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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2066 Press / Mis.

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Dated 29-10- 18 6.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 29th October 1861.

No. 350. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd August 1861, No. 4,614:—

Read letters from the Collector of Tinnevelly, dated 31st January, No. 55, and 6th February, No. 68 of 1861, and their respective enclosures.

(In Cons. 6th and 11th February 1861, Nos. 753 and 858.)

(1.) The Board will proceed to notice Mr. Wright's report *seriatim* as well as the Collector's remarks upon it.

(2.) *Paragraphs* 1 *to* 5.—In the first five paragraphs, Mr. Wright describes the position and extent of the pans of the District, and laments the opening for fraud which is given by the Choukeydars being permitted to apportion the quantity of Salt to be manufactured by each individual, but he should have been aware that if the rules laid down in the Manual of Instructions be followed, the remedy will be applied and this abuse prevented.

(3.) *Paragraphs* 5 *to* 9—.He then goes on to describe the manufacture, and explains that the brine is at present concentrated in shallow wells near the pans, and that the scrapings take place every sixth or eighth day. The Board are of opinion that a concentrating bed, even in addition to these shallow wells, would go far towards improving the quality of the Salt, as this is always promoted in proportion as the water is condensed. Another point often lost sight of is that the longer, up to a certain point, the brine is allowed to remain before scraping, the more perfect will be the crystalization, and the better the Salt; before fixing upon the sixth or eighth day, therefore, it should be carefully ascertained that this exposure is sufficient.

(4.) *Paragraphs* 10 *to* 12.—In paragraph 10, Mr. Wright proposes to adopt one uniform size of heap, as a means of preventing some of the frauds which now take place; but the Board fear that he overrates the result of such a measure. The Collector objects to Mr. Wright's proposal that the Salt be not exposed as at present on the ridges, on the ground that the moisture contained in the new Salt brought from the ridges into store would spread throughout the whole quantity. There appears to be no reason, however, why the Salt should not be exposed in enclosures under guard while the drying process is going on, but the Board are clearly of opinion that nothing will secure Government against fraud so long as there is combination among the servants. The Collector, in his remarks on this point, would appear to consider them immaculate; Mr. Wright on the other hand perhaps hardly gives them credit for the honesty they do possess.

(5.) *Paragraphs* 13 *to* 15.—In alluding to the out-turn, Mr. Wright, on a comparison of that of certain pans of a given size with that of other pans of a different size, deduces that at some pans very large frauds must take place. The Collector urges that no tangible evidence of fraud is produced, but the Board are of opinion that such evidence would be very difficult to obtain, and they think that every endeavour should be made to ascertain whether the difference remarked on by Mr. Wright is caused by fraud, want of attention, or variation of soil to which the Collector ascribes it.

(6.) *Paragraphs* 10 *to* 19.—In paragraph 16, Mr. Wright objects to the present plan of leaving the Salt so long on the ridges before taking it into store. The Collector explains the loss that would occur were Salt brought into store in a damp state. The Board think, however, that there is frequently an unnecessary delay in bringing it into store, which no doubt opens the way to fraud. It is done every other day in some places, and there seems to be no reason why this should not be the general practice.

(7.) *Paragraphs* 19 *to* 21.—Mr. Wright then goes on to propose that the Salt be stored in godowns which appear to be unnecessarily expensive in construction. The Board agree with the Collector that, in the general state of the exchequer, such a large outlay as would be required, for this purpose is out of the question, and they doubt whether any plan can be adopted more economical and efficacious than the present system.

(8.) *Paragraphs* 22 *to* 25.—As to the sales again, Mr. Wright and the Collector are at issue, the former stating that certain irregularities in payment and measurement are common, while the

Collector denies their existence. Mr. Wright would prohibit the manufacturers from being the measurers at the sales, as it leads to fraud, proved to Mr. Wright's satisfaction by one of the manufacturers *naively* telling him that without manufacture and *without sales* he could not live. Mr. Silver explains this by supposing that the man alluded to the receipt of the Kudivaram, but the Board fear that Mr. Wright's is the more correct explanation.

(9.) *Paragraphs* 27 *to* 30.—Eight measurers are proposed for each of the northern pans, and six for each of those in the south, who will do all the covering of the heaps, and the repairing of the fences. The Board observe that under Mr. Pelly's scheme, the manufacturers will have nothing to do with the sales in future, and two measurers only are proposed for each division. Much of the manual labor of measuring will be done by the purchasers, but this subject is now under the consideration of Government.

(10.) *Paragraphs* 31 *to* 41.—The remarks and proposals regarding a change of the site of some pans, the advisability or otherwise of retaining those lately re-opened at Vypaur, and of re-opening those at Trichendur, have already been disposed of by the Board, as also the question of the allotment of the beds at the new pans.

(11.) *Paragraphs* 42 *to* 45.—In alluding to the transfer of the Salt beds by sale, mortgage, and inheritance, Mr. Wright ascribes their low rate of price to their undefined size. The Collector, in his remarks on these paragraphs, states that frequent orders have been sent for all the beds to be made of one uniform size, 400 square feet; but that at the special request of the manufacturers at Koilpatnam, the beds at that place were made 600 square feet. The Board attach great importance to a uniformity of size, and trust that the Collector will use his best endeavours to have all the beds throughout the District brought to the same dimensions.

(12.) *Paragraphs* 46 *to* 49.—Mr. Wright's remarks regarding the present system of measuring Salt is deserving of attention, but the subject has lately been disposed of by Government by an Order, dated 11th March 1861, No. 556, directing the substitution of weighing for measuring throughout the Presidency. The scales will be of the most simple construction, capable of being repaired on the spot, and of weighing large quantities of Salt with rapidity.

In Cons., 12th March 1861, No. 1,556.

(13.) *Paragraph* 50.—The Collector, in commenting on Mr. Wright's statement that the present system of Rowannahs facilitates fraud, appears to the Board to receive these remarks in a wrong spirit, and does not seem to give his Deputy credit for the pains he has taken to master the subject. It is quite possible that Mr. Wright may see opportunities for fraud in the system without being able to detect instances of its practice.

(14.) *Paragraphs* 51 *to* 60.—In these paragraphs the advantage of a speedy distribution of the Kudivaram is dwelt upon, and it is suggested that when the remittances are made, a sum sufficient to pay for the Salt measured into store up to that date, be retained. This appears to the Board to be an excellent arrangement, and they think that the distribution of Kudivaram should be made by the Superintendent, as well as by the Deputy Collector. The Collector, in remarking that the retention of any portion of the remittance would be opposed to the rules laid down in the Manual, appears to forget that when the Manual was issued, no Deputy Collectors were appointed for the special charge of the Department.

(15.) *Paragraph* 61.—The Board are glad to observe that the Collector is alive to the absolute necessity of keeping the roads in a passable state; nothing can affect the sales so banefully as imperfect approaches. They trust also that Mr. Wright's suggestions regarding the funds will be adopted, though the system of guarding the pans must be left to the Police.

(16.) *Paragraphs* 62 *and* 63.—The new Salt Establishments are not framed with the idea of giving any assistance to the District Post, which, under an approaching arrangement, will be a distinct Department.

(17.) *Paragraphs* 64 *to* 69.—Praise is due to Mr. Wright for his experiments and inquiries regarding the different soils, and the effect they have upon the quality of the Salt produced, though the Collector passes over these observations without remark. The practice of receiving

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inferior Salt, alluded to by Mr. Wright as obtaining at Koilpatnam, is most improper and must at once be prohibited, the servants being held responsible for the receipt of any bad Salt into store which should be invariably destroyed.

(18.) *Paragraphs* 70 *to* 73.—Mr. Wright here goes on to propose that Tutacorin be made a Depôt for export only, and that arrangements for the regular supply of Salt to South Canara and Malabar be entered into, but as Tutacorin has been fixed on as one of the termini of the Great Southern of India Railway, it hardly seems practicable to give effect to this suggestion, for, as soon as the rail is opened, Tutacorin will be called on to supply not only Palamcottah and all the immediate vicinity, but a large portion of North Tinnevelly, and many parts of the District of Madura. This demand may probably be met by connecting the pans of Arasadi, Paliacovil and Koilpatnam with Tutacorin by canals, and closing the sale Depôts at those places. The Board also trust that South Canara and Malabar will hereafter obtain their Salt supply from North Canara, as Salt can always be more easily transported thence than from Tinnevelly.

(19.) *Paragraph* 74.—As regards spontaneous Salt, the board think it advisable to await the result of the experiment sanctioned in their Proceedings, No. 1,113, dated 28th February 1861, before passing any further orders.

(20.) *Paragraphs* 77 *to* 80.—The non-introduction of the new forms of Salt accounts is here brought to notice. The Collector explains this by stating that the late Head Assistant Collector, and the Salt Peshkar, decided that these forms should not be introduced till the Establishment was revised. These Officers had no authority whatever to suspend the Board's orders, and the Collector ought not to have permitted them to do so. The Board are glad, however, to find from the Collector's letter, No. 112, dated 4th March 1861, that there will be no further delay in the adoption of these forms.

(21.) *Paragraphs* 81 *and* 82.—In these paragraphs Mr. Wright argues in favor of Depôts instead of Divisions, and proposes that all the present stations be created Depôts; but this subject has been already disposed of by Mr. Pelly in consultation with the Collector, and is now under the consideration of Government.

(22.) *Paragraphs* 83 *and* 84.—Mr. Wright is strongly in favor of the Deputy Collector preparing all the accounts connected with his Department, but it has already been ruled by Government on the recommendation of Mr. Pelly not to require this of the Deputy Collector.

(23.) *Paragraphs* 85 *and* 86.—In remarking on the present Establishment, Mr. Wright states that it has hitherto been the custom to draft the incompetent officers of other Departments into the Salt Department. Such a course is quite incompatible with the efficiency which is now required. The Government look for a considerable increase of revenue from this source, and by the appointment of Deputy Collectors to it special charge show the importance which they attach to it. Under these circumstances, the Board consider that it will be necessary when the new Estabilshments are introduced to give the Deputy Collectors more power over their subordinates in the Salt Department than they exercise at present. Subject to an appeal to the Collector they might have power to fine, transfer or dismiss all the inferior servants below the rank of Peshkar, the present returns of such punishments being forwarded to the Collectors as usual who will review the same, while the higher grade of servants will not be punished in any way except by order of the Collector on the report of the Deputy Collector.

(24.) The Board are of opinion that the zeal and interest Mr. Wright has shown in the Department to which he was attached in the Tinnevelly District does him much credit.

25. Resolved that a copy of the foregoing Proceedings be submitted to Government for their information and orders, with reference to their Order, dated 3rd August 1860, No. 1,291.

In Cons., 14th August 1860, No. 3,803.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL, *Sub-Secretary.*

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 29th October 1861.

No. 351. ORDER THEREON, 29th October 1861, No. 2,066.

1. With these Proceedings the Board submit the report of the late Deputy Collector of Tinnevelly, Mr. Wright, on the Salt Department of that District, with the Collector's notes and their own remarks on it.

2. The Salt administration of the District appears, in many respects, to be in a very unsatisfactory state. It is not for Government, however, to discuss the details of management. The control of these is the province of the Board, and it is sufficient if the more important matters only are noticed by Government.

3. The Government desire that the apportionment of the manufacture among the Ryots be no longer left entirely to the Choukeydars. It will at least be controlled and confirmed by the Deputy Collector if he cannot personally regulate it.

4. The retention of the Salt on the ridges for unnecessarily long period affords great opportunities for smuggling and should be prevented.

5. The platforms will be improved as soon as possible. Stone platforms and warehouses involve too great an expense, and the ordinary mode of heaping Salt answers all practical purposes.

6. The Government desire that the abuses in the mode of storing be corrected at once. The manner of conducting the sales also requires regulation. The introduction of weighing will be a great improvement, but the weighers must be paid servants of Government, and have no interest in the Salt.

7. The Board are right in recommending that Tuticorin should not be constituted an Export Depôt only. The carts employed in bringing Cotton and other produce to that seaport must be provided with Salt for their return trips.

8. As regards the disposal of new Salt beds, prescriptive rights will be respected; but where such do not exist, the Government direct that the beds be sold by auction.

9. The Government attach much importance to the prompt payment of Coodewarum. There seems no objection to these being made out of the collections on abstracts sanctioned by the Collector, as proposed in paragraph 58 of Mr. Wright's report. The Board will give the subject further consideration and lay down rules applicable to all the Districts.

10. The Salt Peons are not to be required to do more in the Postal Department than convey the packet of the station to the nearest Post Office, and if this be distant separate runners will be employed hereafter.

11. The Deputy Collectors in charge of the Salt Department should, the Government think, like Assistant Collectors in independent charge, have power to fine, suspend, dismiss and appoint his subordinates, superintendents excepted, subject to the Collector's decision on appeal. The Collector of course will have a veto on all appointments. The Deputy Collectors should also have the power of recommending to the grade of Superintendent. If any Deputy Collector abuses his powers his conduct will be reported to the Board, who will deal with the case on its merits. The Board may also specially limit for a time the powers of a Deputy Collector on first appointment, if he has had no previous experience or official training.

12. As regards the preparation of accounts, the Orders of Government 3rd September 1861, No. 1,756, contemplate giving the Deputy Collector full means of check and control.

