 15 Rs. each. 30 0 0			2 Do. ... 30 0 0			
1 Shroff 15 0 0			1 Shroff 15 0 0			
6 Measurers at 6 Rs. each 36 0 0			6 Measurers ... 36 0 0			
15 Peons at 6 Rs. each. 30 0 0			5 Peons 30 0 0			
2 Vettyans at 5 Rs. each 10 0 0			2 Vettyans... ... 10 0 0			
1st Station.	241 0			261 0		
			1st Station.			
1 Assistant Superintendent... ... ... 25 0 0			1 Assistant Superintendent 20 0 0			
7 Vettyans... ... ... 35 0 0			5 Vettyans... ... 25 0 0			
2nd Station.	60 0			45 0		
			2nd Station.			
1 Assistant Superintendent 15 0 0			1 Assistant Superintendent 15 0 0			
7 Vettyans 35 0 0			5 Vettyans... ... 25 0 0			
URANY.	50 0			40 0		
1 Assistant Superintendent... ... ... 30 0 0						
7 Vettyans 35 0 0						
Preventive Guards.	65 0		*Preventive Guards.*			
3 Head Constables ... 60 0 0			1 Head Constable. 20 0 0			
4 Deputy do. ... 42 0 0			2 Deputy do. ... 21 0 0			
45 Constables..... ... 292 8 0			24 Constables ... 144 0 0			
	394 8			185 0		
	810 8	9,726 0		531 0	6,362 0	
12 Temporary Police Guards. (Required for six months... ... 72 0 0	0 0	432 0	10 Temporary Police Guards (for six months) 60 0 0	0 0	360 0	
Grand Total... ...		10,158 0	Grand Total.....		6,722 0	3,436 0

Statement showing the Financial results of changes proposed in the Salt work of Mercanum, Gundalum, and Teagavally.

CHUNAMBET.

Present Establishment.	Salary. Per month.	Salary. Per annum.	Proposed Establishment.	Salary. Per month.	Salary. Per annum.	Saving per annum.
	Rs. A.	Rs. A.		Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.
Division Establishment.			*Division Establishment.*			
1 Superintendent ... 60 0 0			1 Superintendent. 30 0 0			
1 Clerk 20 0 0			1 Clerk 15 0 0			
1 Shroff 15 0 0			2 Measurers... ... 12 0 0			
2 Measurers... ... ... 12 0 0			2 Peons 12 0 0			
3 Peons 18 0 0			4 Vettyans ... 20 0 0			
1 Vettyan 5 0 0				89 0		
	130 0		*Police Establishment.*			
Station.						
1 Assistant Superintendent 15 0 0			1 Head Constable. 20 0 0			
4 Vettyans... ... ... 20 0 0			1 Deputy do. ... 10 8 0			
	35 0		6 Constables ... 36 0 0	66 8		
Police Establishment.				155 8	1,866 0	
2 Head Constables ... 40 0 0						
2 Deputy do. ... 21 0 0			4 Temporary Guards (for six months.) 24 0 0		144 0	
26 Constables 169 9 0	230 0					
Grand Total.....	395 0	4,740 0	Grand Total.....		2,010 0	2,730 0

GUNDALUM AND TEAGAVALLY.

Division Establishment.			*Proposed Establishment at the Depot in old Town.*			
1 Superintendent ... 50 0 0			1 Superintendent. 50 0 0			
1 Shroff 10 0 0			2 Clerks 30 0 0			
2 Measurers 12 0 0			1 Shroff 10 0 0			
2 Peons 12 0 0			2 Measurers... ... 12 0 0			
1 Vettyan... ... ... 5 0 0			2 Peons 12 0 0			
	89 0		2 Vettyans... ... 10 0 0			
				124 0		
Station Establishment.			*Station Gundalum, Pacheyancoopum.*			
1 Assistant Superintendent 15 0 0			1 Assistant Superintendent 15 0 0			
3 Vettyans... ... ... 15 0 0			3 Vettyans... ... 15 0 0			
	30 0			30 0		
Police Guards.			*Coodicadoo.*			
1 Head Constable ... 20 0 0			1 Assistant Superintendent 15 0 0			
2 Deputy do. ... 21 0 0			2 Vettyans... ... 10 0 0			
19 Constables 123 8 0	164 8			25 0		
	283 8			179 0		
			Fixed Police Guards at the Depot at old Town.			
			1 Head Constable. 20 0 0			
			6 Constables ... 36 0 0			
				56 0		

Statement showing the Financial results of changes proposed in the Salt works of Mercanum, &c.—(Contd.)

GUNDALUM AND TEAGAVALLY.

