Revenue Department

Minutes & Consultation

18th May 1858

Back No 1 & 2

Order No 625 & 12th May 1858

பாதுகாப்பு பிரிவு-1

செப்பனிடுபவர் பெயர்: S. மாணிக்க

செப்பனிடுவதற்காக எடுத்துக்-07/06
கொள்ளப்பட்ட நாள்

17/10/08
கரிபார்க்கும்
முதல் முதிபாள
கையொப்பம்

கரிபார்க்கும்
2ம் முதிபாள
கையொப்பம்

தராய்ச்சி
உதவியாளர்
கையொப்பம்

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 18th May 1858.

No. 1. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th April 1858, No. 1288.

Read the following replies to the Board's Circular No. 962, dated 30th March 1857, proposing a modification in the Rules regarding Salt Rowannahs.

From Ganjam dated 29th December in Consultation 27th January 1858.
,, Rajahmundry dated 11th in Consultation 18th December 1857.
,, Masulipatam dated 30th April in Consultation 7th May do.
,, Guntoor dated 6th April 1857, in do. 1st April 1858.
,, Nellore dated 11th in Consultation 16th December 1857.
,, Chingleput dated 2d in do. 15th July 1857.
,, do. do. 29th October in Consultation 4th December 1857.
,, South Arcot dated 16th in Consultation 21st April 1857.
,, do. do. 26th September in Consultation 17th October 1857.
,, Tanjore dated 16th in Consultation 21st July 1857.
,, Madura dated 24th June in Consultation 2d July 1857.
,, Tinnevelly dated 16th November in Consultation 10th December 1857.
,, Canara dated 3d in Consultation 11th June 1857.
,, Malabar dated 22d April in Consultation 7th May 1857.
,, Madras dated 27th in Consultation 30th July 1857.

In the Circular to which the above recorded replies have been received, the Board proposed confining the use of Salt Rowannahs to a circle of 30 miles round each Salt Station, and allowing traders two days for traversing this distance, leaving a discretionary power with Collectors to extend this period to 3 or 4 days during the Monsoon when travelling is retarded. The object of this modification was to simplify the system of Rowannahs, in consequence of the abolition of the Land Custom Establishments, by whom they used to be inspected; and at the same time to guard against salt smuggling as far as was practicable.

2. It was not forgotten that the proposed limit of 30 miles would in certain instances include large towns, and the Collectors were required to state whether in such cases the transactions at the Cotaur could not be restricted to sales for export by sea, and by retail in very small quantities and merely for consumption in the immediate neighbourhood, and a depot be established in the Town for Home and Inland sales.

3. The replies received shew much misapprehension about the proposed plan, it being supposed that local trade within the 30 miles would be interfered with. This the Board observe was in no way intended. Local trade was to be in all respects carried on freely as before and the only object of the new system was to protect salt *while actually in transit* to a certain distance from the pans.

4. The object of para. 6 of the Circular has also not been seen. It may entail expense and inconvenience on Government, as some Collectors urge, to transfer the local sale of salt from the pans to a newly formed Depot at an adjacent Town, but such a course could in no way be detrimental to trade or diminish sales.

5. The plan proposed by the Board was founded on the system in force at Bombay (see Act 27 of 1837), but the replies now received shew there is one peculiar difficulty to meet here. Besides the various places of manufacture, there are marshes where spontaneous salt is produced and a cordon is equally necessary around them. Then the incidents of the boundary of another district being close to a Salt Pan and the vicinity of several large Towns, in *all* of which it might not be practicable to establish Depots have to be provided for.

6. These difficulties satisfy the Board that the proposed plan of establishing circles of 30 miles round each place of manufacture cannot be effectively carried out. They therefore gave their attention to a proposal of the Collector of Rajahmundry that the space within which Rowannahs are to be required, should be thirty miles inland from all parts of the coast, but find that this arrangement would be open to several of the objections which interfered with the first scheme. They therefore see no course but to declare that salt must be covered by a Rowannah while in transit in any of the Maritime Districts, where its manufacture is carried on, but not in Inland districts. Collectors will thus have to frame tables of the number of days to be allowed to traders to convey salt, either to the inland frontier of their district by the various roads which exist, or to any town in a neighbouring Maritime district where they may wish to take it for sale. As the Board do not consider that Rowannahs can be dispensed with altogether without risk to the salt revenue, they are led to propose this plan, which will at least obviate one of the disadvantages of the present system; viz., the granting Rowannahs ostensibly to very distant places with long dates, which are in reality used to convey away from the pans smuggled salt in several trips.

