Revenue Department

Minutes of Consultations

17th March 1857

Back No. 43-44

Order no. 263-A dated 16th March 1857

பாதுகாப்புப்பிரிவு-1

பெரிடுபவர் பெயர் .. ரா. சிவராமகிருஷ்ணன்

பெறுவதற்காக
குத்தகொள்ளப்பட்ட நாள் .. 06/2006

பெண்டு முடித்த நாள் .. 07/2006

பரிசோதிக்கும்
ம் மு.நி.பா.எ.
கையொப்பம்

சரிபார்க்கும்
இரண்டாம் மு.நி.பா.எ.
கையொப்பம்

ஆராய்ச்சி உதவியாளர்
கையொப்பம்

No. 43. Read the following *Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue ; dated 13th March* 1857, *No.* 776.

Read letter from the Acting Collector of Malabar
* *In Consultation 13th March* 1857. dated 31st January 1857.*

(Here enter No. 12 of 1857.)

Resolved that the above letter be submitted for the consideration and orders of Government.

1. In this communication, the Acting Collector urgently solicits permission to extend the period for importing Bombay Salt from the 30th June next, the date fixed by Government in Extract Minutes of Consultation† 15th February and 19th September 1856, to the 31st January 1858.

† *Nos.* 170 *and* 1008 *R. D.*

2. Mr. Robinson points out that the Home manufacture ceased in 1824 or 33 years ago and "the very generation which formerly made salt has disappeared." The pans moreover have become covered with heavy jungle, to clear and prepare them involves delay and expense, and in the first season like all new pans they will be comparatively unproductive. Further, Malabar salt was formerly of very inferior quality and it was on this account that the manufacture was discontinued. The Acting Collector is taking steps to introduce the Bombay mode of manufacture, has obtained instructors from thence and hopes now to produce a really good article. He has also been obliged to exercise some caution in sanctioning the re-opening of pans in order to guard against facilities for smuggling while the expence of re-constructing them as well as the uncertainty of a profitable return for their capital have deterred many from engaging in the manufacture this year.

3. The difficulties with which the Acting Collector has to contend are undoubtedly great for he has at once to revive a manufacture discontinued for 30 years, to raise it to a degree of excellence which it never before attained, and to provide for the consumption of a large and populous district.

4. The undertaking must be regarded as an experiment which may fail in spite of every exertion on the part of the authorities: it would consequently be unsafe and unwise to rely wholly on its successful issue in the very first year of its being attempted.

5. In the event of failure the only prospect of relief is in importations from Bombay, &c.

6. On these however the Acting Collector is not disposed to rely. The requirements of the district up to 30th June next are estimated at 3,000 garces, and the supply (as stated in the Acting Collector's letter dated 29th January 1857 submitted with the Board's Proceedings of this date) is short of that quantity by 1,000 garce, while to meet the demand for consumption through the monsoon a further supply of 1,000 or 1,200 garces will be required.

7. The prices offerd for salt, as Government are aware from the Proceedings above referred to, have been recently raised, and it remains to be seen what effect this measure will have, and whether from the great influence of this rise, and of the gain to the importor by the new mode of receiving by weight, salt will be largely imported into Malabar notwithstanding the high freights ruling on the coast in consequence of the Persian war.

8. The imports by private traders have been limited notwithstanding the increase in the sale price of Government salt. It may indeed be said that so long as Government imports Bombay salt at all, the mercantile community will not engage freely in the trade ; but it would be highly inexpedient to allow the supply of such a necessary of life to run short on the expectation that the withdrawal of Government from the trade would lead to immediate and adequate importations on private account. The Government have already done what they could in the interim to excite such a trade by selling Bombay salt at the duty and the cost of importation, &c., so that salt imported by private individuals competes on nearly equal terms with that introduced by Government. When therefore private importations under such circumstances are so trifling, it is highly necessary not to give up importing on Government account until the consumption of the district is at least in a great measure supplied by the Home manufacture.

9. There is another very important consideration which must not be over looked by the fact, that unless the quantity required is in store before the South West monsoon sets in further im-

portations cannot be made until its close. The Acting Collector states that shipping do not go to sea freely before the middle of October, and if the Government ensure a sufficent supply until the trading season is fairly set in, private importations may be expected as soon as "prices rise to such rates as are considered remunerative."

10. For these reasons, Mr. Robinson recommends that he may be permitted to receive 1,500 Garces of Bombay salt beyond the requirements of the District up to the 30th June next, to keep the Government godowns open until the 31st January 1858, when the new supply of indigenous salt may be expected.

