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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 901 Press / Mis.

Dated 8th July 1858.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 57. *PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.*

Dated 7th July 1859, *No.* 901.

In his Minute on the proposal to increase the monopoly price of salt* the Honorable the President expressed his conviction (para. 6) that the salt revenue in this Presidency had not received due attention, and that a more effective administration would alone be sufficient materially to augment it. In pursuing the subject the attention of His Excellency in Council has been drawn to the correspondence noted in the margin between the Government and the Board of Revenue with reference to various suggestions made by Lieutenant Colonel F. C. Cotton for the improvement of the Ganjam District, especially in respect to the salt trade.

* *June 10th* 1859.

E. M. C. P. W. D. Nov. 24th 1857, *No.* 2167, *Paras.* 37 *to* 40.
Ex. Pro. Bd. of Rev. March 22, 1858.
Ex. M. C. May 15, 1858, *Paras.* 7 *to* 10.

2. The chief suggestions on this latter subject were two :

First ; that the salt stores should be established at the Ports instead of at the pans, so that carts bringing produce from the interior might readily obtain a return load of salt.

Second ; that depôts should be formed inland, with a view of saving the brinjarries the journey to and from the coast.

The Board of Revenue expressed themselves in favor of the former ;† and the Government, agreeing with them, called on the District Engineer to report on the subject.‡ As to the proposed inland depôts, the Board's opinion was unfavourable, and the Government concurred with them.

† *Pro. of the Bd. of Rev,, dated 22nd March* 1858, *No.* 1009, *para.* 13.

‡ *Ex. Min. Cons. dated 15th May* 1858, *No.* 631, *para.* 10.

3. No reply having been received to the reference made to the District Engineer, though above a year has passed, that officer's attention will be called to the subject. There are now only three places of manufacture in the district, viz. Ganjam, Nowpadah and Umaravally. The former place being a port, it seems unnecessary to move the store ; but the District Engineer, in communication with the Collector, will consider what improvement is necessary in the means of access to it both towards the town, and also towards the interior of the country, if they are in opposite directions from the store. He will prepare and send in estimates without delay for the roads considered to be necessary.

4. Umaravally is very near the port of Calingapatam, and means should be adopted without delay for either placing the store there or for making it easily accessible where it is. On these points also the Collector and District Engineer will confer, and will send in immediately for sanction plans and estimates for the works required. Indeed, whether the store is moved or not, a good road will be necessary ; there should therefore be no delay at all about that, and the work should begin as soon as the proper line can be agreed on by the Collector and the District Engineer.

5. Nowpadah, the place of by far the largest manufacture and sale, is remote from any port, and Colonel Cotton's suggestion could not be carried into effect, as he admits,§ without a large outlay for canals, for which funds are not now available. It appears however that this store, large as the sales are, is peculiarly inaccessible ; ¶ during the rainy season it is surrounded by deep marsh, and at other times the country round has not a blade of grass for the brinjarry cattle. Yet Colonel Cotton learnt that one hundred thousand bullocks were annually laden here. The means of approach to this store require to be improved immediately ; either by simply making good roads, or by also changing the locality of the store, either to a spot on the trunk road from Calingapatam, or perhaps to Teecally. On this question the Government can come to no decision without a report from the Collector ; and Mr. Forbes will now be directed to consider the subject, and submit his opinion without delay. He will freely confer on the subject with the District Engineer who will at once prepare and send in estimates

§ *Report para.* 35.

¶ *Ibid.*

E. M. C. May 15. 58 Paras 6 to 10.

or such roads as may be deemed necessary, as well as for the buildings and works needed if it is proposed to move the store.

