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Revenue Department

E.M.C. dated 6th February 1857

Back n^o 56-57

order n^o 134 dated 4th Feb 1857

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8. The Merchant has done all he could have been expected to do; as for ourselves, (as promised to Government) we have exposed salt ever since July last at Amoor at the monopoly price plus charges, and in order to test the market we have in many instances foregone even the discount of 5 per cent. (allowed us for buying by wholesale) and more we have willingly given a

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Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 6th February 1857.

considerable portion of our time in running up and down the line and visiting some of the principal towns and villages adjacent; with the view to making enquiries on the subject, besides the trouble and expense we have been put to in establishing the Depot at Amoor and building a small Bungalow there for ourselves and Agent at that station: * No. 655 of 26th June 1856. we have done all this fully expecting from the spirit of the order of Government as per margin* that Government and the Railway authorities would have come to the Merchant's assistance ere this, in giving them such facilities or would have removed such obstacles as to have enabled them to do the best possible business for all parties; and we hope you will again use your advocacy in the protection of such great interests in fact the interest is only one, the more the Merchant carries by the Railway the better for the Railway, the Government, and himself.

9. If Government wish to benefit more largely than at present by the salt trade they must enable the Merchant to sell the salt cheaper than heretofore.

10. If the Railway Company wish to secure this large increasing traffic to themselves, they must enable the Merchant to carry the salt cheaper than by cartmen.

11. As one means towards effecting such desirable objects, we trust you will urge on His Lordship in Council the necessity of something being done at once and since the siding to the cotours originally proposed (and which has been so long delayed) appears to be a very expensive undertaking, we would suggest the desirability of having a platform erected adjoining the Railway near the Canal Bridge of about 150 yards square on which could be stacked in 10 garces heaps a sufficient quantity to meet the requirements for inland consumption, or it could be more extended should Government consider it advisable to store salt on the platform for exportation.

12. This simple raising of earthwork could be done in a very short time and with a very trivial expense an outlay which might be granted by Government without hesitation since there is no doubt that the consequent increased sales would in a few weeks more than repay it: (the subject of the creation of the siding could then be kept in abeyance until the working of the platform had been tested) and rather than be put to further delay, expense and inconvenience in the matter, and with the permission of Government and the Railway authorities, we would prefer to enter on the construction of a platform on a small scale ourselves, provided that Government would direct that salt should be stored thereon from time to time for inland consumption through our agency.

13. In conclusion, we would beg you to favor us by conveying to His Lordship in Council our most sincere thanks and acknowledgments for the liberal aid accorded to the Merchant in the last para. of the order above referred to, and although the mode in which payments are eventually to be made has not yet been finally determined on: the Board of Revenue in compliance with the wishes of Government have placed themselves in communication with us on the subject; and on our making a deposit with the Collector of Madras, we have received from that gentleman every facility as regards payment for the salt already taken by us.

No. 57. ORDER THEREON, No. 134; dated 4th February 1857.

Ordered to be referred to the Board of Revenue for early consideration and report, with reference to the orders noted in the margin.† The Governor in Council is desirous to afford all reasonable facility to Merchants wishing to transport salt by the Railway; and he trusts that the Board will be able at no distant date to submit their final opinion as to the best mode of doing this. It is observed that it is now more than two years since this subject was first referred for the Board's report.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Madras 19th January 1857
To J. D. Boudillon Esq.

Secretary to Government in the
Revenue Department

Sir,
1 More than 6 months have elapsed since Government passed their order No. 555 of 26th June 1856 regarding the Establishment of Depot along the line of Railway for the sale of Salt in the Interior, and we hope we shall not be considered importunate in again troubling you to represent to His Lordship in Council the difficulties which still beset the Merchant engaged in this business.

2 From the commencement of the undertaking it was our expressed opinion that in order to effect the most considerable increase to the Salt Trade it was necessary that a reduction should be made in its price to the Consumers by avoiding unnecessary charges; and we pointed out what we then considered as the best and readiest way of effecting such reduction: viz the creation of a Branch Railway from the Salt Cotours to the Railway.

3 The necessity of making such siding, had previously engaged the attention of Government, but now that more than 2 years have passed without anything practical having been done, towards opening up this facility for the Salt Trade Westward, it will not be considered out of place, if those interested in the Business, were to seek for some more easy and inexpensive mode of bringing the Salt on to the Railway, and thereby causing a corresponding reduction in the price of Salt Inland.

4 In the course of enquiries which we have made we have heard of a proposal to erect a Platform adjoining the Railway where it crosses Cochrane's Canal this we consider to be both feasible and inexpensive and

L. Min. Cons.
15th Jan 1857
James Bannan

the Railway Authorities we would prefer to enter in the construction of a Platform on a small scale ourselves provided that Government would direct that Salt should be stored thereon from time to time for inland consumption through our Agency.

In conclusion we would beg you to favor us by conveying to His Lordship in Council our most sincere thanks and acknowledgments for the liberal aid accorded to the Merchant in the last para of the order above referred to and although the mode in which payments are eventually to be made has not yet been finally determined on: the Board of Revenue in compliance with the wishes of Government have placed themselves in communication with us on the subject, and on our having received from that gentleman every facility as regards payment for the Salt already taken by us.

We have the honor to be Sir

Your most obedient Servants
Lammie, Martin & Co

Ordered to be referred to the Board of Revenue for their early consideration and the Governor in Council is desirous of approving all facilities to Merchants wishing to transport Salt by the Railway; and he trusts that the Board will be able at no distant date to give their final opinion as to the best mode of doing this. It is observed that it is now more than 2 years since this subject was first referred for the Board's report.

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11th 1854

Ordered to be referred to the Board of Revenue for early consideration and report, with reference to the order noted in the margin. The Governor in Council is desirous to offer all reasonable facility to Merchants wishing to transport Salt by the Railway and he trusts that the Board will be able at no distant date to submit their final opinion as to the best mode of doing this. It is observed that it is now more than 2 years since this subject was first referred for the Board's report.

18th Dec 1854
26th Dec 1854

W. G. M.

First July 1854
2nd Feb 1855
Martin & Co prepared for delivery

Report to the Board
25th Dec 1854

Revenue 1857 Department
26th Dec 6th February

No 85

From Messrs Lammie

Martin & Co.

Date 19th January 1857
Recd 21st

Representing the difficulty which has been experienced by the Merchant in paying for the Salt stored and remaining on the ground the necessity of establishing Depots along the line of Railway for the sale of Salt for the interior. With an order 22nd 1854. 4th February.

Copy in vol 6. 2
27th Dec 1857. 1854.

29-6-54.

1856-57.

26th Dec 1857