Present Establishment.	Salary. Per month.	Salary. Per annum.	Proposed Establishment.	Salary. Per month.	Salary. Per annum.	Saving per annum.
	RS. A.	RS. A.		RS. A.	RS. A.	RS. A.
TEAGAVALLY.			TEAGAVALLY.			
Division Establishment.			*Division Establishment.*			
1 Superintendent ... 50 0 0			2 Assistant Superintendents 30 0 0			
1 Shroff 10 0 0			4 Vettyans... ... 20 0 0			
2 Measurers... ... ... 12 0 0				50 0		
2 Peons 12 0 0			*Temporary Police Guards at the manufacturing Stations (for six months.)*	285 0	3,420 0	
1 Vettyan 5 0 0			GUNDALUM AND PACHEYANCOOPUM.			
	89 0		1 Deputy Constable 10 8 0			
Station.			9 Constables ... 54 0 0			
1 Assistant Superintendent 15 0 0				64 8		
2 Vettyans... ... ... 10 0 0			COODICADOO.			
	25 0		1 Deputy Constable 10 8 0			
Police Guards.			6 Constables ... 36 0 0			
1 Head Constable ... 20 0 0				46 8		
1 Deputy do. ... 10 8 0			TEAGAVALLY.			
13 Constables 84 8 0	115 0		1 Head Constable. 20 0 0			
	229 0		1 Deputy do. ... 10 8 0			
			12 Constables ... 72 0 0	102 8		
Grand Total.....	512 8	6,150 0		213 8	1,281 0	
			Grand Total		4,701 0	1,449 0
						7,615 0
Cost of conveying 753 Garces of Salt from Gundalum and Teagavally to old Town...					1,361 8 0	
Cost of landing the same at old Town at 8 Annas per Garce...					376 8 0	
House rent at old Town at 7 Rupees per mensem...					84 0 0	
			Deduct		1,821 0 0	
House rent at Gundalum at 5 Rupees a month					60 0 0	
Cost of storing at Gundalum Do. at Teagally					30 0 0	
					18 0 0	
					108 0 0	
					1,713 0 0	1,713 0
			Annual net saving			5,902 0

124. Should the proposed change be deemed undesirable, it will be necessary to enclose the platforms as well as the pans at Coodicadu and Teagavally; to bridge both the streams across where the Coodicadu and Teagavally platforms are situated; and to make and metal the approaches between the southern road and the two platforms of Teagavally and Coodicadu

125. The Home sales of Teagavally have been very much affected by the formation of the good roads which connect Cuddalore with the great towns and villages in the western parts of the District, as well as by the failure of the supply of Salt in the stores.

126. Last year the stock in hand was very small, and was sold early in the year, and the same has been the case in the year that has just closed.

127. The Salt made at Teagavally this year was generally very inferior. A little was good, showing that with pains a much superior article might be produced.

128. The inland sales have also varied very much. Teagavally is only resorted to by inland traders when the supply at Goondalum is failing.

129. There are but two weighing machines allowed to the stores at Teagavally. The following Statement shows the result of the experiments made with them by the Deputy Collector:—

Experiments made with Salt Weighing machines at Teagavally in the beginning of July by the Deputy Collector.

Salt from the Cumblimode Pans.

No. of machine.	Quantity of Salt weighed.	Quantity found by measurement.	Equivalent of one Garce.
	I. Mds.	Mer. Mea.	Mer.
No. 83...	6	21 4½	431¼
No. 56...	6	22 3	447½
Salt from the Manavary Pans.			
No. 83...	6	19 4½	391¼
No. 56...	6	19 6½	396¼
Salt supplied from Mercanum.			
No. 56...	6	17 3	347½
With Rupees.			
No. 83...	1	Rs. 3,105	
No. 56...	1	Rs. 3,210	

130. The next Salt station is Killay.

131. The Salt Cutcherry of this station is 2½ miles south of Porto Novo; at about quarter of a mile distant from the Cutcherry in a south-westerly direction lie the Killay works and platforms and about a few hundred yards further west the Tillavadangam platform, and the twenty-three pans attached to it. At 1½ mile to the south are the two Nuckandangudi platforms and the seventy-seven pans attached to them. None of the platforms have any hedges or other material defences around them; three of them are situated near the road from Porto Novo to Chellumbrum, and the pans touch the road. The whole place is very unsafe being surrounded by cultivation, villages and topes. It would be very desirable to carry a moat, bank and hedge round each of these works.

132. Petty thefts are continually occurring, and it must be difficult to repress them while the works are left so unprotected.

133. I do not see how it is possible to reduce these works. The pans are very straggling, but it is impossible largely to increase them in any one locality, and so concentrate the works. The quantity of Salt usually manufactured at present is barely sufficient to meet the existing demand. Perhaps one of the northern platforms, that at Tillavadangam might be given up, and it might be found possible at a little expense to enlarge one at each of the other stations of Killay and Nackandagoody, and give up the second platform at each.

134. The Salt made at Killay is very inferior. It appears to me that both the Superintendent and his Assistant are hardly equal to the work devolving on them. The Superintendent has hitherto been employed in the Cutcherry as an Accountant, and is unacquainted with the process of making Salt, or with any of the details of his office. He was, however, only appointed to it in the end of March last, and it may be that with supervision and help he may yet make a valuable Officer in the Department. He is a man of good character and long service; but appears to be wanting in energy and intelligence.

135. The Assistant Superintendent has been employed for some time in the Salt Department, but he does not show much knowledge of his duties.

136. The sales at this station have always been affected by the want of Salt. When there has been Salt they have shown an increase, and have fallen again when there has been none.

137. There are but 175 pans attached to the five platforms. The Salt is made from water drawn from wells which are not very abundant, and the large quantity of fresh water, which is thrown into the river and streams by the freshes of the Coleroon, seriously affects the manufacture. I think however that by commencing the manufacture earlier in the season the supply of Salt might be made more steady and larger.

138. There is a fine unmetalled road from Chellumbrum to the pans, and the approaches to three of the platforms have been put in good order.

139. An estimate for improving the approach to the other two southern platforms amounting to 1,100 Rupees has been sanctioned by the Collector, and will be early carried out. The road from the ferry near Porto-Novo to the Cutcherry should be put in order. At present it is hardly possible for a man to pass along the line, much less bandies

140. The quantity of Salt ordered to be made at this station is 500 Garces, or 60,000 Indian Maunds. Of this quantity 20,280 Indian Maunds had been received at the date of my visit. Only 2,400 Indian Maunds had been stored.