6. In view to the more efficient local administration of the Salt revenue, the Governor in Council resolves to revert to the design entertained when the creation of Deputy Collectors was first contemplated, and to appoint officers of that class to the immediate charge of this branch of revenue under the Collectors. And as a beginning he resolves to nominate Diddy Nursinga Row now Deputy Collector of Guntoor to the charge of the Salt Department in Ganjam. Nursinga Row will be informed that he has been selected for this duty because the Government believe him to possess the ability, the energy, and the uprightness necessary to a right discharge of it; and that a zealous and successful performance of it will be regarded as a special claim to promotion. It will be his duty not only to endeavour by active personal supervision to ensure honesty in the sales and in accounting for the proceeds; but also to bring forward all measures of any kind which he may consider calculated to augment the sales. The Collector will be instructed to give him all the assistance in his power for the due performance of his duty, and will be informed that it is expected that he will treat him with full confidence. Three months after assuming charge of his new duties, Nursinga Row will submit a full report of his proceedings, with any recommendation he may have to make; and this report will be forwarded by the Collector to the Board of Revenue and by the Board to Government, with no more delay than may be necessary for them to record their remarks on it.

7. In 1856 the Government greatly reduced the number of places of manufacture in the Northern Districts, with the view of concentrating the business and so obtaining funds to provide better paid supervision. The abolition of pans was felt to be in itself an evil, only justified by the necessity of the case; and the Deputy Collectors being now available for the supervision of this Department, that concentration is no longer necessary. It may probably be expedient therefore to re-open some of the pans closed in 1856. The Board will report their opinion on this plan, stating also the measures necessary for giving effect to it, both as to establishment, place of storing, and roads.

8. The preceding remarks apply to Ganjam only, but the Governor in Council wishes the Board to take up the subject, in the spirit of those remarks, for all the salt Districts of this Presidency, and to inform Government after the necessary communications with the Collectors, what measures, of all those indicated or any other, they would recommend in each for the purpose in view.

It is the desire of His Excellency in Council that this subject should receive immediate attention. The Board will be at liberty to report on each district by itself; and the arrangements proposed should be so detailed and so practical as to admit of being at once carried into effect if approved by Government.

9. There is one opening which if duly taken advantage of ought to lead to a large and rapid expansion of the Salt trade; viz. the facilities recently created for the navigation of the Godavery. There are now steamers and flotillas of boats available for this purpose, and it has been ascertained that there is no season of the year at which the river is not navigable. On the other hand the officers who have ascended the river report that they are met everywhere with the universal question "Can you bring us salt," and all the salt that they have taken up has been readily sold. The Government would wish the Board to consider carefully, in communication with the Collector and the District Engineer, what measures will be best adapted to develope this new trade.

10. Among those arrangements the formation of Depôts at intervals along the branch of the river should have a place, and the local officers will advise Government as to the proper localities; one may properly be at Buddrachellum and another at Mahadeopore, and a third higher up the river, perhaps at Chandah; but it may well be considered whether they ought not to be more numerous and at shorter intervals. The authorities of the Nagpore and Hydrabad countries will be addressed on the subject immediately.

(Signed) J. D. ROUBDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

Revenue Dept

No. 901

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 7th July 1859.

*June 10 1859.

P. to Minute on the proposal to increase the monopoly price of Salt—

The Honorable the President expressed his conviction (which

that the Salt revenue in this Presidency had not received due attention, and that a more effective administration would alone be sufficient materially to augment it. In pursuing the subject the attention of His Excellency in Council has been drawn to the correspondence noted in the margin between the

P. W. D. No 2167
Ex Min's Con't Nov.r 24. 1857 Para 3 to 40
Ex Pro: B.d of Rev.e March 22. 1858
Ex Min's Con't May 15. 58 Para 7 to 10.

wheel improvement is necessary in the means of access to the Pass, both towards the town, and also towards the interior of the country, if they are in opposite directions from the Store. He will prepare and send in Estimates without delay for the roads considered to be necessary.

