M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1776	Press ~~Mis.~~
84-85		
Dated	27—12—	1859.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 84. Read the following Official Memorandum from B. CUNLIFFE, Esq., Collector of Madras; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 22d December 1859, No. 22.

In reply to the official memorandum of the Secretary to Government under date the 19th instant, the Collector of Madras begs to forward copy of a report made to the Board of Revenue in 1857, on the working of the salt weighing machines in question. The Government proceedings thereon are dated 27th May 1858, No. 695.

The Salt department have nothing further to add on the subject.

From B. CUNLIFFE, Esq., Collector of Madras; to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 5th December 1857, No. 190.

1. In reply to Extract Board's Proceedings, 11th ultimo, No. 3898, calling for an early report upon the relative working of Major Bell's salt weighing machine, and of those received from England, I have the honor to forward copy of a letter from the superintendent under date 3d instant, No. 257, which I think will clearly put before the Board the relative advantages of the two machines in their present form, and the manner in which the English pattern might be improved, so as perfectly to meet our requirements.

2. The saving in the wear and tear of the copper mercals mentioned in paragraph 9 is an important consideration, and, if the two maund machine could be put down at Madras at a moderate cost, I think the wholesale dealer would purchase one for his own operations: at present mercals are supplied to him.

3. Incidentally I may remark that I trust that weighing will be hereafter substituted for measuring in all our transactions, and adopted at once in our retail sales. It is much more satisfactory, and will obviate the unpleasant complaints made of short out-turn by the wholesale dealers, though I am convinced that generally there is no foundation for such allegations.

4. Even when standing over the measurer he will vary the out-turn at his pleasure and defy detection, and on this account there has been a great outcry among the retail purchasers against the weighing, and I have no doubt that its introduction has been distasteful to the Government measurers, who are now unable to serve their friends, and enrich themselves.

5. The former state that they do not now receive by weight as much as they did by measurement, and this certainly is the case.

6. Mr. Cammiade lately complained in the same strain. He declared that his heaps taken wholesale turned out deficient; but on the other hand I urged that other wholesale merchants took heaps on the same line without remonstrance, and that those heaps, which were supposed to be too greatly damaged to be sold wholesale, and, therefore, retained for retail by weight, always resulted in the full quantity.

7. He rejoined that weight was not the question at issue; but that what he required was the 424 mercals declared by the Government to be equivalent to 120 Indian maunds.

8. The reply, of course, was that of two equivalents it mattered not which was taken.

9. These facts sufficiently prove that the Board's estimate of 400 mercals to the 120 maunds was about correct, and that the 24 maunds added by the Government in 1855 was so much given away.

10. Certain retail purchasers have addressed the Board in petition 3822 of 1857 against weighment, and begging that they might be allowed to purchase a whole heap and clear it in five days. I have endorsed the petition, and will forward it to the parties.

11. It is objectionable to accede to their second request; for it is expedient that we should possess some means of occasionally testing the contents of our heaps, and this is best done by selling for home consumption by retail. This measure is the more necessary, now that we are to store in heaps of 20 garce. Our home sales are about 3 garce daily, or nine 10 garce heaps the month.

12. For these reasons I hope that weighing, as specified in Court's despatch, 3d July 1844, will be the rule in future at these cotaurs, and that it may be extended to the others as soon as machines are available.

13. I expect soon some competition with Covelong salt in the local market brought by canal, when I shall be at a disadvantage, if the salt is weighed here and measured there, in consequence of the excess derived by the latter process.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) B. CUNLIFFE, *Collector.*

From R. P. CAMPBELL, Esq., Superintendent of Salt; to B. CUNLIFFE Esq., Collector of Madras, dated Cotaur, 3rd December 1857, No. 257.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your memorandum No. 137 of the 16th, upon the Board's proceedings of the 11th November 1857, calling for a report upon the working of

the two machines for weighing salt, recently obtained from England, after testing them at our retail sales.

2. I sent one of the machines to the Mint on the 19th October, with a letter to the Mint Master, requesting that the balance or counterpoise might be altered from 84 to 82 2-7th pounds avoirdupois, which is the exact equivalent to the Indian maund, and I sent the second machine some days after. Both were returned, with intimation that they had been so adjusted, but upon testing them, there was repeatedly a variation above 82¼ pounds, at which the Indian maund has always been reckoned in our accounts.