13. The practice of employing in the Salt Department servants who have misconducted themselves in other Department, if it obtains at all, will be peremptorily forbidden. The vesting the Deputy Collector with the power of appointing his subordinates will serve as the most effectual remedy for this.

14. Mr. Wright deserves credit for his exertions and zeal.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

IN CONS. 6TH FEBRUARY 1861, No. 753.

From J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of TINNEVELLY,
dated Trichendoor, 31st January 1861, No. 55.

With reference to your Official Memorandum of the 25th instant, I have the honor to inform you that the report on the arrangements and practice connected with the Salt Department, called for by Government in paragraph 3 of their Order, dated 3rd August 1860, No. 1,291, was only received from Mr. Wright on the 3rd instant. As there are many inaccuracies in it, I delayed forwarding it, till I could send my remarks along with it, but as the Board now call for Mr. Wright's report in their Memorandum of the 25th, I send the original at once.

2. My remarks on the inaccuracies and incorrect statements in this report, will be forwarded to the Board at an early date.

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ENC. 1.

REPORT on the arrangements and practice in the manufacture, storing and sales of salt in the Tinnevelly district.

AREA OF LAND AVAILABLE FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF SALT.—1. The area of land capable of yielding salt in the Tinnevelly district, at the places only where it is now manufactured, is about 418 acres; of which 243 are unoccupied, 113 covered by pans and 62 by wells, ridges, &c. This calculation has been ascertained by actual measurement, perhaps not very accurate, but sufficiently so to afford a tolerable approximation. The area does not include the land of closed pans, nor that where new stations might be opened, it is only the extent of land within and without the fences at each of the established stations, that which is yielding and which might yield salt.

PLACES OF MANUFACTURE.—2. The names of the nine stations where salt is manufactured are shown in the margin, and their position is indicated in the accompanying map prepared by the District Engineer.

1. Vypaur.
2. Munjuncolum.
3. Arasady.
4. Tutacorin.
5. Paliacoil.
6. Coilpatam.
7. Colasagarapatam.
8. Viziapathy, and
9. Coottenkaly.

PUTCUT DITTUM.—3. At the commencement of the season, after it has been arranged what quantity of salt shall be manufactured at each of the pans, the Chowkeydars obtain a Moochilka from the manufacturers binding themselves under certain penalties to manufacture the quantity required by Government.

4. This arrangement is imperfect, for it will be observed that a given quantity being allotted to the whole pan or station, the Ryots collectively bind themselves to supply the same and no authorized sub-division is made to each individual. It is left for the Chowkeydars to apportion each individual's quantity at the time of manufacture; thus opening the way to abuse and corruption. The Moochilka is to a certain extent drawn up according to the prescribed rules, but the object of it is lost from no Putcut Dittum book being kept, showing each individual's annual engagement. Such a book would have deprived the Chowkey servants of making their own private arrangements with the Ryots, and of course was never introduced in spite of vernacular copies of the rules and forms being furnished to them in 1856. Each individual's quantity should be in proportion to his holding and this plan will be introduced with the opening of new books in accordance with the rules in the Manual of Instructions.

METHOD OF MANUFACTURE.—5. The general mode of manufacture by solar evaporation is well known and very similar in all the districts, but remarks on the details of the process, including the plan of the pans and certain arrangements appear necessary.

6. At the five stations in the margin, which are situated in the northern half of the sea-board of Tinnevelly, each bed is a rectangular space covering 400 square feet; the whole of the beds are laid out with regularity not in distinct sets of pans, but contiguous to each other; so that the word "pans" in Tinnevelly represents all the beds of one station, and each salt Ryot's holding at a station is not known as a pan or pans, but as a set of beds at such pans, just in the same way as a Ryot might have so many fields under a particular tank.

1. Vypaur.
2. Munjuncolum.
3. Arasady.
4. Tutacorin, and
5. Paliacoil.

7. Between every row of beds comes alternately a ridge from 3 to 5 feet wide on which the scraped salt is placed and a channel from 1 foot to half a yard in width for the passage of the water to the beds. The beds are not supplied from back-waters and the sea direct, but from pits or shallow wells about 5 feet in depth; the shallowness of these wells allowing the brine to gain strength and doing away with the necessity of having water beds for the brine to concentrate in first before being let into the salt beds. The wells are replenished from the back-waters.

8. The process of preparing the pans at the commencement of the season for the manufacture, such as clearing the wells, reforming beds, repairing ridges, smoothing and treading the floor of the beds, occupies four or five weeks.

9. When the beds are ready, 4 or 5 inches of concentrated brine from the wells are let in, evaporation takes place and the salt is scraped on the 6th or 8th day. Total evaporation till the salt is dry is not allowed, but the scrapings take place whilst some water is over the crystals, the salt thus obtained being left to dry in small heaps on the ridges before being taken to the platform to be measured and received into store. In this manner the process is repeated as long as the season will permit. This year (1860) it was continued till the middle of October. The quantity of the daily scrapings of salt on the ridges of each individual is estimated, and as an additional precaution the number of these heaps is recorded, but the plan is defective; a heap may be much under-estimated and subsequently divided to represent two scrapings, the second scraping being clandestinely sold, or portions of the heaps can be brought up to the platform and mixed with the salt of the heap being sold, for the benefit of the servants. There are many other ways of fraud which these scrapings into heaps encourage.

10. A better plan would be for all the scrapings of salt of each Ryot to be placed in one continuous triangular-shaped heap on the ridges, varying in breadth at the bottom according to the breadth of the ridges at the different stations: for instance, if the breadth of the ridge was 9 feet, the bottom breadth of the salt heap might be 5 feet, leaving 2 feet vacant on either side, and the height 2 feet; but there should be one uniform breadth and height for these scrapings at each station, and the salt thus heaped should be estimated by measurement. To facilitate measurement, every station should be supplied with a frame like a bricklayer's level of the required dimension with which the servants might the more readily and accurately test the correctness of the dimensions of the heaps; with the assistance of this simple contrivance and a set of tables showing the cubical contents of a running foot and inches, the estimating of scrapings would consist in the simple operation of measuring day by day the number of running feet added to the heap, entering the number in the book and in the adjoining column showing the equivalent in mercals after consulting the table. All salt required to be brought to the platform before being received into store should be upon this plan; but I consider it would be scarcely ever necessary as the salt might be taken from the ridges at once into store beginning with the furthest end and taking as many running feet off as are dry. The introduction of this plan will be a very considerable check against fraud which those numerous and various sized small heaps and large mounds now encourage.

11. At the next station, Coilpatam, every bed is 600 square feet, but the plan of the pans and process of manufacture is similar to those of the five stations named.

12. At the remaining three stations the beds are irregular shaped, arranged according to no plan and vary in size from 100 to 300 square feet at the first and last and from 200 to 400 at Coottenkaly. The process differs at these pans from the others inasmuch as water beds are used for the brine to concentrate in. There are no less than 98 wells at Coolasagarapatam; from the wells the water passes to the small water beds and thence to the salt beds and the scrapings take place from the 6th to the 9th day. But from June to October the scrapings are oftener, being on the 6th or 7th day, as the water beds are, during those months, supplied from the back-water and not from the wells, as the former from the long absence of freshes is stronger.

Coolasagarapatam Coottenkaly Viziapathy.

Out-turn.—13. The out-turn of a single bed at Vypaur, Munjuncolum, Arasady, Tutacorin, Paliacoil and Coilpatam ranges from 8 to 25 mercals at each scraping with an average of only 10. As the beds at the last station are half as large again as those of the other four, it shows that there must be a regular system of fraud practised, or no pains taken, or the soil must be very inferior; that the latter is not the defect I shall presently show. The result at the other three pans cannot be ascertained as the beds all vary in size. For two or three scrapings in the month of July the out-turn is greater at all the pans and above 40 mercals is occasionally obtained. But as the salt Ryots themselves admit this depends upon the care and attention they bestow, every 15 or 20 days, that is, after the second or third scraping, the mud which is brought into the bed is scraped up and thrown into a bed left waste here and there, for that purpose. From the first gathering of salt, immediately after this scraping of the mud has taken place, the largest out-turn of salt is obtained. The number of scrapings in an average season may be reckoned at 25, and taking 10 mercals as the average yield of a bed at one scraping at all the pans of the district, we have 250 mercals as the out-turn of a single bed in a year, being $\frac{5}{8}$ths of a merical or 5 seers per square foot annually. Thus the actual out-turn of an acre in Tinnevelly is 64 garce and an area of 113 acres being occupied by pans the out-turn of the year should be garce 7,232; only 6,445 garce were obtained this year, but this difference must be allowed for waste beds for all purposes, and 64 garce represents the actual out-turn of an acre of land occupied only by beds in full work.

Platforms as they are.—14. The platforms are rectangular or square raised embankments situated in one corner or one side of the space occupied by the pans. These platforms look well enough and answer the purpose in the dry season, but in the monsoon they get very much cut up especially at the sides, which are without any slopes whatever and consequently great gaps occur during the rains. Large holes and ugly pits are made at the foot of the platforms both for repairing the damage done and for covering heaps; whilst the surface, owing to the description of soil at nearly all the pans, is slippery and muddy after a single shower.

Improvements to Platforms.—15. Apart from the expense I do not think stone platforms required for this district. The platforms might be cheaply improved: first, the whole of the top should be covered with six inches of gravel well rolled or beaten with a proper slope from the centre to the four sides to carry off the rain. To the present perpendicular sides, slopes should be at once added and as turf is difficult to be procured and only useful for a while, these should likewise have a sufficient coating of gravel, which would become a permanent protection. This seems to me all that is required to improve the platforms.

Storing.—16. The salt heaped on the ridges between the pans is removed when dry to the platforms nominally every 7th or 8th day before another scraping takes place, but generally every 15th or 16th day, as the manufacturers prefer letting it accumulate: first, to accomplish in one day what ought to have been divided into two; and secondly, because the longer the salt remains on the ridges unmeasured and only roughly estimated, the greater the facility for fraud. When it has been brought to the platform each individual's salt from any or all of his beds is made into one mound, smoothed and stamped all over as closely as possible with a board bearing the name of the Collector and so left until it can be measured; the manufacturer having to risk wastage from any causes as he is paid only for the quantity delivered into store. Here in like manner the Chowkey servants, instead of receiving a certain quantity daily, allow the heaps to accumulate in size until sometimes, one mound contains more than sufficient to form one of the heaps of the store and has become perfectly red with dust. Then the servants prepare themselves for several days hard work and commence measuring each individual's salt, one by one; the salt thus measured being poured from the mercal on to the spot where the 10 garce heap for the store is to be formed; after the quantity thus received amounts to 10 garce, another heap is commenced and so on until all the salt in mounds on the platform from the different manufacturers has been measured and received. The next process is to cover the heap after it has been neatly shaped and smoothed, with a row of palmirah leaves and a coating of mud 2 inches thick. After intervals of seven or eight days, a second and a third coating of leaves and mud are applied and here the process of storing is finished.

17. The practice of allowing a large quantity of salt to accumulate on the platform before being received into store, is one of the causes of detention to purchasers who find the Chowkey

servants almost entirely engaged for several days consecutively in this duty. Another evil is, if any great deficiency occurs in the heaps which are being sold, the wastage which would be recovered from the servants can be made good from these mounds. In receiving into store the measure is not struck: this I know to be the custom, though it is never practised when I am present.

Improvements in storing.—18. The present system of storing the salt in heaps covered with leaves and mud by the Ryots is too objectionable to be continued much longer; the salt becomes mixed with dust and dirt and is liable to great wastage during the monsoon, and when the manufacturers are relieved of this duty (which they must be), the process of covering will show a large item in the contingent expenditure. After the manufacturers have once delivered the salt into store, they should have nothing further to do with it. The cost of palmirah leaves to place over the salt on the heaps in a palmirah growing district was 400 Rupees for this year.

19. I therefore propose for the better storing and preservation of the salt, as well for convenience and expedition in sales, that godowns or sheds be erected on the platforms divided into compartments to hold 10 garce each. The godowns to be in double rows just as a double row of stables would be, the walls to be built of sand-stone in clay pointed with chunam, and the roof to be a light frame work of palmirah rafters and reepers covered with bamboo matting, sloping to the ground and capable of being raised on two bamboos, like pandals in a bazaar, when required to be opened for sales. The top of the main wall to have a coping and the compartments throughout to have a flooring raised 6 inches above the level of the platform.

20. A plan and estimate for the proposed godowns accompanied this report. From this it will be observed that the cost of one compartment for storing 10 garce of salt would be 105 Rupees, but the buildings when once erected will last for a number of years, and I presume the absolute necessity of effecting a substantial improvement in the method of storing salt, which yields so splendid a revenue to Government, and from which source there are such great anticipations is to apparent in these days of progress to be overlooked, or only partly carried into effect.

21. If these godowns were introduced at the new Tutacorin pans, where the average annual manufacture will be 1,500 garce, we should require for the current season's manufacture and the two years' supply on hand three times 150 compartments; the cost of these 450 would be Rupees 47,250 or less than one-eight of the salt revenue of Tinnevelly last year, which there is every probability will never be as low as 4 lacs again. But a proportion of the amount required might be obtained from the sale by auction of new salt beds as I have already proposed.

