M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1668 — Press / ~~Mis.~~

370-371

Dated 20-9-1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 370. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th August 1860, No. 3,947 :—

Read the following letter from G. S. FORBES, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated Chetterpore, 27th July 1860, No. 191 :—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Orders of Government, dated the 19th June last, No. 1,015, reviewing the Report of D. Narasinga Ráu, Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department in Ganjam, and calling for my observations on various points which I will presently notice *seriatim*. I regret that this report should have gone up without my having had the opportunity of accompanying it by the remarks it might suggest as in this case the present reference would probably have been unnecessary. Narasinga Ráu has certainly shown himself desirous of doing justice to his charge, and has effected some useful reforms. I regret, however, that his remarks regarding Messrs. Tims and Palmer should have led to these Officers being mentioned in terms of serious censure in the Government Order.

Censure on Messrs. Tims and Palmer.

2. The improper system of measurement, which was still continued under their superintendence, was not originated by them ; they supposed it to be correct, and certainly showed great obtuseness in retaining such a belief, but were not actuated by bad motives, and have hitherto borne high characters for zeal and honesty. Mr. Tims is now employed in the Kistna District.

3. Paragraph 3 of the Government Order comments on the state of the Calingapatam platforms ; orders were long since issued on this subject and a better style of platform decided on by Captain Harington and myself.

Calingapatam.

4. Paragraph 4 has reference to the use of illicit Salt. Measures have been successfully taken to check this practice to some extent in the northern part of the District by Muhammad Alli, Superintendent at Ganjam, an Officer of the highest merit in every way. The attention of the Police will be specially directed to its repression everywhere.

5. The lines of road mentioned in paragraph 5 have been commenced and are advancing as fast as the limited means at our command permit.

Road to Nowpadah.

6. Paragraph 6—Remarks on the inferior quality of Ganjam Salt. I have for many months past insisted on a total change of system, which has been carried out (after much difficulty) in communication with the Superintendent. I sent* a specimen recently collected with the hand. Several garce have been manufactured of nearly equal quality, though less pure in color, and the whole of this year's manufacture is far superior to that of former years. Next year I intend to introduce a plan, by which still larger crystals will be formed and collected without the use of the rake : the specimen I send is inferior to none I have ever seen taken from the Pans in this Presidency.

Ganjam Salt.

* *By banghy.*

Quality of Ganjam Salt.

7. The subject of paragraph 7 has already been noticed above, at least in part. I believe the system of measurement therein alluded to was first brought to my notice by the Ganjam Superintendent nearly a year ago and was immediately forbidden by me.

System of measurement.

8. Paragraph 12.—The Salt has been well stored this year at Ganjam. The wastage which formerly occurred was owing to the mistaken form given to the heaps which were too flat on the top, and also to the practice of inserting a stake on the top of the heap to finish off the thatching, a stupid plan, which permitted the rain to percolate through the very centre of the heap. Many of the Ganjam Peons have been removed.

Storing and wastage.

way of improvement at

the

Rate per Garce. 9. Paragraph 14.—The rate of pay per garce for the Salt, which it is proposed to manufacture at Mansúrkotta next year, has been submitted to Mr. Pelly at his request, and an Establishment has also been recommended proportioned to the requirements of the manufacture at its commencement. No outlay of any consequence will be required at Mansúrkotta, but I will again communicate with the District Engineer on the subject when he visits this part of the District.

Groins and channels at Mansúrkotta.

Quantity to be made at Mansúrkotta. 10. Paragraph 16.—I propose in the first year to manufacture 50,000 maunds of Salt at Mansúrkotta. I doubt whether we can look with any certainty to a larger yield the first year, and the sales of the first season must serve as a guide to future operations. As long as large quantities of produce are shipped at Ganjam, which is almost as easily reached from Goomsoor as Mansúrkotta is, the Salt sales of the former place will not be diverted to any serious extent to the new Pans.

Ganjam.