141. There were but two machines allowed to this station. One was employed in the sales, the other in weighing the Salt received from Mercanum. I examined the machines; the result of my examination will be seen below. It will be remarked how light the Salt is that is made at this station. One hundred and twenty Indian Maunds of Salt measured out are found to give from 490 to 505 Mercals instead of 424.

Experiments made with the Salt Weighing machines at Killay, 28th June 1864.

No. of Machine.	Quantity weighed	Quantity found by measurement.	Equivalent of one Garce.	No. of Rupees found equal to the one maund weight
No. 32	In. Mds. 6	Mer. Mea. 17 "	In. Mds. 340	
" 64	6	16 "	320	Rs. 3,300
	29th June 1864.			" 3,000
No. 32	6	25 2	505	
" 32	6	25 2	505	"
" 32	6	24 6	495	"
" 32	3	12 2	490	"
				"

142. Since the failure of the Killay Salt, the Salt sold at that station is that received from Mercanum, which being weighed gives only 320 to 340 Mercals to the Garce.

143. It is found that owing to the Salt being weighed at Killay and measured in the Tanjore District, parties from the southern part of the South Arcot District resort to the Tanjore pans. Some few days ago forty empty bandies from Cuddalore were seen in the town of Sheally on their way to Caverypettam.

144. The Superintendent at Mercanum is an East Indian lately appointed. He bears a high character for honesty, intelligence, and activity, and I hope he may be found a useful acquisition. The late Superintendent very greatly neglected his work. The Assistant Superintendents are not very efficient.

145. The Superintendents of Gundalum and Teagavally are well reported of by the Deputy Collector; but both need to be more rigorous in rejecting bad Salt, and in making the manufactures attend to their duties

146. I examined the accounts, and found them regularly kept.

147. I was very much pleased with the intelligence and activity of the Deputy Collector, who is very anxious efficiently to discharge his duty, but he has had many difficulties to contend with in the class of men employed under him. With the establishment now allowed him, I hope he may be able to secure the services of good and efficient men, and improve the staple of the Salt.

148. In conclusion, I have to acknowledge the very great assistance rendered me by the Collector, Mr. Reade, who showed much interest in this as he does in all the branches of his duty, and equal anxiety to improve the condition and prosperity of the people of the District.

149. The roads throughout this District are in admirable order, and Mr. Reade proposes to improve those to the South; the only ones which require improvement.

150. Mr. Reade accompanied me through my tour from Pondicherry, and assisted me very greatly by his experience and extensive knowledge of the District and its wants.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Caverypettam
4 July 1864.

Member, Board of Revenue.

(Appendix to the Report on the Salt works of South Arcot.)

From C. W. READE, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, dated Cuddalore, 23rd June 1864, No. 452.

1. I desire to draw your attention to the condition of the communication between Mercanum and Pondicherry.

2. You have just passed between the two places, and may possibly have experienced the inconveniences attending the want of any real road.

3. There is no trade to speak of of a general kind which could, in my opinion, justify any very great outlay for improving the mere sandy track which now connects Pondicherry with Mercanum; but it is, I think, for consideration whether a good road might not prove a measure of sound policy in the matter of Salt, and certainly it would be a very great blessing to all who frequent that part of the District over which it traverses.

4. In last year my attention was directed to the question; and I still think that a metalled road would give a very great impetus to the Salt sales at Mercanum, although I am not prepared to say that the result would be commensurate with the great cost of making it.

5. A rough estimate was prepared by the Engineer's Department though not submitted to me officially; and at the lowest and most economical calculation it reached nearly one lac of Rupees for about 20 miles of road. I also wrote to the French Government, who are willing to obtain for us a free grant of the land within the French Territory, which may be required for the proposed road; and they will also make the road, I believe, over such portion at their one charge; but this will bear a very small proportion to the total outlay, and the greater part must, therefore, be borne by us; but then the advantages of the improved communication will be mainly ours, although participated in by the French Government.

6. I received no acknowledgment of my letter to the Superintending Engineer, and in consequence I have not recently given the subject any further serious thought; and I was somewhat alarmed, I confess, on hearing of the great cost of the road owing to the local difficulties attending its construction. I therefore think it sufficient to solicit the expression of your views before I again move in the matter.

7. As you are now specially engaged in reporting on Salt, I presume that any measure or project having for its object the increased development of the Salt trade comes within the scope of your particular mission; and if you are favourable to the road I have suggested, a very short while will suffice to collate all the requisite information and details to enable you finally to recommend it for the approval of Government.

8. Copies of my correspondence with the French Government and with the Engineer's Department are enclosed for your information.

From C. W. READE, Esq., Collector and Special Agent; to His Excellency Commissary General BONTEMPS, Governor of the French Establishments in India, dated Cuddalore, 16th January 1864, No. 13.

1. It is contemplated to form a good metalled road between Pondicherry and Mercanum, commencing at the former place at a spot called Cotacoopum, which lies within English Territory immediately on the French Frontier.

2. I would desire to ascertain from your Excellency whether your Government would be prepared to aid in the work. The object of the road is of course to facilitate the communication between the two places, and to increase the traffic in Salt. It is possible the advantages to be gained will mainly result to us, yet I can but think that the interests of Pondicherry will be materially promoted, and a willingness on the part of your Excellency's Government to co-operate would lend strength to my proposal for an early completion of the work.