7. From the papers before them the Board observe, that in South Arcot brief chits or passes are given instead of formal Rowannahs to parties purchasing small parcels of salt under five mercals, the Board understand either for domestic use or retail sale in the villages round the pans. These chits are supplied from the Collector's office, duly numbered, to the different Salt Depots, and the Board consider that the practice might be advantageously followed in other districts.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES, *Secretary.*

No. 2. ORDER THEREON, No. 625; dated 12th May 1858.

1. In 1856 Messrs. Cammiade and Co., a trading firm of Madras, formed a design of transporting Salt from Madras, on a large scale, to the interior for sale, and with a view to facilitate their operations, they solicited help from Government in certain respects, one of which was that artificial obstacles should to a certain extent be removed by the relaxation of the Rawanah system. The Board of Revenue were accordingly requested to consider how this might be brought about, not only with a view to assist Messrs. Cammiade and Co., but also that the benefit arising from any measures recommended, might be extended to the trade generally. In reply the Board suggested that the currency of Rawanahs should be abolished at a greater distance than 30 miles from stations where the manufacture of Salt was carried on, and for a longer period than two days from the date of issue. The Government approved of the Board's plan, and requested them to take immediate steps to carry it into effect. In a subsequent order of Government dated 1st October of the same year (1856) the Board were desired to report what they had done in the matter. It was not until 11th May 1857 however, or nine months after the receipt of the orders of Government adopting their suggestions, that the Board reported that "they were engaged in giving effect to the orders for "restricting the operation of passes to a limited area round each Cotaur, and were in communi-"cation with the Collectors on the subject," having issued a Circular order to those officers on 30th March 1857.

Messrs. Cammiade and Co., to Government dated 23*d May* 1856.
Do. do. to Consulting Engineer for Railways dated 22*d May* 1856.
Proceedings Board of Revenue No. 1545 *dated* 21*st May* 1856.
Ex. Mins. Cons. 26*th June* 1856, *No.* 655.
Extract Proceedings Board of Revenue No. 2460 *dated* 4*th August* 1856.
Ex. Mins. Cons. 11*th August* 1856, *No.* 849.
No. 1050. *Revenue Department.*

2. In their Proceedings recorded at the head of this paper, the Board review, generally, the replies received from the Collectors of the districts noted in the margin*. They remark (para. 2) that in the Circular letter above referred to it was pointed out to Collectors that the proposed limit of 30 miles would, in certain instances, include large Towns, and they were required to state whether, in such cases, the transactions at the Government store could not be restricted to sales for export by sea, and by retail in small quantities for consumption in the immediate neighbourhood; a Depôt being established in the Town for home and inland sales.

*Ganjam.
*Rajahmundry.
*Masulipatam.
*Guntoor.
*Nellore.
*Chingleput.
*South Arcot.
*Canara.
*Malabar.
*Tanjore.
*Madura.
*Tinnevelly.
*Madras.

3. The main object of the system advocated is, the Government observe, to free the Salt as much as possible from obstruction in transitu, while at the same time the interests of Government are protected by a system of checks round the place of manufacture. The replies received from the provinces however, as the Board remark, shew† much misapprehension of what is intended, first in considering that any interference with local Trade within the 30 mile circle was contemplated, and secondly in supposing that trade would be obstructed and sales diminished by the new plan. Nevertheless it is clear from the communications received from the districts that the Boards proposals, based on Sections V. and VI. of Act 27 of 1837 of the Bombay code, will be, to a certain extent, inapplicable to the circumstances of this Presidency. For besides the authorized places of manufacture, there are marshes where spontaneous salt is produced, and a cordon will be necessary round them. The boundary of another district may likewise be close to a salt pan, and the cordon would have to be extended into such districts: Likewise in cases where there might be several large Towns in the vicinity of a pan, it would not be practicable to establish a Depôt in them all. Seeing therefore the difficulties which would attend the adoption of their original plan, the Board gave their consideration to a proposal of the Collector of Rajahmundry, that the space within which Rawanahs are to be required, should be thirty miles inland from all parts of the coast; but finding that this arrangement would be "open to several of the objections which interfered with the "first scheme," the Board recommend that it be notified, that Salt must be covered by a Rawanah while in transit in any of the Maritime districts, but not in Inland Districts, and that with a view to this end, Collectors be instructed to frame tables of the number of days to be allowed to Traders to convey Salt either to the inland frontier of their District by the various roads which exist, or to any town in a neighbouring Maritime district where they may wish to take it for sale. By this plan the Board think that the abuse of obtaining Rawanahs for long dates, and employing them to convey smuggled Salt in several trips, will be put a stop to.