Spontaneous Salt. 11. Paragraph 17.—It had already been arranged with the Deputy Collector to gather Spontaneous Salt during the season which has just closed. Our operation had, however, been too long delayed and will come into effect next year.

Itchapúr Pans. 12. Paragraph 18.—I have already, I believe, stated to the Board that I should wish to see the result of opening the Mansúrkotta Pans before recommending the restoration of those at Itchapúr.

Use of brine by Fishermen. 13. Paragraph 20.—The practice here noticed has been stopped.

Road at Ganjam.. 14. As regards the road from the Ganjam Pans to the high road alluded to in paragraph 25, some mistake has probably occurred. A road already exists. Notwithstanding Narasinga Ráu's remarks regarding the general dislike to Ganjam Salt, its inferior quality has been no bar to a sale yielding Rupees 1,23,938-10-9 up to June 30th last, so that had no road existed it would certainly have been necessary to make one.

Salt Platforms. 15. The system on which Salt platforms are made is so evidently faulty that waste is to some extent inevitable ; they are composed of soil obtained close at hand and nothing else, and however shaped, are of course saturated by the melting of the lower stratum of Salt in wet weather. Platforms should be constructed of stone (where it is obtainable) roughly dressed and joined, but not cemented, so that the leakage would descend through the interstices. Where an elevated piece of rocky ground can be obtained, it affords better storing than any artificial earthen platform can do.

In Cons., 20th June 1860. Submitted to Government with reference to their Order, dated 19th June 1860, Revenue Department, No. 1,015. No observations by the Board appear called for.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 371. ORDER THEREON, 20th September 1860, No. 1,668.

1. The Board submit a letter from the Collector of Ganjam with observations upon the Order of 19th June last, No. 1,015, reviewing D. Narasinga Ráu's report on the Salt Department of that District.

2. The Governor in Council is glad to learn (paragraph 6) that there is probability of improvement at the Ganjam pans as regards the quality of the Salt manufactured. The practice alluded to in paragraph 8 is clearly objectionable. The Board might inquire whether such a mode of heaping is in force elsewhere, and if so it should be every where prohibited.

3. Paragraph 10. The manufacture at Mansúrkotta of 50,000 maunds for the first year is sanctioned. Mr. Forbes will, as he proposes, (paragraph 12) await the result of the manufacture there before re-opening the pans at Itchapúr.

4. Paragraph 15. The mode of forming Salt platforms of stone seems hardly practicable. At least in the majority of Salt manufacturing localities. The question is however an interesting one, and might be specially referred to the attention of the Deputy Collectors in charge of Salt in the different Districts, to be noticed by them in their reports. The general practice too as regards the shape of Salt heaps and the mode of protecting them, might be inquired into, with a view to the general introduction of improvements.

5. The remainder of Mr. Forbes' letter does not call for remark.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

the Tanjam pans as regards the quality of the salt manufactured. The practice alluded to in para 8 is clearly objectionable. The Board might enquire whether such mode of heaping is in force elsewhere, and if so it should be every where prohibited.

3. Para 10. The manufacture at Mansiérhatta of 30,000 maunds for the first year is sanctioned. Mr. Forbes will, as he proposes, (para 12) await the result of the manufacture there before reopening the pans at Itchapir.

4. Para 15. The mode of forming salt platforms of stone seems hardly practicable. At least in the majority of salt manufacturing localities. The question is however an interesting one, and might be specially referred to the attention of the Deputy Collrs in charge of salt in the several different Districts, to be noticed by them in their reports. The general practice too as regards the shape of salt heaps and the mode of protecting them, might be enquired into, with a view to the general introduction of improvements.

5. The remainder of Mr. Forbes' letter does not call for remark.

12 Copies
Board of Revenue Dispatch

Salt Depte. Ganjam

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Ques. 60 No. 2465

Do. Do 28 July 60
C No. 2114 ult.

On a letter from the Collector of Ganjam re: reviewing Lieut Dr Coll's report on the Salt Dept of that District.

No 370 & 371.