Sales.—22. The sales are conducted on the platforms at each of the stations. There are no separate depôts. The first heap of the year's manufacture, if there are none of previous years remaining, is uncovered at one end and the sale commences. The manufacturers who covered over the heaps in the process of storing, now uncover them and measure the salt with the mercal measure of which there are from 5 to 10 used at once, the purchaser with his companion holding open the mouth of the sack into which the salt is tossed, the measurers being totally regardless how much is upset by their carelessness. The parties who come to buy salt pay the money at the *platform Kacheri* for which they get no receipt; then they proceed to that part of the platform where the sale is going on, and the officer conducting the sale has to find out either from a peon or by a chit, or from the purchaser himself, the quantity of salt he has paid for. The people are not supplied in the order in which they pay, consequently there is some confusion, and of course those who fee the peons and manufacturers get served first. But there is a far greater source of evil arising from this method of conducting the sales; purchasers who give presents before the sale to the *manufacturers, who are the measurers*, get wonderful measure, the mercal being well shaken down; in fact there can be no doubt that a regular bargain is struck beforehand by the purchasers, manufacturers and Chowkey servants, and it is well worth the purchaser's while to accede, or they would get less even than they were entitled to. One Chowkeydar brought to my notice the fact of the manufacturers and peons having money in their possession which they never would have brought to the platform. It must have been received from the purchasers of salt then at the platform.

23. The improvement of the first importance in the manner of conducting sales, is to relieve the manufacturers forthwith from the duty of measuring the salt sold. It was never, I imagine, imposed or intended to be imposed upon them, as there have always been servants called measuring peons attached to each station besides watching peons. The manufacturers no doubt originally helped to measure and eventually undertook the duty and it has been expected from them ever since. Frequent applications are made to me by the manufacturers to re-commence sales wherever there are none; in fact only recently, when disbursing the last Coodewarem due for the season, several of the poorer Ryots of two sets of pans said very innocently, "At this season of the year *without manufacture* and *without sales*, how are we to live?"

24. The reasons why the manufacturers voluntarily undertake to perform a duty for which Government pays certain servants, which occupies so much time and which they now consider a privilege belonging to themselves, have been briefly pointed out above and are too obvious to require further explanation.

25. The duty of measuring the salt should be performed by measurers appointed for that purpose. Every set of pans in this district is a station both for manufacture and sale, and I do not consider it expedient to alter this arrangement owing to their distance from each other. The position of the stations for manufacture necessitate their being also places for sale. On a reference to Mr. Pelly's scheme, I find only two measurers each proposed for a division or depôt. In Tinnevelly there are no separate depôts and each division will comprise two stations except Coolasagarapatam, a single station. It is intended that the vettyans, two in number, shall go to the division (head station) and assist in the measuring when there is no manufacture going on at the station, which if it be a place of sale also, as all are in Tinnevelly, will have one measurer and one extra vettyan. Even the occasional assistance from these servants will be insufficient, and the result will be the continual employment of extra hands. At present not less than five, generally eight of the manufacturers may be seen actually measuring the salt when the sales are active; whilst *others* are uncovering the heap or breaking up the salt with a mamoty, or waiting to relieve them when tired.

26. The sale of salt by measure instead of weight is in itself so great an impediment to supplying purchasers promptly that no approach to further detention should be admitted by an insufficient establishment for measuring.

27. I would recommend not less than eight measurers for each of the six northern pans or stations, and six for each of the southern pans. Their duties should include the covering of heaps, repairing of fences, &c.; when necessary, one or more can be detached to the adjoining station. The numbers may appear large, being no less than 16 for one of the large divisions; but it must be remembered the two stations which will form these divisions are seven, six and eight miles apart, divided by heavy sand intersected by mud or rivers and will be almost independent stations; besides, it is absolutely necessary to provide against the sudden employment or interference of the manufacturers in the sales. Again, a fresh heap must be uncovered by some, whilst the remains of a heap are being sold and when the manufacture is going on with the sales or for about eight months, there will be measuring nearly all day of one kind or the other, and for this hard work eight do not appear a large number. I propose that the requisite number of measurers be obtained partly by reducing the number of peons as a preferable course to allowing the latter to help the measurers when required, as servants, when once called "peons" look upon themselves as idle men and employ substitutes as far as possible.

28. The extremely irregular and objectionable practice of purchasers paying for salt at the platform has been forbidden* and put a stop to. The money is paid as directed in the rules at the station Kacheri, in the village where the Treasury is and receipts are given to the parties.

* District Gazette Circular, No. 1, 3rd October 1860.

29. Another improvement relating to the sales which has been carried into effect† is that of opening the last heap of the year's manufacture first. This plan enables the Deputy Collector, whether in Kacheri or at the pans, to

† District Gazette, No. 85, page 351.

know at once how many heaps remain : for instance, if the statement of the out-turn of heap No. 94 is before him (and one is submitted for each heap sold), or No. 94 is then being sold in his presence, he knows that 93 heaps remain, no matter how many originally were formed. If the sales, as previously, commence with No. 1, it is necessary first to find out how many heaps were formed and then to deduct the 94 before getting the result. By continually knowing the number of heaps remaining, the officer has, as frequently brought to his memory, the quantity of salt in store at each station.

30. To prevent in a certain measure presents being given by the purchasers to the measurers, peons, manufacturers or Choukey servants, I cannot but wish that it were made lawful to confiscate any money found on their persons within the boundary of the pans.

31. At the end of October I thought it necessary to anticipate this report, with reference to the opening of fresh pans and the manner of distributing the bed amongst persons desirous of manufacturing salt and submitted a letter* to the Collector accordingly. At that time I was not aware that there had been any correspondence on the subject of opening fresh pans between the Board and Mr. Silver, and also between the Board and Mr. Levinge, not having seen or heard of the correspondence. I have since had the opportunity of reading it, and for the sake of rendering this report more complete, I must recapitulate the propositions made in my letter referred to above, though with deference to the opinions of Mr. Silver and Mr. Levinge.

* No. 36 of the 23rd October 1860.

Transfers of Pans from one site to another at Tutacorin.—32. The transfer of the Tutacorin pans to a position between the present pans and the sea has been commenced ; the beds have been all marked out; wells dug, and the manufacture will be begun at the new site next season. There can be no question regarding this change, as Tutacorin must always be the port for export of salt and by bringing the pans so near to the sea, the salt can be carried to the boats and the cost of bandy hire will be saved. The distance from the platform to the sea will be about 400 yards.

At Vypaur.—33. The transfer from Vypaur to old Vypaur was proposed by Mr. Levinge for the convenience of purchasers. I do not see the advantage of re-opening pans at a place that was simultaneously abandoned by the Sea Customs' Department on account of the shallowness of the water, I *presume*, from the position of the site at the mouth of a muddy river. The Vypaur manufacturers are anxious for the change, because they are jealous of the proximity of the Munjuncolum pans and expect, by the transfer close to the sea, to obtain all the export sales, more rapid sales and a larger annual dittum. The present Vypaur and Munjuncolum pans are almost contiguous, being only a quarter of a mile apart. The salt is very nearly equal in quality to any in the district.

34. Mr. Silver wished to abolish one (Munjuncolum), Mr. Levinge to transfer one (Vypaur) to its former site six or seven miles distant and across the river. As both agree that one pan at the present site would be sufficient, the two might be united. Mr. Levinge's reasons for the re-transfer to old Vypaur north of the river are that cotton bandies after discharging their loads at Chippecolum, south of the river, might without concern return empty across the river in whatever state that might be and find salt ready on the north side. Unquestionably this would be a great convenience to the purchasers of salt, though in the same degree a serious inconvenience to Government by interposing a muddy river between these pans and the other station at Munjuncolum near which, at the large village of Kollattur, the peshcar would live.

35. We do not drag the bandies across the river, the bandymen come with loads of cotton to the screw house at Chippecolum, and cannot under these circumstances consider it so great a hardship to recross with a load of salt. If Messrs. Line and Co.'s screw house could be transferred to the north side of the river, it would be the first step in the right direction; but since this cannot be as long as the dealers are willing to deliver their cotton on the south side, I am in favor of leaving the Vypaur pans where they are and uniting them with Munjuncolum into one station, to be called Munjuncolum after the village close by and not after Vypaur which is several miles distant.

Re-establishment of Pans at Trichendur.—36. I have recommended that pans be re-opened at Trichendur. The position of these pans with reference to the others will be six and eight miles respectively from Coilpatam to the north and Coolasagarapatam to the south ; and thus according to Mr. Pelly's classification of divisions, Trichendur might together with the present isolated station of Coolasagarapatam form a division. The soil is of an excellent kind, being of the same description as that of Coilpatam, hitherto esteemed the best pans. There would be every facility for export, if required, as the pans would be on the beach and vessels need anchor at no greater distance than at the other ports of the district. The pans would possess considerable advantage in supplying salt for inland consumption, as the road from Palamcottah to Trichendur is the *only made road* to the coast in the district, and at certain seasons it is the only way carts can, without great difficulty, reach the coast. The available area will only allow space for 1,500* beds of 400 square feet, the standard for this district. The pans would be about a quarter of a mile from the town of Trichendur and would incur but little, if any, additional expense in the arrangements of the Mofussil Police.

* Letter to Collector, No. 37, October 31st 1860.

37. The Collector was in favor of re-opening the old pans at Trichendur and closing those at Coolasagarapatam ; whilst the late Acting Collector, Mr. Levinge, would retain and extend the manufacture at the latter and only re-open beds at or near Trichendur as an auxiliary pan, if the extension at Coolasagarapatam was insufficient.

38. I beg respectfully to adhere to my recommendation in favor of the re-establishment of pans at Trichendur, upon the grounds that the practical extension of the pans at Coolasagarapatam of half an acre is insufficient, Mr. Silver having, since an extended manufacture of salt in the district has been considered requisite, withdrawn his objections to the closing of the Coolasagarapatam pans as the condition of re-opening pans at Trichendur ; the views of Mr. Levinge and Mr. Silver will now be in reality carried out, if salt pans are re-established at Trichendur and I hope the proposition will be sanctioned.

Disposal of new Beds.—39. As regards the disposal of beds whether at *new* pans, or at the *newly extended* area for manufacture at the existing pans, or whether at pans to be re-established, or at old pans where a certain closed area is to be re-occupied, it has been the practice to give the preference to the manufacturers, notwithstanding the difference between the first two and last two descriptions of beds. Whilst respecting the rights of cultivators and their heirs to old pans and to closed beds, about to be re-occupied by an extension of manufacture which they or their predecessors have enjoyed, I am unable to admit the right of these persons to new beds at new pans or to beds where the manufacture is to be extended for the first time, that is, to the area in excess of that found to be occupied by salt pans on the Government assuming the monopoly.

40. The distribution of what I call strictly new beds, amongst the holders of beds at established pans or stations to the exclusion of all persons desirous of manufacturing salt, seems most unfair. The opportunities for obtaining salt beds are rare. During the last few months there have been many applications for beds both from cultivators and non-holders of beds. The demands have been for 200 up to 500 beds ; one individual, a non-holder of beds, asks for 500 and states that he will be satisfied with a Coodewarem of 7 Rupees a garce, Rupees 10-9-7 being the rate in this district.

41. I therefore propose that all new beds, comprised in the area in excess of that found to be occupied on the assumption of the monopoly, be put up to auction in small lots and knocked down to the highest bidder unconditionally.

Transfers of Beds by gift.—42. Transfers of beds from one party to another are of four descriptions, by gift, by inheritance, by sales and by mortgage. Of the first kind, it is not unusual for the parent to divide the greater part of his beds amongst his sons and to retain a small portion for himself, or to give a portion to the female children as dowries ; in the latter case the transfer is in and remains in the name of the woman and not of her husband.

By Inheritance.—43. Transfers by inheritance are of course only after death. Occasionally beds are left to pagodas.

By Sales.—44. Sales of beds are of rare occurrence, as their possession is considered such valuable property and in fact only take place by decree of the Court or in case of great distress; a bed of the standard size fetches from 30 to 35 Rupees. An instance has recently occurred in which 56 beds were sold for Rupees, 1,243, being only at the rate of 22 Rupees a bed, but this was a case of necessity, the owner had mortgaged the beds, and being unable to redeem them, was obliged to part with them to the mortgagee upon his terms.

By Mortgage.—45. The temporary transfer of beds by mortgage is of the most frequent occurrence. At the six northern pans, the beds are mortgaged from 10 to 25 Rupees each. At most of the pans the manufacturers are extremely jealous of their rights and avoid, if possible, mortgages to any but themselves. At the three southern pans the beds only fetch from 3 to 10 Rupees, owing chiefly to the greater pains required to produce an inferior description of salt. But this low rate may be attributed partly to the beds being irregular and undefined, rendering encroachments extremely probable at the commencement of the season, when the reformation and preparation of the beds takes place.