11. The propriety of Government abandoning the system of supplying the local demand of Malabar exclusively by direct importation from Bombay has formed the subject of lengthened correspondence, and after a full consideration of the subject, Government have determined on reviving the Home manufacture and leaving the supply of Bombay salt entirely to private enterprise. The 30th June next has been fixed as the date on which such importations by Government are to cease both in Canara and Malabar, and a further extension of the period, particularly in only one district, is open to objection as throwing doubt on the sincerity of the professions of Government, and as obstructive of private enterprise if the connection of Government with that trade is really the cause of private merchants withdrawing from it.

12. On the other hand, however, the contingency of the district being left, as there is now great reason to apprehend, without a sufficiency of a prime necessary of life has to be guarded against, and as the expectations of Government in regard to private importations have not been fulfilled, and a supply of indigenous salt is not available the only course left for adoption is that proposed by the Acting Collector.

13. Concurring fully in the necessity of the measures suggested by Mr. Robinson, the Board recommend that he may be authorized to continue importing Foreign salt from Bombay or Goa until the probable wants of the District up to the period he has named are provided for, and the time fixed for the cessation of Government imports from Bombay may be extended to the 31st January 1858, a Notification of the alteration of date being published in the Gazette.

14. Mr. Robinson will of course be guided in his imports by the outturn of the Home manufacture and the extent of private importations.

(A true Extract

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Acting Secretary.

— —

No. 44. ORDER THEREON, *No.* 263 A; *dated* 16*th March* 1857.

1. With these Proceedings, the Board of Revenue submit a letter from the Acting Collector of Malabar, detailing the circumstances under which he is apprehensive that the supply of salt in his District may be deficient if the Government godowns be closed, as was directed, on the 30th of June next, and requesting permission to keep them open until the 31st of January 1858. Mr. Robinson further requests to be allowed to receive 1,500 garce of salt in addition to the quantity required up to the 30th of June, in order to meet the requirements of the Province through the South West Monsoon.

2. This letter is dated the 31st of January and reached the Board's office on the 7th of February, and although the Acting Collector particularly requested that orders on his application might be communicated to him at an early date, as in March, owing to the southerly winds that then prevail, trade with Bombay becomes less brisk, and higher prices are demanded, the matter was not taken into the Board's consideration until the 13th Instant, and it was not until the 16th that their Proceedings reached the Government.

3. Serious embarrassment may attend this delay, which, in the absence of any explanation by the Board, the Government must consider might certainly have been avoided.

4. After very mature consideration of the whole question of the supply of salt to the Western coast of this Presidency, the Government came to the conclusion that their Godown should be finally closed on a fixed day, and that the trade with Bombay should be left entirely to private enterprise.

5. The Government still adhere to the principle on which their decision was based, and do not consider that it is departed from, if, under the peculiar circumstances brought to notice by the Acting Collector, they now accede to his request, recommended as it is by the Board of Revenue, and sanction the continuance of sales at the Government godowns until the 31st of January in next year. It is obvious, in the opinion of Government that more than one year must be required to reclaim the land, formerly occupied by the Salt pans, from the jungle which has grown up in the last thirty years, and that the expedition to the Persian Gulph must have so deranged the ordinary course of trade on the Western Coast, as to have led to the employment in the transport of troops and stores, of many vessels which would otherwise have engaged in the salt trade.

6. The Government therefore sanction the adoption of the measures recommended by the Acting Collector and the Board, and in order that no further time may be unnecessarily lost, they resolve to communicate this approval of his suggestions to Mr. Robinson by the Electric Telegraph.

Ordered, that the following message be transmitted by Electric Telegraph, to the Acting Collector of Malabar.

Telegraph Message.

From the Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras; to the Collector of Malabar, dated 16*th March* 1857.

With reference to your letter to Board of Revenue thirty-first January fifty-seven, the closing of Government Godown for Bombay Salt is extended to thirty-first January fifty-eight, and you are permitted to receive fifteen hundred garce more salt than is wanted up to thirtieth June.

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

Rec'd Dept. Jus. 27/1/1

Re letter from
the Collector Dun-
-bar dated 31st
January, con-
-cerning the
Office on the 15th of
March.

I will be there
to attend to
Your orders on
after the Fourth inst

Ref

in in March, Lester
E. Price went to
Mexico Juliet.
I owed ask for
Treasury orders &
fuel ~~in the cars~~, &
owed suggest that
if the Collector & Re
Bk, recommended.
Lien be confirmed
with

a telegraph in method
be immediately sent
to M. Robertson.

E. E.

Revenue Department

No. 776

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 13th March 1857.

Read Letter from the Acting Collector of Malabar dated 31st January 1857

In Ans. 13th March 1857

(Here enter No 12 / 1857.)

Resolved that the above letter be submitted for the consideration and orders of Government.

In this communication the Acting Collector urgently solicits permission to extend the period for importing Bombay salt from the 30th June next - the date fixed by Government in Extract Minutes of Consultation * 15th February and 19th September 1856 - to 30th [illegible]

* Nos 970 & 1008 R.D.

