

No 448
DWC No. 6340
Office note

To W.

With reference to notification
in Fort St George Gazette 24/7
July/83, regarding Lieut Smith's
transfer to the Architect
Division, the order of Govt
is solicited sanctioning
the grant of the usual
Presidency allowance to
him as required in para
55-b of the P.W. Code.

26.7.83
Recd 27-7-83
AM

Cm
Offs Comd Architect & Co

Re 2089 Wd 31st July 83

B

Sanctioned.

Cm

CJ
27/7

Copy sent to Govt of Genl 1/8
Genl Secy
Encl. in receipt of

203/0

114-11.6.11
salt and of the methods of S.W.C. 6422
manufacture necessary to secure
them.

9 Mr. Bliss will report on
the above suggestions.

(See Extract)

Recd 30/7/83

Wm
Ag Secretary to Govt.

To
The Public Works Dept.

No 2090 Wd 31st July 1883

Communicated,
with Extract paras
1-2 & 3 of the Pro-
ceedings Revenue
Dept., to the Supty.
Ingenieur b' Circle
who will afford the
requisite advice
and assistance.

Alt

28/7

Recd 27/7

S. E. b' Circle with
Extract paras 1-2 & 3.

Encl in Recd of 27/7

Encl 1-2 & 36-7

103/10

23/7 Recd 27/7 Encl in Recd of 27/7

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th May 1882, No 1265, Submitting, with a minute by the Second Member, for the order of Government letter from the Commissioner of Salt Revenue, agreeing with Mr. Happell as to the advisability of abolishing the Vedarnium Salt Factory.

Read also Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20 June 1883, No 1791, submitting to Government with remarks letter from Collector of Tanjore reporting on the subject of the abandonment of the Vedarnium Salt Factory and the extension of that at Negapatam.

Order thereon, 21st July 1883, No 894

The last Proceedings of the Board.

Board of Revenue read above
close a long correspondence in which
the relative advantages of Negapatam
and Vedarangam as sources of
salt supply and the expediency of
abandoning the latter have been
exhaustively discussed. On review
of the whole subject the Government
accept the conclusions at which
the Board have arrived, and are
of opinion that the great and admitted
natural advantages of Vedarangam
should not be left unutilized,
unless and until experience shall
have shown that it cannot com-
pete with the inferior, but more
favourably situated factory at
Negapatam.

2 His Excellency the Governor in
Council accordingly directs that
immediate measures be taken for
reopening manufacture at Vedarangam
under the Quize system during next
season. The success of the experiment
having regard to the facilities which
the site affords for making pure
and wholesome salt at a cheap
rate

rate, is, in the opinion of Government
very desirable; and they accordingly
look to the Commissioner of Salt Re-
-venue to do all in his power to secure
this result. No time should be
lost in ascertaining what works
are necessary at the factory to faci-
litate manufacture and storage,
and in carrying such works to com-
pletion. The works should be so
planned that shipment of the salt
into boats on the Canal shall be
easy, and that the platform
area shall admit of extension, if
as the Government hope, the factory
attains a large development.

3 The restoration of the canal
to complete efficiency is an essential
condition of the success of the factory,
and the Commissioner of Salt Revenue
is directed to take immediate steps to
this end. Orders will be issued
in the Public Works Department
in view to necessary assistance
in the matter being rendered by the
Superintending Engineer.

4 The question of the incidence
of

of the cost of repair and upkeep of the canal, and the justice of imposing the whole charge on the Salt Revenue, should, in the opinion of His Excellency in Council, be reconsidered. The canal is even now of use, as a means of general communication and for the transport of grain to Negapatam and Tondiar, and if efficient it would become still more so. It is also, it is believed, of importance to the drainage of large tracts of land to the east of it. The Board of Revenue are requested to furnish a report on this subject in communication with the Commissioner of Salt Revenue and the Collector and President of Local Fund Boards, Tanjore.

5 It follows from the decision above arrived at regarding Kedaranyam that no extension of the pans at Negapatam should take place. Whether that factory should also be placed on the excise system remains an open question. If the Commissioner of Salt Revenue thinks that

that under that system, he will be able to prevent the salt trade from falling, for the time even into a condition of serious impurity and to maintain an adequate stock, the Government will be prepared to sanction the measure.

6 The Government note with regret the statement of the Deputy Commissioner apparently accepted by Mr. Bliss, that very little has been done since the constitution of the Department towards improving the quality of the salt. This was one of the most important of the questions referred to the late Salt Commission and their report shows that there was considerable room for improvement. It is now high time that systematic measures were adopted towards this end, and the Commissioner will submit as soon as possible a full report showing what has been done and what further measures are

Considered

considered

practicable

7 The chief requisites to secure a pure salt is the exclusion of the salt of magnesium and this can be readily obtained by causing the bitters to be run off in time. Improvements in crystallization and other physical qualities, can, if the essential element of chemical purity is once attained, be introduced afterwards. In monopoly factories the power of rejecting salt should enable the Commissioner and his subordinates to insist on the arrangement of pans being so modified as to provide for the bitters being run off; and like provision should be made a condition of the licensing of all new pans under the Excise system.

8 The Government think that it would be well to attach two or more analysts to the Department. They need not be commissioned medical officers, whose services

services would be very expensive, but subordinates possessing the requisite special knowledge might probably be easily obtained or trained in a short time. Very elaborate analyses would be unnecessary and a rough determination of the presence and quality of the magnesium salt would suffice for practical purposes. One of these analysts might visit, or be attached to large & cise factories such as Litcham, and on the results of his analyses of specimens taken by salt officers, certificates of good manufacture might be given to such works as deserved them. The possession of these certificates would certainly enable the holders to effect sales more readily than others; and the works would soon learn to strive for them. Another measure which might be useful is the circulation amongst the works of brief vernacular descriptions of the qualities of good