Mercal Measures.—46. The mercal measures are as good as they can be of their kind. As long as salt is thus sold this description of measure will answer the purpose, but it would be better far, instead of attempting to obtain any impossible medium of neither shaking down the salt too much nor pouring it too lightly into the measure, to take from the manufacturer and give to the purchaser not merely good measure but the best possible under the circumstances. Servants would not be able to perpetrate frauds in the same proportion, for the mercal becomes a more defined quantity and they would be obliged to receive from the manufacturer and store in the heaps the salt well shaken down, to avoid a great deficiency. Of course where they are bent on storing an excess for the purposes of clandestine sales, this even would be no check, as salt might be brought up from the ridges. But it must be remembered that the practice of jerking and shaking the measure is the most usual kind of fraud; that it can be carried on most systematically and with less risk than in other ways; and that the servants only avail themselves of the temptation which presents itself in the facility of compressing the salt into a measure of so large a capacity that the true quantity is only received and sold when the salt is poured in at the perpendicular without shaking or jerking the measure.

47. At the same time, so as not to raise the equivalent of 120 Indian maunds, which would be the result of measuring by shaking and pressing the salt, it would be necessary to cut down the mercal measure. On one occasion, I took a mercal full of salt rapidly filled with jerks on the ground, as it appeared customary to measure and then had another mercal filled when in a perpendicular position with the salt smartly thrown in. The two were afterwards weighed and there was an excess of $\frac{9}{16}$ths of a seer (in weight) in the former. Another time I put as much salt as I could into a mercal by shaking and even pressing it with the hand, the weight of the salt, exclusive of the mercal measure, was $31\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. The salt was very damp on this occasion.

48. If salt is still to be sold by measure, I believe cutting down the salt mercal the required number of inches and giving and taking the utmost quantity it will then hold, would be worth a trial. This mercal measure would be used only for salt.

49. All measuring is not only costly but unsatisfactory, and I should prefer seeing salt sold by weight only. Any kind of weighing machine would be superior to the present system.

Rowanahs.—50. These passes are given for purchasers of salt from $26\frac{1}{2}$ mercals and upwards which are considered wholesale. From 6 mercals and 5 measures up to 20 the sales are retail and small cadjan chits are the permits given instead. No quantity less than $6\frac{3}{8}$ mercals is sold and there are no sales between $19\frac{7}{8}$ mercals and $26\frac{1}{2}$. It is very easy for servants so disposed to obtain an old Rowanah and get copies printed, but this course would only be resorted to where it was intended to blind the purchaser and sell surplus salt at the monopoly price. The most easy way of committing frauds with Rowanahs is to send with the salt clandestinely sold a blank Rowanah by a peon without a belt who, if the salt was stopped, would at once enter the particulars, but persons are seldom or ever stopped and I imagine that as much salt is smuggled and sold without as with recourse to Rowanahs. Rowanahs are only a very limited check upon frauds but cannot be done away with. The Mofussil Police will be a check against smuggling of salt.

Coodiwarem.—51. There is only one rate of Coodiwarem in Tinnevelly, which is 10 Rupees for a garce, 400 mercals of salt was continued to be received from the manufacturers up to the present season inclusive, as the equivalent of a garce or 120 Indian maunds, whilst it has been stored and sold at 424 mercals. Even the annual dittum was given and accounts of manufacture and sales were kept at the equivalent of 400 mercals a garce. The continuance of the practice was brought to the Collector's notice* when on my tour paying the salt Ryots the arrears of Coodiwarem. After obtaining his permission to introduce the Board's order, granting 6 per cent. to the sanctioned rate for the correct adjustment with the manufacturers for the extra 24 mercals, the Choukeydars were directed by a Circular* to receive hereafter 424 mercals from the manufacturer and to consider that as the equivalent of one garce or 120 Indian maunds in receiving, storing and selling salt.

* Letter No. 34, dated 9th October 1860.

Board's Circular 18th July 1856, paragraph 5.

* No. 5, District Gazette, No. 11, 3rd November, page 297.

52. In the meanwhile the manufacturing season had slipped away and so no salt has this year been received at the authorized equivalent. But next year the correct equivalent will be introduced and the Coodiwarem rate of Tinnevelly will then be Rupees 10-9-7. This is an inconvenient rate. I would suggest its being reduced to Rupees 10-9-0, or increased to Rupees 10-10-0. It would be still more convenient if reduced to Rupees 10-8-0 without being any hardship to the Ryots, as they gain in the extra manufacture required to make up the authorized equivalent of 120 Indian maunds.

53. The payment used to be about once in three months or three times during the season, and the Board* have already expressed their disapprobation at the delay. The first payment made for the current year was by me in July for salt manufactured up to the 15th of June, this was completed at the end of July and the next payment was made in September for salt received up to 31st August; but then again the Coodiwarem in arrears for September, was disbursed in October and a portion even of that for October within the same month, as the manufacture of the year had closed with the setting in of the rain and I happened to be at the pans where the manufacture had been continued so late.

* Board's Proceedings, No. 3,370 of 23rd July 1860.

54. If the Coodiwarem could be disbursed regularly once a month, it would be the best arrangement, but unless the Deputy Collector was only a disbursing officer, it could not be carried out in a district with a long line of coast. The northern pans at Vypaur are 77 miles by the roads from those at Viziapathy to the south over heavy sand. There are nine stations to be halted at, which, with three days at each and the Sundays would occupy the whole month. Occasionally a more hurried march might be made; but if the method of manufacture, of storing and conducting the sales, and the accounts and books also are to receive attention, no tour of all the pans can be made in less than one month, even if the officer had no police or other duties. The return march as far as relates to the Coodiwarem would be a blank, unless it was delayed until the accounts for the past month had been received, examined and a list of the Coodiwarem in arrears submitted to the Collector for sanction. Orders would then require to be issued to the Tahsildars to send the money to the various salt stations. These arangements would occupy a fortnight. Coodiwarem cannot therefore be disbursed month by month regularly in this district, but it might be managed after one month and two months alternately.

Remittances.—55. Remittances from the Choukey stations are made on the 16th and 30th or 31st of the months. The whole of the cash including fractions of a Rupee are forwarded under

a guard of Sibbundies. The arrangements are not in accordance with the rules laid down in the Manual* of Instructions, consequently the Collector's permission has lately been requested to alter the dates for sending these remittances to the 10th and 25th of each month, and Choukeydars will be directed to attend to the rules regarding remittances.

* Sections 40 and 41, page 36.

56. I would suggest for the more speedy distribution of the Coodiwarem that when remittances are made the sum due for salt measured and received into store every 15 days, that is, up to the date of despatch of the remittance, should be retained. This will not of course include all the salt manufactured, some of which will still be on the ridges drying, but only that actually stored. Such an arrangement will enable the Deputy Collector to pay up the arrears whenever he visits a station and the manufacturers who occasionally would have to wait two months, would sometimes benefit by being paid after a lapse of only 15 days, but the great advantage would be that *all arrears* whether much or little be due, would be settled upon each occasion. The plan would, moreover, keep the Choukey servants up to their work and also the Deputy Collector, who to prevent the accumulation of large sums for which he would be answerable, would make disbursements as frequently as possible, but the accumulation of funds for Coodiwarem at the end of two months, which I consider the limit, would not exceed Rupees 4,000 at any station, a sum equal only to half of most of the remittances.

57. In the event of there being no sales at a single station during the manufacture, provision might be made at the time of sending remittances for retaining the requisite amount in the adjoining station. This sum should be sent for, every 15 days, by the officer of the station where it is required. As every manufacturing station in Tinnevelly must be a place for sales there must be a treasury at each, for though two stations may form a division, each will be comparatively independent on account of the distances as I have elsewhere stated.

58. This arrangement would unavoidably do away with the Collector's previous sanction for the disbursement of the Coodiwarem, but it would save the carrying of money to and fro as at present and the peculiar nature of the salt transactions necessitate a change. If the Collector's sanction must be previously obtained, it might be effected by the Deputy Collector sending monthly a Memorandum of the probable amount, required for disbursement in the following month with reference to the manufacture, which Memorandum would be simply returned with the Collector's sanction without the amount being transmitted to the various stations.

Fences.—59. All the fences are bad; in some places it was easy to walk through and in many places as easy to jump. I have seen cattle within the fences and upon the platforms at all the stations except Viziapathy. At present with an irregular ragged hedge, chiefly of thorns continually blown over the space intervening between the beds and hedge, it is a painful duty to get round the pans by day-light even and no very easy task to walk along the ridges scarcely wide enough for the scraped salt; both difficult feats on a dark night with salt heaps to stumble over and wells to fall into. Without some regular beat, it will be impossible for the Mofussil Police to aid in guarding the pans and stores. The Parkinsonia is a quick-growing tree and if planted close together, the stems grow straight upright, and form an excellent hedge, impenetrable to man and beast. It has been extensively planted at the foot of road embankments and tank banks in South Arcot, and I have ordered its introduction at all the salt pans.

60. The ground taken up by the pans, platforms, &c., should be a rectangular space with the hedge or other fence placed not nearer than 15 or 20 yards, from the outer beds or the end of the platform and between these and the hedge there should be a broad walk round which the watchers should patrol frequently during the night and for this duty there should be not less than two for each watch. The night being divided into two watches of six hours, four peons will be required until Mr. Pelly's scheme is introduced and the new police are organised, not as the Choukeydars now truly speak of it to *sleep* at the platform, but to watch and patrol round the divisions.

Roads.—61. Not having travelled inland from the pans, I know nothing of the roads or tracks leading to them generally. The approaches of the roads to the Paliacoil and Coilpatam pans were both under repair when I last saw them. The coast line is nothing more than a vast sandy track intersected with swamps, hollows, muddy rivers or back-waters. To form metal and bridge such a road would be out of the question; but water communication by a coast canal appears practicable and will, I hope, be opened some day. The chief lines to the pans which require to be formed and made into roads have been prominently noticed by Mr. Levinge. Another of greater importance noticed by him as being under the restrictive order on Public Works, though not directly communicating with salt pans, is the line between Palamcottah and Tutacorin; the distance is 32 or 33 miles. An officer who recently travelled part of the way by palkee was altogether 31 hours reaching Palamcottah. It is not against the road that persons complain but of the want of one between two places of such importance as the Huzur station, and the chief place of trade and the sea port town of the district. All these lines will, I know, be formed as soon as the funds are available.

Letter to Board, No. 425, October 13th, 1859.

Tappal.—62. The practice of compelling the salt department to furnish peons for tappal messengers appear to me objectionable; no system of taluq tappal can be complete that leaves out the salt divisions and depôts. I would point out that in Tinnevelly the salt peons are not special messengers only but converted into tappal runners. At Colasagarapatam and Coilpatam, towns of considerable trade and containing large populations are stationed tappal writers for the convenience of the public, the duty of carrying the posts both of the salt department and of the towns being performed by peons, except in one direction for a short distance from Coilpatam where there is *one* regular runner.

63. From the proximity of the Vypaur and Munjuncolum pans and the two at the south, there would be but seven places to be furnished with runners along the sea coast. Four of these places are sea ports as well as salt stations, and two of the remaining three are situated between these ports. If regular runners were appointed, the numbers of peons at the salt stations might be reduced.

1. Vypaur.
2. Tutacorin.
3. Coilpatam.
4. Colasagarapatam.

Soils.—64. The samples of soils were taken from the beds of the different stations. Those of Vypaur, Munjuncolum and Tutacorin are alike and appear to be a stiff brown clay; with this difference that there is a small proportion of lime in the Vypaur sample. The Arasady soil is a very stiff blue clay. The natives attribute the difference in the Arasady and Tutacorin soils to the Tutacorin pans being on a higher level. The Coilpatam clay would be equal to that of Arasady but for the carelessness of the manufacturers, who have neglected clearing their beds occasionally of the slime which is brought in with the water. The slime with repeated scrapings gets mixed up with or absorbed in the clay and its power for retaining salt is decreased; common sand, slime and black sand can be plainly distinguished if the sample is broken in two. The Paliacoil soil is a red sand, a very poor description. Colasagarapatam and Viziapathy contain a great deal of sand. The specimen from Coottenkaly is black sand and slime, and like the specimen from Coilpatam has an offensive smell.

65. In Tinnevelly a great deal of importance is attached to the description of soil, and there is no doubt that it materially affects the quality of the salt according as there is a greater proportion of clay or sand, and also according to the description of the clay and sand found in or brought to the beds.

Quality of Salt.—66. From an inspection of the samples of salt, it will be at once seen that the Arasady salt is superior to any of the others; the size and white colour of the crystals give it the first place. The soil on which this salt was produced is, as above stated, stiff blue clay. The Tutacorin pans produce the next best in quality. Vypaur, Munjuncolum and Coilpatam together take the next place, but some of the Coilpatam salt is very inferior; there are three

samples from these pans ; the two best specimens are what I selected from the ridges ; the other represents by far the greater proportion of the salt manufactured there recently. I have been always told the Coilpatam salt was the best, but neither that which is being sold of last year's manufacture nor the produce of this year can obtain the first place. The soil is of an excellent kind, but the working of the pans has been much neglected. The Royts finding that inferior salt was even taken and that these pans still continue to receive the largest annual dittum, have satisfied themselves with manufacturing the requisite quantity and the Chowkey servants have with equal carelessness received the salt. The Coilpatam pans require and must receive particular attention.

67. The produce of the remaining four pans, Paliacoil, Colasagarapatam, Viziapathy and Coottenkaly is of a very poor description. Viziapathy is perhaps the best and Paliacoil the worst.