5. Nowpadah, the place of by far the largest manufacture and sale is remote from any Port, and Colonel Colton's suggestion could not be carried into effect, or be admitted, without a large outlay for canals, for which funds are not now available. It appears however that this Store, large as the sales are, is peculiarly inaccessible during the rainy season it is surrounded by

4 Thuravally is very near the port of Calingapatam, & the means shall be adopted without delay for either placing the store there or for making it easily accessible where it is. On these points also the Collector and District Engineer will confer, and will send in immediately for sanction plans and estimates for the works required. Indeed, whether the store is moved or not, a good road will be necessary; there should therefore be no delay at all about that, and the work should begin as soon as the proper line can be agreed on by the Collector and the District Engineer.

[7] Report Para 35

[7] Ibid

by deep marshy and at other times the country round has not a blade of grass for the bullocks. Yet Colonel Colton learnt that one hundred thousand bullocks were annually laden here ~~and this number ought to be much increased now, since the cultivation of the Pass & Wynaad.~~ The means of approach to this Store require to be improved immediately; either by simply making good roads, or by also changing the locality of the Store, either to a spot on the Trunk road from Calingapatam, or perhaps to Ticcully. On this question the Govt can come to no decision without a report from the Collector, and Mr Forbes will now be directed to consider

consider the subject, and submit his opinion without delay. He will freely confer on the subject with the District Engineer who will at once prepare and send in Estimates for such roads as may be deemed necessary, as well as for the buildings and works needed if it is proposed to move the Store.

With

4 With respect to the plan of establishing Depôts in the interior, the Govt continue to hold the opinion already expressed more than once that such interference with the carrying trade of the country is in general very undesirable. But Colonel Cotton's proposals are much more limited. He notices that the Banjarries who chiefly carry on the trade in Salt now bring little produce to the coast. They have a great aversion to the plain country on account of the difficulty they find in getting fodder for their numerous cattle; they therefore come down rapidly unloaded and return with Salt to the

Report Para 97.

Cotton

Cotton proposes therefore that depôts of salt should be established at the foot of the Passes, leading into the interior to supply the bunjaries; and he anticipates the same result which he says has actually followed a similar measure in Canara, viz. that agencies were established at the new depôts by the coast merchants to buy the grain and other products brought down by the bunjaries[†], and there is this difference, that in Canara there was usually water carriage from the coast to the depôt, which is not the case in Ganjam, and the supply of the depôts would therefore be more expensive

[†] Ibid, Para 106,

5

In view to the more efficient local administration of the Salt revenue, the Gov^r in Council resolves to revive the design entertained when the creation of Dep^y Collectors was first contemplated, and to appoint Officers of that class to the immediate charge of this branch of revenue under the Collrs. And as a beginning he resolves to nominate Diddy Narsinga Row now Deputy Collector of

Collector of ~~Rajahmundry~~ Cuttack
~~dy~~ to the charge of
the Salt Department in Gan-
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will be informed
that he has been
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because the Government
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the ability, the energy,
and the uprightness
necessary to a right
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that a zealous and
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mance of it will be
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claim to promotion.

If

~~s~~ It will be his
duty not only to endeavour
by active personal super-
vision to ensure honesty
in the sales and in
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ceeds; but also to bring
forward all measures
of any kind which he
may consider well cal-
culated to augment
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will be instructed to
give him all the as-
sistance in his power
for the due performance
of his duty, and will
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confidence. Three
months after assuming
charge

charge of his new
duties, Nursing a Row
will submit a full
report of his proceedings,
with any recommendation
~~xxxx~~ he may have to
make; and this report
will be forwarded
by the Collector to the
Board of Revenue and
by the Board to Government,
with no more delay than
~~shall~~ may be necessary for
them to record their
remarks on it.