†*From Masulipatam.*
„ *Rajahmundry.*
„ *Nellore &c.*

4. The Government concur with the Board that it would be unsafe to discontinue the use of Rawanahs altogether, and they are unable to see any way out of the difficulty but that proposed by the Board. The introduction of the measure is accordingly authorized; care must be taken however to explain to the local authorities the real bearing of the question about which so much misunderstanding at present exists. The Governor in Council is also of opinion that, where the inland frontier of a Maritime district is less than 30 miles from the sea shore, the cordon should be extended to somewhere about that distance into the next district; examples of this contingency are shewn in the margin‡.

‡ *Nellore and North Arcot skirt the Pulicat lake; between which and the sea is a strip of Chingleput.*
The breadth of Canara at the 14*th degree of North Latitude is less than* 30 *miles; but Salt passing into Mysore would probably be examined at the frontier.*

5. The introduction into all Districts, of the South Arcot system of brief "chits" or passes instead of formal Rawanahs for purchases of small quantities of Salt for retail-sale in the villages round the pans, as recommended by the Board appears unobjectionable. The system already prevails, the Government believe, in Madura.

6. It is observed that no reply has yet been received to the 3d para. of Extract Minutes Consultation dated 2d June 1857, referring for the opinion of the Honorable Company's Solicitor the rules drafted under the orders of Government (in para. 5 of Extract Minutes Consultation 11th August 1856 No. 849) for the sale and import of Salt on deposit of security for the purchase money and customs duty respectively, in lieu of immediate cash payments. The attention of Mr. Boyson will now be called to the order, and that officer will be good enough to submit his reply without delay.

7. The Government must also remark that the Board, in their proceedings, have not referred to any former correspondence on the subject of these Rawanahs.

(Signed) W. H. BAYLEY,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 1288.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14*th April* 1858.

Read the following replies to the Board's Circular No. 962, dated 30th March 1857, proposing a modification in the Rules regarding Salt Rowannahs.

From Ganjam dated 29th December in Consultation 27th January 1858.
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In the Circular to which the above recorded replies have been received, the Board proposed confining the use of Salt Rowannahs to a circle of 30 miles round each Salt station, and allowing traders two days for traversing this distance, leaving a discretionary power with Collectors to extend this period to 3 or 4 days during the Monsoon when travelling is retarded. The object of this modification was to simplify the system of Rowannahs, in consequence of the abolition of the Land Custom establishments, by whom they used to be inspected; and at the same time to guard against salt smuggling as far as was practicable.

2. It was not forgotten that the proposed limit of 30 miles would in certain instances include large towns, and the Collectors were required to state whether in such cases the transactions at the Cotaur could not be restricted to sales for export by sea, and by retail in very small quantities and merely for consumption in the immediate neighbourhood, and a depôt be established in the Town for Home and Inland sales.

3. The replies received shew much misapprehension about the proposed plan, it being supposed that local trade within the 30 miles would be interfered with. This the Board observe was in no way intended. Local trade was to be in all respects carried on freely as before and the only object of the new system was to protect salt *while actually in transit* to a certain distance from the pans.

4. The object of para. 6 of the Circular has also not been seen. It may entail expense and inconvenience on Government, as some Collectors urge, to transfer the local sale of salt from the pans to a newly formed Depôt at an adjacent Town, but such a course could in no way be detrimental to trade or diminish sales.