68. The necessity of bestowing pains on the preparation of the beds, clearing them frequently of slime, using the strongest water procurable and producing salt of the best quality possible, are all points to which the attention of the manufacturers and Government servants shall be called in future operations.

Export of Salt.—69. An export trade in Tinnevelly has only lately sprung up, this being the third year. The quantity manufactured in 1859 and 1860 has been greatly in excess of previous years, though not extended solely to meet the demands for export. In the three years immediately preceding 1859, the manufacture averaged less than 3½ lacs of maunds; in 1859 and 1860, it was 5,71,000 and 7,73,000 maunds respectively. The quantity exported in 1858 was 1,69,954 maunds ; in 1859, 1,38,272, and in 1860, 95,728 maunds exported, and a contract for 1,20,000 for South Canara is being executed.

70. The Tutacorin pans have been transferred close to the sea for the convenience of export, and I would recommend that this station as regards sales be a depôt for *export only*. The Home and inland supplies of the neighbourhood might be drawn from the Arasady pans three or four miles to the north of the town. Salt would of course be shipped more speedily from three or four ports at the same time than all from one, but the convenience of export from one place would be great to Government. The arrangements too would be the most economical. For shipment from any of the other ports, as the pans are at present situated, would entail bandy hire, and transfers of more pans nearer to sea, even if a site could be found, would be objectionable as long as one station could answer the demand made.

71. Having established a depôt on the beach of Tutacorin, it only remains for arrangements to be made with the Collectors of South Canara, Malabar and North Canara for allotting to the Tinnevelly district a certain quantity of salt to be supplied annually. It would be equally advantageous to those districts to know whence their supplies are to be regularly looked for, and we should be better guided in the quantity of the annual manufacture.

72. The transit of the salt to the Western Coast has hitherto been effected by contract. The contracting parties pay for the price of the salt here and receive back this sum with the price of freight on delivery of the salt on the other coast under certain severe penalties. The great objection to this system is that the contractor advances the price of the salt to Government, losing interest on the money deposited here.

73. I was about to propose that the transport of the salt should be let on a lease for three years, but considering how much the rates of freight fluctuate, I believe the most equitable plan would be to advertise annually for freight, leaving it for the Collectors of Canara and Malabar to adjust the price of the salt with the Collector of Tinnevelly. The interests of the district require that the salt should not be given away. Respectable firms might upon such terms be induced to come forward and would bring larger vessels, and the employment of a larger class of vessels would be a matter of great convenience to the Collectors on the Western Coast, for instead of receiving salt in driblets by a succession of small schooners and dhonies by which the process of landing and storing is extended over several months, it would be received in large quantities.

Spontaneous Salt.—74. The places on the Tinnevelly coast where spontaneous salt would form, if allowed, and the manner in which it is prevented from forming have been described in Mr. Levinge's letter* to the Board. The time when it farms is between March and September.

* No. 313, 11th August 1859.

75. The Board of Revenue in their Proceedings* of the 14th of July 1860, directed 500 garce of spontaneous salt to be collected. This order unfortunately came just after all the salt forming had been destroyed and when orders were issued in August for 300 garce to be collected at Vypaur and 200 at Tutacorin ; it was too late. None has been collected at Vypaur. In September I visited several of the places where it forms ; there was nothing but mud in the hollows. The Chowkeydar then told me we should not be able to gather any this season as it was too far advanced. Whether any salt did subsequently form, I cannot say, but the Chowkeydar said none had. At Tutacorin all that formed after the receipt of the Board's order in August was collected and stored and amounted only to 235 mercals.

* No. 3,235.

76. At Paliacoil, about the end of September, I gathered two or three seers of excellent spontaneous salt in a large hollow near the sea, where it would form extensively. The method of preventing its formation at this place was by bailing. The pits for the picottahs still contained some brine, and it was near the top of one of these that the sample now forwarded was obtained. This sample of spontaneous salt is of so good a quality and the salt manufactured at Paliacoil is so inferior that I consider it would be advisable to give the preference to the former, if the Ryots do not take greater pains in the manufacture next season.

Books and Accounts.—77. The new forms of salt accounts ordered to be introduced in the year 1856, have never been brought into use and consequently there is still much confusion and delay in the preparation and submission of returns from the Chowkeys to the Deputy Collector and from the latter officer to the Collector. A copy of the revised accounts and a Manual of Instructions in Tamil was circulated to each salt station in the district in the year 1856, but the only use made of these books appears to have been to place them at once in the bundle of records. The time and attention of the covenanted officers, hitherto in charge of the salt department, was so much preoccupied that it was impossible for them to look into the details ; but there was a Peshcar, an officer specially appointed to the superintendence of the department, and upon the successive Peshcars I lay the blame. The Peshcar used to be attached to the Head Assistant's Kacheri more in the light of a Sheristadar. In 1856, Mr. Silver ordered this officer to travel and inspect the pans. The Peshcar did travel and occasionally measured salt heaps and disbursed the Coodiwarem but effected no improvements in the manufacture, storing or sales ; nor any in regard to the books and accounts ordered simultaneously to his becoming a travelling superintendent, to be revised. He might at least have introduced the revised system of accounts sent. The Chowkeydars only have two books showing respectively the daily manufacture and daily sales ; every thing else appears on slips of paper tied up in bundles. The Peshcar himself had only three books with two bundles to hand over to me. Two of the books were abstracts of those kept by the Chowkeydars and the other related to the out-turn of heaps. As far as I can understand, his duties were very light and consisted in giving his opinion occasionally when urzees were referred to him. He had no books to keep up and to occupy his time. I am even obliged for want of these books to refer to the Huzur for the very information required to be furnished by me, or to make a reference as the Peshcar did to the Chowkeydars who have recourse to the bundles whence the information is miraculously obtained. The Peshcar received 100 Rupees, or including batta 130 Rupees, which is more than the pay of a first-class Tahsildar.

78. The forms and rules for keeping the accounts in the Manual of Instructions are so complete that I can offer no suggestions or improvement. The books appear numerous but are not more than are required. Many of them will consist of only one quire of paper, others of two. A statement of the number and description of the books required has been submitted to the Collector

and they will be introduced at all stations as soon as purchased. It must henceforth be one of the duties of the Deputy Collector to examine the books and accounts of the divisions and stations and to record the result in a book kept for that purpose.

79. In connection with the examination of books, I would suggest that a statement of the conduct of the division servants be prepared quarterly for submission to the Collector. A similar statement forwarded monthly has a very beneficial effect on the subordinates of the Public Works Department. This Return should be confined strictly to the subordinates' character during that quarter, in noticing their activity, zeal, apathy or carelessness. A form of this Return is submitted for approval.

Present Establishment.—80. I mustered all the Chowkey establishment, as I visited each station, noting the age, length of service and physical strength of each individual. From this inquiry I have pronounced two Chowkeydars unfit for further service, one was past all work, being 65 years of age with scarcely a tooth in his head; the other was said to be 55 years, had served 31 years and did not appear capable of enduring fatigue and exposure, the deterioration in the quality of the Coilpatam salt, especially this year where he was employed, shows that he was not in the habit of exerting himself. Two other Chowkeydars are also unfit for the charge of stations, but they may fill lower situations in the new establishment when introduced. The hardest worked servants are the Sumpredies and Gomastahs; they do almost all the work. The only two passed candidates who have entered the salt department have done better than any other servants in the department, and in less than a year have outstripped others of several years' service. The services of the Sibbundies who now guard the treasuries will be dispensed with on the organization of the new Police.

Formation of Depots instead of Divisions.—81. In most districts, in accordance with Mr. Pelly's scheme, the salt pans will be formed into divisions, each division comprising so many villages or stations, but where sales are to be conducted apart from the divisions, depôts are provided. In Tinnevelly, as I have already observed, sales must be conducted as hitherto where the salt is manufactured, and as each manufacturing station would be so independent and entail the same amount of labor, the formation of two into divisions would be a needless expense. The station attached to the division from being of equal importance would have to be treated at least as a depôt, the lowest pay of which for an Amildar would be 40 Rupees; whilst the Peshcar of the division would receive at least 60 Rupees for performing similar duties.

82. I propose therefore as the formation of divisions is unsuited to Tinnevelly, owing to the distance the pans are apart, that the present stations be considered depôts for the *manufacture* and *sale* of salt, classified upon Mr. Pelly's scheme for depôts for sale of salt only. This would be preferable to calling every station a division and allotting depôt establishment as the term division would lose its meaning. I believe, situated as the salt pans are in Tinnevelly, it is absolutely necessary to arrange for their continuing to remain independent stations. The stoppage of sales at certain pans occasionally is much felt. As the duties of these depôts would be greater than at those where there were only sales, I would recommend a second Gomastah as provided for the divisions; the designation and classification to be the same as Mr. Pelly's, but the scale of the establishment to meet the requirements of the depôts would be a little higher.

1st class Depôt.....	.....	.....	Rupees	152
2nd do.	.....	.....	,,	142
3rd do.	.....	.....	,,	122

Though the aggregate amount for the seven depôts falls a little below Mr. Pelly's allotment for establishments in Tinnevelly, a statement of the establishment recommended for depôts is submitted, there being three classes of depôts with the pay of the Amildar of the first class equal to that of the lowest class division. There are prizes for those who exert themselves.

Preparation of accounts.—83. As regards a part of the duties of a Deputy Collector, Mr. Pelly says he would not burden* him with the duty of preparing the accounts of the department generally; but I would respectfully submit that if the Deputy Collector is to be in general charge of the salt department, it would be a more economical course and one more in harmony with the constitution of the new office that the Deputy Collector in charge should prepare all the accounts connected with the department and bear the responsibility. The not vesting the Deputy Collector with the preparation of the accounts generally is intended to relieve him of an arduous duty to be undertaken at the Huzur, which from its onerous and responsible character, would involve the expense of at least one well-paid subordinate who, from the general control he would exercise for this particular duty, would be virtually the Deputy Collector and the latter his general superintendent, or in other words the inspecting Peshcar.

* Paragraph 8.

84. It would not on the other hand entail so much extra expense, if the accounts were prepared by the same servants, who had made up the details; another hand would be required but much lower paid than the servant at the Huzur station; at all events it would facilitate the work, if this subordinate was attached to the salt department Kacheri. The accounts required to be furnished to the Board should be prepared in duplicate by the Deputy Collector and submitted to the Collector who, after satisfying himself of their general correctness, would countersign them and forward the original to the Board, the other copy being retained at the Huzur.

85. Adverting again to the present establishment, I have to bring to notice that the salt pans have hitherto been the great penal settlement of the district for all offending Revenue and Police officers of various grades and for peons in particular, and there can be no doubt that this banishment has had its moral effect.

86. But I trust the practice will be now abandoned, otherwise it must be prejudicial to the efficient working of the revised establishment. Besides, as the establishments are to be placed on a scale that will raise their position, the situations could not be treated as before. The selections for the situations as well as promotions and transfers should be in hands of the officer in charge of the department. Dismissals from office of all below the grade of Amildar should remain also with this officer, but Amildars should only be removed from office by the Collector.

(Signed) W. E. WRIGHT,
Deputy Collector.

Tutacorin,
24th December 1860.

Received from Mr. Wright at Palamcottah on the evening of 3rd January 1861.

(Signed) J. SILVER,
Collector.

1861. Departmt.

Enclosure 1 in Proceedings of the Board of Revenue to the Secretary to Government R. D. Dated 23d August 1861. No. 4614.

Encls 5. No. 1. 5 within 2 to 5. in 1.

Rec'd 2139/61

Letter from the Collr of Tinnevelly to the Board of Revenue dated 31st January 1861. No. 55. regarding Salt Depty Collector's report.

Rec'd 29th Oct. /61
No. 2066
PD 350-351

In Cons. 11th February 1861, No. 858.

From J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of TINNEVELLY,
dated Trichendoor, 6th February 1861, No. 68.

Referring to my letter of the 31st ultimo, I have now the honor to forward to the Board my observations on Mr. Wright's report on the management of the Salt Department.

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Enc. 1.

Abstract of the Deputy Collector's report, dated 24th December 1860, and received 3rd January 1861, on the arrangements and practice connected with the Salt Department.

Paragraphs 5 to 12. Remarks on the details of the process of manufacturing salt, and suggests certain arrangements which appeared to him to be necessary to make the system complete; states in paragraph 9 that a heap of salt on the ridges may be much under-estimated and subsequently divided to represent two scrapings, the 2nd scraping being clandestinely sold, or portions of the heaps can be brought up to the platform and mixed with the salt of the heap being sold, for the benefit of the servants, and that there are many other ways of fraud which these scrapings into heaps encourage; observes in paragraph 10, that the daily scrapings of salt heaped on the ridges might be taken at once into store, as soon as it is dry, instead of permitting it to be again deposited on the platform.

Paragraph 13. Treats of the out-turn of a single salt bed and of an acre in Tinnevelly, and adds that as the beds at Coilpatam are half as large again as those of Vypaur, Munjuncolum, Arasady and Tutacorin, it shows that there must be a regular system of fraud practised, or no pains taken, or the soil must be very inferior, but that the latter is not the case.

