M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-32.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 725 Press
Mis.

74-79

Dated 7- 5 - 1860.

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 78. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th March 1860, No. 1,632.

Read the following letter from W. FISHER, Esq., Collector of South Canara, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated Belatangadi, 17th March 1860, No. 36:—

As it appears to me that the Board are in error in one or two important points regarding Salt manufacture in Canara, I trust that I am not out of order in laying before them the following remarks on their Proceedings, dated 23d February, submitting to Government my letter in reply to the Board's Circular, dated 11th July 1859:—

2. In paragraph 10 of the Board's observations it is stated that the Board cannot think that there is so great a difference between the climate of Bombay and Canara as to account alone for the deteriorated quality of the Salt manufactured in the latter, in comparison with that of the former, as described by the Collector.

3. Again in paragraph 13 the Board observe, that the season in Canara is identical with that of Bombay, and that as there are five clear months during which the Salt manufacture can be carried on, there does not appear to be any necessity for such an obviously bad practice, as that obtaining in Canara, with regard to hasty manufacture.

4. I beg to state, for the information of the Board, that the climate of Bombay and that of Canara is very different, and that the season for manufacturing Salt in the two localities is far from identical.

5. I have failed to lay my hands on any record of the average fall of rain in Bombay; but I am strongly impressed with the idea that whilst the fall here may be taken at 120 inches, that in Bombay is little over 80 inches.

6. On this point, however, the Board can at once obtain correct information; but there is another which has not been considered at all, which quite accounts for our season of manufacture being much shorter than that in Bombay, and very much below the five clear months over which the Board suppose it to extend.

7. In Bombay the owners of the Pans have only to contend with the direct fall of rain on the surface of their Pans, or such surface, if any, as may be drained by the Pans.

8. In Canara all the Salt Pans lie in creeks in the large rivers which continue to inundate them long after the rain has ceased, or at least to render the baling out of the water and the drying of the beds, operations which cannot be commenced until some time after the rains have ceased.

9. Moreover, it is not until the rivers are comparatively low, and the tide flows well into them that brine can be had at all: and I have no hesitation in saying that the manufacture of Salt in Bombay begins a month or six weeks earlier than it does in Canara.

10. The Board must be aware, I think, that the climate becomes more humid along the Western Coast every mile we travel South, and that even in Malabar and Canara the difference in this respect is marked.

11. They have lately, I believe, tried experiments in the manufacture of Salt in the former Province, and if I am rightly informed, persons acquainted both with the Bombay and Eastern Coast practice have been sent for, and every effort has been made likely to conduce to the success of the experiment, which, however, signally failed.

12. Again, supposing that the system of manufacture in Canara is capable of improvement, which is likely enough, there is so little difference between the manufacture of Goa and that of North Canara, that in the latter District the practice cannot be very inferior to that of our Northern neighbours whose manufacture is free.

13. As I have already stated in former letters, I believe that the North Canara Salt deteriorates progressively from Sanikatta to Cundapur, and I doubt very much with this fact

before me, and the knowledge of the failure of the Malabar experiment, whether Salt can be produced in South Canara in sufficient quantities and of a quality sufficiently good to render the manufacture profitable.

14. That it can be produced in some localities there can be no doubt, for Salt was formerly manufactured, but I believe the Pans were unprofitable, and that Salt making was discontinued on that account.

Submitted for the information of Government, in continuation of the Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd ultimo, No. 946.

2. The Board did not mean to assert that South Canara could produce as fine Salt as Bombay, but that the local demand might be met to a greater extent, and the District rendered less dependent on precarious and expensive supplies from extraneous sources.

3. The fact that Salt is largely manufactured at Goa in the Northern Frontier of Canara, and at Cochin (in the District of Malabar), and that it is illicitly made all along the coast, shows that the climate does not offer an insuperable bar to the production of the article further South than North Canara.

(A true Copy and Extract)

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

No. 79. ORDER THEREON, 7th April 1860, No. 725.

The Government find nothing in Mr. Fisher's letter, now submitted by the Board of Revenue, to alter the opinion expressed in their Order of the 20th April, (No. 601), that Salt may be largely made in North Canara, and to some extent in South Canara. They would wish the trial to be made in the latter District on a limited scale; and they do not doubt that the manufacture may be much increased in North Canara, so as in a few years to make both Districts independent of foreign supply. Both Collectors should give special attention to the subject, and they have now the aid in each District of a Deputy Collector for the sole charge of the Salt Department.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,

Secretary to Government.

Rev. Dept.

No. 725

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 7th May 1860.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting for the information of Government a letter from the Collector of South Canara regarding the manufacture of salt in that District. (Here enter 30th March 1860 No. 1632)

The Government find nothing in Mr. Fisher's letter, now submitted by the Board of Revenue, to alter the opinion expressed in their order of the 20th ~~instant~~ ultimo (No. 601) that salt may be largely made in North Canara, and to some extent in South Canara. They would wish the trial to be made in the latter District on a limited scale; and they do not doubt that the manufacture may be much increased in

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