5. The plan proposed by the Board was founded on the system in force at Bombay (see Act 27 of 1837), but the replies now received shew there is one peculiar difficulty to meet here. Besides the various places of manufacture there are marshes where spontaneous salt is produced and a cordon is equally necessary around them. These the incidents of the boundary of another district being close to a salt Pan and the vicinity of several large Towns, in *all* of which it might not be practicable to establish Depôts have to be provided for.

6. These difficulties satisfy the Board that the proposed plan of establishing circles of 30 miles round each place of manufacture cannot be effectively carried out. They therefore gave their attention to a proposal of the Collector of Rajahmundry that the space within which Rowanahs are to be required, should be thirty miles inland from all parts of the coast, but find that this arrangement would be open to several of the objections which interfered with the first scheme. They therefore see no course but to de-

clare that salt must be covered by a Rowanah while in transit in any of the Maritime districts, where its manufacture is carried on, but not in Inland districts. Collectors will thus have to frame tables of the number of days to be allowed to traders to convey salt, either to the inland frontier of their district by the various roads which exist, or to any town in a neighbouring Maritime district where they may wish to take it for sale. As the Board do not consider that Rowanahs can be dispensed with altogether without risk to the salt revenue, they are led to propose this plan, which will at least obviate one of the disadvantages of the present system; viz., the granting Rowanahs ostensibly to very distant places with long dates, which are in reality used to convey away from the pans smuggled salt in several trips.

7. From the papers before them the Board observe, that in South Arcot brief chits or passes are given instead of formal Rowanahs to parties purchasing small parcels of salt under five mercals, the Board understand either for domestic use or retail sale in the villages round the pans. These chits are supplied from the Collector's office, duly numbered, to the different salt Depôts, and the Board consider that the practice might be advantageously followed in other districts.

(A true Extract.)

Secretary.

To

H. FORBES, Esq.,
Acting Secretary to Government, R. D.

No 625 24 1-2 R.D.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 12th ~~April~~ May 1838.

Read Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 14 April 1838 No 1288.

In 1836 Messrs Cammiade & Co, a trading firm of Madras, formed a design of transporting salt from Madras, on a large scale, & the interior for sale, and with a view to facilitate their operations, they solicited help from Govt in certain respects, one of which was that artificial obstacles should if a certain extent be removed ~~out of their way~~ by the relaxation of the Rawanah system. The Board of Revenue were accordingly requested to consider how this might be brought about, not only with

Mesrs Cammiade & Co to Govt dated 23 May 1836.
do. do. to Cons: Engr for Railways d/22 May/36.
Proc: B. of R. No 1545 d/21 May 1836.

E. to C. 26 June 1836 No 655

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that the benefit arising from any
measures recommended which might be adopted,
might be extended to the trade generally.
In reply the Board suggested that
the currency of Rawanahs should be
abolished at a greater distance than
30 miles from stations where the manu-
facture of salt was carried on, and
for a longer period than two days from
the date of issue. The Govt approved
of the Board's plan, and requested
them to take immediate steps to carry
it into effect. And in a subsequent
order of Govt dated 1st October of
the same year (1836) the Board were
desired to report what they had
done in the matter. It was not until
8 May 1837 however, or nine months
after the receipt of the order of Govt
adopting their suggestions, that the
Board stated that "they were engaged
in giving effect to the orders for
restricting the operation of passes
to a limited area round each
Cotaar, and were in communication
with the Collectors on the subject,

Ex. Proc. B.P.R. No 2460
dated 4 Aug/36.

Ex. Mins. Cons.
11 August/36 No 849.

No 1050. R.D.

Sangam
Rajamundry
Masulipatam
Guntoor
Nellore
Chingleput
South Arcot
Canara
Malabar
Sangore
Madura
Tinnevelly
Madras.