Paragraphs 16 and 17. Speaks of the present system of storing salt, and also states that the longer the salt remains on the ridges and on

Remarks of the Collector.

The division of salt heaps on the ridges for clandestine sale would cause a deficiency in the quantity already intended by them to be manufactured. Besides, such supposed clandestine sales would certainly be difficult to be made by any one without the fear of detection in the face of his neighbours, the beds being contiguous to each other. As soon as the salt manufactured each day by each individual is deposited on the ridges, a chit showing the number of heaps is produced by the manufacturer before the Choukey servants, who proceed immediately to the beds, estimate the quantity of each heap, and seal the same with a board bearing the name of the Collector, and a return showing the number of heaps manufactured each day, and the quantity as estimated by the Choukey servants, is rendered to the Huzur; therefore there is no room for committing frauds as suggested by Mr. Wright, unless all the Ryots, purchasers and all the servants, *without exception*, are formed into a combination to defraud the Government.

The removal of the salt direct from the ridges to the store without exposing it on the platform is not advisable, as the salt heap so long as it remains on the ridges does not become perfectly dry, though only the upper surface may be so.

The soil at Coilpatam is inferior in certain places. No proof of fraud is shown; these are mere assertions unsupported by any tangible evidence.

Vide remarks on paragraphs 5 to 12. The Government is not answerable for any wastage in the salt before it is delivered into store, and

the platform unmeasured, the greater the facility for fraud and inconvenience to purchasers, and adds that by leaving the salt on the platform until it can be measured, the manufacturers are obliged to run the risk of wastage from any causes, as they are paid only for the quantity delivered into store.

Paragraphs 18 to 21. Suggests as an improvement in storing that the manufacturers must be relieved of the duty of heaping and covering the salt, and that godowns or sheds be erected on the platform divided into compartments to hold 10 garce each.

Paragraph 22. In remarking on the details of the present system of conducting sales, observes that the parties who come to buy salt pay the money at the platform Cutcherry for which they get no receipt, then they proceed to that part of the platform where the sale is going on, and the officer conducting the sale, has to find out either from a peon or by a chit, or from the purchaser himself, the quantity of salt he had paid for; that those who fee the peons and manufacturers get served first and get a wonderful measure, the mercal being well shaken, and that a regular bargain is struck before-hand by the purchasers, manufacturers and Choukey servants, and that the manufacturers and peons keep money in their possession which they never would have brought to the platform.

the delay in doing so is owing to nothing but the damp state of the salt. The receipt of salt direct from the ridge into store will, when the system of weighing is introduced, occasion some loss as the salt diminishes in bulk as it becomes dry.

The manufacturers can be relieved of the duty of covering the salt heaps if the Government undertake to pay for the labor of doing so, in addition to the charge they now pay for Palmirah leaves. The estimated cost of erecting godowns is so great that for one single station, Tutacorin, which yields an annual out-turn of 1,500 garce, besides two years' supply on hand, it amounts to Rupees 47,250, at Rupees 105 per 10 garce; while the total cost for constructing godowns at all the pans amounts to Rupees 2,03,017½ at the same rate, the salt manufactured during the year 1860, amounting to 6,445 garce besides the two years' supply on hand which raises it to 19,335 garce. Under the existing orders of Government, restricting expenditure upon Public Works, and the straitened condition of the finances, the Government will not be prepared to sanction such a large outlay as the scheme proposed by Mr. Wright involves.

As soon as the payment is made by the purchasers a Rowanah or a chit, as the case may be, is prepared in the platform Cutcherry and sent by a peon with the purchaser to the officer conducting the sale who, on its receipt, gets the salt measured out to the purchasers. Measurers and peons have little opportunity of receiving any consideration from purchasers, the punishment to which they are subjected when found guilty of such an act, and the presence of the Choukeydar or Sumprethy at the time of sale, operating as a check against an attempt on their part to commit fraud in the measurement. Money found with the manufacturers and peons at the place where the sale is conducted, may have been brought for their own use and for paying the coolies employed by the Ryots for manufacturing salt and measuring the same at the time of receiving it into store and selling it to the purchasers. The restriction proposed by Mr. Wright in paragraph 30 would, therefore, instead of producing any real benefit, entail an unnecessary hardship upon the manufacturers and coolies employed by them. The regular bargain, &c., suggested by Mr. Wright, I would accept, if he produced a single instance proved, or adduced any evidence in place of assertion, which may or may not be true.

Paragraphs 23 and 24. States that the manufacturers should be relieved forthwith from the duty of measuring the salt sold, and that when disbursing the last Coodiwarem due for the season, several of the poorer Ryots of two sets of pans said very innocently, " At this season of the year without manufacture and without sales, how are we to live ?".

It has already been proposed to the Board that the manufacturers should be relieved of the duty of measuring the salt sold and that measurers should be appointed. If there are no sales there will be no manufacture, and as the manufacturers depend for their subsistence chiefly upon the amount of Coodiwarem they receive from Government for salt manufactured by them, their statement to Mr. Wright is not surprising.

Paragraphs 25 to 27. States that sufficient number of measurers should be appointed for performing the duty of measuring the salt, and adds that the duty of measurers should include the covering of heaps, repairing of fences, &c., and that the peons are idle and employ substitutes as far as possible.

The duty of covering salt heaps cannot be done by the measurers who will be few in number, but it must be done by coolies paid by Government, if not by the manufacturers. The peons obtain leave and employ substitutes occasionally, but not more than other peons.

Paragraph 30. Suggests that any money found on the persons of measurers, peons, manufacturers or Choukey servants within the boundary of the pans, should be confiscated.

Certainly not. *Vide* concluding part of the remark on paragraph 22.

Paragraphs 31 to 38. Treats of the subject of transferring pans from one site to another, re-opening of old pans and opening fresh pans, and further adds that he does not see the advantage of re-opening pans at Vypaur which was abandoned by the Sea Customs' Department. Suggests that the present Vypaur and Munjuncolum pans should be united, and that the old pans at Trichendoor should be re-opened for reasons shown.

The transfer of salt beds at Tutacorin from the old site to near the sea, reflects credit upon my Head Assistant Mr. Garstin. As the old pans on the north of the Vypaur river which were abandoned in 1844, have been re-opened under the orders of Government, dated 21st February 1860, at the expense of the Ryots, they cannot now be abandoned. The Board in paragraph 8 of their Proceedings of 16th January 1861, No. 295, observe that the convenience of the large body of cotton growers residing on the north of the river Vypaur who resort to these stores of salt, and to whom it is of importance after having disposed of their cotton to recross the difficult and unbridged river with unladen carts, as well as the necessity of maintaining some effectual guard over the large salt marshes on the northern bank where spontaneous salt is found in large quantities, render it highly expedient if not absolutely necessary, that the station at old Vypaur should be quickly restored. The present pans at Vypaur can be united with those at Munjuncolum. The Board in paragraph 5 of their Proceedings above quoted, state that the question of re-opening the pans at Trichendoor has been fully and repeatedly considered by the Board of late, and that there is nothing new to lead the Board to modify the view already expressed by them, and in which the Government concurred that the measure was inexpedient.

Paragraphs 39 to 41. Speaks on the details of disposing of new beds, and suggests that all new beds comprised in the area in excess of that found to be occupied on the assumption of the monopoly, be put up to auction in small lots and knocked down to the highest bidder unconditionally.

In regard to the mode of distributing the new pans, Mr. Wright has already been informed by a letter from this office, dated the 29th January 1861, that the Board are not desirous of having them put up to auction, but that the rights of the present manufacturers should be fully regarded, and he was requested to bear the Board's instructions, contained in paragraphs 14 and 15 of the Proceedings above-mentioned, carefully in mind in making the allotment of the new pans at old Vypaur and Tutacorin.

Paragraphs 42 to 45. States the details connected with the transfers of beds by gift, inheritance, sale and mortgage, and adds that the size of the beds is irregular and undefined.

Circular Orders have been repeatedly sent to the Choukeydars to the effect that the irregularly shaped beds should be arranged according to the standard size, viz., 400 square feet. At the special request of the manufacturers at Coilpatám, orders were sent for increasing the size of the beds from 400 to 600 square feet.

Paragraphs 46 to 49. Enters into the details of the present system of measuring salt.

The Government have already indented for the required number of scales and weights for weighing salt.—*Vide* Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th May 1858, No. 1,802.

Paragraph 50. Speaks of the present system of giving Rowanahs or chits for the purchasers of salt, and adds that from 6 mercals and 5 measures up to 20 the sales are retail, and small cadjan chits are the permits given instead of Rowanahs; that no quantity less than 6⅝ mercals is sold, and there are no sales between 19⅞ and 26½ mercals; that it is very easy for servants to obtain an old Rowanah and get copies printed, but this course would only be resorted to where it was intended to blind the purchasers and sell surplus salt at the monopoly price; that the most easy way of committing frauds with Rowanahs is to send with salt clandestinely sold a blank Rowanah by a peon without a belt who, if the salt was stopped, would at once enter the particulars, and that he imagines that as much salt is smuggled and sold without as with recourse to Rowanahs.

The daily accounts of sales received from the Choukeydars show that cadjan chits are given for any quantity below 26½ mercals, and not from 6⅝ to 20 mercals as observed by Mr. Wright; and further that there are sales between 19⅞ and 26½ mercals. The practice of granting chits or passes instead of formal Rowanahs to purchasers of small quantities of salt for retail sale in the villages round the pans, has been approved by Government in Extract Minutes Consultation, dated 12th May 1858, No. 625. Under the present system of issuing Rowanahs which bear the seal and signature of the Collector, as well as the consecutive numbers of the Huzur and Choukies, there exists no facility whatever for getting copies of old Rowanahs printed, for the purpose of committing frauds. No complaint has ever been heard or made of the smuggling of salt since the Collector took charge of the district in November 1855, and he is certain that Mr. Wright cannot cite a single instance of smuggling, capable of proof. Mr. Wright's report bears the great blemish, that he deals entirely on suppositions.

Paragraphs 51 and 52. States that 400 mercals of salt have been continued to be received from the manufacturers as the equivalent of a garce of 120 Indian maunds; that with the Collector's permission the Board's order granting 6 per cent. to the sanctioned rate of Coodiwarem for the extra 24 mercals was introduced by him, that next year the correct equivalent will be introduced, and that the Coodiwarem rate will then be Rupees 10-9-7, and that the annual dittum was given at the equivalent of 400 mercals a garce.

On the receipt of the Board's Circular of 7th September 1855, authorising the change of equivalent of 120 Indian maunds from 400 to 424 mercals, Mr. Bird caused Circular Orders to be issued to all the salt Choukeydars, to the effect that 424 mercals should be reckoned as the authorised equivalent of 120 Indian maunds, and that sales should be effected at the new rate of 424 mercals for 120 Indian maunds from the 1st of October 1855. Ever since, the salt has been received from the manufacturers, stored, credited and sold, at the rate of 424 mercals to 120 Indian maunds. It has all along been paid for at the rate of 10 Rupees for every 400 mercals received; as 10 Rupees for 400 mercals and Rupees 10-9-7 for 424 mercals, are precisely the same, and as 10 Rupees for 400 mercals was an easy rate for calculation, no fresh orders were issued to the salt Choukeydars on the receipt of the Board's Circular of 18th July 1856, raising the equivalent of a garce from 400 to 424 mercals, and the consequence was, that the salt was continued to be converted into Indian maunds at the rate of "1 garce and 24 mercals for 120 Indian maunds." The annual dittum was given out in garces of 400 mercals, but not as the equivalent of 120 Indian maunds, the salt being received and credited at the rate of 1 garce and 24 mercals; in other words, 424 mercals= 120 Indian maunds. Mr. Wright, on this being pointed out to him, states that he was under the impression that the equivalent of the garce had been raised, otherwise in paragraph 51 of his report he should have stopped after the word garce, and avoided the mistake of adding "or 120 Indian maunds." The informality arose solely from the denomination of a garce not having been changed to 424 mercals, and the salt received having been continued to be converted into Indian maunds in which the accounts are kept, at the rate of 1 garce and 24 mercals =120 Indian maunds, instead of 1 garce *of* 424 mercals=120 Indian maunds. There was an informality in this mode of account, but in point of fact there was nothing wrong; and this informality will be rectified from this year.

Paragraphs 55 to 58. Treats of the details of sending remittances from the Chowkies to nearest taluq Treasuries, and suggests for the more speedy distribution of the Coodiwarem money that when remittances are made the sum due for the salt measured and received into store every 15 days, that is, up to the date of the despatch of the remittance, must be retained, and that in the event of there being no sales at a single station during the manufacture, provision might be made at the time of sending remittances for retaining the requisite amount in the adjoining station, and

Mr. Wright's proposal of retaining in the Choukies, at the time of sending bi-monthly remittances to the nearest taluq Treasuries, the amount required for the disbursement of Coodiwarem at each station, and of doing away with the Collector's previous sanction for the disbursement of the said Coodiwarem, is opposed to Rule 26 of the Manual of Instructions, page 32.

that this arrangement would unavoidably do away with the Collector's previous sanction for the disbursement of the Coodiwarem, but it would save the carrying of money to and fro as at present and the peculiar nature of the salt transactions necessitate a change. If the Collector's sanction must be previously obtained, it might be effected by the Deputy Collector sending monthly a Memorandum of the probable amount required for disbursement in the following month with reference to the manufacture, which Memorandum would be simply returned with the Collector's sanction without the amount being transmitted to the various stations.