3. Cotacoopum would appear as good a point as any other from which to commence the road on the Pondicherry side; but any other point of junction which your Excellency, or your Excellency's advisers, might consider more desirable could be adopted.

4. Should your Excellency not be prepared to accede to my proposal so far as active aid and co-operation are concerned, I shall at all events assume that your Excellency will offer no obstacle to the road being taken through any French villages which may happen to lie on the line of route to be adopted. I am not at present aware of the extent of the French villages to be passed, but to the north of Pondicherry they are not I think very numerous, and it is more than probable that the existing old road will prove the best and most practicable line.

5. I am about to call on the Chief Engineer of my District to have this road surveyed and estimated for in view to its early completion, though I fear its construction will occupy at least two seasons.

6. I have the honor to remain with sentiments of the highest consideration and respect.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. W. READE, Collector.

From His Excellency Commissary General BONTEMPS; to C. W. READE, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, dated Pondicherry, 28th January 1864.

1. I have already had the honor to express to you the interest I take towards all works of public utility; such as those of road communication; you will always find my views to be liberal on that subject without any feeling of sordid jealously or national competition, and I will support the undertakings of the English Government with the same eagerness as I do in conducting our own enterprises. You can cause immediately to commence the survey of the road referred to in your letter of the 16th current, No. 13, regarding the portions of the French Territory which will have to be traversed. You will naturally submit to all obligations imposed upon us, with regard to our *Administries* for deprivations, loss of crop, indemnity of lands, &c.

2. When your survey will have terminated, I will request you to communicate its plan to me in order that I may know exactly its direction and the portions of the French Territory over which it will run. If any advantage should result by the communication to Pondicherry, I will endeavour to contribute towards the execution of the work, by furnishing the lands which the road may occupy in our limits, and we shall even take charge to execute and maintain those portions of the road.

3. The Budget of the current year does not allow any provision for these expenses, but we shall endeavour to provide for the same in 1865.

(True Translation.)

(Signed) C. W. READE, Collector.]

From C. W. READE, Esq., Collector of South Arcot; to Colonel H. W. HITCHINS, R.E., Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, dated 8th February 1864.

1. In forwarding to you copies of the accompanying letters that have passed between the Governor of Pondicherry and myself, I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to call on Mr. Graham, the Range officer of the locality referred to, to make at his leisure a survey and plans and estimates for a good metalled cart road between Mercanum and Pondicherry. The usefulness and value of a good line of communication is obvious enough, and I am sanguine that it may greatly facilitate and increase the Coast trade, and especially, I think, will it give an impetus to our Salt sales at the Mercanum Depot.

2. The line will, I fear, be an expensive one owing to the heavy sand to be crossed and the difficulties in the way of obtaining material; still a Survey with plans and estimates will be very valuable preliminary to a final consideration of the project, for without these it would be impossible to determine how far the work may be introduced in the next official year's Budget.

3. I should wish that Mr. Graham be requested particularly to note where the road will traverse French territory, naming the villages, and the nature and exact extent of land which it will be necessary to occupy in forming the road.

4. My own idea is that Cottacoopum near to Pondicherry would be as good a point as any other from which to commence the southern end; but I would leave this, as well as all other details, to Mr. Graham's judgment after he has had the opportunity of making himself acquainted with the character of the country between the respective places; for it might be that a line nearer the Coast might be more practicable and less expensive, although it will be important to bear in mind that as one great object of the line will be to increase as well as facilitate the traffic, the greater number of villages through which or contiguous to which the line is taken the better will this main desideratum be secured.

5. I am aware of course that you are about to go away on leave, and it is for this reason that I am anxious that your orders may be given, when all that is required to be done may, I think, be safely left in Mr. Graham's hands.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. W. READE, Collector.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) T. CLARKE, Member, Board of Revenue.

Exd. R. H. Lee.

Rec.d 15 April 65 No 245-246

Reported to England
9th July 1865 No 6
Sep: Rev:

Rev.d 15th Dec.r 1864
Ch.f Sec.t Jan.y 65
No 2316

From,

J. Clarke Esq.re
Member of the Board of
Revenue.

To,

The Secretary to Govt.
Rev.e D.

Dated 31st July 1864.
Desp.d 31st ——
Rec.d 5th Aug.t ——
Enc.s Sketch & Packet of Salt.

S.A No 1001. 12 Rays

Submitting his Report
on the inspection of the Salt
works of South Arcot Distr.t

231.

SKETCH
OF THE
MERCANUM SALT DEPOT.

To sea beach. 650 yards.

Coast Road

To Kadtas

Back Water

Kurumbalum/ Platforms

Mercanum pans.

Sheikal platforms

Cundad pans.