3. The machine No. 6 gave 83½ or 1¼ pounds above the standard, and No. 5 gave 85 pounds or 3¾ pounds above the standard, and its brass register failed to work repeatedly. The native servants were, therefore, unwilling to use the machines freely, as the variations were in favor of the purchaser. The coolies also preferred the bench cup scale, because one turn of it declared two Indian maunds at a time, and, in their haste, they could use it roughly, with impunity; whereas time and care was required to prevent the new machines from toppling over, before the weight could be declared. In four or five instances, when I was present, this was the case, as it turned over before weight was declared. The purchasers were likewise in favor of the bench cup scale, as they now invariably take two Indian maunds in a bag, and the minimum of one Indian maund has only been taken advantage of 21 times during the 28 days that the facility has been allowed, although notification by beat of tomtom throughout the town has been allowed by the Police.

4. I tied 3½lbs to the bar of the holder of machine No. 5, and have allowed it to work during the same period as the bench cup scale, without giving notice of my intention of proving their working, and the relative working of them has been 156 turns of the former weighing at each turn 1 maund or 156 Indian maunds in all, to 173 turns of the latter, weighing 2 Indian maunds each, or 346 Indian maunds in all. The bench cup scale is now daily cleaned, and free from rust and verdigris, and if it could be as easily carried about on wheels like the new machines, its simplicity in working would render it preferable to the new machines, especially if a large clock-like dial with a register could be added to it as suggested by Colonel Cotton.

5. If however the variations in weight could be guarded against in the new machines, and the capacity of the holder could be altered to receive just double the quantity of salt, with an addition to the ball or counterpoise, I could then weigh with it 312 Indian maunds against 346 Indian maunds in the bench cup scale; and, probably, habitual use would render the operations of both on a par, and, if the brass dial to the register, which in a bright day and in the sun it is hard now to decipher, could be dispensed with, and a large white porcelain one with a black hand could replace the present one, it would be a great desideratum.

6. The one maund scale is very seldom resorted to as the minimum quantity of one maund has not been sought for by purchasers, as I expected. The weighing hire being paid to coolies upon the weight declared, it will be obvious to you that it is a great object to them to get through in one turn of the scale what another of smaller capacity would take nearly two turns to complete, and the merchant or retail dealer also gives the same preference, as in the heat of the day delay is saved, which a is great object to him, and especially as two Indian maunds is the minimum quantity now almost invariably carried in a bag from our wholesale or retail.

7. I think that the Mint Master could easily alter one of the new machines so as to turn out 165 pounds at a time, by merely removing the partition in the present holder, which now has two cells capable of each holding one Indian maund, and by adding to the counterpoise so as to make the balance adjust at 165, instead of as now at 83½ pounds, also by replacing a more distinct dial and hand to the existing register.

8. With these modifications, I would give the preference to one of the new machines for our ordinary purposes, and would retain the other in its present state to meet the demands for the minimum quantity of one maund.

9. Six machines each capable of turning 2 Indian maunds at a time, would be necessary to replace the triangles and ordinary scales in the sale of salt for export by sea, which latter might be sold off. A vast saving is effected in the wear and tear of the copper mercals in the retail sales, and I think that every wholesale purchaser should eventually be required to make his own mercal or purchase one of the new machines to conduct his removal of heaps.

In a letter from the Collector of Madras, dated 22nd December 1859, *No.* 22.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) B. CUNLIFFE, *Collector.*

No. 85. ORDER THEREON, 27th December 1859, No. 1776.

The Government observe that the report on the working of the salt weighing machines, received with this letter is dated in 1857 or above two years ago. They request that the Collector will submit a report on the result of the further trial since that date, as well as of any improvements that may have been made either in the machines or in the scales.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON.
Secretary to Government.

2

No. 22.

Official Memorandum from the Collector of Madras dated 22nd December 1859 — No. 22.

To the Chief Secretary

In reply to the Official Memo of the Secretary to Government under date the 19th instant, the Collector of Madras begs to forward copy of a report made to the Board of Revenue in 1857 on the working of the salt weighing machines in question. No. 2

Government Proceedings thereon are dated 27th May 1858, No. 695.

The Salt Department have nothing further to add on the subject.

Madras,
22nd December 1857.
Ed. MDonnogamy

B. Cunliffe
Collector.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Fort St. George

Diff Memo No 387 of 59

Rev 1859 Department
Rpo: of Govt 3rd Dept
From No 2423

The Collector of
Madras

To

The Secretary to
Government
Fort St George

Dated 22d Dec 1859

Rec'd 23

No 92.

With one Enclosure

Rom-Dpo. No 6 Jany 1860 & Ino.
-65- Cons: 31st Jan 45.

Forwarding copy of a
Report made to the
Board of Revenue
in 1857 on the working
of the Salt Weighing
Machines.

No 847 85.

No 1776.

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Fort St George
27th December 59

Copy to the Collector of Madras Dispd 27th

No 1776. 27th December
With an order.