Paragraph 61. States that the chief lines to the pans which require to be formed and made into roads have been prominently noticed by Mr. Levinge, and that another of greater importance noticed by him as being under the restrictive order on Public Works, though not directly communicating with the salt pans, is the line between Palamcottah and Tutacorin, the distance of which is 32 or 33 miles; that an officer who recently travelled part of the way was altogether 31 hours reaching Palamcottah, and that all these lines will be formed as soon as the funds are available.

For making some of the important lines of salt pan roads in this district, estimates to the amount of Rupees 66,300 have been prepared and forwarded to the Chief Engineer for the eventual sanction of Government. It has already been reported to the Board in a letter from this office, dated 3rd October 1860, No. 377, that the road No. 8, leading from Palamcottah to Tutacorin, the principal sea port town in this district, requires immediate notice and should be maintained in a state of efficiency. Mr. Wright knows that Colonel Babington was stopped at the river which intersects the road and which becomes unfordable for two or three days together during freshes in the monsoon, and that that officer passed the night on the banks of the river being unable to get across.

Paragraphs 62 and 63. States that the practice of compelling the salt department to furnish peons for tappal messengers appears to be objectionable.

The requirements of the district dawks in this district are now under consideration, and a report upon the subject will be submitted to Mr. Pelly shortly, with reference to his Circular of 3rd November 1860, No. 617. When this arrangement is carried out, runners will be stationed at all the salt divisions and stations in this district.

Paragraph 70. Recommends that Tutacorin as regards sales should be a depôt for export only by sea, as the pans have been transferred close to the sea for the convenience of export, and as this arrangement would be most economical.

The Tutacorin station alone will not answer the demand of salt for the Western Coast and for private trade, which amounted in the year 1860 to

Indian Maunds	On Government Indent...Rs.	1,84,679
	Private Trade.	66,798
Total.....		2,51,477

whilst the quantity manufactured at Tutacorin in that year amounted to Indian maunds 1,23,120, and the average manufacture from 1858 to 1860 to Indian maunds 90,814.

Paragraph 72. States that the transit of the salt to the Western Coast has hitherto been effected by contract; that the contractors pay for the price of the salt here and receive back this sum with the freight on delivery of the salt on the other coast under certain severe penalties, and that the great objection to this system is that the contractor advances the price of the salt to Government, losing interest on the money deposited here.

As the contractors for the exportation of salt to the Western Coast make a large profit by their contract, they will not lose interest on the amount of the prime cost of the salt paid by them in this district. If there is no profit, the contractors will not enter into any agreement.

Paragraph 73. Suggests that the most equitable plan would be to advertise annually for freight, leaving it for the Collectors of Canara and Malabar to adjust the price of the salt with the Collector of Tinnevelly; that respectable firms might upon such terms be induced to come forward and would bring larger vessels, and that the employment of a larger class of vessels would be a matter of great convenience to the Collectors on the Western Coast, for instead of receiving salt in driblets by a succession of small schooners and dhonies, by which the process of landing and storing is extended over several months, it would be received in large quantities.

Mr. Wright does not know the ports of Canara. The Collector of Canara has repeatedly recommended that small craft should be sent to his ports, because as they draw little water they could cross the bar, enter the harbours and deliver their cargoes in the different rivers. This saves boat-hire which must be incurred if large ships are employed. Moreover, they will be best able to contend with the north-westerly winds which prevail in Canara after January—See paragraph 8 of the letter from the Collector of Canara to the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd September 1858; also his letter to the Collector of Tinnevelly, dated 1st December 1859.

Paragraph 76. States that the sample of spontaneous salt gathered at Palayacoil is of so good a quality and the salt manufactured at Palayacoil is so inferior, that he considers it would be advisable to give the preference to the former if the Ryots do not take great pains in the manufacture next season.

A report on this has been made to the Board by the Collector in his letter of the 2nd February 1861, No. 59.

Paragraphs 77 to 79. States that the new forms of salt accounts ordered to be introduced in the year 1856, have never been brought into use and consequently there is still much confusion and delay in the preparation and submission of returns from the Choukies to the Deputy Collector, and from the latter officer to the Collector. That it must henceforth be one of the duties of the Deputy Collector to examine the books and accounts of the divisions and stations, and to record the result in a book kept for that purpose.

The late salt Peshcar, Soobramania Pillay, in reply to an order issued to him on the subject reports that copies of the revised accounts and the Manual of Instructions in Tamil were circulated to each salt Choukeydar in the district in the year 1856, with instructions to report to the Huzur which of the new forms of accounts were applicable to this district, and that their replies were forwarded to the late Head Sheristadar Konary Row for his opinion and report, and after consulting with the late salt Peshcar Teyagaraja Moodaliar and the late Head Assistant Collector Mr. Swinton who was in charge of the salt department, it was determined that as the introduction of the new forms of accounts will considerably increase the work both in the Choukies and in the Huzur, they should be introduced only after the establishment has been revised, and that the only change introduced was the

Paragraph 80. States that he mustered all the Choukey establishments as he visited each station, noting the age, length of service, and physical strength of each individual; that he has pronounced two Choukeydars unfit for further service; that two other Choukeydars are also unfit for the charge of stations, but they may fill lower situations in the new establishment when introduced.

Paragraphs 81 and 82. States that the formation of two stations into divisions would be a needless expense in Tinnevelly, as sales must be conducted as hitherto where the salt is manufactured, and as each manufacturing station would be so independent and entail the same amount of labour that the station attached to the division from being of equal importance would have to be treated at least as a depôt, the lowest pay of which for an Amildar would eb 40 Rupees; whilst the Peshcar of the division would receive at least 60 Rupees for performing similar duties, and proposes as the formation of divisions is unsuited to Tinnevelly owing to the distance the pans are apart, that the present stations be considered depôts for the manufacture and sale of salt, and that this would be preferable to calling every station a division and allotting depôt establishment as the term division would lose its meaning, and suggests some revision in the scale of establishment proposed by Mr. Pelly.

Paragraphs 83 and 84. States that if the Deputy Collector is to be in general charge of the salt department, it would be a more economical course and one more in harmony with the constitution of the new office, that the Deputy Collector in charge should prepare all the accounts connected with the department and bear the responsibility, and for this purpose proposes that an additional hand should be attached to his office as an inspecting Peshcar.

Paragraphs 85 and 86. States that the selections for the situations as well as promotions and transfers, should be in the hands of the officer in charge of the department, and that dismissals from office of all below the grade of Amildar should remain also with this officer; but Amildars should only be removed from office by the Collector.

substitution of paper for cadjan. The Periodical Returns usually sent to the Board of Revenue are prepared according to the new forms.

Of the two Choukeydars pronounced by Mr. Wright to be unfit for further service, one having retired, a gratuity of 11 months' pay has been recommended to be granted to him, and the other having appeared before the Collector and been found fit was ordered to attend to his duties. Mr. Wright states that two other Choukeydars are also unfit for the charge of salt stations. He was called upon to mention the names of these Choukeydars and the grounds on which his recommendation is based. In his reply, dated 25th January 1861, after repeated calls for an answer from him, he states that his object in bringing to the notice of the Collector, that the above Choukeydars are unfit for the charge of a salt station under Mr. Pelly's arrangements was, not to request the Collector to pass any orders on the subject, but merely to show how far his plans were matured; this is incomprehensible with reference to the remarks in his report.

The scale of establishment and the arrangement and classification of the divisions and stations which were proposed by Mr. Pelly, have been approved by the Collector with this difference, viz., an establishment of 35½ Rupees was recommended for Vypaur, and 21 Rupees for Munjuncolum, as the sale of salt at both stations will be conducted simultaneously, in consequence of the re-opening of the pans at Kottil Vypaur, on the north of the Vypaur river, a distance of eight miles from Munjuncolum, under the orders of Government and three Assistant Amildars on a monthly pay of Rupees 35 each were also recommended for three of the five divisions, viz., Munjuncolum, Tutacorin and Coilpatam, in consequence of the distance between the stations comprising each of these three divisions, being so great, as not to allow the Amildars themselves to superintend the manufacture and sale of salt at the same time, with the required efficiency at both stations. Consequently no change in the scale of establishment can now be made as proposed by Mr. Wright.

The proposal of Mr. Pelly, that the Deputy Collector in charge of the salt department should not be burdened with the duty of preparing the accounts of the department generally, has been approved of by Government.

On the 28th September 1860, Mr. Wright was informed by a letter, No. 724, that any transfers, promotions and dismissals in the salt department should be reported to the Collector for his approval and confirmation before they are carried out, and that any recommendation from him will always receive due consideration; and again, he was informed by an Official Memorandum, dated 21st January 1861, No. 78, that in regard either to inflicting fines or making transfers of any of the petty servants in the salt department without previous reference, a report should be made subsequently to the Collector for his information; and as regards the officials drawing a higher salary than Rupees 5 a month, a reference about them must in the first case be made to the Collector. Further, a special reference will be made to the Board on this subject.

(Signed) J. SILVER,
Collector.

TRICHENDOOR,
6th February 1861.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

1861. Departt.

Enclosure 2 in Proceedings of the Board of Revenue to the Secretary to Govt. R. D. dated 23d August 1861 No. 4614.

Rec 2139/61

Letter from the Coll.r of Tinnevelly to the Board of Revenue dated 6th February 1861. No. 68. regarding Salt Deputy Collectors report.

29

Estimate of the expence required for constructing Godowns for storing Salt in the Pans.

104¾ × 1¾ × 3 = 969 15/16
111 × 1¾ × ½ = 291 3/8
} Foundation & Basement to walls.

129 × 1½ × 12 = 2322
168 × 1½ × 5½ = 1386
} Walls above

237½ × 1 × 1½ = 356¼ Retaining walls.

237½ × 12⅞ × ½ = 1528 14/16 Flooring

Sand stone in clay Cft. 2685 7/16 or Cyd. 2037/8
at Rs 2-12-0 per Cyd. — Rs. 6938-3-0

129 × 2½ × ½ = 161¼ Coping.

342 × 1½ × ⅞ = 192⅜ Cutting at the top of Cross walls.

Sand stone in clay Cft. 1353⅜ or Cyd. 13 1/16
at Rs 3-8-0 per Cyd. — Rs. 45-13-0

59 × 6½ = 383½ Pointing outer portion of end walls.

317 × 1 = 317 Do. Basement.

Square feet 700½ at 10 annas per 100 Sq ft — Rs. 4-6-0

10 Patties each 25½ × 18½ of Palmirah framed, bamboo mats lattice nails hooks & eyes &c. complete at Rs 25-8-0
each Rs. 255-0-0

Sundries Rupees. 46-10-0

Total Rupees. 1050-0-0

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Rev 2139/61

3.

Rev 2139/61

13 350–351

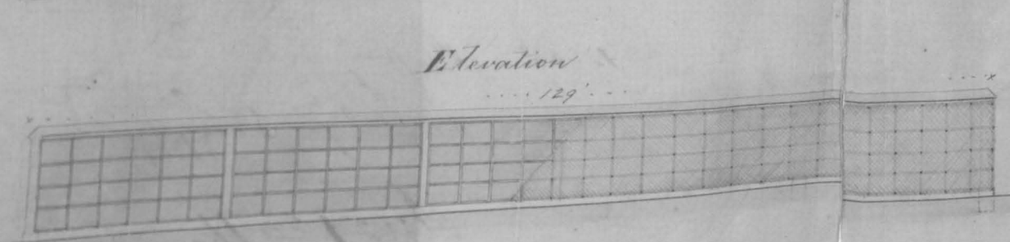
Tinnevelly District

Plan Section and Elevation of a Godown for storing Salt at the Pans

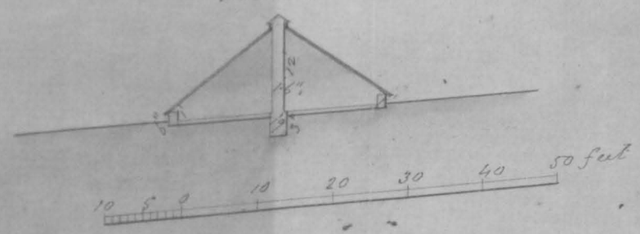
Plan



Elevation



Section



Sub No 10.

Sub No 5. 53 of 1886
Rev 2139/61

No 1.

Statement showing the extent of land occupied by Salt pans and that capable of yielding salt at the Established Stations in the District of Tinnevelly.

	Names of the Stations	Extent taken up by pans walls ridges &c.		Extent available for opening new pans but within the existing limits		Total	
		Square feet	Acres	Square feet	Acres	Square feet	Acres
1	Veypaur	13,40,000	31	31,25,929	72	44,65,929	103
2	Munjincolum	9,60,000	22	54,30,400	125	63,90,400	147
3	Arasady	8,46,000	19	2,20,410	5	10,66,410	24
4	Tuticorin	9,71,633	22	5,88,473	14	15,60,106	36
5	Palliacoil	10,27,401	24	6,93,952	16	17,21,353	40
6	Coilpatam	13,59,670	31	3,60,000	8	17,19,670	39
7	Coolasagarapatam	6,39,443	15	27,560	1/2	6,67,003	15 1/2
8	Vaziapalay	1,79,920	4	44,550	1	2,24,470	5
9	Coolankaly	3,01,959	7	80,190	2	3,82,149	9
	Total	76,26,026	175	105,71,464	243 1/2	181,97,490	418 1/2

Statement shewing the Extent of land at present occupied for the manufacture of Salt at the different Stations in the District of Tinnevelly.