Road from Tindavanum/ to Mercanum

Mercanum/

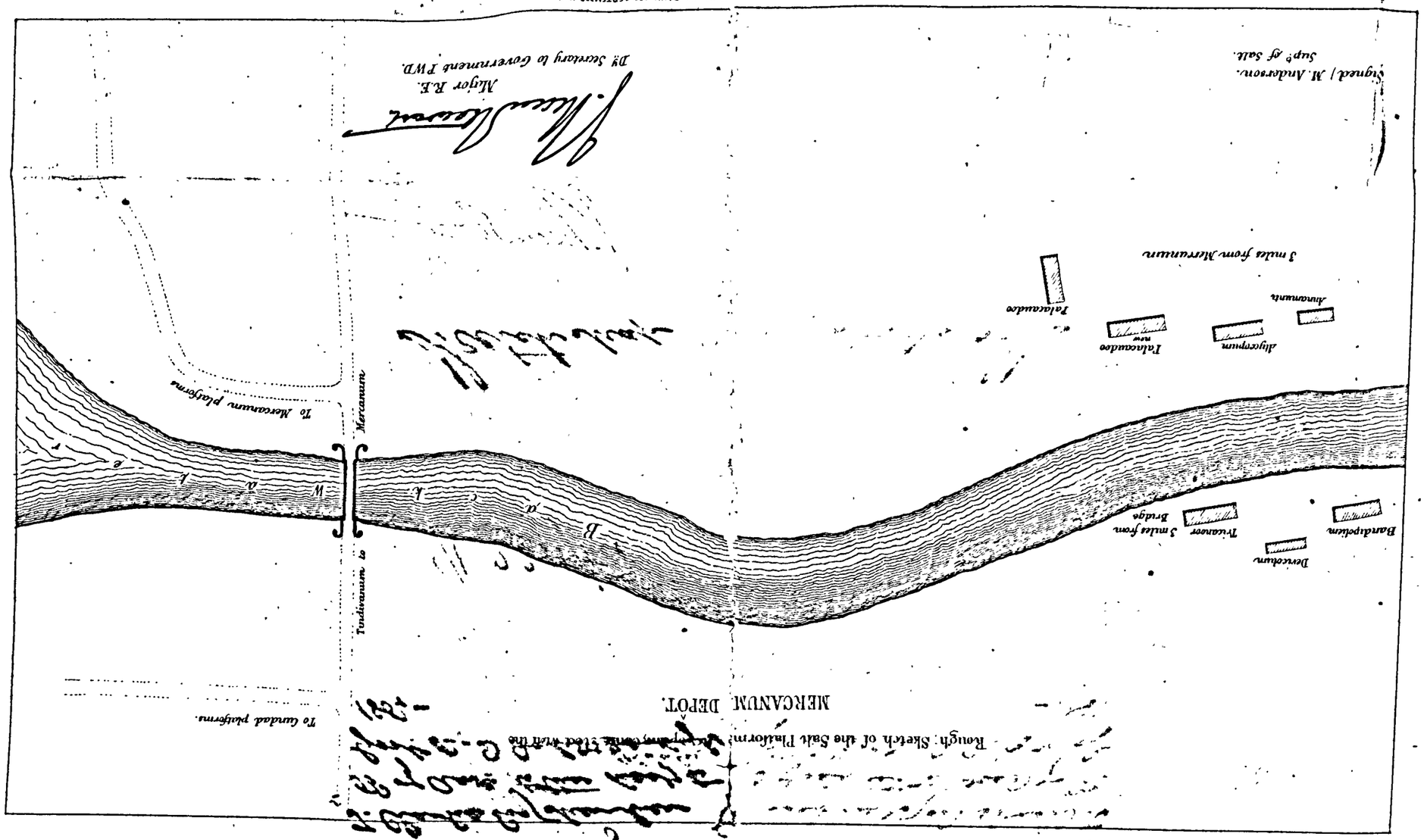
S^d/ Mahomed Esuf.
Dep^y Collector.

S^d/ M. Anderson.
Sup^t of Salt.

Major R.E.
Dep^y Secretary to Government P.W.D.

DRAWN BY G WINCHESTER & LITH^D BY J DUMPER, CEYLON PRESS, CHEPAUK, AUG^T 1866

TRANSFER BY A BARRETT, LITHOGR BY J DUPHY, CHEAPSIDE, 6TH SEPTEMBER 1864.



Signed/ M. Anderson.
Supt of Salt.

Major R.E.
Dy Secretary to Government FWD.

Enclosures in a letter from
F. Clarke Esqr Member
Board of Revenue to the Secy
to Govt R. D. dated 31st August
1864.

Rec'd 2310/64

Sketch of the Mercanum
Salt Depot.

Rev. Dept.

No. 1001-

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 12th ~~October~~ May 1865
Read the following letter
from J. Clarke Esqre - Mem-
ber of the Bd of Rev:

Submitting his report
on the inspection of the Salt
works of South Arcot District

(Here enter 4th July 1865
No)

In this letter
Mr. J. Clarke reports the
results of his inspection of
the salt works in the South
Arcot District.

2. The District possesses
a sea-board of 60 miles,
and owing in a very great
measure to the existence
of a Local Road Fund,
is intersected with well-planned
roads kept in admirable order
throughout the year. Mr. Clarke states
that earth-salt is manufac-
tured in the District. He al-
ludes to a case in which

a

Para 6.

No 23/1865

Collector of Chingleput
J. Clarke Esq
Supt of Salt Revenue
Madras. 2 Copies
1865-

a quantity of this salt was recently seized, in the houses of thirty six men, in no less than five villages, and remarks that "the Police and subordinate Magistracy are not sufficiently alive to the magnitude of the evil, or the necessity of putting a stop to this illicit traffic" and that "unless they evince determination to check the one by seizing and the other by punishing all who may transgress the law by manufacturing and selling earth salt, he sees no prospect of the Salt revenue of this District attaining its legitimate standard." These remarks will be communicated to the Magistrate of the District and to the Inspector General of Police, for such explanation as they may respectively wish to offer on the subject. Mr. Reade will also report how the case alluded to by Mr. Clarke has been disposed of.

Para 7.

