M.R.O. 74—10,000—21-4-25

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 53	Press ~~Mis.~~
106-107	
Dated 9 — 1 — 1866.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, for the month of January 1860.

No. 106. Read the following letters.

From B. H. ELLIS, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Bombay Castle, 14th November 1859, No. 4535.

I am directed to annex copy of a letter from the Commissioner of Customs, Salt and Opium, No. 1906, dated the 31st ultimo, and to state that Mr. Spooner has been authorized to advance Rupees (1,20,000) one lac, and twenty thousand, for the purchase of salt for the Madras Government and ordered to give every assistance in his power.

2. It will be observed that freight is very high here and salt scarce, and when it is known that the Government is in the market the traders will combine, so that it may be expected that the price of the salt will be high. His Lordship in Council is assured, however, that the Government of Madras will not attribute this to remissness on the part of the customs authorities of Bombay, as Mr. Spooner apprehends, the cause being obviously the monopoly system which renders necessary these sudden demands on behalf of Government.

From RICHARD SPOONER, Esq., Commissioner of Customs, Salt and Opium; to B. H. ELLIS, Esq., Secretary to Government, Bombay, dated 31st October 1859, No. 1906.

Salt.

The authorities on the Malabar Coast are again in difficulties relative to the supply of salt. I am in receipt of several telegrams, have been asked to purchase salt, and it appears to me that during the present season no trifling burden will be imposed upon me.

2nd. I conclude that Government intend that I am to render every assistance in my power to the Madras authorities.

3rd. But it will be necessary for me to make advances of cash (the same as was done by me in 1858), and for this the special sanction of Government is necessary, and instead, therefore, of troubling Government with separate references in each case, I would respectfully beg to suggest that I should be authorized to advance from time to time, such sums as may be required during the present season.

Letter from the Commissioner of Customs, No. 499, *dated the* 19*th March* 1858, *Government Resolution, No.* 969, *dated the* 19*th March* 1858.

4th. On any advance being made, intimation should, at the same time, be given to the Accountant General, who should be furnished with extracts from the letters or telegrams from the Madras authorities applying for salt.

5th. Freight is very high, salt is scarce, and above all, there is a combination among the salt traders, and hence Government purchase salt at a great disadvantage. The Madras monopoly system is evidently working very badly, and I am apprehensive that, while great additional burden and anxiety will be thrown upon me, I may not be able to give satisfaction to the Madras authorities, who will probably consider the salt to be both dear and inferior, notwithstanding every exertion on my part to purchase the best salt and at the lowest prices.

6th. I beg to annex copy of a letter which I have lately received from Mr. Fisher, the Collector of Canara, who requires salt to the extent of 2,000 garce, or say Indian maunds 2,40,000, and which will cost say Rupees one lac and twenty thousand or thereabouts.

Dated 18*th October* 1859. *Rupees* 1,20,000.

No. 107. ORDER THEREON, 9th January 1860, No. 53.

Ordered that the foregoing letters be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Revenue 1859 Depart.
Pro: of Govt. 10th January 60.

No. 2129

From the Acting Secy
to the Govt of Bombay.

Dated 14th November
Recd 21st 1859.

Stating that the
Commissioner of Customs,
Bombay, has been au-
thorized to advance
Rs. 120,000 for the purchase
of Salt for the Madras
Govt and ordered to give
every assistance in his
power.

Nos 106 & 107.

No 53
Recorded
9th January 1860.

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