	Names of the Stations	Area actually occupied by the beds.		Area occupied by ridges wells &c.		Total		Remarks
		Square feet	Acres	Square feet	Acres	Square feet	Acres	
1	Uyyaur	8,84,800	20	4,55,200	10½	13,40,000	31	
2	Manjancolum	6,40,000	15	3,20,000	7	9,60,000	22	
3	Arasady	6,38,000	14	2,08,000	5	8,46,000	19	
4	Tuticorin	5,05,200	12	4,66,433	10	9,71,633	22	
5	Palia coil	4,88,800	11	5,38,601	13	10,27,401	24	
6	Coilpatam	8,40,000	19	5,19,670	12	13,59,670	31	
7	Coolasagarapatam	4,69,045	11	1,70,398	4	6,39,443	15	
8	Vezhiapathy	1,69,156	4	10,764	3/4	1,79,920	4	
9	Coottenkaly	2,83,959	6	18,000		3,01,959	7	
	Total	49,18,960	113	27,07,066	62	76,26,026	175	

and should be prevented.

No 3

Statement shewing the extent of land available for opening new beds at the 4 established Stations, both within and without the fences, in the District of Tinnevelly

	Names of the Stations	Within the Fence		Without the Fence		Total		Remarks
		Area in Sqre feet	Area in Acres	Area in Sqre feet	Area in Acres	Area in Square feet	Area in Acres	
1	Uyppaur	3,61,129	8	27,64,800	64	31,25,929	72	
2	Manjini colum	1,60,000	4	52,70,400	121	54,30,400	125	
3	Arasady	2,20,410	5	"	"	2,20,410	5	
4	Tutacoody	5,88,473	14	"	"	5,88,473	14	
5	Palia coil	2,93,952	7	4,00,000	9	6,93,952	16	
6	Coilpatam	"	"	3,60,000	8	3,60,000	8	
7	Coolasagarapatam	27,560	½	"	"	27,560	½	
8	Vezia pathy	44,550	1	"	"	44,550	1	
9	Coottunkaly	80,190	2	"	"	80,190	2	
	Total	19,39,576	41½	87,95,200	202	105,71,464	243½	

Statement shewing the Manufacture of Salt at the different Stations from the year 1856 to 1860 with an average of the 5 years

	Names of the Stations	Manufacture in the year of					Total	Average of the 5 years
		1856	1857	1858	1859	1860		
		Indian Maunds	Do Mds	Do Mds	Do Mds	Do Mds	Do Mds	Do Mds
1	Vypaur	25,032	79,086	10,189	1,19,699	1,21,454	3,55,460	71,092
2	Munjencolum	45,248	5,628	16,981	80,254	95,684	2,43,795	48,759
3	Arasady	17,525	45,420	56,268	86,298	1,25,241	3,30,752	66,150
4	Tutacorin	22,465	65,054	48,446	1,00,811	1,23,120	3,59,896	71,979
5	Palacoil	39,309	52,115	68,012	23,828	77,662	2,60,926	52,185
6	Coilpatam	1,12,133	79,246	76,369	1,10,838	1,56,097	5,34,683	1,06,937
7	Colasagarapatam	33,780	23,484	36,887	34,794	39,594	1,68,539	33,708
8	Vezia patty	9,956	5,358	7,562	5,828	15,049	43,953	8,791
9	Coutchaky	16,553	7,979	11,699	9,480	19,431	65,142	13,028
	Total	3,22,001	3,63,570	3,32,413	5,71,830	7,73,332	23,63,146	4,72,629

and should be prevented.

Statement shewing the Dittum and the quantity of Salt manufactured during the year 1860. in the District of Tinnevelly

	Names of the Stations	Dittum			Quantity Manufactured			Remarks
		Parce		In drain Candies	Parce		In drain Candies	
1	Uyppaur	1037	312	1,24,528	1012	57	1,21,454	
2	Munjancolum	801	378	96,226	797	157	95,684	
3	Arasady	1084	384	1,30,189	1043	285	1,25,241	
4	Tuticorin	1132	32	1,35,849	1026	-	1,23,120	
5	Paliacoil	660	160	79,245	647	78	77,662	
6	Coilpatam	1415	40	1,69,812	1300	341	1,56,097	
7	Coolasapurapatam	330	80	39,623	329	404	39,594	
8	Vezeiapathy	122	272	14,717	125	172	15,049	
9	Coottenkaly	160	160	19,245	161	392	19,431	
	Total	6745	120	8,09,434	6444	184	7,73,332	

No 6.

Statement of the Examination of Books and Accounts, of the conduct of the Subordinates and of the Genes of punishment inflicted for the Quarter ending in the Salt Department of Tinnevelly

Division	Designation of Station	Names	Rank	Manner in which the books and accounts have been kept.	Character for the Quarter	Salary	Genes of punishment inflicted
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Tuticorin	Salaverun	Ramaswamy pilly	Peshcar	"	"	60	"
	Assistant	Abdul Kader	Amildar	"	"	40	"

No 7.

Statement shewing the Establishment proposed for the salt Stations (Depots) in the District of Tinnevelly

Names of Depots	Number of Villages	Average for seven years last	Average last	Same for last in 1860	Sales in 1860	Establishment proposed								
						Class	Amildar	Head Gromastah	Second Gromastah	Sheriff	Measurers at 5 Stations		Peons at 5 Stations		Total
											No	Amount	No	Amount	
		In Kulies	In Kulies	In Kulies	In Kulies		Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs		Rs		Rs	Rs
Mungancolum	2	65,636	79,443	217,138	125,741	1st	60	15	12	10	8	40	3	15	152
Atasady	1	41,858	65,643	125,241	99,564	2nd	50	15	12	10	8	40	3	15	142
Tutacorin	1	50,319	80,014	123,120	123,237	2nd	50	15	12	10	8	40	3	15	142
Palia coil	1	44,963	35,090	77,662	102,068	2nd	50	15	12	10	8	40	3	15	142
Coil Patam	1	83,488	91,785	156,097	104,638	1st	60	15	12	10	8	40	3	15	152
Colasagarapatam	1	30,483	27,669	39,594	54,431	3d	40	15	12	10	6	30	3	15	122
Vizia pathy	2	18,284	21,608	34,480	14,858	3d	40	15	12	10	6	30	3	15	122
Total	9	3,35,031	4,01,252	7,73,332	6,24,537	.....	350	105	84	70	52	260	21	105	974

Note

With these proceedings the Board submit the report of the late Deputy Collector of Tinnevelly Mr. Wright on the Salt Department of that District with the Collector's note and their own remarks.

The Salt administration of the District seems to me, in many respects, to be in a very unsatisfactory state. It is not for Govt. however to discuss the details of management. This is the duty of the Board - and it is sufficient if the more important matters only are noticed by Govt.

The apportionment of the manufacture among the Ryots should no longer be left entirely to the Choukeydars. It should at least be controlled & confirmed by the Deputy Collector if he cannot personally regulate it.

The retention of the Salt on the ridges for unnecessarily long periods affords great opportunities for smuggling and should be prevented.

The Platforms should be improved assoon as possible. Stone Platforms & warehouses involve too great an expence and the ordinary mode of heaping salt answers all practical purposes.

The abuses in the mode of storing should be corrected at once. The mode of conducting the sales also requires regulation. The introduction of weighing will be a great improvement but the weighers must be paid servants of Govt, and have no interest in the salt.

The Bd Steer right in recommending Board that Tuticorin should not be constituted an Export depôt only. The Carts employed in bringing Cotton & other produce to that seaport must be provided with salt for their return trips.

As regards the disposal of new salt beds, prescriptive rights must be respected - but where such do not exist, the sale of the beds would be very desirable.

The Govt attach much importance to the prompt payment of Coodewarum. There seems no objection to these being made out of the collections on abstracts sanctioned by the Collector as proposed in para 58 of Mr Wrights report. The Board might give the subject further consideration and lay down rules applicable to all the Districts.

The salt Peons should not be required to do more in the Postal Department than convey the packet of the station to the nearest Post Office and if this be distant separate runners should be employed.

The Board concurr of the Collector for not introducing the new salt rules seem well merited. It might - I should think have been discovered on their office, seeing that it went on for 5 years.

The deputy Collectors should I think, like Assistant Collectors in independent charge, have power to fine, suspend, dismiss and appoint his subordinates, Superintendents excepted, subject of course to the Collectors decision on appeal. The Collector should have a veto on appointments

appointments. The Deputy Collector should also ~~I think~~ recommend to the grade of Superintendent. If the Dy Collector abuses his powers his conduct should be reported to the Board. —

As regards the preparation of accounts, the orders of Govt. 3d September 1867, N. 1756, contemplate giving the Dy Collector full means of check and control. —

The practice of employing in the Salt Department servants, who have misconducted themselves in other Department - if it obtains at all, should be peremptorily forbidden. The vesting the Dy Collector with the power of appointing his subordinates will be the most effectual remedy for this —

Mr Wright I think deserves credit for his exertions and zeal. —

I do

I concur generally in these remarks

Ellis Wilson

Note - On the Salt Report of Tinnevelly District.

No 2066.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 29th Octr 1861.

Read the following
Proceedings of the Board of
Revenue.

Submitting for information and orders letters from the Collector of Tinnevelly forwarding with remarks the Salt Deputy Collector's report.

(Here enter 23rd August 1861 No 4614)

With these proceedings the Board submit the report of the late Deputy Collector of Tinnevelly Mr. Wright on the Salt Department of that District with the Collector's notes and their own remarks on it.

The salt administration of the District appears, in many respects, to be in a very unsatisfactory

state. It is not for Govt. however to discuss the details of management. The control of these is the ~~duty~~ province of the Board — and it is sufficient if the more important matters only are noticed by Govt.

The Government desire that the apportionment of the manufacture among the Ryots be no longer left entirely to the Choukeydars. It will at least be controlled and confirmed by the Deputy Collector if he cannot personally regulate it.

The retention of the salt on the ridges for unnecessarily long period affords great opportunities for smuggling and ~~will therefore~~ should be prevented.

The Platforms will be improved as soon as

and warehouses involve too great an expence and the ordinary mode of heaping salt answers all practical purposes.

The Government desire that the abuses in the mode of storing be corrected at once. The ~~manner~~ of conducting the sales also requires regulation. The introduction of weighing will be a great improvement but the weighers must be paid servants of Govt., and have no interest in the salt.

The Board are right in recommending that Tuticorin should not be constituted an Export depôt only. The Carts employed in bringing Cotton & other produce to that seaport, must

be provided with salt for their return trips.

As regards the disposal of new salt beds, prescriptive rights will be respected - but where such do not exist, the Govt direct that the beds be sold by auction

The Govt attach much importance to the prompt payment of Goodwarium

There seems no objection to these being made out of the collections on abstracts sanctioned by the Collector as proposed in para 58 of Mr Wrights report. The Board will give the subject further consideration and lay down rules applicable to all the Districts.

The salt Peons are not to be required to do

=ment than convey the packet of the station to the nearest Post office and if this be distant separate runners will be employed hereafter. The Govt consider that the Boards censure of the Collector for not introducing the new Salt rules to be well merited if his neglect should have been discovered in their office, seeing that it has gone on for 5 years.

The Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Depts should, the Govt think, like Assistant Collectors in independent charge, have power to fine suspend, dismiss and appoint his subordinate superintendents excepted subject to the Collectors decision

appeal. ~~and the Govt desire that the Deputy Collector be authorized accordingly~~

The Collector of ~~the~~ country will have a veto on all appointments. The Deputy Collectors ~~will~~ should also have the power of recommending to the grade of Superintendent. If any ~~the~~ Deputy Collector abuses his powers his conduct will be reported to the Board who will deal with the case on its merits. The Board may also specially limit for a time the power of a Deputy Collector on first appointment, if he has had no previous experience or official training.

As regards the preparation of accounts, the orders of Govt 3rd September 1861, No 1756, contemplate giving the Deputy Collector full means of check and control.

The practice of employing in the Salt Dept servants who have misconducted themselves in other Departments

Department if it obtains at all, will be peremptorily forbidden. The vesting the Deputy Collector with the power of appointing his subordinates will serve as the most effectual remedy for this.

Mr Wright deserves credit for his exertions and zeal.

J.D.S

14 Copies
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3-8-60
179-180
11-3-61

(4)

Dy Collr Salt Report
of Tinnevelly District

Revenue 1861 Department.
Pro: of Govt for October

No 2066.

Pro: of the Madras Govt
Dy 29th October 1861.

Pro: Board of Rev: dated 25th 1864
No 350-In Rev

Board Proceedings
on the Salt administration
of Tinnevelly, with orders
thereon-

No 350 & 351-