M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 360	Press ~~Mis.~~
69-70	
Dated 7 — 3 — 1860.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 69. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th February 1860, No. 883.

Read letter from the Collector of Madras, dated 16th February 1860, No. 34.

(In Con. 17th February 1860, No. 739.)

In their Proceedings, dated 2nd February 1860, the Board requested the sanction of Government for an advance of Rupees 12,000 to the Salt manufacturers of the Madras Collectorate.

2. In the letter above recorded, the Collector applies for a further advance of Rupees 15,000 which he concurs with his Deputy Collector Mr. A. Smith, in considering absolutely necessary to ensure the manufacture of the large stock required.

3. The Board resolve accordingly to recommend to Government that this advance also may be sanctioned, it being of consequence to lay in a large supply.

4. It is only, however, as a matter of necessity that the Board are induced to adopt this course, for they cannot admit the poverty of the owners of the Salt pans as a sufficient reason for making advances. If the present owners have not the requisite capital, they must either borrow money or sell the pans which they cannot afford to work. The former plan is no doubt, as Mr. Smith says a ruinous expedient, though it must pay or it would not be adopted. A system of Government advances will, however, only perpetuate the evil and under it the manufacturers will remain, as they now seem to be, a class of paupers. The refusal of advances on the contrary will have the beneficial effect of compelling them to sell their pans to men who have sufficient capital to work them. The manufacture being thus in the hands of capitalists, it may naturally be presumed that it will be more skilful, more productive and more economical. The present skilled manufacturers will then occupy the position which befits their poverty and become laborers, instead of pauper proprietors.

5. The Collector will, therefore, make it known that advances will not again be recommended by the Board, and will take measures to prevent pans being kept unproductive solely from the poverty of their owners. When the stock estimated for this year is received, he will not be obliged to press the manufacture so rigorously and the junction of the Northern and Southern Canals will enable him to draw supplies from other pans, when his own are less productive than usual.

6. The other arguments used by Mr. Smith, viz., the increase in the wages of labor and the losses incurred by the manufacturers last year, are reasons for considering whether the rates of Kudiváram liberal as they are in Madras, are sufficient under the altered circumstances of the times. If they are not, they must in justice to the panholders be raised, for a system of advances would never remedy such a state of matters. In addition, however, to the actual expenses, &c. of manufacture, the Collector in such an enquiry will have to consider the price at which Salt can be procured from other localities where labor is less expensive, as Government of course cannot pay more for Salt made in Madras than the price at which it can be procured from other places.

7. Resolved that a copy of these Proceedings be submitted for the consideration and orders of Government.

(A true Extract.)

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

No. 70. ORDER THEREON, 7th March 1860, No. 360.

1. The paper above recorded is based on an application for an advance of 15,000 Rupees which the Collector of Madras has made through the Board on the recommendation of his Deputy in charge of the Salt Department. This is in addition to the former grant of 12,000 odd Rupees, which was given to enable the ráyats to put their pans in thorough repair: the sum now demanded, only half of what the ráyats asked for, is to enable them to hire laborers to manufacture during the current season.

2. The grant of advances is much to be deprecated on all accounts, Government however will not now consider whether the arguments brought forward by the Deputy Collector are good and sufficient or otherwise. The great object is to stimulate the manufacture of salt at the Madras pans; unusual efforts are required to meet an unusual demand, and Government with that object in view are willing to hold out unusual advantages. The Governor in Council therefore sanctions the advance of 15,000 Rupees now asked for and for the purpose named. It will be clearly explained to the ráyats that this course is purely exceptional, and the Board will refrain as much as possible from making similar recommendations in future. The advance will be recovered in the same manner as that sanctioned on the 16th February 1860.

3. The question discussed in paragraph 6 of the Board's Proceedings now under consideration should be speedily settled. A full report should be called for from the Collector, and submitted with the Board's deliberate opinion.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,

Deputy Secretary to Government.

sale by auction - Rs

Revised draft as settled in Council

JP

Bd. of the Madras Civil
9 March 1860
Proceedings
Read the following
of the Board of Revenue.

~~Circular subject of selling salt peans by auction~~ } ~~Received 18 Feb 7 1860~~
~~No. 762~~

Recommends that a } Received 18 Feb 7 1860
letter addressed to } No. 883
the salt manufacturers
of the Madras Collectorate

1. ~~With the proceedings~~ recorded, the Board of Revenue forward a letter from the Collector of Madras in answer to a Circular* put by them regarding the practicability of selling by auction four hundred and pans, which it has been proposed, should be opened this year, for the manufacture of salt in the Madras Collectorate. In calling for the Collector's opinion, the Board observed that the plan "if feasible would probably lead to the introduction of a more wealthy class of manufacturers"

2. Mr Cunliffe is much against the proposition, and gives a variety of reasons against a sale by auction. Though for-

* Board's Proc. 2 Feb. 1860. No. 561. Para. 13.

+ 16 Feb. 1861
No. 250

comments have already expressed themselves in favor of such an auction, they will not, under the present circumstances of the Madras Salt pans, press the question, but leave the Collector to make such arrangements as, in communication with the Board of Revenue, may appear advisable.

No. 1 The second paper recorded above is based on an application for an advance of 15000 Rupees which the Collector of Madras has made through the Board on the recommendation of the Deputy in charge of the Salt Department. This is in addition to the former grant of 12000 odd rupees, which was given to enable the Rayats to put their pans in thorough repair: the sum now demanded, only half of what the Rayats asked for, is to enable them & their laborers to manufacture during the current season

No. 2 The grant of advances is much to be deprecated in all cases on all accounts.

Government however will not now consider whether the arguments brought forward by the Deputy Collector are good and sufficient or otherwise. The great object is to stimulate the manufacture of salt at the Madras pans; unusual efforts are required & must on unusual demand, & Government with that object in view are willing to hold out unusual advantages.

The Governor in Council therefore sanctions the advance of 15000 rupees now asked for & for the purpose named. It will be clearly explained to the Rayats that this course is purely exceptional, & the Board will refrain as much as possible from making similar recommendations in future. The advance will be recovered in the same manner as that sanctioned on the 16 Feby 1860.

No. 3 The question discussed in para 6 of the Board's Proceedings

now under consideration should be speedily settled - A full report should be called for from the Collector, and submitted with the Board's deliberate opinion —

Appr
5/2/60

11 Copies to the Board of Rev: with 2 Encls Circ 10
1 " " Acct Genl
3 " " Cust Auditor

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