3. Mr. Clarke also apprehends that smuggling takes place from the pans to some extent, but this he ascribes more to the situation of the pans and platforms them to the inefficiency of the guarding establishment. His recommendations to correct this state of things will receive consideration under each Division.

Para 9.

4. The Salt works of this District are divided into four divisions viz;—

Village	Average amount of Salt manufactured for the last 10 years.	Average amount sold
Mercanum	309,793	245282
Gundalem	24401	31,575
Teagavally	21322	22282
Killary	21,985	22045

Mercanum
Gundalem
Teagavally
and
Killary

The

The Government will notice Mr. Clarke's observations on each of these divisions separately.

5- The Mercanum Division comprises three stations. The quality of the salt manufactured at all of the places is very superior - care being taken to retain the brine in the reservoirs until it becomes very saline. The salt is much liked by inland traders, as it bears carriage well - the crystals being large, solid and white.

6. Mr. Clarke found that the heaps in this Division were neither arranged with regularity on the platforms

Mercanum

Paras 11 & 12.

1. Mercanum proper
2. Kandadu
3. Urani, Ammandavi, Nadoocoopam, Tirucanur.

Para 13.

platforms nor they sold in the order of their position. The Government are surprized to learn that such irregularities as these have not been prevented by the Deputy Collector. As Mr. Clarke truly remarks "this power of selling salt, as it suits the fancy

fancy of the Superintendent is highly irregular and may be abused to the injury of the Government and the trade." &c

Reade will see that "standing" rules on the storage ~~at~~ ~~are corrected~~ and sale of salt are observed at every station. and indeed

Sir

Paras 14 to 42.

7. In these paras Mr Clarke describes the situation ~~of~~ of the platforms and pans. The works at Mercaniem are properly extend along a line of five miles, and the platforms though well raised are so narrow, that not more than one heap can be stored across them. They are wholly without moat, ledge or protection of any kind and are close to a much frequented road. Mr Clarke states that it would be impracticable to devise any defence for so extensive a line of works, except at a very disproportionate expense. The Kondadu pans and beds on the other side of the backwater close to the Lindiva road are similarly unprotected.

The

The Uraui salt works are about four miles South West of Mercaumm and one of the three platforms on which the salt is stored is a mile distant from the other two- The Anumaun-day works are a mile South west of Uraui- the Randipolliem pans are 2 miles North of Anumaun-day and on the other side of the river- The Sevaretta pans which belong to the vil-lage of Nadoocoopum are a mile East of Randi-polium and the Sirucaum works lie a mile further on towards the East-

8. The salt beds at-tached to the several plat-forms are at some distance from them, and

pond it is impossible for the Police patrolling the Platforms on dark nights to see persons carrying away the salt which have been placed on the ridges to dry-

9. The position of the pans and plat-forms as above describ-ed, renders efficient management, and guarding impossible Mr. Clarke therefore proposes-

First. That the Cor-ambalam pans at Mercaumm which were newly formed in 1823, as well as those of the four outlying villages should be closed.

Second

Second. That instead
of the long line of over-
row platforms now
existing at Mercaumme,
four good broad plat-
forms, each capable of
holding one lac of Indian
Maunds, should be formed
for storing salt made
on the Sheetul Allum
or old beds; that these
platforms should be
placed at regular dis-
tances along the line
of pans, and that they
should be protected
by a good broad mound,
bank, and hedge, and
be accessible only by
gates on the North
and South.

Third. That the kon-
dahs pans should be
defended by a good mound
cut from the creek
and
all round the
works, which should
be entered at a gate
just opposite the
centre platforms. Two
of the platforms at
this place to be re-
tained and enlarged
so as to hold one
lac of maunds each.
The Government ap-
prove of these suggestions.
The reduction in the
number of places
of manufacture which
will be the result
of carrying out
the first sugges-
tion will not render
it difficult to meet
the demand for salt
at Mercaumme. — Ho

~~on the Indian Islands.~~

The average annual sales, taking the figures for the last ten years, have been 246,281 Indian Mounds.

The sales of Tea by 1873 amounted to 270,996 Mds from exceptional causes. Assuming that as much as three lacs of Indian Mounds may be sold yearly hereafter in this division, the ~~Government to which that~~ reduced number of plans will admit of a

a quantity sufficient to meet two years' consumption being manufactured. Mr Clarke states that the Sheikal Alum beds could, with ease, produce three lacs of Mounds, and that the beds at Kondadu could also, if enlarged and well worked, produce from two lacs and a half to three lacs of Mounds. Mr Reade will place himself in communication with the officers of the P.W. Department for the preparation of the requisite plans and estimates, to give effect to the 2d and 3d suggestions. —

Mc

10 Mr Readewill also communicate with the Superintending Engineer of the Division with respect to ~~about~~ connecting the Chunambar roads with the Kondadi and Mencanum works by a good trafficable road, as suggested in paras 43 and 44 of Mr Clarke's Report.

11 The proposals made in ~~the~~ paras 45–48 ~~Para 45 to 48.~~ No. 81 to build a new salt Cutcherry on one of the new platforms of Mencanum on Kondadi and to transfer the present Cutcherry to the Mencanum Sub Magistrate, are approved. The ~~Sub Engr~~ will be ~~to~~ ~~charge~~

instructed, in R W.D 32 ~~to~~ to have the ~~ne~~ ~~steps~~ cessary plan ~~&c~~ prepared. ~~as stated~~ As stated by Mr Clarke a separate ~~another~~ Cutcherry at Chinnam- bakam is unnecessary the collections made at that place should be remitted ~~ed~~ every evening to Mencanum.