2. Mr Robinson points out that the home manufacture ceased in 1826 or 33 years ago and "the very generation which formerly made salt has disappeared." The pans moreover have become covered with heavy jungle - to clear and prepare them involves delay and expense, and in the first season like all new pans they will be comparatively unproductive. Further - Malabar salt was formerly of very inferior quality and it was on this account that the manufacture was discontinued. The Acting Collector is taking steps to introduce the Bombay mode of manufacture, has obtained instructions

instructions from thence and hopes now to produce a really good article. He has also been obliged to exercise some caution in sanctioning the re opening of Pans in order to guard against facilities for smuggling while the expence of re-constructing them as well as the uncertainty of a profitable return for their capital have deterred many from engaging in the manufacture this year.

3. The difficulties with which the Actg Collector has to contend are undoubtedly great for he has at once to revive a manufacture discontinued for 30 years, to raise it to a degree of excellence which it never before attained, and to provide for the consumption of a large and populous District.—

4. The undertaking must be regarded as an experiment which may fail in spite of every exertion on the part of the authorities: it would consequently be unsafe and unwise to rely wholly on its successful issue in the very first year of its being attempted.

5. In the event of failure the only prospect of relief is in importations from Bombay &c.

6. On these however the Actg Collector is not disposed to rely. The requirements of the District up to 30th June next are estimated at 3000 Garces, and the supply (as stated in the

the Actg Collector's letter dated 29th January last submitted with the Board's Proceedings of this date) is short of that quantity by 1000 Garces while to meet the demand for consumption through the monsoon a further supply of 1000 or 1200 Garces will be required.

7. The prices offered for salt as Government are aware from the Proceedings above referred to have been recently raised, and it remains to be seen what effect this measure will have and whether from the great influence of this rise, and of the gain to the importer by the new mode of receiving by weight, salt will be largely imported into Madras notwithstanding the high freights ruling on the Coast in consequence of the present War.

8. The imports by Private traders have been limited notwithstanding the increase in the sale price of Government salt. It may indeed be said that so long as Government import Bombay salt at all, the mercantile community will not engage freely in the trade, but it would be highly inexpedient to allow the supply of such a necessary of life to run short on the expectation that the withdrawal of Government from the trade would lead to immediate and adequate importations on private account. The Government have already done

done what they could in the interim to create such a trade by selling Bombay salt at the duty and the cost of importation &c &c. that salt imported by private individuals competes on nearly equal terms with that introduced by Government. When therefore private importations under such circumstances are so highly necessary not to give up importing on Government account until the consumption of the District is at least in a great measure supplied by the home manufacture.

9. There is another very important consideration which must not be overlooked by the fact that unless the quantity required is in store before the South West Monsoon sets in further importations cannot be made until its close. The Acting Collector states that shipping do not go to sea freely before the middle of October, and if the Government reduce a sufficient supply until the trading season is fairly set in, private importations may be expected as soon as "prices rise to such rates as are considered remunerative."

10. For these reasons Mr Robinson recommends that he may be permitted to receive 1500 Candies of Bombay salt beyond the requirements of the District up to the 30th June next to

keep

keep the Government godowns open until the 31st January 1858 when the new supply of indigenous salt may be expected. 8A

11. The propriety of Government abandoning the system of supplying the local demand of Malabar exclusively by direct importation from Bombay has formed the subject of lengthened correspondence, and after a full consideration of the subject Government have determined on preserving the home manufacture and leaving the supply of Bombay salt entirely to private enterprize. The 30th June next has been fixed as the date on which such importations by Government are to cease both on Canara and Malabar, and a further extension of the period particularly in only one district - is open to objection as throwing doubt on the sincerity of the professions of Government and as obstructive of private enterprize if the connection of Government with that trade is really the cause of private merchants withdrawing from it.

12. On the other hand however the contingency of the District being left - as there is now great reason to apprehend - without a sufficiency of a prime necessary of life has to be guarded against, and as the expectations of Government in regard to private importations have not been fulfilled, and a supply of indigenous salt is

not available they only course left for adoption is that proposed by the Acting Collector.

13. Concurring fully in the necessity of the measures suggested by Mr Robinson the Board recommend that he may be authorized to continue importing Foreign Salt from Bombay or Goa until the probable wants of the District up to the period he has named are provided for and the time fixed for the cessation of Government imports from Bombay may be extended to the 31st January 1858 - a notification of the alteration of date being published in the Gazette

14. Mr Robinson will of course be guided in his imports by the outturn of the Home manufacture and the extent of private importations.

