M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1807	Press ~~Mis.~~
121-122	
Dated 11-9-1861.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 11th September 1861.

No. 121. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd August 1861, No. 4,595:—

Read the following letter from J. MAYER, Esq., Professor of Chemistry, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Chepauk, dated Madras, 3rd August 1861.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 11th ultimo, and to apologize for having delayed my reply until this date; pressure from other matters has, however, necessitated this delay.

2. As requested, I now return the former report which points out the nature of the impurities, but not the quantities of such impurities present.

3. The results obtained by quantitative examination I have now the honor to forward; these show that the amount of impurity is by no means so large as was anticipated.

4. The three samples of Salt received last from the Revenue Board, viz., those obtained from Triparoor, Pungoolum and Sunumbakoolum are of average quality, containing from 3 to 7 per cent. of impurity as is shown by the accompanying table.

5. With reference to the Salt obtained from Madura, I am of opinion that complaints brought forward are not borne out by the results of analysis, as it will be seen that there are scarcely more than 4 per cent. of impurity present; it will further be seen that this impurity is almost entirely of a harmless character, viz., Silicate of Alumina (or clay) with a small proportion of Salts of the Alkaline Earths, Lime and Magnesia.

6. Whether the complaints referred to arise from fanciful ideas, or from any other cause, I am not able to say, but I do not think they can have arisen from correct observation.

Analysis of samples of common Salt received from the Revenue Board.

	Samples.			
	No. 1.	2.	3.	4.
Composition of Salt.				
Common Salt	87·59	93·71	89·63	93·29
Moisture	5·20	3·40	5·80	2·60
	92·79	97·11	95·43	95·89
Sulphates of Lime and Magnesia (the usual impurities of Sea Salt), clay and earthy impurities	7·21	2·89	4·57	4·11
	100·	100·	100·	100·

No. 1. "Spontaneous salt of the Triparoor Covelong."
„ 2. "Do. of Pungoolum."
„ 3. "Do. of Sunumbakoolum."
„ 4. Madura Salt which was examined before.

P. S.—Should the objections to the use of the Madura Salt be persisted in, it would be advisable to inquire what these diseases may be, which are stated to have arisen from the use of the Salt in question.

1. Communicated to the Collector of Madura, together with a copy of Doctor Mayer's former letter,* with reference to the Board's Proceedings, No. 2,672, dated 5th June 1860.

2. Copy will also be submitted for the information of Government.

* No. 2,461, dated 21st June 1859.

3. There seems no reason to doubt that this Spontaneous Salt is perfectly wholesome.

In Cons. 17th May 1861, No. 3,628.

4. Doctor Mayer's present letter will also be communicated to the Collector of Madras for information, with reference to his letter, dated 17th May 1861, No. 146.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 122. ORDER THEREON, 11th September 1861, No. 1,807.

Ordered to be recorded.

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

IN CONS. 20TH APRIL 1861, No. 2,461.

From J. MAYER, Esq., Professor of Chemistry,
dated Madras, 21st June 1860.

I have the honor to acknowledge Proceedings No. 2,672 of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th June 1860, accompanied with an extract from a letter of the Collector of Madura, under date 30th May 1860, No. 108, and in reply forward the accompanying report, which is the result of careful analysis.

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ENC. 1.

Report on a sample of common Salt from Madura sent for examination by the Revenue Board.

Qualitative examination showed that this sample of salt contained the following substances :—

Acids.	Bases.
Chlorine.	Soda.
Sulphuric.	Potash.
Nitric.	Iron.
Silicic.	Alumina.
	Lime.
	Magnesia.

Besides the above-mentioned substances, there was a notable portion of organic matter.

From the results shown by the qualitative analysis, it is evident that the salt under examination contains all the usual impurities present in crude samples of common (sea) salt.

In order to ascertain whether these impurities were present in greater proportions than in the ordinary salt used by the natives here and sold in the bazar, an equal weight of bazar salt was dissolved in a quantity of distilled water four-fluid ounces, equal to that employed for the solution of the salt sent for examination.

Analysis proved that the Madras salt contained quite as large a quantity of lime, magnesia, iron, alumina with silicic and sulphuric acids; so far both kinds of salt are equally objectionable. However, as the Madras salt is not found to be injurious generally, or rather, as any evil effects that may arise from taking into the system decomposing vegetable matter earthy sulphates, chlorides, &c., have not been detected, some other cause for the effects complained of must exist, unless the complaints themselves be fanciful and unfounded.

Former experience indicated a further inquiry into the relative amounts of nitrates contained in both the samples of common salt. This path of examination pointed out at once a marked difference in the composition of the two kinds of salt; Madras salt contains but a very small portion of nitrates. The salt sent for examination contains comparatively a large portion. This satisfactorily accounts for the dislike expressed by the natives to this kind of salt.

Exd. J. Wright.

No. 4,595.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 22nd August 1861.

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(A true Copy and Extract.)

J. Hudleston

Secretary.

To V. H. Levinge, Esq., Collector of Madura, with copy of former letter, dated 21st June 1860.

Copy to J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.
„ to B. Cunliffe, Esq., Collector of Madras.
„ to Doctor J. Mayer.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

(1)

Ser 1861. Department

Pro: of Govt for Septr.

No. 2192

PROCEEDINGS of the BOARD of REVENUE

Dated 22nd August 1861.
Desp to
Recd 2[illegible]
E. I.

No. 4,595.

Communicating letter from Doctor Mayer, Chemical Examiner, reporting the results of his analysis of the spontaneous Salt from Triparoor, Pungoolum, Sunambakoolam and Madura.

No 1807.

Ordered the record to be

Forwarded to Govt
11th Septr 1861

14 Copies
To Mr. Board of Revenue. Dispd 12

No 1807 11th Septr
Recorded

No 121 & 122.

Of 6th Septr 210