12 The reduction ~~proposed~~ in ~~the~~ salt ~~proposed~~ in ~~the~~ ~~Establishment~~ ~~&c~~ ~~&c~~ canim and Chunam- bakam should be made as soon as the changes now authorized are carried out, except in the case of the Sheriff and the Assistant Superintendent at Chunambakam, whose services Mr Clarke states can be dispensed with

Paras 49 and 51.

with at once. Mr Reade will provide for them elsewhere, in the first opportunity. The Inspector Genl of Police will be consulted before the Police Guards are reduced. —
Paras 55 to 57.

13. Those paras, which relate to the supply of salt to the French Government, under the convention of the 1st March 1815 with that power, 1815 & 1818. — and to the supposed prevalence of smuggling across the frontier. The Collr. will be requested to report fully, on these subjects Especially on the latter which the Govt. are aware has engaged his attention.

Mr. The attention of the Board of Revenue will be called, to Mr Clarke's remarks in paras 60 to 63, about the inefficiency of the number of salt weighing machines supplied for the Mercanteen Division — and they will be requested to provide the number proposed

Mercantem — 6
Kondadur — 4
Total 10

proposed in para 63, inclusive of those already available. The unserviceable Machines alluded to in para 76 should be repaired. —

15. The Collector will take steps to provide shelter for these Machines as suggested in para 64 —

16. Mr Reade's attention will be called to Mr Clarke's remarks in para 65 about the possibility of reducing the number of inferior servants at Mercanum hereafter, and the necessity of care being taken to see that the patronage of such offices is not abused —

The

Paras 66 to 73.

17. The want of a road between Pondicherry and Mexcanum is forcibly pointed out in these paras. The quantity of salt sold at Mexcanum to handy men who have brought their carts from Pondicherry, amounts to Indian Maunds 78,650 a year, representing a net revenue of Rupees 1,08,146, and the Govt do not doubt that a good Road between these two places would much increase the trade. The cost of the road which will be 20 miles long, is roughly calculated at Rupees 90,000 to 1,00,000, and the large expenditure is required on account of the necessity of carrying the metal for a great distance. But the probable increase in the sales of salt fully

Para 77.

The small percentage of wastage viz 1⅓ per cent is very satisfactory

fully justifies the expenditure, and orders will be issued from the Public Works Department for the preparation of the necessary estimates for inclusion in the Budget for 1866/67.

18 As the results of the experiments made with the salt weighing machines will form the subject of a separate Report from Mr Clarke, they will be not necessary specially noticed here.

19 Under the circumstances stated by Mr Clarke, in this paragraph, the Government must withdraw the

the services given in their order dated 15th April 1864 No 637 as a temporary measure for the exercise of Magisterial powers by the Salt Deputy Collector Mr Reade Bell, instructed Mahomed Cuffy Sahib to give him daily returns and also mentions to the Salt Department.

Para 65.

20. This division is thirty seven miles South of Alexanum and about four miles from the Collectors office at Cuddalore. It is divided into the three stations named in the margin. The Goondalum works are formed on a sand bank in the Cuddalore back water of which is very small and admits of but little salt being made. The largest quantity ever made in one year was 306 garces. The station platforms & store places are liable to be flooded, and they are wholly unapproachable in the wet weather, as the road is then wholly under water. The Pachyancoopum lands are about 100 yards from Goodalum. The Cuddalore Canal having been carried through their respective

Goondalum
Paras 78 to 81

Goondalum.
Pachyancoopum.
Cuddalore.

Para 82

manors only 10 years produce

about

an

about 2000 Indian Canoes of Sack. The Sack taken from these Canoes is stored on a Platform at some distance from the most easily accessible in the next Creek Chier-Abouxi 1/2 mile from Pachyanee or from the Creek has to be crossed in order to reach Chemmarties.

This Creek, though fordable in the dry season, can only be crossed by a boat in the wet season.

The extent of ground under Cultivation at this station is small in comparison with the Ground at Pachyanee, and Cadiecadoon

21. To remedy the evils above described Mr Clarke suggests

First. That the Platforms at Groundalum and Cadiecadoon should be demolished and the Sack recovered from thence to Pachyanee or from the Creek where the Canoes should be moored to the Town

Second. That the Sack made at Groundalum, Pachyanee, and Cadiecadoon should be carried by boat to old Town and stored there.

These proposals are approved of. The Collector will take the necessary measures to have them carried into effect.

22 Mr Gouldeam from Mr Clarke's Remarks that

that in this division alone the heaps are sold cheaper and that [illegible] Coal salt is received at Coadesandoa. The Contractor frequently points out the necessity of rejecting all such salt and they expect that the Deputy Collr of the said Dept will carefully watch his conduct and promptly notice any deviation of duty in this respect. The sale of the heaps in the order in which they are placed should be immediately commenced -

Teagauncy

23 At this place there are two platforms and two sets of scales about a quarter of a mile apart from each other. One of these platforms can only be reached by boat and is not protected by any kind of force. Mr Clarke states that these works are so much out of the way and are so inaccessible that he should have

I have supported the recommendation repeatedly made to close these trade marts but for the consideration that the area of land available for making salt at Goondaw lum is so limited as to make it impossible for salt station to meet the demands by the manufacture of that station alone. The supply is frequently fails that traders and the inhabitants are obliged at much inconvenience and loss of time to go to Teagauncy for salt. The making of bridges and roads to the platform will be very expensive. Mr Clarke therefore proposes. —