(Mem Extract)

I have &c
J. H. Lumsden
Acting Secretary

To,
H. Forbes Esqr
Acting Secretary to Government
Rev. Department

Govt 1857 Dept 13
Salt Cond 27 Jan 58
No 271

Collector of Salem &c
Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Dated 13th Jan 1857
Rec'd 19th March 1857
Read 1 Enclosure
Returned
No 275
To Board.

Salem Mag & Collr forwards the Monthly Collector's Statement of Salt Sales and despatches the Accounts current for the same month, & the Collector's Estimate of the Salt required for the ensuing year.

Forwards draft from Monday 5th inst. for the probable amount of the Duties on Salt expected from that date to the 31st March 1858 inclusive, & the Estimate of the Salt required for the same period.

Copy of Proceedings of Board of Revenue dated 19th March 1857

No. 263 A.

Ex. from the Minutes of Cons.
under date the 16th March 1857.

Read the following Ex.
from the Pro of the 5th
of Nov.
/ Cons under 13th March 1857
No. 7761

With these proceedings
the Board of Revenue
submit a letter from
the Collector of
Malabar, detailing
the circumstances
under which he is
apprehensive that
the public
Li Buildings may be
deficient if the Sol.
Govern. be closed,
as undecided, on
the 30th June next,
and

reco
repeating the pe-
-mission to keep
Rem open until
the 31st of January
1858 - M. Rhein-
-lon further requests
-the allowed to re-
-ceive 1500 acres
-of salt in addition
to the quantity re-
-quired up to the
30th of June, in order
to meet the require-
-ments of the Province
through the South coast
Counties.
His letter is dated
the 31st of January and
reached

Re Bounty Office on
the 7th of February,
and although the
Ag. Collector partic-
-ularly requested
that orders on his
application might
be communicated
to him at an early
date, as in March
coming to the Southward
orders that Bounty
prevail, trade with
Bounty bounties
left Quebec, and
Cyder prices are
decreased, the
matter was not
taken

in the Board con-
-sideration made
the 13th instant, and
it was not until the
16th that Rein no-
-tice was received
by Govt.

I have &c.

Secretary.

The Secretary of the Board
will please to lay before
the Board, the Govt.
must consider
might certainly
have been avoided.

After very mature
consideration of the
Rule

Question of the sup-
-ply of Salt to the
Eastern Coast of
Bombay Presidency, the
Govt. came to the
conclusion that there
should be
finally closed on
a fixed day, &
that the trade in the
Bombay should
be left entirely to
private enterprise.

The Govt. still
adhere to the princi-
-ple on which their
decision was based,
and do not consider
that it is desirable
for Govt. of

But the introduction
of the Peculiar system
must have to de-
-ranged the ordinary
course of trade in
the Western coast,
as it have led to the
employment in
the manufact of tools
& stores, of many
hitherto Sick and
Invalids have em-
-ployed in the Sick
Bay.

The Govt therefore
sanction the adoption
of the above
recommended
by the Ag. Cde: &
the Ord. accordingly
order that no

further

Re Peculiar circ-
-umstances which
attended the death
of Collector Begg was
unable to his request,
recommended in it
by the Bd of Revenue,
and sanction the
continuance of daily
allowance to Govt Godowns
until the 31st Inst.
It is
understood - It is
desirable, in the opinion
of Govt that some Person
appear must be re-
-quired to reclaim
the Cash, formerly
remitted by the Sick
Bay, from the Jungle
Sick Bay Serve who in the
last Hill Expedition, &
Bad

further time may
be unnecessarily lost,
they resolve to com-
municate this
opinion of their
proceedings to Mr Ro-
binson & the Electric
Telegraph Co.

Ordered, that the
following message
be transmitted to
Electric Telegraph Co
the agent at Col: & Inverlochy.

E. L.

Copies to the Bds of Wks
with an Extract.
Dispr 23

13

14A

Telegraphic message
from Secy to Government
Castle
to Collector &
Inverlochy.
16 March 1857.

"With reference to your
letter to Board of Revenue
this day one January fifty seven,
the closing of Govt Saltworks
for Bengal Salt is extended
to thirty one January fifty
eight, & you are permitted
to receive fifteen hundred
maunds more Salt than is
provided up to thirty June.

E. L.

Disp. 16th March.

Com. 26th July 56 No. 15 to 19.
" 29th Sept. to — — 22 to 24

Copy in a G. Let to B
of 15th July 1857 No. 25
Com 45.

Revenue 1857 Dept.
D/ to Com. 17th March.

No 263A.

Extract Mins of Com.
D/ 16 March 57.
Re 13 p/B 30th Oct to 57 No 129 Bin 6
24 Pkts Rec.

Sanctioning the adoption
of the measures recommended
by the Acting Collector of Malabar
& the Board of Revenue in regard
to the importation of Foreign
Salt from Bombay.

Copy to the Govt of Bombay
24 Dec 57 — No 1206.

No 43 to 44.

C 18th March RD