(2) Coorg issued a circular order
to those officers on 30 March 1837
2. In their proceedings recorded
at the head of this paper, the
Board review, generally, the replies
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the districts noted in the margin.
They remark of 2 that in the
circular letter above referred to
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that the proposed limit of 30
miles would, in certain instances,
include large towns, and they
were required to state whether,
in such cases, the transaction
at the Govt store could not
be restricted to sales for export
by sea, and to retail in small
quantities for consumption in the
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depôt being established in the
Town for inland and sea
3. The main object of the system
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to free the trade as much
as possible from obstructions

in Rawsitu, while at the same time the interests of Govt are protected by a system of checks round the places of manufacture. The replies received from the provinces however, as the Board remark, shew much misapprehension of what is intended, first in considering that any interference with local Trade within the 80 mile circle was contemplated, and secondly in supposing that Trade would be Restricted and Sales diminished by the new Plan. Nevertheless it is clear from the communications received from the districts that the Boards proposals, based on §§ V and VI of Act 27 of 1837 of the Bombay code, will be, Do certain extent, inapplicable to the circumstances of this Presidency. For besides the authorized places of manufacture, there are Marshes where spontaneous salt is produced, and a cordon will be necessary round them. The boundary of another district may likewise be close to a salt

7. Masulipatam Rajamundry Letters

6 & 25

pan, and the cordon would have to be extended into such district. Likewise in cases where there might be several large Towns in the vicinity of a pan, it would not be practicable to establish a Depôt in them all. Seeing therefore the difficulties which would attend the adoption of their original plan, the Board gave their consideration to a proposal of the Collector of Rajamundry, that the Place within which Rawanah are to be required, should be thirty miles inland from all parts of the Coast; but finding ~~they do not Explain how~~ that the arrangement would be open to "several of the objections which "interfered with the first scheme" the Board recommend that the Coast be divided, that salt must be Cured by a Rawanah within a Marsh in any of the Maritime districts, but not in Inland Districts, and that with

a view to restrict Collectors be instructed to frame tables of the number of days the allowed to Traders to convey salt after to the inland frontier of their district by the various roads which, and any town in a neighbouring Maritime district where they may wish to take it for sale. By this plan the Board think that the abuse of obtaining Rawanahs for long dates, and employing them to convey ~~away~~ smuggled salt in several trips, will be put a stop to.

6. The Govt concur with the Board that it would be unsafe to discontinue the use of Rawanahs altogether, and they are unable to see any way out of the difficulty but that proposed by the Board: ~~but~~ The introduction of the Licence is accordingly authorized; care must be taken however to explain to the local authorities the real bearing of the question about which

much misunderstanding at present exist. The Govt in C. is also of opinion that, where the frontier of a Maritime district is less than 30 miles from the sea shore, the cordon should be extended to some where about that distance with the next district. Examples of this contingency are shewn in the margin.

5. The introduction of the South West system of brief "chits" or paper instead of formal Rawanahs for purchase of small quantities of salt for retail sale in the villages round the coast, as recommended by the Board appear unobjectionable. The system already prevails, the Govt believe, in Madura.

6. It is observed that no reply has yet been received to the 3rd Para of Sir C. H.'s

To the East and North East of the Pulicat lake; between which and the sea is a strip of Chingleput. The head of Cauvery at the 11th degree of North Latitude is less than 30 miles; but salt having in this instance to be examined at the frontier.

2nd June 1859, referring to the opinion of the Hon. Company's Solicitor the rules drafted under the orders of Govt/in Para 5 of Lr dd. 11 May/56 No 849/for the sale and import of Salt on deposit of security for the purchase money and customs duty respectively, in lieu of immediate cash payments. The attention of W. Boyson will now be called to the rules, and that officer will be good enough to distribute them without delay.

7. The Govt must also remark that the bond, in these proceedings, not referred to does not completely ~~cancel~~ the previous correspondence on the subject of these Rewards.

I.M. 8/20

1 Copy to Supt of Rev. Dist. No. 14
with 2 Encls
1 — Hon. Co's Solicitor

Con. 7th Oct/56 — No. 8
— 12th Augt/56 — 57. 58.
— 1st July — — 24 & 29.

Revenue 1858 Depart.
Dy. to Cons. 18th May

No. 625

Extract Mins. of Cons.

Dated 12th May/58.

{From Govt of Madras. 17th March 1859 — Encl. 4 & 2 Cons. Rules for the sale and Import of Salt on deposit of security &c}

Ordered — That it be notified that Salt must be cleared at a Revenue while in transit to any of the Maritime Districts but not in Inland Districts and concerning that the Govt are to system of brief "Chits" or Passes to of Revenue for purchases of small quantities of Salt for retail sale in the Villages pass the Peons appears unobjectionable.

No 142

C21st April 27th