First. That Teagauncy be closed as a place of sale but retained as a place

place of manufacture; the Salt being conveyed to Cuddalore (old Town) by water. — Second - That the quantity of Salt now made at Teagannelly be largely increased by ~~opening~~ forming fresh pans. — Third - That the establishment be reduced by allowing each of the manufacturing places of Goondalum, Coodicaudu and Teagannelly one Superintendent with a few Pittyans. Fourth - That the pans at ~~the~~ these places be surrounded with a good ~~mound~~, ditch and ~~prickly pear~~ hedge, so that by this defence, and by ~~inserting~~ a rule that all the Salt should be removed to the drying ground before sunset the guarding establishment may be reduced. — 38

These suggestions are approved and they should be carried out as soon as possible; but the Govt cannot permit ~~to grant~~ the use of prickly pear for the hedges - The Collector is authorized to rent buildings in the old Town of Cuddalore at a cost not exceeding Rs 10 per mensem for storing the salt which may be sent from the several pans, as also for the Salt Cutcherry. The hired building at Goondalum should be given up, but the Teagannelly Cutcherry ~~should be~~ continued for the present. ~~The new depôt is formed~~ If after sufficient trial the arrangements now sanctioned

sanctioned are found to be
the best that can be
adopted permanent ~~for~~
buildings will be provided

24. The Dy Collector should
take steps without delay to
improve the quality of the
salt manufactured in the
Teagaumally Division which
is stated to be inferior, and here
also the Govt observe that bad
salt has been received contrary
to orders. The attention of the
Collector will be drawn to
para 100 of the report wherein
Mr Clarke notices the in-
efficiency and carelessness
of the Superintendents and
his assistants, with the
view that they may be transferred
to other employments and their
places supplied by better men.
As remarked in para 122 the
success of the new depôt will
depend upon the efficiency and
character of the men employed with
but after Depts usually consist
of low servants, and the wages
proposed to should be other
wise furnished.

The changes in the
several establishments in
all the divisions above
alluded to and the conse-
quent financial results
are clearly shewn in the
Statement annexed to para
123. The Superintendent
of the Cheenambut division
is proposed to be reduced
from Rs 60 to 50. Instead of
maintaining it so low, the
Government would fix
it at 50 Rupees. With
this exception the State-
ment of the revised
establishments shew-
ing an annual saving
of Rupees 7,375 is sanc-
tioned. The following
is an abstract of the
annual

annual cost of the present and proposed establishments.

	Present Rs.	Proposed Rs.
Mercaunum	10,158	4,722
Chinnambal	4,740	2,250
Gundalur and Tagavelly	6,150	4,701
Total	21,048	13,676
Saving		7,375

26 This station is Killay - 2½ miles south of Porto Novo. The Salt Cutcherry is about a quarter of a mile distant from the works and platforms. Three of the platforms of this division are detached from the rest one lies a few hundred yards west of the works of Killay proper, and the other two at the distance of 1½ mile. & Some of

of these have any hedges or other material defences around them, and three of them are situated near the road from Porto Novo to Chinnambrum. Mr. Clarke states that it is very desirable to carry a mud bank and hedge round each of these, works as the whole place is very unsafe being surrounded by cultivation, villages and topes; and this proposal is approved. Mr. Reade will procure the necessary estimates.

27 The pans are very straggling but Mr. Clarke says that it is impossible, largely to increase them in any one

one locality and so con-
=centrate the works. He
remarks that one of the
platforms might be
seven up and others
enlarged, but speaks
rather
doubtfully on the point.
Mr. Wade will be requested
to report on para 133 of
the report through the
Board of Revenue.

28. The attention of
Mr. Wade will be
called to para 134 & 135
bringing to notice the
inferior quality of the
salt made at Tillay,
and the inefficiency
of the servants employed
at that place.

29 The remarks on
para 137, that by commencing
the

Para 139.

manufacture earlier
in the season the supply
of salt might be made
more steady and larger
should receive the Depty
Collector's especial at-
-tention.

30. The Collector will
take steps to have the
road from the ferry
near Port Novo to the
Cutcherry put in order.

31 The attention of
the Board of Revenue
will be requested to para
141 pointing out the ineffici-
-ency of the number of
weighing machines al-
-lowed to the Tillay Di-
-vision.

32 The Board of
Revenue will be requested
to

to explain and the Reforms
to parallels why mighty
have not yet been introduced into the Tanjore
District.

33. The Government are glad to invite from Mr. Blake a favourable testimony of the intelligence and activity of the Deputy Collector alluded to.

1 Fo. Fort St. George Dec. 15th 1807.
11 " The Board of Rev. &c.
3 " The Inspector General of Stamp Duties &c.
1 " The Collector of Land Revenue &c.
21 " The Public Works Dept.
5 " The Colonial Dept.

Referred to England
9th Aug. 1865 M26 Sep: Rec.

Recd 11 Dec. 1865 D Sept.
Pro: of Genl. for May

1601.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
of 12th May 65.

Pro. of the Board of Rev. dated
9 Dec. 66 & 1699:
Ino of the Madras Govt in the
Mily. Dept. of 26 May 05
& 1133.
Pro of the B. of Revenue dated
5th June 1865 & 1511.
From the Accountant General
20 November 65 & 3332

Reviewing Mr Clarke's
Report on the results of his
inspection of the Salt works
in South Arcot.

231-232