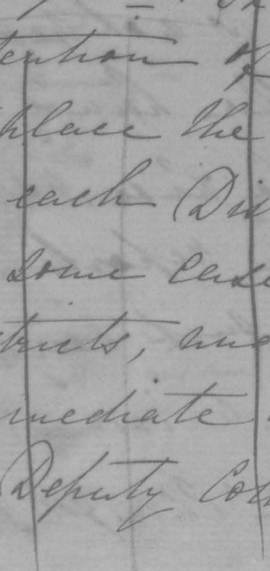
7 In 1856 the
Government greatly
reduced the number of
places of manufacture
in the Northern Dis-
-tricts, with the view
of

of concentrating the
business and so obtain
-ing funds to provide
better paid supervision.
The abolition of hand
was felt to be
~~xxxxxx~~ in itself an evil,
~~xxxxxx~~ only justified
by the necessity of the
case; and ~~but~~ the Deputy
Collectors being now
available for the
supervision of this De
-partment, that concen-
-tration ~~and the liberal~~
~~salaries paid to Superin-~~
~~tendents of these~~ is no
longer necessary. It
may probably be ex-
-pedient therefore to
reopen some of the pans
closed in 1856- ~~and in~~
~~particular~~

~~facilities as it seems desirable to extend the Land at Umaravilli and to store the salt made there at Cocanada~~ The Board will report their opinion on this plan, stating also the measures necessary for giving effect to it, both as to establishment, place of storing, and roads.

8. The preceding remarks apply to Ganjam only, but the Governor in Council wishes the Bd to take up the subject in the spirit of those remarks, for all the salt Districts of this Presidency - & to inform Govt after the necessary communications with the collectors, what measures if any those indicated or any other they would recommend in each for the purpose in view.

It is the desire of H. E. in C. that this subject should receive immediate attention. The Bd will be at liberty to report on each Dist by itself & the arrangements proposed should be as detailed & as practical as to admit of being at once carried into effect if approved by Govt. It is the intention of the Govt to place the salt Revenue of each Dist, or possibly in some cases of two Districts, under the immediate charge of a Deputy Collr, ac-



Would be very desirable to retain the Umaravilli pans but not by reducing the no of Establishments. The supply cannot be secured where so near & the local supply is already in advance of this at Cocanada. Where the materials & smuggling are so strong, it seems needless to employ an underpaid agency & to waste there sums as were to remunerate themselves for the ill-judged parsimony of Govt. W.

=cording to the original design when this class of officers was first proposed.

9. There is one opening which if duly taken advantage of ought to lead to a large & rapid expansion of the salt trade; viz. the facilities recently created for the navigation of the Godavery. There are now steamers and flotillas of boats available for this purpose, & it has been ascertained that there is no season of the year at which the river is not navigable. On the other hand the officers who have ascended the river report that they are met everywhere with the universal question "Can you bring us salt"; & all the salt that they have taken up has been readily sold. The Govt would wish to consider carefully, in communication with the Collr & the Dist. Engineer what measures will be best adapted to developpe this new trade.

10 Among those arrangements the formation of Depôts at intervals along the banks of the rivers should have a place, and the local officers with advice from Govt on the subject to establish - one may perhaps be at Bandaramelleum & another at Mahalestum, & third higher up the river, perhaps at Chanda; but it may well be considered whether they ought

not to be more numerous
& at shorter intervals - The
Authorities of the Customs
& Hydrostat Counties
will be addressed on the
subject immediately -

Capt. & Rd. of Rev.
Offs &
10 — Chief Engrs
1 — Collr of Canjam
1 — Dy. Engr — do.
6 — Ests of Indian
Steamers

Immediate

Copy sent to Letter to E.
of 8th July 1859. No. 24.

Revenue 1859 Dept.
Pro: of Govt 8th July.

No. 901.

Pro: of the Madras Govt
of 7th July 59.

From the Chief Engr of 18 July
1859 Ct No 1888 Encl 19th Aug
7-8-

From the Collector of Ganjam
of 12th Augt 59 & Encl 2 No 1491. in Encls:
2nd Sept 15-16

To the Resident at Hydera.
-bad- Com: 15th July. 15.

Passing orders on
the increased of the Monopoly
price of Salt at Madras.

Pro: of the Board of Revt of 18th
Dec 59 Ct No 2437 in Encls

Pro: of the Board of Rev 27 July
Ct No 2002

No 57.

Pro: of the Bd of Rev of 25th
April 1860 Ct No 949.

31-3-60